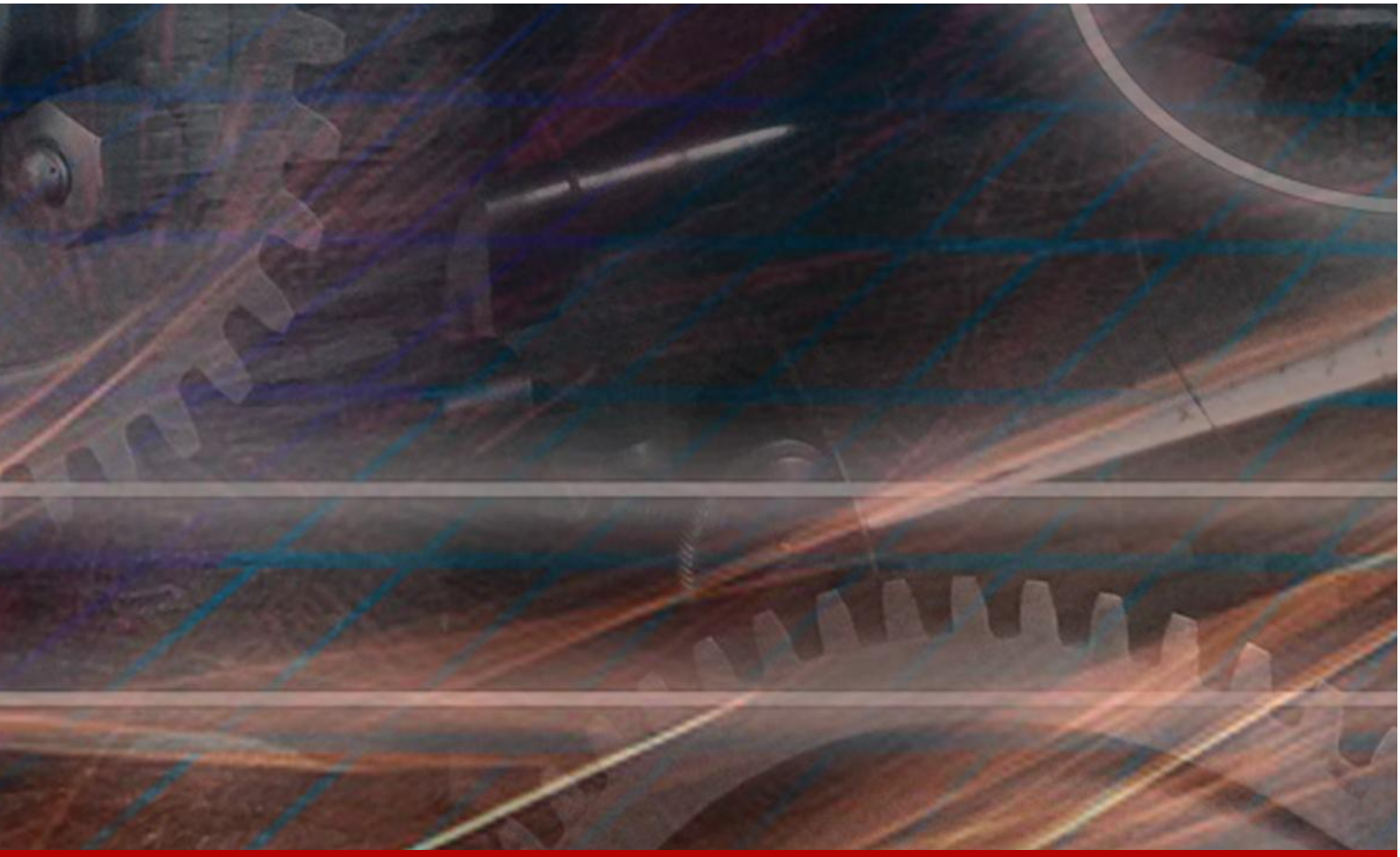
P4Science



Information File

Call for proposals 2026 -2027

Submission deadlines
25/06/2026 @ 14h00 Expressions of Interest
01/10/2026 @ 14h00 Full Proposals

belspo

.be

BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY OFFICE - WTC III - Simon Bolivarlaan 30 box 7 Bld Simon Bolivar - 1000 Brussels
www.belspo.be - +32 (0)2 238 34 11 - info@belspo.be

