

Agreement between FWO and NAFOSTED on the Executive framework for bilateral scientific research cooperation projects

the following executive framework for bilateral scientific cooperation projects between researchers from Flanders and Vietnam is agreed upon:

CHAPTER I. PROCEDURE

Art. 1

§1 Every two years, starting in 2013, researchers in Flanders and Vietnam will be presented with the opportunity to submit proposals under the bilateral scientific cooperation framework between the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) and the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED). These joint projects, which will have a duration of two (2) years, may be situated in any scientific domain covered by both FWO and NAFOSTED.

§2 The opening and closing dates of the calls for proposals, the first of which will be in 2013, will be jointly determined by FWO and NAFOSTED.

§3 The Flemish call text will be made available through the website of the Research Foundation - Flanders [<http://www.fwo.be/>].

§4 The Vietnamese call text will be made available through the website of NAFOSTED [<http://www.nafosted.vn/>].

Art. 2

In order to be eligible, a proposal must meet the following criteria:

- it must be submitted by a Flemish and a Vietnamese promotor;
- in Flanders it can only be submitted according to the regulations of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO);
- in Vietnam it can only be submitted according to the regulations of NAFOSTED;
- it must be submitted by the deadline jointly determined by FWO and NAFOSTED;
- it must be submitted in English, using the appropriate application forms, which are available:
 - in Flanders: through the websites of FWO
 - in Vietnam: through the website of NAFOSTED

Art. 3

After the deadline, the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) and the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) will check whether the proposals have been submitted simultaneously in Flanders and Vietnam. They will inform each other of the results. If a proposal is submitted only in one country and/or received after the deadline, it is *de facto* ineligible.

Art. 4

§1 The proposals which have been received by the deadline, and which are deemed eligible after the double submission check, mentioned in article 3, will be evaluated by a joint scientific committee, nominated by FWO and NAFOSTED. The scientific committee should be established at the latest 3 weeks after the closing date of the call for proposals.

§2 The scientific committee consists of 8 to 10 Belgium and Vietnamese scientists (equal in number). The members will be chosen by their qualification and experience according to the research fields of all proposals received. The scientific committee will be chaired by a scientist from the host country.

Each party will select two peer reviewers for each project proposal. The reviews must be sent to the executive office of either FWO or NAFOSTED before the date of the selection meeting. At the meeting, the scientific committee will discuss and evaluate the project proposals, based on evaluations of selected peer reviewers.

The outcome of the selection meeting is a ranked list of proposals which consists of three parts:

- proposals in first order: to be funded with the highest priority, to the extent that the budget allows for it;
- proposals in second order: to be funded if the budget is available (“reserve list”);
- “not ranked proposals”: deemed to be of insufficient quality or not corresponding to the objectives of the bilateral scientific cooperation mechanism; not to be funded.

In each part, the proposals will be ranked in decreasing order of priority.

§3 The scientific committee will hold the selection meeting in the head office of either NAFOSTED in Hanoi or FWO in Brussels.

The host foundation will be responsible for the costs to organize the meetings. The travel and accommodation and other expenses of scientific committee members are paid by their respective organization.

Art. 5

The FWO and NAFOSTED will discuss and decide on the final list of funded projects based on the ranked list of proposals and budget availability.

Art. 6

The final list of funded projects will be submitted to the Board of Directors of FWO and the Board of Trustees of the NAFOSTED for approval. The final decision will depend on the agreement of both parties.

CHAPTER II. EXECUTION AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Art. 7

The projects are funded bilaterally by Flanders and Vietnam:

§1 The Flemish part of the project budget can only be used for one or more of the following cost categories:

- scientific staff
- equipment
- to cover travel costs of Flemish researchers going to Vietnam;
- to cover accommodation and local travel costs of Vietnamese researchers staying in Flanders;
- to cover costs of an accident and health insurance for Flemish researchers staying in Vietnam;
- to cover production costs of joint publications;
- to cover expenses for material and consumables.

§2 The Vietnamese budget should primarily be used for one or more of the following cost categories:

- scientific staff
- equipment
- to cover travel costs of Vietnamese researchers going to Flanders;
- to cover accommodation and local travel costs of Flemish researchers staying in Vietnam;
- to cover costs of an accident and health insurance for Vietnamese researchers staying in Flanders;
- to cover production costs of joint publications;
- to cover expenses for material and consumables.

§3 Researchers from Flanders and Vietnam, who undertake a period of mobility in the context of the bilateral project, must be covered by accident and health insurance.

Art.8

The parties will encourage researchers and their institutions to enter into agreements to ensure the effective protection and correct distribution of intellectual properties resulting from projects funded under this Framework Agreement.

CHAPTER III. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Art. 9

The list of projects to be funded, as well as the size of the Flemish and the Vietnamese budget, will be listed in a separate protocol.

Art. 10

§1 This framework agreement is valid for four (4) years, as from the date of its signature, and will be subject to regular evaluation by FWO and NAFOSTED. It can be prolonged by mutual consent. This is to be decided at the latest six months prior to the expiration of the agreement.

§2 The denunciation of this agreement shall not affect the programs and projects undertaken in the scope of this agreement and not totally concluded at the moment of its expiration. In this case, FWO and NAFOSTED will provide, in their budgets, funds for the full completion of the projects not totally concluded.

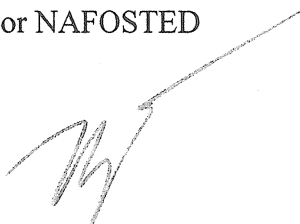
Art. 11

The provisions of this executive framework are valid for all projects to be selected from 2013 onwards.

Concluded on 20 August, 2012.

For the Research Foundation – Flanders

For NAFOSTED



Elisabeth Monard
Secretary-General

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Director