Opportunities for post-docs in the social sciences and Humanities

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AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE
ANR

The French National Research Agency

Created by the French Government in 2005 to organize the competitive funding of projects.

Objectives:

- Fostering creativity and openness, stimulating new ideas and partnerships.
- Targeting research efforts on economic and social priorities determined at the highest level of State and through consultation with the other research players.
- Encouraging inter-disciplinary actions.
- Intensifying links between the public and private sectors.
- Developing international and European collaborations.

The main challenges on which the ANR works are part of the **European strategic agenda.**

Key figures

- Nearly 18 500 projects funded since ANR was founded in 2005
- Funding budget in 2018: €672,4 million
- 1471 projects funded in 2018, €352 million average amount per project
- Overall selection rate: 18,5% in 2019
- 294 collaborators: 60% women, 40% men

Funding opportunities

Generic call

- €443,1 million in 2018
- Four instruments (see below)

Specific calls

- Labcom shared laboratories, Industrial chairs
- MRSEI, Springboard-ERC
- International calls (bilateral or multilateral, ERAnet)
- Flash, Challenges
- €63,5 million in 2018

1 specific Astrid call for proposals

- €11,5 million in 2018

1 Carnot program to fund laboraties with the Carnot label

- €62 million in 2018

Entries points for Post-doc

- Generic call, especially within collaborative projects or young researcher projects ;
- Specific calls, including the international calls.

- *As a post-doc hired within a proposal submitted by a more senior researcher or young researcher*

AAPG: Four Funding Schemes

PRC - Collaborative research project (About 72% of funded projects in 2018)

- Consortium: at least two academic bodies;
- Indicative ANR funding level: 100 to 500 k€;
- Fundamental research, industrial research, experimental development;
- Duration: 24 to 48 months.

JCJC – Young researchers (About 28% of funded projects in 2018)

- Single applicants, PhD less than 10 years, permanent staff or employment contract >project duration;
- Indicative funding level: 100 to 400 k€;
- Innovative approaches, new responsibilities, springboard for ERC;
- Project duration: 24 to 48 months.

PRCE – Public-Private partnership collaborative research project

- Consortium: at least one academic institution + one company;
- Indicative ANR funding: 100 to 800 k€;
- Fundamental research, industrial research, experimental development;
- Project duration: 24 to 48 months.

AAPG: four Funding Schemes

PRCI – International and collaborative research projects (9% of funded projects in 2018)

- Bilateral project with countries/founding agencies in specific fields (depending on ANR bilateral agreements)
- One or several French partners + one or several foreign partners from a specific country (annually updated list – for SHS : Brazil, Quebec (new in 2020), Hong Kong, Taïwan + Luxembourg, Austria, Swizerland [processus *lead agency*])
- Each agency fund its national teams.

Remarks :

- ANR funds **research projects** (no networks nor infrastructures) and necessary expanses: personnel (PhD, post-doc, contractual staff), travel, access to sources, constitution of corpus, equipment, conferences, valorisation

- Average costs for one project : 210 000€ (JCJC), 360 000€ (PRC), duration between 24 and 48 months (in SHS domain)

SSH at ANR

5 departments

- BS : Biology and Health
- SPICE : Physics, Ingineering, Chemistry, Energy
- NUMA : Numeric and Mathematics
- EERB : Environments, Ecosystems, Biological Resources
- **SHS : Humanities and Social sciences**

SSH Department

- **All SSH components (according to the ERC standard) are present in the following disciplinary axis:**
  - Innovation and work
  - Culture, creation, heritage
  - Cognition – education – long life training
  - Inequalities – discriminations – migrations
- **Applications out of the SSH Department:**
  - In 2018 : 42% of SSH projects or including SSH were submitted out of the department

SSH at ANR

- **Beside the four dedicated disciplinary axis, the SSH are also present in 6 areas of other disciplinary sectors:**

  (1) Food and food systems; (2) Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components with a view to their sustainable management; (3) Sustainable, clean, safe and efficient energy; (4) Integrative and cognitive neuroscience; (5) Artificial intelligence; (6) Interaction, robotics.