Table of Contents

1. P4SCIENCE: MULTI-YEAR FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH FOR THE FSI .. 3
1.1. General information 3
1.2. Organisation 3
1.3. Project partnership, roles, and eligibility for funding 4
1.4. P4Science indicative budget and budget distribution 5
1.5. Calendar of calls 6
2. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS FOR SELECTED PROJECTS 6
2.1. Contracts 6
2.2. Project and progress reporting 7
2.3. Meetings 7
2.4. Data, results, intellectual ownership and open access 8
2.5. Research ethics 8
2.6. International collaboration and knowledge security 9
2.7. Gender 9
3. RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE CALL 11
3.1. FAIR principle and AI models 11
3.1.1. FAIR Data and EOSC 11
3.1.2. AI for Collections, Repositories & (digital) Archives 11
3.1.3. Trustworthy AI & Decision Support 11
3.1.4. AI and improved workflows for collections 12
3.2. Heritage collection: innovative methods for conservation 12
3.2.1. Application and/or Development of Advanced Scientific Imaging and 3D technologies. 12
3.2.2. Development of new risk analysis and monitoring models 12
3.2.3. Green conservation methods 12
3.3. Past & present societies 12
3.4. Ecosystems, climate & environmental health 13
3.4.1. Weather, climate and climate change 13
3.4.2. Ecosystems and environmental health 13
3.5. From Earth System Processes to Natural Hazard Risk: Assessment and Response 14
3.5.1. Assessment of Natural Hazards across Earth System Compartments 14
3.5.2. From Risk Assessment to Crisis Response: Management, Mitigation and Governance 15
3.6. Astronomy, Earth and Planetary Science 15
4. THE RESEARCH TOOLBOX 16
5. DOCUMENTATION 18
6. HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL 18
6.1. Submitting a proposal (Phase 1 & 2) 18
7. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS 20
7.1. Remote evaluation (Phase 1) 20
7.2. Panel evaluation (Phase 2) 21
7.3. Proposal selection (Phase 3) 22
8. CONTACTS 23
9. COMPLAINTS 23
ANNEX 1 : TOOLBOX 24
R&D project 24
Capacity/skills development 25
Synergy development 25
Valorisation/Impact 26

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

1. P4Science: Multi-year framework programme for research for the FSI

For more information regarding the programme, please visit the P4Science website

1.1. General information

On 9 February 2024, the Council of Ministers approved the launch of the P4Science (Policy for Science) research programme, implemented under the responsibility of the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO).

This programme aims to support and reinforce the **scientific excellence, research capacity and scientific services of the Federal Scientific Institutions**[1] (FSI), ensuring their stability in terms of expertise and scientific capacity by funding projects based on their specific **research priorities**. P4Science promotes a bottom-up approach, where research priorities featured in the calls derive directly from the **Research Strategy** of each FSI.

P4Science aims to:

- Support and strengthen scientific excellence of FSI.
- Increase and/or create critical mass by strengthening expertise, research capacity and cooperation.
- Favour inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration among institutions.
- Better position FSI at the EU/ International level.
- Link/integrate FSI research to/in (inter)national initiatives.
- Link FSI research with federal infrastructures, equipment and collections.

A call for proposals is launched every two years containing a number of research priorities that respond to the research strategy and research needs of the FSI. In preparation of each call, a list of strategic priorities is prepared based on the long-term strategic research calendar.

1.2. Organisation

BELSPO is responsible for the implementation and management of the programme, holding a supporting role towards the FSI, and assisted by the **P4Science Programme Committee**.

Composition of the P4Science Programme Committee:

- One effective and one substitute representative from each FSI
- Four independent members of the Federal Council for Science Policy, appointed for the duration of the programme.

[1] The 10 Federal Scientific institutions (FSI) that fall under BELSPO: BIRA-IASB, KMI-IRM, KBS-ORB, KBIN-IRSNB, KMMA-MRAC, KIK-IPRA, KMKG-MRAH, KMSKB-MRBAB, ARA-AGR, KBR, plus the 3 that fall under other Federal Departments: Sciensano, NICC-INCC, and WHI, as defined in the Royal Decree of 30 October 1996 – including possible legal successors.

Mandate of the P4Science Programme Committee:

- Advise on the long-term priority research and call calendar.
- The elaboration of a number of research priorities within the calls based on the long-term priority research and call calendar.
- Advise on the research projects to be funded within each call based on the peer-reviewed evaluation of project proposals.

Further information regarding the composition and Terms of Reference of the P4Science committee is available on the website.

