• FWO?
• International policy?
• Funding opportunities EU-13?
1. Research mainly at universities

2. Bottom-up funding in all disciplines

3. Scientific excellence - Interuniversity competition

4. Transparent and equal opportunities

5. International cooperation

Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)

www.fwo.be
Key Facts on FWO (2017)

Budget: 350 million EUR (incl. EOS)

- 72% Research projects
- 5% Fellowships
- 5% Infrastructure

- 74% Fundamental Research
- 5% Strategic Basic Research
- 5% Clinical Research
- 5% Infrastructure

- 854 Predocs (basic)
- 400 Predocs (strategic basic)
- 791 Postdocs
- 1220 Projects

- 82% Predocs 18% Postdocs
- 62% Postdocs 38%

- 51% Predocs 49%
- 42% Postdocs 58%

- 21.3% Predocs (basic)
- 29.3% Predocs (strategic basic)
- 27.4% Postdocs
- 20.5% Projects
Main FWO Funding Schemes 2019

FR Fellowships
SB Fellowships
International Mobility

FR postdoc Fellowships

FR Projects Junior
FR Projects Senior
SBO projects
TBM projects
Infrastructure
Established researcher

FR: Fundamental research
SB: Strategic basic research
TBM: Applied biomedical research
FWO Funding Schemes

• Funding for individual researchers
  • Pre- and postdoctoral fellowships including SB, bench fees and research grants

• Funding for research teams
  • Research projects including SBO and TBM, Big Science, Bilateral agreements, EOS, ...

• Infrastructure
  • Large and medium scale research infrastructure, Flemish Supercomputer Centre, ESFRI

• Supporting mobility, international contacts and collaborations
  • Travel grants, sabbatical leaves, scientific research communities, organisation of conferences in Belgium, international coordination actions, collaboration agreements, ERA-Nets and JPI’s, ...

• Brain gain: Attracting excellent researchers, active abroad, to Flanders
  • Odysseus, [PEGASUS]^2

• Awarding scientific prizes
Evaluation Procedure

Who?
- 30 domain-specific Expert Panels
  + 1 Interdisciplinary Panel (62 in 2019!)
- International Collaboration Committee (CIWC)
- Panel for International Collaboration (CIS)

How?
- Excellence as main criterion
- International peer review
- Severe regulations to avoid CoI
- Feedback procedure
Continuous Optimization Procedures

• Equal opportunities/more homogeneous evaluation procedure:
  o Junior ↔ senior research projects
• Postdoctoral fellowships for junior and senior researchers
• 2-step evaluation for fellowships:
  1. Pre-selection phase
  2. Interview phase
• Focus on INTERNATIONAL peer-review
FWO Application Procedure 2019

Fellowships

Launch call

Submission (www.fwo.be)

Eligibility check

Preselection by panel Experts (Spring)

External referees (online)

Interviews: Expert panels (60 + 2) (Autumn)

Board of trustees

Invite 2x the available amount of fellowships

Deadlines

• PhD-fellows: March 1
• Postdoctoral fellows: December 1

Start

• PhD-fellows: November 1
• Postdoctoral fellows: October/November 1

Feedback procedure in place
FWO Application Procedure 2019

Projects

- Launch call
- External referees (online)
- Submission (www.fwo.be)
- Eligibility check
- Rebuttal phase
- Peer review reports
- Rebuttal
- Initial proposal
- Expert panels (60 + 2) (Spring)
- Board of trustees

Deadlines
- Project application: April 1

Start
- Projects: January 1
• FWO?
• International policy?
• Funding opportunities EU-13?
Why internationalisation?

- Improving Flemish research community’s international character (ERC prerequisite)
- Placing Flemish research in a broader perspective
- Coping with Flanders’ “smallness”
- Guarding our research quality through international evaluation and peer review
- Collaboration with other funding agencies
FWO Stimulates Internationalisation

- Wide range of funding opportunities to support and stimulate international mobility
- International peer review
- Open recruitment: European degree for predocs, no nationality restriction for postdocs
- Member of Science Europe / ESF/ Global Research Council
- National Contact Point (NCP) for Horizon 2020 (together with Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship), including NCP for Spreading excellence and widening participation -
  https://www.ncpflanders.be/our-team
- FWO?
- International policy?
- Funding opportunities EU-13?
Funding opportunities EU-13

1. Individual outgoing mobility
2. Individual incoming mobility
3. Mobility projects
   - Exchange projects
   - Cooperation projects
4. Research projects
   - Lead Agency procedures
   - ERA-nets
   - Fundamental research projects, TBM, SBO, EOS projects
1. Individual outgoing mobility

What? Short and long scientific stays abroad (flight ticket and daily allowances)