- **The SHS are finally present in 9 of the 13 transverse axes which benefits from an additional contribution in terms of transdisciplinary :**

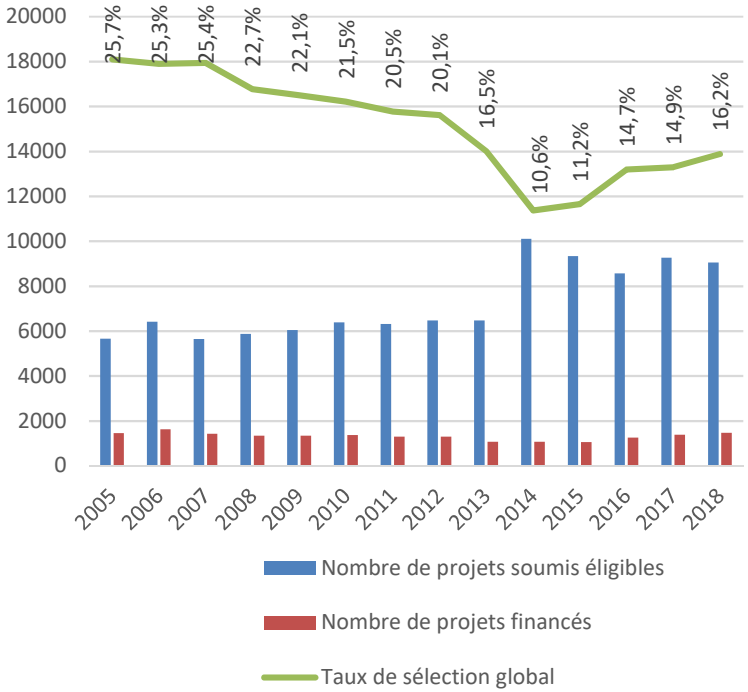
  (1) Human-environment interactions; (2) contaminants, ecosystems and health; (3) Infectious diseases and the environment; (4) Public health, health and societies; (5) Digital Revolution, knowledge and culture; (6) Global security; (7) Bioeconomics: chemistry, biotechnology; (8) Urban societies; (9) Industry and factory of future.

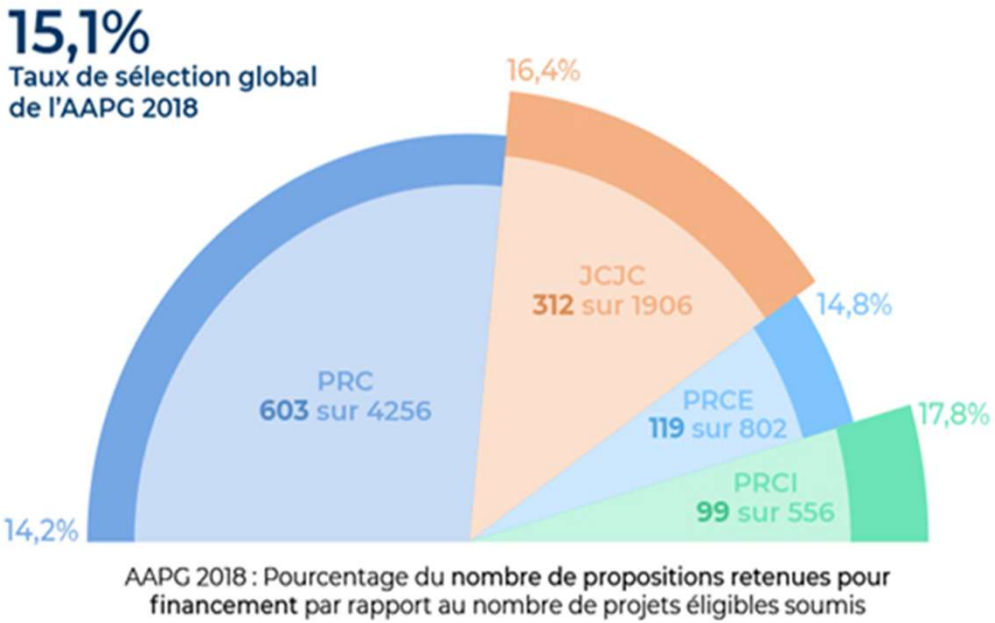
The Generic call for proposals (AAPG)

