



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

Article 1

§1 Every two years, starting in 2009, 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 Technological Development (NAFOSTED). These joint projects, which will have a duration of two 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 2009, 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.gov.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 the Research Foundation
 - in Vietnam: through the website of NAFOSTED

Art. 3

After the deadline, the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) and the National Foundation for Science and Technological 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 has been submitted only in one country and/or if it has been 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 FWO and NAFOSTED, using the appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

§2 For Flanders the evaluation results will be reflected in 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 allows for it (“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 For Vietnam the evaluation results will be reflected in 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 allows for it (“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.

§4 In order to prepare the negotiations, Flanders and Vietnam will exchange their respective evaluation lists, ranked according to the principles mentioned in § 2.

Art. 5

§1 The selection of projects to be funded will be decided upon during bilateral negotiations between the coordinating administrations. Decisions are taken with unanimity.

§2 In selecting the proposals for joint funding, the following principles will be applied:

- proposals, ranked in first order in both Flanders and Vietnam will be funded;
- proposals, ranked in second order in Flanders and/or Vietnam, can only be funded if there are no more proposals in first order on both sides, and depending on the available budget;
- proposals classified as “not ranked” by Flanders and/or Vietnam will not be funded.

Art. 6

In Flanders, the execution of the projects is subject to a final decision by the Board of Directors of the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). FWO will communicate the outcome of these decisions to NAFOSTED by December 1st at the latest.

CHAPTER II. EXECUTION AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Art. 7

The projects are funded bilaterally by FWO and NAFOSTED:

§1 The Flemish part of the project budget can 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 researchers from Vietnam 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 for accident and health risks.

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 three years, as from the date of its signature, and 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 programmes 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.

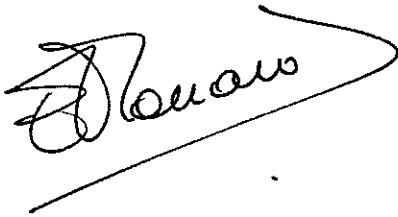
Art. 11

The provisions of this executive framework are valid for all projects to be selected from 2009 onwards.

Concluded in Brussels on May 7, 2009.

For the Research Foundation – Flanders,

For NAFOSTED,



Elisabeth Monard
Secretary-General



Phan Hong Son
Executive Director