



**MINISTÈRE  
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT  
SUPÉRIEUR,  
DE LA RECHERCHE  
ET DE L'INNOVATION**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**OUVRIR  
LA SCIENCE !**

# **NATIONAL FUND FOR OPEN SCIENCE**

## **CALL FOR PROJECTS n°2 « Publications »**

**Published January 27, 2021**

**(English translated version)**

**NB:**

*This document has been translated into English to make it easier to understand.  
However, the only authentic version of this document is the French one.*

**For further information**

<https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/open-science/>

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## **Indicative timetable**

**January 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. CET (UTC+1)**  
Opening of the SIGAP application platform  
(<https://sigap.cnrs.fr>)

**March 31, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. CET (UTC+1)**  
Closing of the call for projects

**September 2021**  
Publication of the results

**October / November 2021**  
Contracting phase

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## **A. Background information**

Open science means the unimpeded dissemination of publications and research data. It builds on the opportunity of digital transformation to develop open access to publications and - as far as possible - to research data.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announced a National Plan for Open Science<sup>1</sup> on 4 July 2018 at the annual congress of the League of European Research Libraries (LIBER).

The establishment of the National Open Science Fund (FNSO), which is part of the plan, is intended to finance initiatives contributing to the development of open science according to the criteria established by its steering committee.

A first call for projects National Fund for Open Science (FNSO 2019 AAP) was launched on 18 December 2019 and financed 22 projects. In view of the interest shown in this first call, a second call has been launched.

The scope of the FNSO 2 « Publications » call for projects (AAP FNSO 2) covers scientific and academic publishing, open scholarly publishing and their ecosystem.

The call for projects concerns initiatives undertaken by French institutions or having a significant impact on the French open science landscape and whose governance is based on a significant French contribution. The inclusion in the European and international context of scientific publishing and partnerships with foreign stakeholders will be appraised.

### **Developments in relation to the FNSO 2019 call for projects:**

This call follows the FNSO 2019 call for projects. However, it is enriched with new perspectives. This new call will focus in particular on supporting publishing entities, in the same way as platforms.

Moreover, projects aiming at improving the quality and management of publication data or underlying data, in accordance with the FAIR principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) fall within the scope of this call. These projects may be based on internationally recognised standard identifiers, or on national identifier systems as long as they are aligned with international standards. Projects aiming to improve the referencing and visibility of French scientific production, in particular by attributing DOIs to contents that do not have one or by using DOIs in citations, will be encouraged, as well as those with ORCID attribution in particular. This type of project can be related to the different components of the call (publishing platforms and entities, editorial content, infrastructures).

Finally, if the quality of the projects submitted so enables, the jury will seek to:

- encourage editorial initiatives relating to books;
- encourage open-access publishing capacities for the disciplinary fields of science, technology and medicine. It will promote the dynamics of cooperation and the pooling of technological tools and skills.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/National-Plan-for-Open-Science\\_A4\\_20180704.pdf](https://www.ouvrirlascience.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/National-Plan-for-Open-Science_A4_20180704.pdf)

## **B. Components of the FNSO 2 « Publications » call for projects**

The FNSO 2 « Publications » call for projects includes the following components:

- platforms and publishing entities;
- editorial content or applications combining several editorial projects;
- research infrastructures included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures.

### **1. Platforms and publishing entities**

Platform is defined, according to the definition of the National Digital Council, as access services that provide "an intermediary function in the access to information, content, services or goods, most often published or provided by third parties who organise and prioritize content for presentation and linking end users". This includes tools and software building blocks to structure content.

The FNSO's contributions to these platforms will be used to:

- enable the consolidation and sustainability of platforms that have already invested in the development of open science;
- foster innovation through the emergence of new publishing models or new forms of dissemination of academic publications;
- develop services that facilitates the transition of publications to new open access business models;
- develop services which implement innovative editorial processes like collaborative writing, open peer review, etc;
- develop services that allows the linking of publications and datasets.

