



Joint Programming Initiative

More Years, Better Lives

The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change

MORE YEARS

BETTER LIVES

First Joint Call

“Extended Working Life and its Interaction with Health, Wellbeing and Beyond”

Aziz NAJI and Marieke ZWARTJES

Information Session BELSPO

21 March 2015

Brussels



Structure

1. Background
2. Call Topic
3. Countries and Budget
4. Eligibility
5. Evaluation Procedure
6. Timeline
7. Frequently Asked Questions



1. Background

Call content inspired by fast track activity: [Understanding Employment Participation of Older Workers](#) (state of the knowledge and the research gaps on this question in participating countries)

Input of Belgium:

- Committee Axes 4 and 5 of BRAIN-be
- Consultation federal services



2. Call Topic

Invitation of research proposals into one or more of four broad topics:

- Modern work factors
- Longer working life & inequality
- Health challenges
- Caring responsibilities

3. Countries and Budget

- Austria - Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (€500,000)
- Belgium - Belgian Science Policy Office (€500,000) or FWO (€200,000)
- Canada - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (€530,000 - only health challenges and caring responsibilities)
- Denmark - Innovation Fund Denmark (€1,000,000)
- Finland - Academy of Finland (€900,000)
- France - Agence Nationale de la Recherche (€700,000)
- Germany - Federal Ministry of Education and Research (€1,000,000)
- Spain - Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (€300,000)
- Sweden - Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (€1,200,000)
- The Netherlands - The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (€400,000 - only health challenges and caring responsibilities)
- United Kingdom - Economic and Social Research Council (£500,000)

Funding mode: “Virtual Common Pot”

4. Eligibility for JPI

- National regulations (for Belgium, BRAIN criteria)
- Non-funding countries, companies and organisations can apply with own funding
- Only transnational projects (min. 3 countries, max. 7 partners with a majority eligible according to national regulations, max. 2 partners from the same country as principal investigator – PI - or as co-PI)
- Length (max. 3 years)
- Interdisciplinarity
- Final funding decision

Eligibility for BELSPO

- Non-profit organisation with the pursuit of research in the statutes: Universities, colleges, public scientific institutions...
- A Belgian PI or co-PI for BELSPO is an institution. A PI or co-Pi can therefore be either a physical person or a group of persons within the same institutions. According to JPI-rules, in case of a group of researchers one and only one group leader must be appointed
- Belgian partners (PI or co-PI) can apply to a max. of €250,000 per proposal
- Minimum 60% of the budget of Belgian partners is used for personnel
- Budget for sub-contracting not more than 25% of the partner's total budget. Only secondary tasks can be subcontracted

Eligibility for FWO

- Existing FWO-funded networks
- €30,000 for top-up money (€10,000 for each of the three years)



Template for Budget

	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Personnel/Personeel				min. 60% of total budget
Fonctionnement/Werking				max. 10% of personnel
Overheads				max. 5% of personnel and functioning
Equipement/Uitrusting				
Sous-traitance/ Onderaanneming				max. 25% of total budget
TOTA(A)L	0,00	0,00	0,00	max. €250,000

Different Situations

1. Belgian eligible researchers with no money available → max. €250,000 BELSPO budget
2. Belgian researchers already funded by BELSPO (e.g. BRAIN-be) → top-up for networking activities BELSPO budget (max. €250,000)
3. Belgian researchers already funded by FWO → top-up for networking activities FWO budget (max. €30,000 per project)
4. Non-eligible (for BRAIN) Belgian participants → secure their own funding sources and notice BELSPO in advance

Required Information in Proposals

- Project title; acronym (maximum 15 characters)
- Duration of project (months)
- Total project cost and budget requested to be publically funded
- Type of research group (academia, clinical, industry)
- Key words; abstract
- Family names, first names and full affiliations
- Background and present state of the art in the research field (max. 2 pages)
- Work plan including references (e.g. aims, methodology, participants, time plan, work packages, project coordination, innovation, added value of the proposed solution)
- Financial summary for each project consortium partner
- Added value of the proposed international collaboration
- Potential impact, outreach to stakeholders and exploitation of results
- Handling of intellectual property rights
- Description of ongoing projects, pending patents and patents
- Ethical issues of the project proposal
- Brief CVs for each participating project partner