1.3. Project partnership, roles, and eligibility for funding

The Project partners are the research institutions. All **research projects** within the P4Science programme are **initiated and coordinated by a BELSPO FSI.** In the current call projects can also be initiated by the **WHI**.

Projects may be implemented by a **single FSI** or a **network** of FSI whether or not in collaboration with other eligible Belgian and/or international research institutes.

Belgian research institutes (FSI, universities, colleges of high education, public scientific institutions, and non-profit research centres) may participate in projects receiving funding and/or contributing in-kind. International research institutes cannot receive funding and may only contribute in-money and/or in-kind.

	Role	Institution type	Receive funding?	Contribute in-money or in-kind?	Sign the project contract?
Belgian funded Partner	(C=P1) Coordinator	10 BELSPO FSI and WHI	Yes. Mandatory	May also partially contribute in-kind	Yes
	(P2…) Promotor	FSI, Belgian universities, colleges of high education, public and non-profit research centres	Yes	May also partially contribute in-kind	Yes
Non-funded Partner	(O1…) Other	FSI, Belgian universities, colleges of high education, and non-profit research centres	No	Yes	No
		Foreign and International research institutes	No	Yes	No
		Non-research organisation	No	Yes	No

Types of partner:

- **Belgian funded partner:** FSI, Belgian universities, colleges of high education, public and non-profit research centres funded within the project.
- **Non-funded partner**: Foreign and (inter)national research institutes or non-research organisations not funded within the project but providing a substantial contribution (in-money or in-kind) to the project. In case of participation of private companies care should be taken to avoid indirect state aid.

Partner roles:

- **Coordinator:** Researcher within the funded FSI responsible for the initiation, management, and coordination of the project. The coordinator is always funded.
- **Promotor:** Researcher within the funded Belgian partner institution financed by the project.
- **Other:** person pertaining to a foreign, (inter)national research institute or non-research organisation that is not receiving funding within the project.

The project may require specific or punctual expertise, which can be delivered in the form of subcontracting. The subcontractor is not an official project partner. Their specific expertise may be of scientific nature or not. The subcontractor can be a foreign, (inter)national research institute or non-research organisation. The selection of the subcontractor should be based on a competitive tendering process.

1.4. P4Science indicative budget and budget distribution

The indicative budget for the 2026-2027 call is 20.243.303€.

The budget is split in 2 categories: (a) 20% is **competitive**, accessible to all FSI, and (b) 80% is **non-competitive**, allocated to each FSI specifically - using a repartition key[2] under the condition that the proposals pass the minimum scientific quality assessment.

For the 2026 -2027 call, the budget is distributed as follows:

	Institution	Call 2026 – 2027 Available Budget Envelope (€)	Budget already committed to international calls
Competitive budget *(20% of total call budget)*	All BELSPO-FSI	4.404.683	-
Non-competitive budget *(80% of total call budget)*	KBIN – IRSNB	2.616.060	-
	KMMA – MRAC	1.695.710	-
	KMI – IRM	1.332.720	-
	KBS – ORB	1.524.700	-

[2] For more information regarding the distribution key and the flat rate please consult the Note to the Council of Ministers in French (https://www.belspo.be/belspo/P4Science-S4Policy/doc/Nota_fr.pdf) or Dutch (https://www.belspo.be/belspo/P4Science-S4Policy/doc/Nota_nl.pdf).

	BIRA – IASB	1.600.050	-
	KMKG – MRAH	1.337.190	-
	KMSKB – MRBAB	825.960	-
	KIK – IRPA	1.647.190	-
	ARA – AGR	2.356.670	-
	KBR	771.190	-
	Sciensano	-	-
	NICC – INCC	-	-
	WHI	131.180	-

1.5. Calendar of calls

The budget allocated to each call covers two consecutive budget years, for this call budget year 2026-2027.

Indicative calendar call 2026 – 2027:

Indicative period / date	Phase
7 May 2026	Call launch
25 June 2026	Expression of Interest deadline
1 October 2026	Full Proposal deadline
	Evaluation of proposals
	Selection of proposals
15 March 2027	Start of projects

The exact deadlines of this call and the indicative timing of future calls can be found on the P4Science website.

2. Contractual obligations for selected projects

2.1. Contracts

For the selected proposals, a contract is concluded between BELSPO and the funded partner(s).