- 49 selection panels
- Selection in 2 steps (excepts PRCI) : *outline* (4 p.) and, if selected, *full proposal* (20 p.)
- Evaluation by selection panel (step 1), then selection panel + external experts (step 2)

- 2 main evaluation criteria for step 1 / 3 criteria for step 2 :
  - **Quality and scientific ambition [discriminant]**
  - **Project organisation and resources**
  - **Impact and dissemination (only step 2)**

Applications and success rate





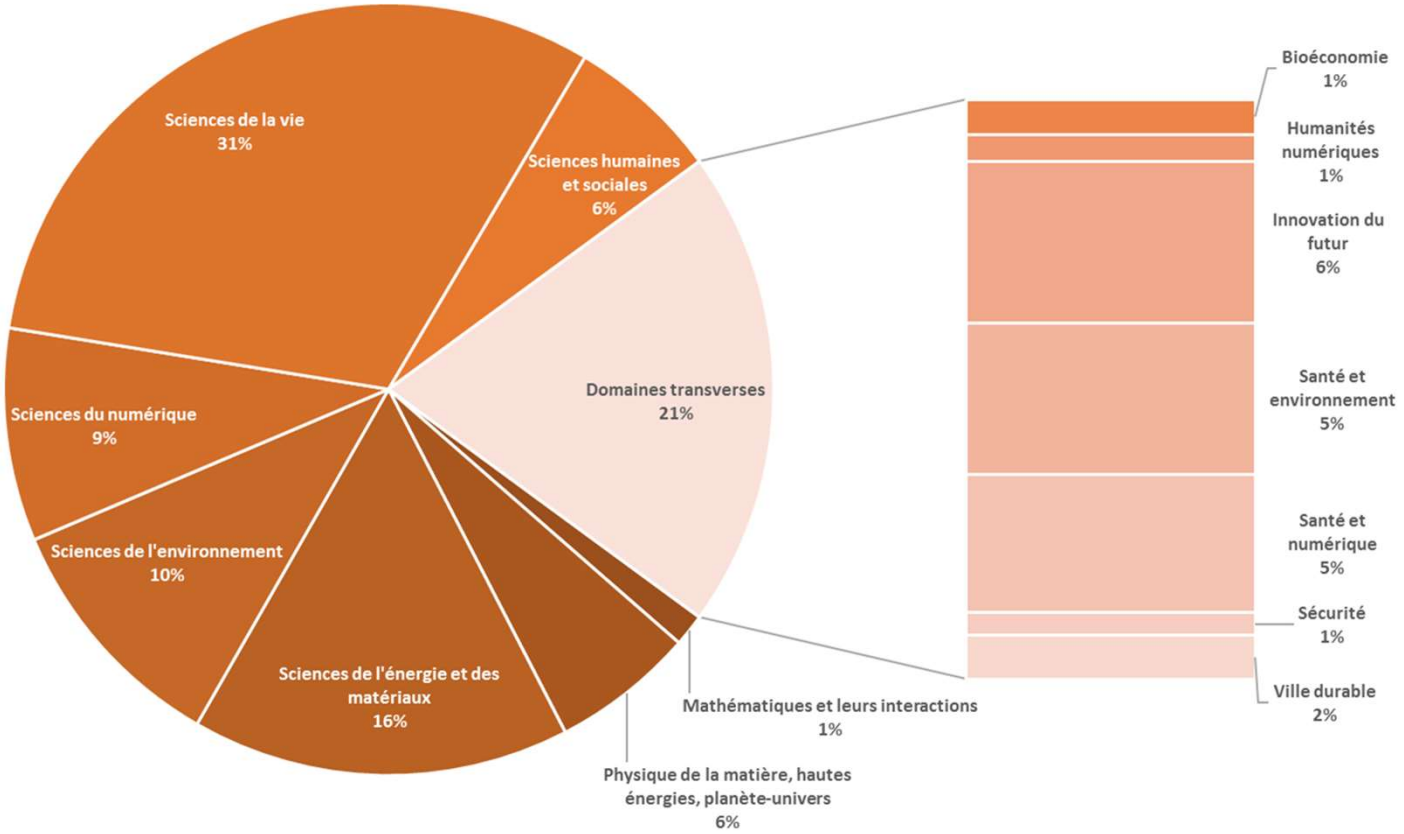
AAPG 2018 : Pourcentage du **nombre de propositions retenues pour financement** par rapport au nombre de projets éligibles soumis

