International Cooperation Tool Kit

In order to optimize and structure informal contacts initiated on an individual basis by researchers, the CNRS international scientific strategy aims at enhancing and giving an institutional visibility to strategic cooperation.

This document deals with the cooperation tools enabling the CNRS to do so. These tools are designed to help the CNRS researchers and their foreign partners find the best-suited mean to achieve the type of collaboration that they wish to develop, whether they are consolidating a research project through an international program for scientific cooperation, coordinating a specific thematic through a network, or structuring a collaborative work through an associated laboratory or an international joint unit. The tools presented here intend to be a basis for discussion on how to implement collaboration between partners.

International Project for Scientific Cooperation (PICS)
- Cooperation projects based on an ongoing collaborative relationship;
- An unilateral tool: there is no specific call launched in the partner country;
- Researchers respond to an annual call for proposals on a competitive basis and peer-review;
- Funding is dedicated to mobility: visits, meetings and small equipment;
- Duration: 3 years, not renewable.

Joint Research Project (PRC)
- Research projects, for certain selected countries, jointly carried out by two researchers (one affiliated to a CNRS laboratory and the other to a foreign research partner);
- Researchers simultaneously respond to an annual call for proposals on a competitive basis and peer-review for certain selected countries;
- Each organization finances its researchers’ travels and living expenses;
- Duration: 2 to 3 years, not renewable.

International Associated Laboratory (LIA)
- An international lab “without walls”;
- Brings together two partner institutions which gather human and material resources to a jointly-defined project;
- The laboratories keep their independence and legal status, the scientist involved remain affiliated to their home institution;
- The LIA is coordinated by 2 principal investigators and is assessed each year by a steering committee;
- Joint funding for mobility and small equipment;
- Duration: 4 years, renewable once.

International Research Network (IRN ex GDRI)
- Brings together several laboratories from two or three more countries to animate research coordination on a specific topic;
- Funding is used towards mobility, seminars and workshops;
- Duration: 4 years, renewable once.

International Joint Unit (UMI)
- A joint, full-fledged, single-located research laboratory with permanent CNRS staff;
- Located either in France or in another country;
- Staffed with personnel from both the CNRS and the foreign partner institution(s);
- Headed by a director, appointed jointly by the CNRS and the partner institution(s);
- Duration: 5 years, renewable;

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