5. Evaluation Procedure

STEP 1 - FORMAL CRITERIA CHECK OF PROPOSALS

- **Joint Call Secretariat** will check all proposals for **formal criteria** (date of submission; number of participating countries; inclusion of all information in English; appropriate limits on length)
- Joint Call Secretariat will **forward the proposals** to the national funding organisations to perform a formal check for compliance to national rules
- Proposals **not meeting the formal criteria** will be **declined** for further review
- **Proposals** passing both checks will be **forwarded** to the **Peer Review Panel**

STEP 2 - SELECTION OF PROPOSALS BY THE PEER REVIEW PANEL

- Members of the Peer Review Panel will carry out the **evaluation** using a **common evaluation form** according to specific evaluation criteria



Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance and clarity of objectives
- Scientific quality of the proposal
- Quality of the project consortium
- Feasibility of project plan
- Potential impact on society and citizens



STEP 3 – PROJECT APPROVAL AND DECISION COMMUNICATION

- **Call Steering Committee** composed of representatives from funding institutions
- **Call Steering Committee will decide by consensus**, however: possible **veto right** for national representative concerned
- **Each country** represented in the CSC has **one vote**
- **Call Steering Committee** will recommend the proposals to be funded (shortlist) following the recommendations of the **Peer Review Panel**
- Each Party will make the final decision **according to their respective regulations** and available budgets in line with the prioritisations made by the Call Steering Committee



6. Timeline

- Start online tool: 17th of April 2015
- Deadline: 2nd of June 2015
- Verification criteria: June 2015
- Selection of experts: June 2015
- Selection of proposals: November 2015
- Signing the network agreement and the BRAIN-be contract: first trimester 2016

7. Frequently Asked Questions and Additional Information

- *What is the definition of “a Belgian partner”?*

A Belgian partner is a person or a group of persons belonging to the same scientific institution. For example, two researchers from two different faculties within the same university are considered one Belgian partner in one proposal. Attention, for the JPI, a group of researcher from the same institution will need to appoint one and only one of them as group leader.

Is there a limitation on the number of Belgian partners in a proposal?

Yes, maximum two eligible partners (as defined above) per consortium are allowed, either as PI and co-PI or as 2 co-PI. Moreover, the total budget of BELSPO per proposal is max. €250,000. This will have to be divided amongst the different Belgian participants within one proposal.

- *How many proposals per Belgian partner?*

A partner can participate in maximum two proposals. If the partner is a PI only one proposal can be handed in.

- *Can we do comparative research with Belgian data?*

Yes, proposals can also be focused on a comparative analysis.

- *Is there a preference concerning the nature of the Belgian partners?*

Contrary to the BRAIN-be programme, a Belgian partner does not need to include institutions from both principal Belgian communities, nor a Federal Scientific Institution (FWI/ESF) to enter a transnational consortium.

- *If I already have a running BELSPO or FWO contract, can I apply?*

Yes, you can either integrate the BELSPO (FWO)-project in the network and ask for topping up money, or you can enter a new project in which your tasks differ from your running BELSPO (FWO)-project. In both cases, the max. budget you can ask for is €250,000.



7. Additional Information

A number of international databases linked to the call and in which Belgium participates have been discussed during the information session. These are: [SHARE](#), [PIAAC](#) (Flanders) and [GGP](#). These databases offer interesting sources for information.

Background material to this call to be usefully considered:

- The “[Strategic Research Agenda](#)”, and in particular the topic “A New Labour Market”.
- Report from the Fast Track Activity: “[Understanding Employment Participation of Older Workers](#)” containing in the Annex the report for Belgium



Joint Programming Initiative

More Years, Better Lives

The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change

MORE YEARS
BETTER LIVES

Thank you!

Aziz NAJI

Belgian Science Policy

Tel: +32 (0)2 238 36 46

Marieke ZWARTJES

Belgian Science Policy

Tel: +32 (0)2 238 36 99