Publishing entities are to be understood as organisations which support the publication of scholarly text material, possibly combined with other types of content. The editorial functions performed by these entities may range from defining the scope of the texts to be published and their selection, their organisation in the form of journals or collections, management of interactions with authors (contracting, advice on the drafting and organisation of content), organising the reviewing process of the scholarly quality, iconographic research (including the management of rights attached to images), and the formatting of diagrams, graphic design, maps, manuscript editing and copy preparation, production of the layout, structuring of information for dissemination across multiple media, publication by their own means or management of relations with publication platforms and distributors, promotion of published content to academic or other audiences, archiving, management and the development of an editorial collection. These entities may be university presses, public or private publishing houses, scholarly or learned societies, universities, etc.

The FNSO's contributions to the publishing entities aim to :

- develop capacities in terms of open digital publishing, promote the production of natively digital content and the integration of printed and digital editorial channels;
- pool and rationalise editorial activities or functions within an institution, a site, a region, a disciplinary sector or at the national level;
- explore concretely the economic models of open access to books or journals;

- implement a global contracting policy with contributors (authors, journals, collection managers, etc.);
- improve the quality of metadata flows supporting editorial flows, encourage the integration of documentary and commercial metadata;
- streamline connections with open-access publishing platforms;
- strengthen skills in the various areas of editorial work through the implementation of structuring and pooled training operations.

## 2. Editorial content or content combining several editorial projects

### a) Open access books: building viable business models

This part of the call for projects aims at contributing, through significant practical experiments, to integrate books in the open access landscape.

The aim is to promote the definition and emergence of business models based on the requirements of open access and digital webcasting, for example:

- within the broader framework of institutional strategies and consortia, by seeking new relationships between the funding of publishing and library acquisition budgets;
- by experimenting with economic models of open access for books: individual or institutional collaborative funding, liberation, subscribe-to-open fees, fundraising, sponsorships, membership fees, open access online distribution and sale of printed copies or digital copies in other formats, possibly extended features or additional content (freemium model), extra service, etc.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, special attention will be paid to strategic development initiatives to enable the pooling of existing projects. These are likely to extend beyond the strict scope of a publisher, institution or collection. It will be possible, for example, to create a consortium of publishers or to set up experiments or trials proving the concept of viable economic models.

### b) Academic journals: supporting the transition to open access

By academic journal is defines as a periodical that publishes articles on Science, Technology and Medicine (STM) or Human and Social Sciences (SHS) to communicate the results of researchers' work to their peers.

Current hybrid<sup>3</sup> journals are eligible only if they are explicitly engaged in an irreversible transition to open access distribution. "Clone journals" or "mirror journals" are also considered to be hybrid if they are distributed in open access but have an editorial board and a peer review process, identical to a subscription-based "mother journal".

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<sup>2</sup> For a presentation of business models for open access book publishing, including a SWOT analysis (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/risks), see Penier, Izabella, Eve, Martin Paul, & Grady, Tom. (2020, September 7). COPIM – Revenue Models for Open Access Monographs 2020 (Version 1.0). Zenodo. <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4011836>

<sup>3</sup> Hybrid journals are subscription-based journals that offer authors an option to distribute their articles in open access for a fee (*article processing charges or APC*).

Depending on the case, FNSO funding is intended for:

- the permanent and irreversible transition of one or more journals to open access distribution,
- the consolidation of journals that have already made this choice,
- the pooling or grouping of journals that are already in open access or in transition,
- the experimentation of new economic models for a transition towards open access: institutional collaborative funding, subscriptions, fund-raising, subscribe-to-open model (conversion of subscription fees into subsidies to open content), services, freemium, etc,
- if the editorial landscape justifies it, the creation of journals or new editorial objects in open access.

### ***c) Innovative editorial forms***

Innovative editorial forms are writing formats that renew or reinvent traditional editorial objects such as magazines, journal articles and books. Examples include editorial forms that promote the integration of various contents (text, code, data), collaborative writing forms or those that integrate open evaluation functionalities, writing forms that allow for better reporting on the scientific approach, executable articles and books (like or similar to Jupyter Notebooks), publication of protocols or other methodological devices, sharing of code or data associated with publications, certification of elements submitted for publication (code, data, methodology), etc.

### **3. Infrastructures included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures<sup>4</sup>**

For the infrastructures concerned, the request for funding may include the pooling of projects including the development of new functionalities, innovative projects, rejuvenation operations or scale-up operations in the service of open science.

### **4. Themes outside the framework of the call for projects**

Not within the scope of this call:

- projects solely focused on the management, opening, exploitation or editorialisation of research data;
- projects centred on a proposal to offer a software or translation service;
- research or participatory science projects.

