

Luxembourg-Korea Joint Research Programme LUKOR

Second Pilot Call for Proposals 2026 (LUKOR-2)

**Closing date:
12 May 2026 (NRF, 18:00 KST),
13 May 2026 (FNR, 16:00 CET)**

**A maximum of 3 joint projects
will be funded**

1 Introduction

The Luxembourg-Korea Joint Research Programme LUKOR was established in 2024 as a collaboration between NRF, the National Research Foundation of the Republic of Korea and FNR, the Luxembourg National Research Fund. Following a first pilot call in 2024, the organisations agreed on launching a second pilot call in 2026. Together they invest about 400.000 EUR and will select up to 3 projects.

The programme objective is to enhance scientific and technological cooperation between Korea and Luxembourg through international joint research, including visiting research and research exchanges. It aims to foster new and strengthen existing bilateral cooperation networks and expand opportunities for future research cooperation efforts by promoting joint research between Korea and Luxembourg.

2 Joint Research Projects (JRP)

Grants for Joint Research Projects (JRPs) are aimed at promoting collaborative projects with clearly defined goals, involving at least one partner based in Luxembourg and one based in Korea. Applications must describe joint research activities, research collaboration, joint seminars, conferences, workshops and exchange of researchers between the applicant groups, over a one-year period. In addition to the description of the joint research activities, the application also needs to focus on the collaborative arrangements between the participating organisations. Rather than a one-off event, the grants should be used to develop a series of interlinked exchanges over one year. The location of activities should be shared where possible between Luxembourg and Korea.

The project duration is one year.

JRP addresses Luxembourg and Korean (senior) researchers interested in exploring collaboration within a topic area of strategic interest to both countries to identify future bi- and multilateral cooperation research opportunities.

3 Research Fields

Research topics of interest in this program include the following broad areas as below:

- Quantum communication
- Interfaces and communication between quantum computers

Examples of more specific scientific focus areas under this could be as below:

- Quantum transduction (microwave ↔ optical conversion)
- Photonic interconnects & quantum networking
- Cryogenic classical control & readout electronics
- Quantum error correction across distributed nodes
- Heterogeneous quantum interfaces

4 Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one applicant (PI) based in Luxembourg and one applicant (PI) based in Korea; they are the contact persons on the Luxembourg and the Korean side respectively. They bear the responsibility for the technical and administrative coordination as well as the timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Each PI can only submit one proposal. Furthermore, they are not allowed to be member of another research consortium submitting a proposal to this call. The call is open to researchers from all eligible research institutions in Luxembourg and Korea.

The project duration is 1 year (1 October 2026 - 31 September 2027; the project start date in Luxembourg could be slightly delayed, with a latest project end date for the Luxembourg part: 31 Dec 2027 (including dissemination period)).

If the proposal does not meet the eligibility criteria of either the NRF or the FNR, the proposal will not be considered for evaluation.

Eligibility criteria in Luxembourg

- For Luxembourg PI, the general FNR Requirements for principal investigators and supervisors must be fulfilled (<https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/how-we-fund-research/>). A PI may act in one proposal only, independent if as PI or as team member.
- Eligible Institutions: The following Luxembourg based institutions are eligible for financial support from the FNR, i.e. i) public institutions performing research in Luxembourg; ii) non-profit associations, societal impact companies (SIS), and foundations performing research in Luxembourg that have obtained a special authorization from the Luxembourg Ministry for Higher Education and Research. <https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/>.

Eligibility criteria in Korea

- Korean applicants should abide by the applicable laws and regulations of the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)

5 Funding

JRP proposals include two separate budgets: one budget in EUR for the Luxembourg part of the project (paid by the FNR according to the FNR's rules) and one budget in KRW for the Korean part of the project (paid by the NRF according to the NRF's rules). In principle, NRF and FNR will cover costs of their respective research teams, i.e. no money crosses the border. The two countries have agreed to fund up to 3 projects if a sufficient number of proposals of high quality are submitted.

