Programme description
OPEN 2020 CALL

This description provides general information about the objectives of the FNR’s OPEN Multi-Annual Research Programme.

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Changes to the previous call:

- The OPEN 2020 call is linked to the revised National Research Priorities for Luxembourg as retained by the Government on 20th December 2019.

- The call deadlines of OPEN and CORE are both on 22nd April 2020. The PI(s) and the host institution(s) are responsible in selecting the appropriate funding programme. If a project is submitted in both programmes, it will not be reviewed and excluded from the selection process.

Note

Further call information, forms and guidelines are available on the OPEN webpage. They give indications about any call specific modifications, the submission and selection process. Please do not hesitate to contact the FNR staff for any further explanation.
1. General principles of the OPEN Programme

1.1. Objective

The OPEN programme intends to provide funding for a limited number of high quality research projects in areas that are not covered by the National Research Priorities. It aims at supporting established researchers to pursue innovative research projects of high scientific quality in emerging research areas in Luxembourg.

Please note: Projects covered by the National Research Priorities have to be submitted in the FNR’s thematic CORE programme.

The following table lists the National Research Priorities, and thus the ones that are not eligible for OPEN funding:

Disciplinary, interdisciplinary, collaborative and cross-institutional projects will be fostered by the FNR. Researchers are encouraged to link methods, concepts and approaches from various disciplines to solve joint research questions that lead to new scientific insights and solutions that are beyond the scope of a single discipline.

1.2. Duration and Funding

OPEN projects have a lifespan of two to three years and funding is allocated on a competitive basis. All projects are peer reviewed by international reviewers. OPEN calls are launched on an annual basis.

The FNR allocates a maximum financial contribution of 3 Mio € for the OPEN 2020 Call.

OPEN funding may cover research projects of PhD candidates who are involved in the project full-time and from the beginning.

2. Requirements for proposals

2.1. General requirements

The projects should have the nature of a typical research project – funding of infrastructure or of data collection is not intended if this is not associated with the answering of a clear research question.

To display strong commitment by the public research institution, co-funding is required of minimum 25% of the total project costs.

The applicant and the host institution has to ensure that the formal and personal requirements for submitting an application are met.

2.2. Eligible host institutions and Principal Investigator

The formal submission of the proposal to the FNR is done by an official representative of the host institution.

The following organisations established within Luxembourg are eligible for financial support from the FNR under the OPEN programme:

1. Public institutions performing research in Luxembourg;

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1 Refer to the CORE website
2 FNR’s law dating May 31, 1999, art 3 (2).
2. Non-profit associations, societal impact companies (SIS)\(^3\) and foundations\(^4\) performing research in Luxembourg and that have obtained a special authorization from the Ministry for Higher Education and Research.

Each entity has to be registered at the FNR in order to be able to submit proposals through the online submission system.

More information on eligibility of institutions is available in the OPEN application guidelines and on the FNR website.

For each proposal, project partners designate one ‘Principal Investigator’\(^5\) (PI) per project, who is the project leader responsible for submitting the proposal on their behalf. The formal submission of the proposal to the FNR is done by an official representative of the coordinating institution. The PI must be employed at an eligible organisation at the time of the start of the project and for the full duration of the research project. The FNR has specific requirements for principal investigators and supervisors (http://bit.ly/PIandSupervision) within FNR funded projects.

The PI must be an experienced researcher who holds a doctoral degree at the date of the submission deadline for the proposal and who has performed research projects at least 4 years after the doctoral degree (date of proposal deadline counts).

### 3. Submission and selection process

#### 3.1. The submission process

The submission procedure is organised in a single full proposal stage. The proposals must be submitted in electronic format using the online submission system (FNR Grant Management System) https://grants.fnr.lu until the deadline. All proposals have to be written in English.

#### 3.2. The selection process

The selection process is based on a Peer Review process that guarantees an independent state-of-the-art evaluation with the objective to select those research projects that reflect the highest scientific quality. All proposals undergo the following selection process:

- The proposals undergo an eligibility check based on the formal requirements;
- Applicants should be aware that in case their proposal falls in the thematic remit of the CORE programme, the proposal will be rejected. A reallocation of the proposal to CORE is not foreseen;
- Submitted proposals are peer-reviewed by independent, international experts;
- An expert panel ranks the proposals and recommends funding;
- FNR decision bodies select and approve the proposals to be funded;
- The detailed description of the review process and the selection criteria are available in the OPEN Peer Review Guidelines.

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4 To be eligible for FNR support, non-profit associations and foundations must be accredited by the Ministry in charge of public sector research. To obtain an accreditation, associations or foundations have to introduce a formal request at the Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

5 The PI is the researcher proposing the project idea and leading the project on a ‘daily basis’.
3.3. The selection criteria

The scientific merit of the proposal is assessed based on:

1. Innovativeness of idea and scientific relevance
2. Appropriateness of the approach
3. Feasibility (Competence of the PI and applicant team; research plan; institutional infrastructure, research environment)
4. Expected outcome and impact of results

4. Time Schedule for the OPEN 2020 Call

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 December 2019</td>
<td>Launch of the OPEN 2020 Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 April 2020 14:00 (CET)</td>
<td>Deadline for the submission of proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 October 2020</td>
<td>Funding decision communicated to applicants</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September 2021</td>
<td>Latest start of the project. Please note that for projects which are not able to start on 1 September 2021, the FNR may revise its funding approval.</td>
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