Projects whose main purpose is the retrospective digitisation of printed editorial collections or the reprocessing of digitised collections are not eligible for the call<sup>5</sup>. However, digitisation or reprocessing of archives, journals or collections of books that are still published may be considered, provided that they support a project for a lasting transition to open access digital dissemination.

Projects may include feasibility studies, but these must support operational implementation, which must at least be initiated within the framework of the project.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid70554/la-feuille-de-route-nationale-des-infrastructures-derecherche.html>

<sup>5</sup> Project leaders can turn to other financing mechanisms dedicated to such operations, in particular [CollEx Persée](#).

## **C. Submitting an application**

### **1. Glossary**

#### **Project**

This is an application submitted by a project Coordinator, which has been selected for funding under the FNSO 2 call for projects.

#### **Project Coordinators**

Project Coordinators are natural persons responsible for submitting an application and, if successful, for carrying out a Project.

In the case of collaborative projects, project Coordinators centralise the submission of an application. They ensure that they have obtained all the necessary information from the project Beneficiary managers and Partner managers.

If their project is funded, they will coordinate it within the Beneficiary or Partner institution(s). They liaise with the FNSO for their projects.

#### **Project Beneficiary manager or Partner manager**

A project Beneficiary Manager or Partner Manager is the natural person responsible for carrying out part of a project within a beneficiary or partner institution.

In the case of collaborative projects, the Beneficiary or Partner managers implement their part of the project within the beneficiary or partner institution they represent.

#### **Beneficiary**

The Beneficiary is a legal entity receiving funding for a Project selected following the FNSO 2 call for projects.

#### **Partners**

Partners are legal entities that do not receive funding for a Project selected following the FNSO 2 call for projects. They may intervene on the Project, without FNSO funding, by providing funding or carrying out part of the Project.

## 2. Eligibility and submission process

Research organisations, companies or any institution with legal status whose main mission is research and/or the dissemination of knowledge<sup>6</sup> are eligible for the call for projects. All project applications must fill in the table of exemplarity criteria (see C.2.b).

A Project Coordinator submits an online application, which details the overall implementation of the project and explains its financial requirements.

In the case of collaborative projects, project Coordinators centralise the submission of an application. They describe the project submitted in the online form, including the different parts of the project (Partners and Beneficiaries).

When a project has been selected for funding, CNRS, on behalf of the FNSO, will sign a contract with each of the Project Beneficiaries.

The project Coordinator and Beneficiary and Partner managers must ensure the commitment of their home Beneficiary and Partner institutions before submitting the candidate project via the online application.

### ***a) Composition of the application file***

The application file includes a form to be completed online at the following address <https://sigap.cnrs.fr> and the submission of supporting documents.

French is the preferred language for these applications. You may, however, apply in English.

The project Coordinator must complete the online application form, which includes the following information:

- Selection of the type of initiative (Infrastructure included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures/Platform or publishing entity/Editorial content or Content combining several editorial projects);
- Identification of the Project and the project Coordinator;
- A short summary (280 characters) and a long summary (2000 characters);
- State of the art, description of the overall project and identification of project stakeholders;
- Request for financing;
- The exemplarity criteria (see C.2.b);
- Affirmation by the project Coordinator that he/she has requested and obtained the agreement of his/her superiors to participate in the project and that he/she has obtained the agreement of any project Beneficiaries and Partners.

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<sup>6</sup> And have fulfilled their legal, administrative, social, tax and accounting obligations.

The Project Coordinator submits the following documents in the "Attachments" section of the online application:

- The CVs of the Project Coordinator and all project leaders (Project beneficiary managers and Project partner managers);
- The financial request table for the project;
- Any additional documents to support the application (financial summaries, graphical representations, presentations or explanatory annexes).

The application will be considered to be complete, and therefore eligible, if all these elements have been completed and submitted via the online application by the closing date indicated on page 2 of this document.

It is strongly recommended:

- that the project Coordinator prepare the answers to be filled on-line beforehand by consulting the "Preparatory template for the on-line form" (which can be downloaded from <https://sigap.cnrs.fr>);
- to start entering information on the online form at the latest one week before the closing date of the call for projects;
- to regularly record any information entered on the online form, especially before leaving each page;
- to not wait until the closing date of the call to finalise the procedure for submitting your application.

