

## **Brains to South - Promotion of Best Talent in Scientific Research 2018 FAQ**

### **What should the project's abstract include?**

The abstract should contain a brief summary of the project written in a non-technical language.

### **Could an organisation or a research centre submit a research proposal?**

No, the proposals must be submitted online, through the *chàiros* platform on [www.chairos.it](http://www.chairos.it) directly by the researcher. The researcher will assume the role of a scientific referent (principal investigator) and will have the opportunity to conduct a research project under his/her responsibility, without working with a supervisor.

### **What requirements must a researcher meet to become a principal investigator of a research proposal?**

The researcher, at the date of the Call's publication (18 September 2018) must meet ALL the requirements listed in paragraph 2.1.2 (see page 2) of the guidelines. A researcher who does not fulfill the eligibility criteria to take on the role of a scientific referent (principal investigator) may, nevertheless take part in a research team led by another scientific referent.

### **What is the age limit for the principal investigator?**

There is no maximum age for the principal investigator. However, it is necessary that on the day of the Call's publication the researcher shows to have had a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 7 years of experience in the field of scientific research, since the award of the first doctorate. It is reasonable to assume that this time frame does not significantly differ from that relating to the award of the first doctorate.

### **In which cases can the eligibility window be extended?**

In cases of career breaks due to maternity or paternity leave, prolonged periods of illness of the researcher or a close family member (over 90 days), or military service. It will also be possible to consider candidates with experience of more than 7 years, provided that the 'effective' experience period (after the break) is between 3 and 7 years from the first doctorate. The circumstances that led to the career break must be appropriately documented.

### **Is there a specific contract for the principal investigator?**

No, the researcher will agree with the host institution on the most appropriate contractual form to the tasks that will be carried out, including all necessary pension and health coverage, as governed by the CCNL (Contratto Collettivo Nazionale del Lavoro or the Collective Labour Agreement) for example a fixed-term contract (RTD), a fellowship, etc.

### **Are the research project costs for the research team also included?**

Yes, in addition to the costs related to the principal investigator, the Foundation's contribution can be used to cover the costs of the other team members indicated in the proposal.

### **Can a researcher submit more than one research proposal?**

No, each researcher can submit only one research proposal. In case of submission of several proposals by the same researcher, all of the submitted proposals will be considered inadmissible.

### **Can the principal investigator spend 50% of his/her working time at another research center (located abroad or in regions other than those in which the Foundation operates)?**

Yes, on condition that the principal investigator spends at least 50% of his/her time at the host institution working on the project. The work hours at the host institution must be adequately documented (e.g. through attendance sheets, timesheets).

### **What are the mandatory documents required for the submission of the research project?**

For eligibility purposes of the project proposal, the principal investigator must attach in the "Documents" section a copy of an identity document, a recent CV and bibliography, article(s) published by the principal investigator as the first or last author and a copy of Annex A completed by the host institution. If any of the documents are missing or are not fully completed, the research proposal will be excluded.

Annex A must be signed by the legal representative of the research centre. If more than one host institution is indicated, Annex A must be completed and attached for each of the research centers.

### **What is the minimum number of partners that can participate in this Call?**

The minimum partnership to present a project is between the researcher and the host institution. The involvement of other organizations in the partnership (e.g. other research centers and/or universities, institutions belonging to the for-profit and the not-for-profit sector etc.) will be positively evaluated.

The partner must be a legally constituted entity, cannot be a natural person (e.g. an individual researcher, a professor, etc.).

### **How to assign the role of a host institution?**

In the "Partnership" section, the principal investigator will be able to assign the role of a host institution to the identified research center, while the other subjects of the partnership will have the role of a 'partner'.

### **What are the mandatory documents required for the subjects in the partnership?**

With the exception of the host institution, there are no mandatory documents for the other partners in the partnership who have the role of a 'partner'. They will only have to register, to complete and confirm the information requested in the section "My registry" and request a partnership to the principal investigator. Finally, they will have to fill in the information in the partner form, accessible in the "Projects in partnership" section.

### **Can you be a partner in several research proposals at the same time?**

Yes, there is no limitation in participation as a partner. However, it is up to the partner to demonstrate that it can provide workability and concrete contribution in terms of skills and professionalism appropriate for the realization of each proposal in which the partner is involved.

### **What is the commitment required from the host institution?**

The research center, which must have its registered and/or operational headquarters in the South, undertakes to co-finance the research proposal for at least 10% of the total cost and to provide support in its implementation (appropriate workspace, laboratories, qualified staff, etc.). It undertakes to provide a work contract which will be covered by the contribution but it needs to be adequate for the work of the principal investigator, and it undertakes to report the name of the principal investigator as the last author in all the publications derived from the project.

Through Annex A (a mandatory document) the host institution also undertakes to accept the "transferability" clause' of the contribution and guarantees the management of the grant assigned to the researcher (see Call for proposals, section 3 General Rules and Contract Details, paragraph 3.1).

### **What is the minimum expected co-financing amount for the project?**

A minimum percentage of monetary co-financing, which should equal to at least 10% of the total cost is expected to be provided by the host institution in terms of personnel, assets and materials, equipment, etc. In addition to the host institution, other co-financiers (e.g. companies, other foundations, etc.) could also be involved. Valorization of assets or of voluntary work are not permitted as part of the co-financing.

### **Where to insert the evaluation indicators related to the outputs of the project?**

You can insert the evaluation indicators related to the outputs of each project in the "Monitoring and Evaluation" field of the project form.

**What is the submission deadline?**

The Research Proposals, completed in full with all the required additional documents, must be submitted exclusively online, by 1:00 pm on 28 November 2018, on the Chàiros online platform. If you have any difficulties in submitting the project, please contact the CON IL SUD Foundation office by telephone on 06.6879721 (extension 1) or by email at [initiatives@fondazioneconilsud.it](mailto:initiatives@fondazioneconilsud.it) no later than the scheduled deadline.

**How can I register on the chàiros platform?**

Since the Call is aimed at natural persons, before starting with the registration on Chàiros, the applicant (principal investigator) must first fill in the 'Registry Form' and email it to the CON IL SUD Foundation office at [initiatives@fondazioneconilsud.it](mailto:initiatives@fondazioneconilsud.it). After verifying the completeness and correctness of the information entered, the Foundation will then enable access to the platform.

**What are the steps for submitting the Research Proposal?**

After logging in with the credential provided by the Foundation, the applicant must select the call for proposals and complete all the components of the project proposal on the chàiros platform. Each partner is required, after joining the project, to fill in the partner form.

**Is it possible to have a facsimile of the form to be filled in for the submission of the Research Proposal?**

At the following link: [https://www.fondazioneconilsud.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/4.-CHAIROS-Project-form\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.fondazioneconilsud.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/4.-CHAIROS-Project-form_ENG.pdf) you can find an attachment with the contents of the application form. Please note that when submitting the Research Proposal, you can only complete the form online, through the Chàiros platform.

*Document published on 9 October 2018*