

2023 AURORA PLUS PROGRAM

Strengthening scientific cooperation between France and Norway by supporting the organisation of conferences

Aurora is the French-Norwegian Hubert Curies Partnership (PHC). Aurora is implemented jointly by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) in France, and by the Norwegian Research Council (NFR) in Norway.

For more information on the PHC Aurora mobility program: <https://www.france.no/science-et-recherche/programmes-de-cooperation/aurora/>

« Aurora Plus » is a program that helps to strengthen French-Norwegian research cooperation by supporting the organisation of scientific conferences, workshops and meetings of experts. Aurora Plus aims to structure and develop ambitious research networks and to facilitate the development of international projects.

Calls for applications for this program are launched on an annual basis.

Deadline for the submission of applications: **September 21ST, 2022.**

1. Program objectives

France and Norway wish to **strengthen French-Norwegian research cooperation** by supporting the organisation of **workshops, scientific conferences or seminars and meetings of experts** to structure and develop ambitious research networks.

This program **encourages networked research** and helps research teams to develop **long-term** structured cooperation and/or to **prepare for large collaborative projects**. Projects may include one or more additional partners, only French and Norwegian actors will be eligible for the funding program.

2. Eligible projects

All scientific fields are concerned by this program. Particular attention will be paid to projects whose theme is one of the priorities of the French-Norwegian cooperation and/or of the European Union's Horizon Europe framework program for research and innovation. For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

3. Eligibility criteria

The call for applications is open to researchers of research laboratories associated with higher education establishments or research organizations in France and in Norway. Companies can participate in the project, as long as they are associated with an academic partner.

Applications must be submitted by the partner on the website of the French Institute of Norway.

Teams must present a project of the organisation of two scientific events:

- A workshop, a scientific conference or seminar held in France, organised by the French team.
- A workshop, a scientific conference or seminar held in Norway, organised by the Norwegian team.

The project should follow a **thematic continuity** throughout the two years of support.

Eligible events are:

- **A workshop** to prepare, write or pursue the development of an international (e.g. Horizon Europe) or bilateral (e.g. ANR, NFR) project with French and Norwegian partners, as well as other identified European partners.
- **A scientific conference** with identified partners, responding to a need of the scientific community and which could be extended beyond the 2 years of funding.

4. Project evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- The interest, complementary and level of the proposed cooperation.
- Prospects for structuring or valorising the project. Priority will be given in particular to collaborative projects with a European dimension.
- Scientific quality of the project (objectives, theme, importance of the event, etc.) and perspectives of development beyond the 2 years of support.
- Potential for future project funding.
- Quality of the teams and institutes (project leaders, speakers, participants...) and the synergies between the French and foreign teams.

A diversified team is an asset.

5. Project selection committee

Eligible projects are evaluated by a **committee of scientific experts**. The authorities of both countries meet to compare the evaluations and jointly decide on the support granted to the selected projects.

The Delegation for European and International Affairs (DAEI) of the MESRI ensures the scientific evaluation of the applications.

6. Operating mode

Funding is granted for two consecutive years. The budget must be detailed separately for each of the two years.

The allocated budget **must be used between January 1st and December 31st for the organisation of a conference or a workshop in one of the two laureates' countries. The following year the conference must be held in the partner country.**

The budget is specific to each conference and cannot be transferred to the conference of the partner country.

The amount of funding cannot exceed **15 000 €** per project for the 2 years. This funding is intended to cover **two events, one in each team country of residence**. One event should cost approximately 7500€.

The funding granted covers exclusively the organisation of the event and the related mobilities. This funding covers:

- The **cost of mobility** between the two countries for French and Norwegian researchers involved in the programme.
- The **cost of subsistence** for the French and Norwegian researchers involved in the programme.
- The cost of travel and subsistence for additional organising teams of French or Norwegian researchers.
- **Logistical costs** for the organisation of the conference: room rental, equipment rental, reception.
- Possibly video-conferencing tools and running costs of the online workshop project.

Any other funding necessary for the implementation of the joint projects must be provided by the partner laboratories' own resources or by other sources of funding.

Additional costs related to the opening of the conference to the public or to the attendance of an international team (neither French nor Norwegian) will have to be covered by the partner laboratories or other sources of funding.

7. Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses for one event cover **the payment of subsistence allowances and travel expenses for the members of the French and the Norwegian organizing teams**, as well as any logistical costs necessary for the holding of the conference, as follow:

- **Travel costs of the researchers, involved in the project or invited, who come from the host country of the event:** reimbursement for real expenses up to 300 EUR per round-trip;
- **Travel costs of the researchers, involved in the project or invited, coming exclusively from Norway or France and travelling to the host country of the event:** reimbursement for real expenses up to 600 EUR per round-trip;
- **Subsistence allowance** for French and Norwegian researchers **involved in the project or invited:** 152€ EUR/day;
- Logistics expenses for the organization of the scientific event (venue rental, catering, audio-visual, interpreter- or speaker related expenses, etc., excluding any purchase equipment).

- Potentially the costs of video-conferencing tools in the case of online workshops or operating costs of the online workshop project.

8. Project follow-up

The renewal of the funding support given for a second year is subject to an **interim report** (one page in any format mentioning the scientific results obtained) **accompanied by a financial report** of the actions carried out and planned.

The progress report and the financial statement must be sent to the French Embassy of Norway **before November 22nd of the year of the conference or workshop** (see the contact details below).

A final report is to be sent to the French Embassy in Norway (see the contact details below) at the end of the second year. In this final report, particular attention is to be paid to the scientific publications, papers and events carried out under the project.

An annual visit to the French Embassy in Norway is advisable, as long as it does not incur additional costs, to briefly present the work of the team and increase the visibility of the project.

9. Application procedure

The application must be sent separately for both teams and each application should include at least one event in the team country of residence. Each application should include the following documents:

- ◇ CVs of the participants for whom funding is requested and the name and contact details of the main contact person.
- ◇ Description of the planned research project and of the event on 5 pages maximum, specifying the objectives in terms of cooperation (funding requests and future call for applications envisaged, etc.). Both Norwegian and French teams should provide the same joint document here.
- ◇ A provisional budget indicating the amount of the grant requested by the team. This budget will only cover the event organised by the applying team and must be spent before the end of the year of the event. Both teams should ensure with their partner that the total budget does not exceed 15 000€.
- ◇ A programme or pre-programme of the events, specifying the planned date and place of the event, the envisaged number of participants. The invited teams could be mentioned in details here.

10. Application submission

Applications must be written **in English**.

Applications must be sent to the French Institute of Norway on the dedicated webpage for applications :
<https://www.france.no/no/2022/vitenskap-og-forskning/call-for-application-aurora-plus-2023/>

The submitted projects may be subject to review under PPST (Protection of Scientific and Technical Potential and Economic Intelligence). For more information:

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid27031/protection-du-potentiel-scientifique-et-technique-et-intelligence-economique-p.p.s.t.html>

11. Practical details for submitting a project

Application deadline: **September 15, 2022**

Publication date of the results: **December 2022**

Project start date : **January 2023**

12. Contacts for information on the programme

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