This contract is composed of 3 parts:

- **Base contract:** This part of the contract contains general administrative information of the project, such as (but not limited to) the participating institutions, start and end dates of the project, budget. The Base contract is signed by the persons responsible for the funded partner institutions: BELSPO's president, General Directors of FSI, Rectors of universities…

- **Annex I – Technical annex:** This part of the contract contains the specifications on the basis of which the contract is drawn up: project objectives, methodology, impact, workplan and calendar, budget distribution, etc. The Technical annex is drawn up by the coordinator and the promotors of the selected proposals in consultation with BELSPO. The coordinator will be asked at the end of the evaluation and selection procedure to concisely write these specifications together with the other members of the project, considering the recommendations formulated by the evaluators and/or the P4Science Programme Committee. Adaptations to the original proposal may relate, among other things, to the content of the research, the composition of the project partnership or Follow-up Committee, the budget, the proposals for valorising the research. The technical annex is signed by the programme manager in charge of the follow-up of the project at BELSPO, the coordinator and the promotors of the project.
- **Annex II – General conditions:** This part of the contract states the general conditions that apply to it. It does not require signing and is available on the website.

BELSPO grants the selected projects the approved funds required for their implementation. BELSPO shall reimburse at most, and up to the amount specified in the granted budget, the actual costs proven by the partners, providing these costs are directly related to the implementation of the project.

2.2. Project and progress reporting

The contract foresees the following **reporting** to be submitted to BELSPO via the online project management platform:

- **Initial report:** To be submitted by the promotor and – in case of a project network - each promotor within 3 months after the start of the project. This report provides a beginning status of the project for each research group.
- **Annual activity report:** To be submitted by the coordinator, at the times specified in the Technical annex. This report provides information regarding the state of advancement of the project, encountered problems and possible solutions.
- **Annual personnel report:** To be submitted by the coordinator and – in case of a project network - each promotor in case there are any changes in the staff working for the project.
- **Final report:** To be submitted by the coordinator. This report provides a full description of the project, the results achieved and their possible scientific and technological applications and indicates the extent to which the objectives were achieved.

This reporting is to be included in the project work plan and project budget.

Besides these standard reports, BELSPO can ask for a specific report or other input at any time during the project in order to provide scientific support to valorisation and/or service actions related to the programme.

2.3. Meetings

Meetings on the project's progress must be organised - minimum once a year - between the project partner(s), BELSPO and if applicable the Follow-up committee of the project. The organisation of these meetings must be included in the project work plan and the project budget.

2.4. Data, results, intellectual ownership and open access

Foreground - the deliverables (including information) produced by the project - shall be the property of the institution carrying out the work generating this foreground, as mentioned in article 11 of the General Conditions (Annex II of the contract). As regards existing information and data, ownership remains the same. Each institution shall ensure that the foreground of which it has ownership, is disseminated as fast as possible and free of charge.

In accordance with the BELSPO Open Research Data Mandate, each Institution undertakes to make the foreground and background relating to research data, available as soon as possible and free of charge in an approved data repository (Open Research Data Repository). This relates to data that supports the research deliverables, with its metadata and other contextualised (curated) and/or raw data mentioned in the Data Management Plan (DMP) submitted by the grant applicant. The data must comply with the FAIR principle (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and must be accessible according to the principle "As open as possible, as closed as necessary".

For research areas concerning the marine environment, the Antarctic, biodiversity and social science and humanities, researchers must transfer a copy of the analysis and measurement data and/or metadata to specific databases such as:

- BMDC (the Belgian Marine Data Centre).
  The Belgian Marine Data Centre, our federal NODC (National Oceanographic Data Centre), (bmdc@naturalsciences.be), can be contacted for assistance in the development of a DMP for marine applications and/or in choosing the right repository.
- AMD (Antarctic Master Directory). The Belgian representative of SCADM (the SCAR Standing Committee for Antarctic Data Management) (avandeputte@naturalsciences.be) can be contacted for assistance in the development of DMP for Antarctica related applications and/or in choosing the right repository.
- GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility). The Belgian Biodiversity Platform can be contacted for assistance in the development of DMP for biodiversity related applications and/or in choosing the right repository. See also the guidance document.
- For social and Humanities data, a copy of the data and/or metadata must be transferred to SODHA (Social Sciences and Digital Humanities Archive).
- The promoters of projects that include tasks in which biological materials are used, must ensure the preservation of this biological material by depositing it in a culture collection (Biological Resource Centre), and preferably one in Belgium. This does not apply to material that promoters can prove has already been deposited in a culture collection or for which existing agreements (Material Transfer Agreement) do not allow it to be deposited. Biological material includes cultivable organisms such as microorganisms, viruses, plant, animal and human cells as well as the replicable parts of these organisms, such as non-modified and recombinant plasmids (including those with DNAc inserts).