#### ***b) Filling in the exemplarity criteria***

Depending on the type of initiative, the Project Coordinator is required to fill in one or other of the two exemplarity criteria tables, which are detailed in Part G (exemplarity criteria for infrastructures and platforms and publishing entities: table A ; exemplarity criteria for editorial content or content combining several editorial projects : table B):

- **In the case of a "platform or publishing entity" or "infrastructure" type initiative: only table A must be filled in;**
- **In the case of an initiative of the "editorial content or content combining several editorial projects" type: only table B must be filled in;**

The project Coordinator must detail each of the exemplarity criteria. These details must cover the situation at the time of submission of the application and the situation at the end of the funding period. The possible values are: irrelevant criterion, criterion not met, criterion partially met, criterion fully met.

In addition, a few lines of comments should show and justify the dynamics, even if it means referring to a more complete part within the text presenting the project. **These criteria can be considered to be targets. The fact that they have not been reached at the beginning of the project does not prevent the project from being submitted. If you cannot meet certain criteria, please explain why.**

## **D. Evaluation of candidates**

Eligibility will be verified on the basis of the information available at the closing date of the call. In the event that any information is missing or inconsistent the application will be considered to be ineligible. Proposals considered as ineligible will neither be processed nor funded.

The selection process of the call for projects involves different actors whose respective roles are as follows:

- On a proposal from the FNSO, the chairperson of the Open science steering committee<sup>7</sup> appoints the members of the evaluation committee;
- The evaluation committee is responsible for assessing the applications and ranking them. It is made up of French and foreign members. The evaluation committee can consult external experts. It can contact project leaders and ask them for more details;
- The Open science steering committee selects the final list of projects to be funded on the basis of the conclusions of the evaluation committee.

After publication of the list of funded Projects, the composition of the evaluation committee will be posted on the FNSO call for projects website.

The people involved in selecting projects undertake to respect with the principles laid down in the ANR's<sup>8</sup> Charter of Ethics and Scientific Integrity, in particular those relating to confidentiality and conflicts of interest. Under these rules, any participant in a project may not be a member of the evaluation committee.

The members of the evaluation committee are called upon to examine the applications according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific relevance and suitability of the proposal in relation to the guidelines of the call for projects
- Potential impact of the project on open science
- Involvement rate and overall financial balance of the project
- Feasibility of the proposal, adequacy of resources to meet the objectives
- Compliance with the exemplarity criteria (see C.2.b)
- Strategy for pooling between actors

The co-financing of each project is an evaluation criterion that will be considered by the jury. Selected projects for funding from the FNSO will be contacted for the contract procedure.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ouvri.lascience.fr/the-committee-for-open-science/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://anr.fr/en/anrs-role-in-research/values-and-commitments/scientific-integrity/>

## **E. Financing arrangements for funded Projects**

For each Project supported for one, two or three years, the contribution of the FNSO will be between:

- a minimum of 10K€ and a maximum of 200K€ for platforms and publishing entities (see part B.1.);
- a minimum of 10K€ and a maximum of 45K€ for editorial Projects (see part B.2.);
- a minimum of 10K€ and a maximum of 90K€ for applications combining several editorial projects (see part B.2.);
- a minimum of 15K€ and a maximum of 300K€ for research infrastructures included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures (see part B.3.).

The details of the rate of staff involvement in the Project as well as the balance of additional costs will be examined. FNSO funding is provided within the limits of the funds available to it.

A Beneficiary may not transfer in any form whatsoever, whether for a fee or free of charge, the rights and obligations arising from the financing (in particular transfer/pledge) without the express prior agreement of the FNSO.

### **1. General financing rules**

#### **a) Marginal cost financing**

The marginal cost excludes the remuneration of permanent staff and environmental costs of these staff. It includes other costs related to the implementation of the Project.

The Beneficiaries financed at marginal cost are as follows:

- Public research institutes, local authorities, public or institutions or those considered as such: Public Scientific and Technological Institutions (EPST), Public Cultural and Professional Scientific Institutions (EPSCP/EPCSCP), Public Administrative Institutions (EPA), Public Economic Institutions (EPE) or consular chambers, Public Interest Groups (GIP), Public Industrial and Commercial Institutions (EPIC) except in the case of a Project carried out in collaboration with at least one commercial company.
- Most of the public charitable foundations that carry out research;
- Private Health Institutions of Collective Interest (ESPIC).

