

GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RESEARCH COUNCIL COOPERATION

1. There should be a general desire on the part of administrators in the EU Research Councils to promote transnational research in chemistry, and to co-operate in the exchange of non-confidential information concerning the assessment of research proposals submitted to their Research Councils. Inter Research Council co-operation should involve minimal additional bureaucracy' administrative burden, and cost. Use should be made of electronic methods to transmit information between Research Council contact points.
 2. Assessment of research proposals will be by peer review. The opportunity should be taken by those Research Councils involved in the assessment of a transnational research proposal to identify and seek assessment reports on the proposal from a mutually agreed selection of international referees.
 3. Each Research Council will only consider requests for research funds from applicants eligible under its rules. These may include requests for travel funds to enable the partners in the transnational research project to visit each other.
 4. Each Research Council will use their own assessment and selection procedures. These should take account of, but need not be governed by, the reports from the international referees. Proposers will be expected to follow the submission procedures used by each Research Council regarding application forms, submission dates, and other guidance and instructions as appropriate.
 5. Transnational research proposals will be judged on grounds of quality (eg. novelty, feasibility, timeliness etc), added value which the transnational collaboration offers, and any other criteria which Research Councils use, in normal competition with other research proposals under consideration by each Research Council. Special funds for the support of European transnational research projects in chemistry is not a requirement.
 6. Pressure will not be placed on a Research Council to support part of a transnational proposal, even if other Research Councils considering the proposal are willing to do so. Research funds will be provided on an à la carte basis. Some funding decisions may be in principle only and dependent on the decisions of other Research Councils.
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