2.5. Research ethics

The "Code of Ethics for Scientific Research in Belgium" is a joint initiative of the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, the Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique, the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten and the Koninklijke Academie voor Geneeskunde van België, with the support of BELSPO.

All projects must take this code of ethics into account in their research. Applicants are required to fill out the **ethics form** with their proposal. If necessary, the Ethical Board of the institutions concerned by a project must be consulted before submitting a proposal.

The code of ethics for scientific research is available here:
http://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/publ/pub_ostc/Eth_code/ethcode_en.pdf

2.6. International collaboration and knowledge security

Openness to international partners and practising academic freedom as well as due diligence in terms of choice of your cooperation partners in research, technology and innovation, goes hand in hand with some 'responsibility' in terms of secure international cooperation.

It means a practice of (a minimum of) risk assessment when it comes to choosing your partners. In the current geo-political tensioned period where knowledge becomes power, it is strongly advised to minimize risks amongst others of foreign interference, unethical practices or IPR theft.

Therefore, it is recommended to follow the guidelines provided on the BELSPO's special webpage dedicated to 'risk management in practice' (research security):https://www.belspo.be/belspo/ResearchSecurity/context_en.stm

The specific **checklist of questions** (sheet 'risks') helps you to do a risk analysis for your cooperation case. The aim is not to discourage international cooperation but to leverage an increased, safe international cooperation.

In the frame of the P4Science programme cooperation with partners from some countries is not possible or discouraged:
- *Belarus and Russia:* in line with current EU sanctions in term of cooperation with/financing of Belarusian or Russian persons/entities, any form of scientific cooperation with Belarus and Russia (including e.g. data or sample exchange) is until further notice not possible.

- *China: d*ue to their strong ties with the Chinese military and defence industry, scientific cooperation with the 'Seven Sons of National Defence' is not allowed. It specifically concerns:
  - Beihang University, formally known as Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
  - Beijing Institute of Technology
  - Harbin Engineering University
  - Harbin Institute of Technology
  - Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
  - Nanjing University of Science and Technology
  - Northwestern Polytechnical University

2.7. Gender

BELSPO is committed to gender equality. The term 'gender equality' refers both to gender balance in the research teams (choice or researchers) and to the gender dimension of the research (content and implementation) and should be considered as a transversal aspect of the project. All statistics produced, collected and commissioned are, where applicable, disaggregated by sex/gender, and indicators are established where relevant.

If the institution(s) applying to the P4Science programme have developed a Gender Equality Plan, they are required to disclose it as a weblink in the appropriate sections of their project proposal. Applicants are required to disclose the gender balance and the gender dimension of their project(s) in the appropriate sections of the proposal.

In any case, applicants are encouraged to consult the **gender check list (online)** to ensure the gender aspect is correctly and fully considered throughout the entire proposal.

PART II: RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE CALL

3. Research priorities of the call

General rule:

- **Proposals must be in line with the research strategy of each FSI participating in the proposal.**
- When relevant, interdisciplinarity, synergies between FSI's or collaboration with other partners is encouraged, keeping in mind that budget for non-BELSPO FSI partners needs to be subtracted from the FSIs budget envelope

3.1. FAIR principle and AI models

This call invites project proposals that advance the use of FAIR data principles, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), and artificial intelligence to enhance access to, understanding of, and decision-making around cultural, scientific, and biological collections and the format knowledge frameworks that structure them.

Research under this topic may focus on:

3.1.1. FAIR Data and EOSC

Projects that focus on the interoperability of fragmented cultural or scientific data. For example, the work being done in MetaBelgica around authority data but this could be done on topics such as textiles, artwork of a specific period, scientific research data collections or domain specific conceptual frameworks harmonised european level. This could include very technical proposals of incorporating linked data schemas for metadata, to more practical and social initiatives for discussing shared ontologies. This should include a plan for how to integrate this into EOSC for example how to run federated queries across multiple institutional databases without the data ever leaving its home repository.

