



“The role of science and of
science funders in the time of the
COVID - 19 crisis”

ANR

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AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE
ANR

ANR: French National Research Agency

Public **Research Funding Agency** depending on the Ministry of research

- Promote and fund the development of research via Competitive project-based research funding:
 - In all fields of science
 - In basic and applied research
 - For research organisations, universities, private companies & SMEs
 - Bottom up calls and priority driven programs
- Foster innovation and technology transfer to industry
- Reinforce European and international scientific collaboration
- Analyse the research offer and assess Impact of ANR funding

Specific assignment: Operate the major State investment programs (“Investments for the future”) ~30 Mds€

ANR Covid-19 Actions

- ❑ **Flash call Covid-19 - March 2020:** an immediate response to the breakout
 - ❑ Focused on the 4 WHO priorities. Interdisciplinary (LS, ENG, SSH)
 - ❑ First batch of 44 projects funded end of March, start April
 - ❑ In May 110 projects -19M€
 - ❑ Numerous National Co funding
- ❑ **Open call "Covid-19 Research-Action" - April-October 2020:** taking into account the diversity of questions arising during the development of the epidemic-pandemic
 - ❑ 25 RA projects funded in June
 - ❑ Others to come no deadline
- ❑ **Promotion of international collaborations on the Covid-19:** interactions with ANR partner agencies

Actions integrated in terms of perimeters, durations and objectives

Coordinated with National / European funders

International collaboration

Covid-19 Call with global south launched by ANRS

Fast response- short term: coordinate funded projects from fast track calls with partner agencies rather than negotiating big transnational multilateral calls. Co funding when common call in place

- ANR BMBF–D co funded project in civil security/biological threats call
- Japan JST co funded 3 projects ANR Flash Call / J Rapid JST
- China NSFC networking workshop envisaged with NSFC on ongoing flash call projects.

Common platforms : information on calls/ funded projects/ results: GloPID-R (Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness), SE, GRC (Global Research Council)....

Challenges and measures adopted

- Management of the fast track flash call: Flexibility/ Rapidity/ Coordination
 - Call launched first. In parallel worked co funders which joined later
 - Funding put in place ten days after call closure for a first wave
 - Evaluation/ selection adapted
 - Reporting and monitoring adapted to the need for rapid use of the solutions proposed: participation of national coordination expert stakeholder group
 - Evolving calls in terms of total funding (time for co funders to join), international collaboration, priority setting
 - Coordination among National funders operators / articulation with H2020 ERA COVID
- Ongoing calls: deadlines delayed, virtual remote Scientific evaluation panels
- Ongoing projects: systematic extension of all projects, extra budget for extension of PHDs and post Docs discussed on a case by case basis
- Home teleworking for all staff during 3 months with its challenges

Covid-19 draft priorities for 2021 call

Global, systemic , inter- and cross-disciplinary approaches are encouraged

- Understanding the environmental, anthropic, health and socio-economic factors that may play a role in the emergence, spread and the impact of pandemics,
- Develop means of risk reduction and assessment
- Monitoring impacts of all kinds, to analyze and support potential social, economic, environmental and industrial developments resulting from the management of this crisis.
- Supporting the economic recovery by limiting the impact of human activities on the global changes ahead and by developing processes that increase the resilience of society facing these global changes..

International collaboration to come on Covid-19

- ANR Call priorities 2021 on COVID-19 is open in bottom up scheme with all our major bilateral collaborations in Europe and outside of Europe
- big part of European partnerships in health area are including COVID related aspects either in their future call or in their strategy for instance
 - JPI-AMR antibioresistance
 - EJP-Rare diseases
 - JPND neurodegenerative diseases
 - JPI-HDL
 - ICPeMed personalized medicine
- Common platform in Social sciences: Bonn group D, UK, FR, NL

COVID-19

A textbook case for Open Science!

ANR signed the common international declaration « on sharing research data and findings relevant to the nCoV outbreak »

A case study for relation between science & society

Communication with public

Decision makers /politicians

Handling scientific controversy put on public stage