In order to set up a coordination network bringing together several French and foreign research teams around a specific scientific topic, it is possible to apply for the creation of an International Research Network.

What is an IRN?
An IRN is a scientific coordination network gathering research teams in European and non-European countries. Its activities are coordinated by a scientific committee. It is advised not to have more than three French laboratories involved in a IRN.

How long does an IRN last?
Four years, potentially renewable once.

Who can submit an IRN proposal?
- In France, CNRS researchers, as well as academic staff from other research organizations working in CNRS-affiliated research joint units,
- Abroad, researchers and academic staff from a research organization or a university.

How and when to submit a proposal?
Proposals can be submitted at any time, simultaneously to the relevant CNRS scientific Institute and to the partner institutions abroad.

How are the proposals evaluated?
The scientific evaluation of the proposals is carried out by peer-review simultaneously at both the CNRS and the partner institutions. At the CNRS, the evaluation is overseen by the relevant scientific Institutes. Once an IRN has been approved, an agreement detailing the scientific content, the composition of the scientific committee and the provisional budget, is signed by the authorized representative(s) of the French and the foreign partner institutions.

How is an IRN funded?
The network is funded by all partners, and the resources are used to organize conferences, seminars, symposiums, workshops, thematic schools or work meetings on the network’s specialized topic. The funding starts at the beginning of the financial year following the decision to create an IRN. A scientific and financial annual report is required each year of the IRN.

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