3.1.2. AI for Collections, Repositories & (digital) Archives

Projects could include the application and assessment of fit of AI tools to restoration, to digitization, to pre- and post processing of images for further digitization, to the generation of machine readable data of full text (OCR & HTR & ATR) to image recognition, to analyse using NLP + LLMs, to computer vision + AI, to digital preservation and storytelling, to metadata enrichment. Content wise this could include parts of this workflow (mentioned as examples): 1) transcription and visual recovery of illegible manuscripts using Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs); to 2) the use of LLMs for named entity recognition and thus catalogue data enrichment; to 3) the analysis of digitized images to identify themes and color motifs or species, taxa, biodiversity. In addition, this could include the automatization of workflows with the support of AI and/or AI agents for human in the loop tasks, including multi-agent systems supporting structured scientific research workflows.

3.1.3. Trustworthy AI & Decision Support

These projects would support the above developed workflows for how automatized and AI systems can provide decision support to cultural and scientific heritage tasks and science-based policy support. This could focus on practical tools and workflows for collection managers and curators for automatically identifying or classifying elements in a collection, to flagging documents for review or to identify environmental criteria to support decision-making. This includes but is not limited to Explainable AI (XAI) tools, human-in-the-loop systems and the development of trustworthy AI for forecasting or prediction.

3.1.4. AI and improved workflows for collections

This would focus on practical tools and workflows for scientists, collection managers and curators for rapid or automatically identifying specific objects, biological specimens, biodiversity ... – or features derived thereof – in a collection or in the environment. This includes but is not limited to the development of AI tools, molecular or other identification tools (omics, NGS) and the development of related tools and automated workflows.

3.2. Heritage collection: innovative methods for conservation

This thematic topic invites research proposals on **innovative scientific imaging methods**, **novel risk analysis models** and **green conservation**, seeking to profoundly enhance our understanding of the federal heritage collections and further the conservation and valorization of our (digital or physical) heritage collections.

3.2.1. Application and/or Development of Advanced Scientific Imaging and 3D technologies.

Projects within the first research area will **advance scientific imaging techniques** (e.g., multi/hyperspectral, MA-XRF, FTIR, Raman, Micro-CT scanning techniques) **and 3D technologies** (3D/VR/XR) for improving heritage science studies and the (preventive) conservation-restoration of the federal heritage collections. This includes developing collaborative workspaces that integrate scientific imaging with 2D/3D visualization approaches, empowering heritage professionals to study and diagnose heritage science collections and implement proactive preservation strategies for cultural and natural history objects.

3.2.2. Development of new risk analysis and monitoring models

The second research area focuses on developing new risk analysis and monitoring models. Proposals should explore methodologies for moving from "nowcasting" to "forecasting," significantly improving risk preparedness and building resilience for heritage collections. The emphasis is on enhancing theoretical and practical modeling capabilities for predicting and mitigating risks, rather than on management plan development.

3.2.3. Green conservation methods

The third research area focuses on **green conservation methods** : bio-based and non-toxic consolidants and adhesives, solvent reduction and green chemistry, eco-friendly pest management, reduced-toxicity surface cleaning methods, low-energy storage and climate management, circular economy in conservation, sustainable packaging and transport of heritage objects, green building standards for museum storage (BREEAM, LEED), renewable energy integration in heritage institutions.

3.3. Past & present societies

In line with the core mission of several FSIs, this thematic priority focuses on projects related to research on present and past societies whose material and immaterial culture are represented in the federal collections. Resorting to various disciplines (such as anthropology, history, archaeology, linguistics, etc.) and sources (such as ethnographic and historical objects, archival documents, oral testimony concerning technical knowledge, etc.), such research allows for a better understanding of the societies behind the collections and a better understanding of the context in which the objects, documents, recordings, etc. constituting federal collections were created and used. This includes the way in which ideas, knowledge, objects, etc. were created, used and abandoned in their original context, as well as the history of their incorporation in federal collections. The theme supports fundamental research, the scholarly valorization of collections, research project development, exhibition development, public support, capacity building, provenance study, and repatriation.

More specifically, the goal is to develop projects in the following areas:

- Fundamental research on past and present societies whose material and immaterial culture are related to collections in the FSI.

- Historical research based on parts of the collections.
- Provenance, Restitution & Ethics for Collections (incl. Colonial Contexts).
- Creation and/or development of Digital Research Infrastructures to enhance access to and/or use of the collections and the related archives and datasets.
- Research on the societal impact related to the FSI and their collections.
- Outreach and dissemination of scientific knowledge related to the collections or results of groundbreaking discoveries in past and present societies.