Who? From PhD-level onwards
   Long stay: minimum appointment of 50% Flemish institute
   Short stay: affiliation Flemish institute

Where? Anywhere, as long as scientifically motivated

How? Submit form three months before departure.
1. Individual outgoing mobility

What? Grant for a long stay at an ERC Grantee abroad (3-6 months)

Who? From PhD-level onwards
minimum appointment of 50% Flemish institute

Where? Anywhere, at lab from ERC grantee to prepare ERC submission

How? Submit form three months before departure.
2. Individual incoming mobility

1. PhD fellows: European Master degree

2. Postdoctoral fellows: No nationality restrictions

3. [PEGASUS]$^2$: no further calls

4. Odysseus
Attracting Top Scientists to Flanders - Universities suggest candidates

Start-up funding to develop a research group or to set up a research line at a Flemish university

**Group I**
- Internationally recognized leading researchers
- Budget: between € 400.000 and € 1.500.000 per year (max. 5 years)
- Permanent position at a university in the Flemish Community

**Group II**
- Researchers with the potential to grow to a leading position
- Budget: between € 100.000 and € 200.000 per year (max. 5 years)
- Postdoctoral fellowship at a university in the Flemish Community
3. Mobility projects: Scientific Exchange Agreements

**What?** Exchanges in the frame of a research project (flights and daily allowances)

**Who?** From PhD-level onwards, however, PI must hold PhD.

**How?** Submit three months before departure and include invitation of the host institution. Unilateral evaluation.

*Exchange agreements: no deadlines:*

- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
3. Mobility projects: Scientific Cooperation Agreements

What? Exchanges in the frame of a research project (flights and daily allowances)

Who? From PhD-level onwards, however, PI must hold PhD.

How? Write research proposal with EU13 colleagues and submit on both sides before the deadline. Bilateral evaluation.

**Scientific cooperation:**

- Czech Republic: 30th June 2018
- Poland: September 14\textsuperscript{th} 2018
- Bulgaria: October 15\textsuperscript{th} 2018
- Hungary: call in 2019
4. Research projects
Lead Agency Procedure

• One agency responsible for evaluation
• Transparent procedures / mutual trust
• Results accepted by all partners
• Same eligibility rules as fundamental research projects

• Slovenia (ARRS)
4. Research projects
Lead Agency Procedure

Collaborative project

Joint proposal

Researcher Country A

Contract A

Lead Agency A

Evaluation

Decision

Inform

Partner Organisation B

Inform

Contract B

Researcher Country B
4. Research projects

ERA-net

• FWO-participation in 18 ERA-NET cofunds at present, additionally 6 forthcoming (1 European Joint Programme (EJP) included).
• Member states and/or regions participation on the basis of variable geometry.
• Apart from one exception, EU-13 countries are participating in all ERA-NETs with FWO-participation.
• Widening actions, encouraging EU-13 countries’ participation, are commonly used:
  • Important incentive: the inclusion of EU-13 countries is possible at different stages of the call process (pre-proposal, between pre- and full proposal phase, after project has been granted) through targeted measures.

→ Approach differs per ERA-NET
4. Research projects

ERA-net

Within 12 out of 46 granted projects with FWO-participation in H2020, at total of 16 EU-13 countries’ partners are participating.

- BiodivERsA3: Biodiversity and ecosystems
- ENSUF: Smart Urban Futures
- ERA-CVD: Cardiovascular diseases
- FACCE SURPLUS: Sustainable agriculture
- NEURON cofund: Disease-related neuroscience
- QUANTERA: Quantum technologies
- SUGI: Sustainable Urbanisation
- Transcan-2: Cancer research
4. Research projects

• **Fundamental research projects**: Max 10% of total budget for foreign institution (2019 onwards)

• **Applied Biomedical Research (TBM)**: max. 20% of total budget possible for non-Flemish research centers (co-applicant)

• **Strategic Basic Research (SBO) projects**: max. 20% of total budget possible for non-Flemish research centers (co-applicant)

• **EOS projects**: Max 10% of total budget for foreign institution
To promote **joint** research projects in **basic** research in **all fields** between the Flemish and French-speaking community in Belgium, possibly in collaboration with foreign research groups:

Consortium composition:

- **TYPE I:** Universities
- **TYPE II:** Research Institutes
- **TYPE III:** Federal Research Institutes
- **TYPE IV:** Foreign Research Institutes

- Research projects (4 years)
- Up to 1 million per year for staff, consumable and equipment
- Up to 2 Type II, III or IV research groups can be included
- Budget for Type II, III and IV: max. 10% of total consortium budget
- Deadline: April 2021 (?)

**www.eosprogramme.be**
Opening new horizons

More info on www.fwo.be

Thanks for your attention