
2017 - Agora news

Main modifications of the Agora funding scheme

In order to adapt to the changes of the general SNSF Funding Regulations and as a first response to the external evaluation conducted by the SNSF this year, following points of the Agora Regulations were modified:

1. New submission deadline

Starting from 2017, applications can be submitted until **1st September, 17h** Swiss local time. Funding decisions are communicated around mid-February of the following year, and projects can start on 1st March at the earliest.

2. Project plan

The project plan's structure and description has been reorganized, in order to better clarify the needed information. The evaluation criteria are now clearly stated, which should help applicants in writing their project plan.

3. Eligibility

To promote young researchers and atypical profiles, the minimal work-time percentage required for applicants is lowered from 50 to 20% for Agora projects. Nevertheless, the work-time percentage can be used to evaluate the feasibility of the project.

4. Track record

AGORA projects are regarded as research output pursuant to the principles of DORA¹ and accepted by the SNSF as part of an applicant's scientific track record.

5. Project Partners

The role of «project partner» replaces the role of «collaborations» that could formerly be declared in mySNF. In the frame of Agora, project partners can, be participants, with or without a scientific background, who contribute significantly to the project. They must be affiliated to an institution recognized by the SNSF, similarly to applicants.

The salary of project partners or of their employees can be part of the project costs covered by the SNSF. Moreover, the overall costs for project partners can be higher than 20% of the total project costs.

¹ <http://www.ascb.org/files/SFDeclarationFINAL.pdf>

6. Information to the institution

The applicants must contact the communication department of their host institution. This enables applicants to benefit from their know-how and the institution to be kept informed about communications activities of its employees..

7. Optimus Agora

The Agora commission can offer a prize for funded projects relative to their communicative potential. This prize will provide an opportunity to the grantee to take part in a science communication training with a partner of the SNSF.

8. Monitoring project

The Agora grantee must inform the SNSF in advance on the location and content of activities related to their project. To do so, an online form is available (www.snf.ch/addagoramap). The planned events are then published via the Agora Event map of the SNSF (www.snf.ch/agoramap).

9. Rolling Call

Starting from February 2018, Agora proposals between CHF 5'000 and 50'000 may be submitted without deadlines. The evaluations will be done on a continuous basis and within a shorter timeframe, in order to better promote smaller innovative and original projects.