## **b) Full cost financing**

The full cost includes all costs related to the Project.

Companies and associations are funded at full cost.

In the context of research conducted in partnership with at least one commercial company, EPICs are financed at full cost.

### **2. Specific financing rules for *de minimis* aid**

The financing granted to companies under this call for projects will be granted on the basis of European Commission Regulation no. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid published in OJ L 352 of 24.12.2013.

To determine whether an entity should be qualified as a single company, applicants who have submitted proposals that are then selected for funding, which are neither public institutions nor companies, will, in the case of funding, have to complete a calculation form to be provided during the funding validation period and return it to the FNSO. The form can be provided at the time of submission and *at least* within 15 days of the funding decision. The procedure for signing the agreement and financing may not begin until the completed form has been received by FNSO.

The criteria for *de minimis* aid are as follows:

- *De minimis* aid is granted to a single company;
- The total *de minimis* aid granted from national public funds to any one company must not exceed €200,000 over 3 fiscal years;
- It is possible to cumulate *de minimis* aid with other categories of aid for the same eligible costs up to the maximum aid intensity or the highest aid amount granted for these categories of aid;
- Aid granted in the cases set out in Article 1 of the aforementioned Regulation (EU) no. 1407/2013 shall be excluded from *de minimis* aid.

The aid rates applicable to the call for projects are as follows:

- Maximum aid rate for SMEs at full cost: 45%
- Maximum aid rate for large companies at full cost: 30%

The other entities are 100% funded.

The qualification of single company does not depend on the legal status (public or private law) or the objective pursued (profit or non-profit). The decisive element is the exercise of an economic activity, i.e. any activity consisting in offering goods and/or services on a given market.

The FNSO will verify compliance with the *de minimis* aid rules before the agreement is signed, in particular with regard to cumulation and single company issues. In the event of non-compliance, the FNSO reserves the right to refuse funding, even if the project has been

selected. In any case, the non-financing of a company may jeopardize the financing of the entire project if it is considered that the consortium's ability to achieve its objectives is compromised.

The participation of a company type Beneficiary in a Project implies the transmission of a consortium agreement (as indicated in the section F – 1).

### 3. Terms and timing of payments

Funding will be paid within two months of the publication of the results of the FNSO 2 call for projects and subject to receipt:

- of the document(s) of the project Coordinator (and, where applicable, of the project Beneficiary manager(s)), affirming that they have requested and obtained the agreement of their superiors to participate in the project.
- of the calculation form for single companies.

### 4. Taxation of aid

The financing granted by the FNSO is not subject to VAT because there is no direct link between the service provided and its value counterpart, pursuant to the provisions of Tax Instruction 3A-4-08 of 13 June 2008 and no. BOI-TVA-CHAMP-30-20120912 of 12 September 2012 of the Directorate General for Public Finance.

### 5. Eligibility of expenses for funded projects

**The following expenditure shall be considered eligible:**

#### ***a) Personnel expenses***

Salaries with employees and employer's social contributions, taxes on salaries, contributions payable by the beneficiary (old-age pension, family grants contribution, solidarity), unemployment insurance scheme including self-insurance system or based on agreements with *pole emploi* (national employment agency) CSG-CRDS, taxes on salaries; Bonuses and allowances (e. g. internship); Allowance for loss of employment (at the end of the fixed term contract (CDD)) when it is covered by the Beneficiary (unemployment self-insurance system or equivalent) for the period running until the end of the Project within the limit of the employer rate of the general unemployment insurance scheme, for researchers, engineers, technicians and other staff responsible for implementing all or part of the Project, provided that their share of assignment on the Project can be identified and justified.

Expenditure relating to the permanent staff of Beneficiaries at marginal cost is not eligible.

#### ***b) Cost of equipment and consumables***

This is the cost of acquiring or renting the equipment and of the consumables used specifically for implementation of the Project.

Case of Beneficiaries with marginal cost:

- Purchase: the purchase price of the equipment acquired for implementation of the Project is eligible
- Rental: the rental price covering the period of the Project is eligible

Case of Beneficiaries with full cost:

- Purchase: only depreciation costs corresponding to the duration of the Project are eligible
- Rental: the rental price covering the period of the Project is eligible.

