In situations where the cooperation with a foreign partner is already established and has resulted in at least one joint publication in scientific journals, it is possible to formalize their relationship through a PICS. This is a form of cooperation where the partners are more involved as it is based on pre-existing joint research, and has a 3 years’ time frame. It brings together two research teams and the participation of young researchers (PhDs student and PhDs) is encouraged.

What is a PICS?
A PICS is a joint research project which aims at supporting joint research projects carried out by two teams, one from the CNRS and one from a foreign institution. It is a unilateral tool since the call is open only by CNRS.

How long does a PICS last?
Three years, non-renewable.

Who can submit a PICS proposal?
In France, CNRS researchers, as well as academic staff from other institutions working in CNRS-affiliated research joint units.

How and when to submit a proposal?
A call for proposals is published annually on the website of the CNRS European Research and International Cooperation Office (DERCI). The foreign partner must simultaneously request a support letter from their home institution. A provisional budget is to be presented along with the research project proposal.

How are the proposals evaluated?
The evaluation is carried out by the relevant CNRS scientific Institutes.

How is a PICS funded?
The funds are provided by the CNRS and cover research trips, meetings, and, if needed, small running expenses. Funding starts at the beginning of the financial year following the decision to carry out a joint project within the framework of the PICS. A scientific and financial annual report is required each year of the PICS.