- The total budget available in Luxembourg is 210.000 EUR. The maximum budget available for the Luxembourg side of a project is 70.000 EUR for a 1-year project.
- The total budget available in Korea is KRW 300,000,000. The maximum budget available for the Korean side of a project is KRW 100,000,000 for a 1-year project.

Both, the Luxembourg and the Korean budget will be submitted in the FNR portal (Korean to be uploaded). Additionally, the Korean budget needs to be submitted in the Korean online system.

If an event is in Luxembourg: FNR would cover the costs of the Luxembourg participants, the conference venue and event costs. We request Korean funding to cover the cost for their participants to visit Luxembourg (airfares/transfers/accommodation).

If an event is in Korea: FNR would cover the costs of the Luxembourg participants to visit Korea. Korea funding sources would usually cover the costs of Korean participants, the

conference venue and programme meals.

Eligible costs in Luxembourg

The FNR funds can be used to cover joint research and organisation of networking events in Luxembourg, staff exchanges, academic placements and participation in networking events. The details on the eligibility for the various budget categories (INTER) are available within the FNR Financial Regulations. Research activities in Luxembourg will be covered by the FNR, as well as any costs related to staff exchanges, academic placements and participation in networking events of the Luxembourg-based staff.

Eligible costs in Korea

Please abide by the applicable laws and regulations of the Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea.

6 Submission / How to apply

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by Luxembourg and Korean applicants, using the application form provided. They must be submitted via the Korea's national electronic submission system (iris.go.kr).

The Luxembourg PI must submit a pdf of the full application submitted in Korea (i.e., the same research plan (only English version), and the CVs of the 2 main PI; see Application form provided) as an INTER application to the FNR online submission system ([FNR Grant Management System](#)) no later **than 1 day** after the NRF call deadline. In addition, the INTER budget details and justification must be uploaded.

Proposals that are only submitted to one of the two funding agencies are ineligible.

Hardcopies will not be accepted. Neither the FNR nor the NRF will be held responsible for non-submission of a proposal.

Data Management Plan (DMP): A Data Management Plan (DMP) is requested for approved grants according to the requirements issued by the FNR. Funds can only be released once the DMP has been submitted. A definitive and updated version of the DMP must be provided by the end of the project grant.

Deadline for submission:

Korea: 12 May 2026 (18:00 KST)

Luxembourg: 13 May 2026 (16:00 CET)

7 Evaluation

NRF and FNR will both run an evaluation of the proposals, according to the same selection criteria. At the FNR, this will be done by an interdisciplinary expert panel.

NRF and FNR will align on the evaluation results and up to three highest ranked proposals at NRF and FNR will be retained for funding.

Evaluation criteria

- Originality of the research topic/methodology • Synergy between the joint research teams of both countries.
- Necessity of International Cooperation • Sharing of advanced research capabilities and utilization of resources/infrastructure
- Capacity Building and Feasibility • Enhancement of researchers' global capabilities. • Feasibility of achieving goals and proposed deliverables.

The evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants in August 2026, the latest. The Korean contact person will be informed by NRF. The Luxembourg PI of projects retained for funding will receive a decision letter from the FNR.

The decisions are not subject to appeal.

8 Reporting

Luxembourg and Korean grantees will report separately to the FNR and the NRF. The standard rules for reporting for the respective agencies apply.

9 Publications and Intellectual Property

The PIs are obliged to publish research results generated by the JRPs in appropriate form and according to FNR and NRF standards.

Intellectual property rights belong to the respective researchers and/or their employing institutions. It is the responsibility of each research partner to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishments of the joint research projects. The FNR requires a formal IPR agreement (or consortium agreement) for approved grants. Funds can only be released once the signed agreement has been submitted.

10 Contact

In Korea

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11 Webinar

NRF and FNR will host a joint webinar on April 15, 2026, for prospective applicants to address additional specific inquiries.