The costs of transportation, installation, revision/maintenance, repair, adaptation or evolution of existing equipment and consumables are eligible.

### **c) Costs of using service providers (and intellectual property rights)**

These are costs that are necessary for carrying out the Project and related to the purchase of: Licenses, assignments, patents, trademarks, software, databases, copyright etc. and during its term;

- Costs of services provided:

The Beneficiaries may have certain services related to the Project performed by third parties. The amount of this category of costs is limited to 50% of the amount of funding granted to each Beneficiary unless an exemption is granted in advance at the Beneficiary's justified request.

The objective is to ensure that a Beneficiary does not substantially transfer the tasks it was originally intended to perform. The FNSO does not make any commitments to service providers. The services are carried out on behalf of and under the control of the Beneficiary alone, who must pay the services in full once they have been provided and without making this payment subject to the payment of funding.

### **d) Overhead (additional and other operating expenses)**

- **This category includes:**

Non-flat-rate overheads (to be justified at actual costs):

- Mission expenses, travel of permanent or temporary staff assigned to the Project, reception expenses and organisation of seminars/conferences related to the Project.

For Beneficiaries at marginal cost:

- The working environment fixed at 8% of all eligible costs excluding working environment costs (a+b+c+d+d non-flat-rate overheads).

As this is a lump sum, beneficiaries at marginal cost do not have to justify these costs.

For Beneficiaries at full cost:

- maximum 68% of eligible personnel costs (see a)
- maximum 7% of other eligible costs excluding working environment costs

As this is a ceiling, full-cost Beneficiaries may be required to justify these expenses on request.

- **To be eligible for funding, expenses:**

- must comply with the Beneficiary's internal rules;
- must be linked to the Project;
- must be carried out between the date of notification of funding by the FNSO and the end of the Project (i.e. 12, 24 or 36 months after the notification of funding);
- must be proportional to their actual use for the purposes of the Project;
- must correspond to services that have given rise to pricing and can be traced in accounting;
- must not conflict with other provisions applicable to the eligibility of costs.

## **F. Monitoring and assessment of the funded projects**

The Beneficiaries undertake to comply with the instructions given to them by the FNSO for the supply, presentation and distribution of the documents to be provided.

### **1. Consortium agreement**

Consortia with at least one company type Beneficiary or international Partner must sign a consortium agreement and send it to the FNSO.

The FNSO verifies that there is no indirect support through the Consortium Agreements which must specify for each Project:

- the contributions of the Beneficiaries and any other Partners,
- the distribution of tasks,
- the rules for sharing intellectual property rights relating to prior knowledge and results obtained under the Project,
- their exploitation and dissemination.

Its entry into force must be effective no later than the date of commencement of the Project. The FNSO recommends that the Beneficiary which coordinates the Project submit the Consortium Agreement, if possible before the start of the project or within a maximum period of six months after the start of the project for an annual project and twelve months after the start of the project for a multi-year project.

Any modification to a Consortium Agreement relating to the aforementioned elements must have been brought to the attention of the FNSO. The Beneficiary project coordinator is required to forward to the FNSO any amendment to the Consortium Agreement as soon as it has been signed.

### **2. Communication**

The ministry in charge of research and the FNSO may communicate on the general objectives of the Projects selected for funding, their scope and results; a non-confidential summary will be provided by the successful candidates for this purpose. The data related to the selected projects (acronym, title and summary of the project, duration, name of the Coordinator, name of the Beneficiary institutions and Partners, amount of funding obtained) will be published as a dataset on the [OpenData](#) platform of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

The FNSO must be informed of any communication or publication relating to a Project.

The Beneficiary undertakes to mention the financial support provided by the FNSO with a specific notice ("project financed with the support of the National Fund for Open Science"), and by including the communication elements that will be provided by the FNSO (logos, FNSO identifier) in its own communication actions on the Project, its results and publications.

The Beneficiary coordinator undertakes to participate actively in communication and programme follow-up operations such as seminars and conferences.

### 3. Interim report for multi-year projects

For multi-year Projects, an interim report on the progress of the Project is sent by the project Coordinator to the FNSO on each anniversary date of the notification of Project funding, structured to match the template provided by the FNSO.

