

Regulation of application for Sectorial Collaborative Projects

Implementation program NRP 2020 - 2023 of the
canton of Fribourg

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1. Introduction

In the realization of the implementation program NRP 2020-2023, the canton of Fribourg supports the development of collaborative projects of sectorial type. The first collaborative projects were financed by the NRP in 2008. A total of 49 collaborative projects were carried out between 2008 and 2019 with the participation of more than 250 companies. These projects intensify the relationship between companies and high schools in the field of innovation and ensure a gain in competitiveness for companies.

2. Definition of a sectorial collaborative project

A collaborative project of sectorial type (PCS) has the ambition to solve, with the help of a public research organization, either a technological challenge of pre-competitive and innovative level expressed by several companies independent of each other, or, to create, with several companies, a value chain allowing to realize a service or an innovative product.

3. Objectives

The canton of Fribourg has defined a strategy of NRP support for companies, particularly those in the industrial sector, with the aim of increasing their added value.

The realization of collaborative projects in the strategic axes of the NRP 2020-2023 program allows the canton of Fribourg to achieve the following objectives:

- Encourage and support innovative projects within companies according to the defined strategic axes;
- Strengthen collaborations between companies and high schools;
- Implement technologies and practices that support innovation and business transformation;
- Increase its economic development by maintaining and creating jobs.

4. Operating rules

Applications for project funding and portfolio management of collaborative projects are managed by INNOSQUARE under a mandate given by PromFR with the help of external experts.

The evaluation of NRP funding applications for collaborative sector-type projects is entrusted to CAPE as the evaluation committee.

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The conditions and operating rules for the granting of NRP funding are as follows:

- a. Any Fribourg-based company may join forces with other companies to form a sector-based collaborative project consortium provided that the project theme is related to one of the strategic axes of the Implementation Program NRP 2020-2023 of the Canton of Fribourg.
- b. The project consortium must include at least three companies, including at least two companies from canton of Fribourg, and a public research organization. It is recommended that non-Fribourg companies obtain financial support from their canton in order to increase the overall project budget.
- c. Applications for Sectorial Collaborative Project funding are accepted throughout the year.
- d. Projects validated by two independent experts are presented by invitation to a meeting of the project evaluation committee (CAPE). If the experts have different opinions, the opinion of a third expert will be sought.
- e. The amount of the requested NRP grant is limited to a maximum of CHF 150'000 and should not exceed 65% of the total budgeted project costs.
- f. The co-financing by the project partner companies is ensured to at least 35% of the total budgeted project costs, of which at least 30% of the NPR grant is in cash and the remaining part in in-kind services.
- g. With the exception of funding for companies' in-kind services, project funding must cover the costs of public research organizations, which include personnel costs, equipment costs (max. 10%) and other project expenses.
- h. The cash co-financing is paid in two parts, the first half of the cash co-financing upon signature of the project consortium agreement and the second half after validation of the intermediate project report.
- i. Applications for funding of sectorial collaborative projects and portfolio management of projects are managed administratively by INNOSQUARE.
- j. Project leaders can benefit from free support from INNOSQUARE for the elaboration of their funding application.

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In order to obtain NRP's financial participation in a Sectorial Collaborative Project, an application for project funding must be submitted in accordance with the **Procedure for submission and evaluation of a funding application of a sectorial collaborative project.**

Once the NRP funding has been granted, the implementation of a sectorial collaborative project must follow the Procedure for the **Realization of a sectorial collaborative project.**

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Appendices :

- **Procedure for submission and evaluation of a funding application of a sectorial collaborative project**
PCS - Procedure for submission and evaluation.pdf
- **Procedure for realization of a sectorial collaborative project**
PCS - Procedure for realisation.pdf

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