3.4. Ecosystems, climate & environmental health

Environmental health, climate change and ecosystem resilience are tightly interconnected. Understanding these connections over different time and spatial scales is essential for developing effective prevention, mitigation, conservation, restorations and resilience strategies.
To address these issues and their interconnections, key types of research are needed, including historical, experimental and observational studies, modelling research, impact assessment research, collaborative and interdisciplinarity research, citizen science, development and use of innovative tools and methodologies as well as spaceborne, airborne, and ground or water (freshwater & marine)-based measurements.
Researchers are invited to submit project proposals in the field of natural sciences: climate science, environmental and ecological science, including impacts on the health of humans and terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

3.4.1. Weather, climate and climate change

- The role of atmospheric composition and chemistry in shaping air quality and climate change. Special attention will be given to (i) understanding the relation of ozone, its gaseous precursors and particulate matter to climate as well as their impact on environmental health (ii) understanding and assessing long-lived greenhouse gases, short-lived climate forcers and land-use change as drivers of climate change.
- The climate system and its evolution in the past, present and future: to systematically observe climate and weather, to develop climate scenarios and related projections; to study the effect of climate change on extreme weather; to explore novel approaches for actionable climate knowledge such as storylines; attribution studies; tales of future weather, reference scenarios ...
- Systematic observation of weather and climate.

3.4.2. Ecosystems and environmental health

- Terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics and their underlying physical, chemical and biological processes. Particular attention is brought on ecosystems that underpin economic activities (such as but not limited to the sustainable blue economy) or ecological resilience (such as but not limited to the Congo basin ecosystems) making them critical for sustainable economic growth and development.
- The impact of environmental stressors including climate variability, long-term climate change in the terrestrial and marine realms on organisms, and short- and long-term changes in structural and functional biodiversity patterns, their connectivity; and the identification of nature-based solutions for mitigating impacts.
- The study of the interactions between humans and the environment: impact of global change, the drivers and stressors (such as land use change, urbanization, blue growth, and others) for changing behaviours/activities.
- In the context of the One World-One Health approach; contribute to an integrated One Health surveillance, risk mapping and decision tools, including nature-based preventive methods.

3.5. From Earth System Processes to Natural Hazard Risk: Assessment and Response

Natural hazards and associated risks emerge from the continuous interactions between the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, and human systems. The geological and geomorphological character of landscapes shapes both where hazards occur and where resources are found — from mineral deposits and soils to groundwater, geothermal energy, and karst systems. Landscapes are thus simultaneously sources of opportunity and of socio-economic and environmental risk.

Human pressures — urbanisation, deforestation, resource extraction — combined with demographic growth and accelerating climate change are transforming landscapes and pushing vulnerable communities into more hazardous terrain. Anticipating and managing these dynamics requires sustained efforts in inventorying, monitoring, and modelling as much as in governance and risk reduction.

The FSIs bring together long-term monitoring infrastructures, scientific collections, and expertise spanning geosciences, geophysics, atmospheric, oceanographic and space sciences, ecology and biodiversity, social sciences, heritage, and more. This thematic axis invites proposals that draw on this collective strength to improve the assessment and management of natural hazard risks and geological resources.

3.5.1. Assessment of Natural Hazards across Earth System Compartments

Effective hazard assessment starts with understanding the geodynamic, geological and oceanographic processes that drive certain hazards and the Earth system compartments in which they operate: seismic and volcanic activity, hydrological and geo-hydrological dynamics including rivers and floods, groundwater and karst systems, landsliding, ground collapses, subsidence, and major soil erosion processes, as well as oceanic and coastal hazards driven by e.g. sea level rise linked to ice dynamics. The spatial distribution and severity of these hazards is ultimately controlled by the geological and geophysical structure of the landscape — faults, lithology, and terrain. In addition, plume transport also modulates the impacts, e.g. in the case of volcanism.

A key challenge lies in understanding how human activities modify natural hazard regimes. Mineral extraction, deforestation, groundwater abstraction, geothermal development, and subsurface fluid injection or pumping can all trigger or amplify hazards such as induced seismicity or fault reactivation. Critical facilities — e.g. nuclear sites and Seveso-classified installations — face the inverse problem: exposed to natural hazard risk, their safe operation depends on thorough characterisation of the surrounding seismic, hydrological, and geological setting. Climate change further shifts hazard frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution in ways that monitoring networks and models must be designed to capture.