When a Project is collaborative, the project Coordinator draws up a report based on the information provided to him/her by all the other project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers. In the event of default by one of the project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers, a partial intermediate report (containing only the part of the work carried out by the non-defaulting project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers) may be sent by the project Coordinator with the prior agreement of the FNSO.

### 4. Project completion report

For each Project, single or multi-year, a Project completion report summarizing all the tasks carried out is sent by the project Coordinator to the FNSO, structured to match the template provided by the FNSO.

Information relating to staff is to be included in the final statement of expenditure except for information relating to the permanent staff of Beneficiaries and Partners at marginal cost, which is to be indicated in the Project completion report (number of staff involved in the project, number of technical staff, in corresponding person-months).

When a Project is collaborative, the project Coordinator draws up a report based on the information provided to him by all the other project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers. In the event of default by one of the project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers, a partial intermediate report (containing only the part of the work carried out by the non-defaulting project Beneficiary managers or Partner managers) may be sent by the project Coordinator with the prior agreement of the FNSO.

### 5. Final statement of expenses

A final statement of expenditure summarising all the Beneficiary's eligible costs/expenses incurred for the Project over its total duration shall be sent by the project Coordinator and each Beneficiary project manager to the FNSO structured to match the template provided by the FNSO.

The statement must include:

- for category a), the list of permanent (for full-cost Beneficiaries only) and non-permanent staff assigned to the Project, specifying their seniority/category, the working time on the Project in corresponding number of person-months, the monthly and total costs;
- for cost categories (b), the list detailing the assets, their amounts, acquisition/lease date and, where applicable, the rate and share of depreciation attributable to the Project;
- for category (c), the list of services, names of suppliers/providers and amounts.

The final statement of expenditure must be drawn up on the Beneficiary's letterhead paper, signed by its legal representative and sent to the FNSO within 3 months of the end date of the Project. It must have been certified as accurate by the accountant.

Certification by the auditor, a chartered accountant if the Beneficiary has one or any other inspection body if necessary, may be required at the request of the FNSO.

The final statement shall be based on invoices that have been paid.

The services to which they relate must have been carried out before the end date of the Project (service rendered).

Additional documents may be requested by the FNSO.

Supporting documents must be kept for five years after the end of the Project. These

elements are checked by the FNSO.

The winning projects must cite that they have been funded by the National Open Science Fund and may be required to provide a report that will be made public.

## 6. Return of funded money

The Beneficiaries undertake to return all or part of the funding to the FNSO within 30 days of receipt of the request for restitution from the FNSO in the following cases:

- the non-receipt of the consortium agreement;
- the amount of the expenditure statement validated by the FNSO is less than the amount paid.
  - either because the Beneficiary has not consumed all the credits paid;
  - or because the FNSO has decided that the expenses are not eligible.

## G. Exemplarity criteria

### 1. Table A: Exemplarity criteria for the operation of platforms, publishing entities and infrastructures

Warning: publishing entities only provide information on the criteria relevant to them.

ESSENTIAL (13 criteria)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (5 criteria)	DESIRED (3 criteria)
<b>AA Governance</b>		
1 Clear definition of governance institutions, their objectives, relationships and ways of functioning	3 Establishment of science bodies (e. g. a scientific council) that are regularly renewed (with a limited mandate)	6 Governance with the widest possible national, European and international geographical, linguistic and disciplinary diversity depending on the vocation of the structure
2 Participation in the governance of user and scientific communities represented in their diversity	4 Dynamics of dialogue and cooperation with initiatives and actors in the field	
	5 Regular review of the infrastructure or platform roadmap	
<b>AB Openness</b>		
1 Display of the General Terms and Conditions of Use of the infrastructure or platform		
2 Readability and display of the structure's methods and sources of financing and how they are adequate for the mission involved		
3 If necessary, definition of the criteria and way of functioning for membership (for example, a journal wishing to be hosted by a platform) and guarantee of their transparency		
4 A procedure must exist for the declaration of links and conflicts of interest		
5 Openness in procedures for the selection of members of governance bodies		