Number of applications (submitted and funded)
With success rate (since 2005)
All calls (including competitiveness and international)

Success rate amongst eligible projects
(AAPG only, application and selection 2018)

Final 2019 AAPG results soon on www.anr.fr:
up to 16% success rate

SSH : applications and success 2019



Applications in the SSH department = 6%

Total number of SSH applications = 10% (out of +/- 8500 eligible projects)

Funding SHS (department SHS) = 8% (out of +/- 1100 projects)

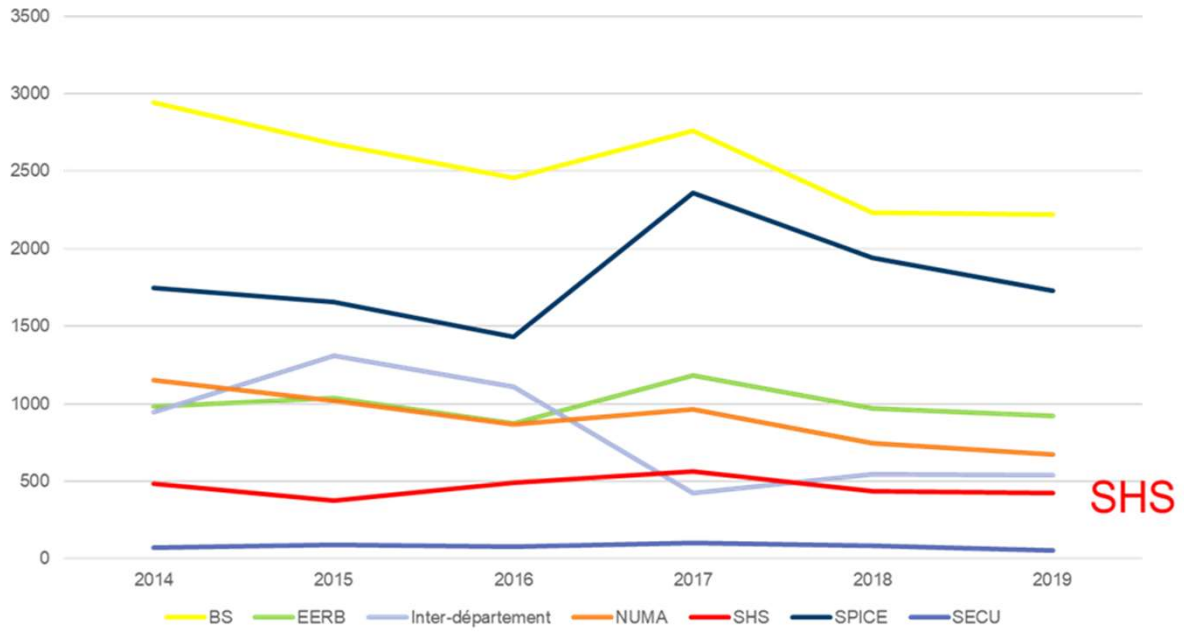
Results and diagnostic

Success rate in SSH

(including 3 sessions of the SSH plan: 2017, 2018, 2019 = 65 additional projects funded in 3 years)

18,2 %

against 16% for the whole ANR



Relative decline in SSH applications since the creation of the AAPG in 2014. But a better rate of success than in other disciplines.

Continuities 2019 et novelties 2020

- « SSH Plan » : 4th round in 2020

- Marginal update of thematic axis:
  - update of some sub-axis
  - Additional key words
  - ERC codes remain
  - corresponding ODD codes (new)

Thank you for your attention !

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