<b>AC Viability / Durability</b>		
1 Presentation of the financing model which enables the infrastructure or platform's viability: balanced accounts, scalability of uses, service innovations, maintenance and evolution of technical aspects.		5 The general operation of the infrastructure or platform is not based on the financing of one-off projects
2 Revenues based on services associated with content and not on the commodification of content itself		6 For privately managed infrastructures or platforms, sufficient financial margin has to exist to ensure it can function during a transition period in the event of cessation of activity
3 Transparency, proportionality and reasonableness of the prices charged for services where applicable taking into account the reality of the cost and service provided		
4 A public document should set out the possible disappearance of the service in the form of a progressive process or by merging, thus guaranteeing the sustainability of data and missions		
<b>AD Replicability/portability</b>		
1 Use of open standards in the spirit of the FAIR principles, including the use of open, standardized, structured, documented, valid, easily available and interoperable data and metadata	3 Open source availability of the entire infrastructure or platform source code	
2 Availability of automated access to all metadata and content (e. g. via an API or regular dumps)	4 Infrastructure or platform built from existing open source software building bricks with a good level of technical maturity and possibly a large community of contributors and/or users	

**Clarification of some of the criteria for infrastructures and platforms (table A):**

- AA4: List infrastructure or platform partnerships at the national and international levels.
- AC2: provide infrastructure or platform rates with justification and breakdown of the costs.

## 2. Table B: Exemplarity criteria for editorial content

ESSENTIAL (12 criteria)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (7 criteria)	DESIRED (4 criteria)
<b>BA Governance, integrity and editorial policy</b>		
1 Definition and public dissemination of the composition and method of setting up editorial bodies (editorial committee, etc.)	5 Open, diversified and regularly renewed editorial bodies (limited mandates which may be renewed)	
2 Selection and evaluation of scientific content by peers according to clearly stated procedures		
3 Public dissemination of a priori or a posteriori procedures taken for the purpose of scientific integrity (data fabrication, plagiarism, etc.)		
4 The editorial line (of the journal or series) and editorial procedures (including evaluation processes) must be clearly displayed		
<b>BB Legal framework</b>		
1 Description and public display of the contractual framework established with the authors and the licensing policy	3 Use of the most open license possible (preferably the Creative Commons Attribution CC-BY)	
2 Authors should retain all their rights, in compliance with the license (no exclusive transfer to the publisher or a third party)		
<b>BC Business model - general points</b>		
1 The business model shall be explicitly made available for public consultation		4 The submission and publication of articles do not depend on the payment of unit publication costs (such as "APC" or "BPC")
2 Publication in immediate and full open access, now or after a transition process programme		
3 There must be a strategy for the medium-term economic viability of the journal or collection		
<b>BD Business model - The special case of journals and collections with unit payment of publication costs (type "APC" or "BPC")</b>		

1 Transparency, proportionality and reasonable nature of the price for the services invoiced, where applicable, taking into account the reality of the cost and service provided	3 Possibilities of exemption from possible publication costs depending on the author's affiliation institution (middle- and low-income countries, institution supporting the journal or collection, etc.)	
2 Evolution of possible publication costs in the framework of a contractual commitment		
<b>BE Accessibility, interoperability and sustainability of contents</b>		
1 Free access to all content without identification and DRMs	2 Unique identifier and referencing mechanism (e. g. DOI) for each editorial unit (article or book chapter)	6 Open dissemination of research data associated with a publication where the legal framework allows this to be the case.
	3 Open, standardized, structured, documented, valid, easily accessible and interoperable data and metadata	7 Separable formats (pdf, epub, xml, etc.) for each editorial unit
	4 Content and end-user interface accessibility policy for public groups with difficulty of access and areas with limited Internet speed	8 Use of ORCID for author identification
	5 Conditions for the long-term storage and accessibility of content	

**Clarification of some of the criteria for editorial content and projects combining several editorial contents (table B):**

- BB2: the publishing contract signed by the author must not restrict the chosen license.
- BC2: the transition process must not exceed the duration of the requested funding.
- BD1: provide the publication cost rates with justification and breakdown of the costs.
- BD2: a commitment is required for a significant period extending beyond the duration of the financing.
- BE4: for those who are prevented from reading, whether readers or contributors, clarification is expected on the accessibility of editorial content (e. g. Epub 3 Accessibility 1.0, CSS 3 formats), digital dissemination platforms (WCAG 2.1) and software tools (CMS).