Other types of natural hazards have an atmospheric origin, such as risks associated with air quality (tropospheric ozone, pollution), heat waves, etc. These often can be directly linked to human health.

There are also hazards that stem from extraterrestrial origin, such as meteorite impact risks (on ground or on space-borne systems) and space weather hazards. These hazards often have a strong link to human activities on ground and in space. Their consequences may impact various technological and societal domains.

Contributions combining geophysics, geology, geography, remote sensing, hydrology, ecology, atmospheric science, space science, data science and health impacts are encouraged. Multi-parameter observational and monitoring approaches, numerical modelling, and data-driven methods are all relevant, as is the development of tools and workflows that exploit the long-term observational assets and scientific collections and large datasets held by Belgian FSIs to resolve hazard understanding at local, regional, and global scales.

3.5.2. From Risk Assessment to Crisis Response: Management, Mitigation and Governance

Translating hazard knowledge into effective risk reduction requires tools, strategies, and governance frameworks spanning the full chain from assessment to operational response. This sub-theme covers risk decision tools, real-time monitoring and early warning systems, resilient reference infrastructures, and exposure and vulnerability assessments, including nature-based mitigation solutions. The sustainable management of geological resources — groundwater, geothermal systems, terrestrial and marine mineral deposits — is within scope where it bears directly on hazard risk and environmental impact, as is governance of risks arising from subsurface exploitation, energy transition technologies, and the natural hazard exposure of critical infrastructure.

Effective risk management extends beyond technical solutions. Crisis preparedness, disaster risk reduction strategies, cross-sector coordination, and clear communication of risk to decision-makers and the public are all essential. While geosciences and geophysics provide the foundation, this sub-theme is deliberately broad: proposals drawing on engineering, social sciences, law, economics, heritage, and health sciences are equally welcome, reflecting the range of disciplines needed to turn scientific knowledge into societal resilience.

3.6. Astronomy, Earth and Planetary Science

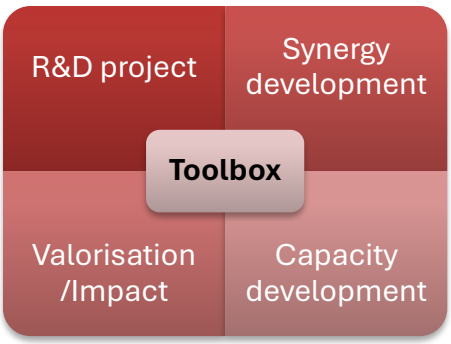
Researchers are invited to submit project proposals in the fields of time and space geodesy, geomagnetism. solar system science, (exo)planetary science, astrophysics, and cosmology. The call for proposals is open to, but not limited to, research addressing the following thematic areas:

- Earth and Planetary Geodesy and related magnetic fields: Reference frames, positioning and time; Research infrastructures for geodesy, geomagnetism, time and frequency.
- Heliophysics: inner workings of the solar atmosphere; observing and understanding the eruptive Sun and the solar wind; space weather and space climate; the impact of the Sun on other solar system bodies and their environments.
- The mutual coupling of and interactions between the Earth's atmosphere, thermosphere, ionosphere and magnetosphere; their long-term evolution and regular variability; and their response to various external driver from space or from the ground.
- Planetary and exoplanetary science: interior, atmosphere, ionosphere, thermosphere, magnetosphere, and their couplings and evolution; habitability of planets, dwarf planets and moons; small bodies of the solar system including asteroids and comets; interaction of the space environment with planetary atmospheres and surfaces.
- Astrophysics: asteroseismology, multiple stellar systems, the local distance ladder, circumstellar and interstellar matter, fundamental astrophysical processes.
- Astrochemistry: elemental, isotopic and molecular composition, gas-dust interactions, radiation-induced chemistry, biochemical precursors, ion-neutral chemistry.
- Gravitational waves (GW): next-generation GW detectors (such as the Einstein Telescope and LISA), stellar astronomy; GWs as probes of fundamental physics and stars, GW detection through satellite orbit determination

The call welcomes projects that develop innovative research and scientific service tools, methodologies, technologies, and instruments (excluding space technologies and instrument development beyond Phase 0, for which other funding channels are available). Proposals may focus on theoretical studies, numerical simulations, observational work, or the analysis and exploitation of data from space missions and ground-based observatories. Interdisciplinary approaches and collaborative research, including projects that integrate public participation, are encouraged but are not mandatory. Projects aimed at establishing or advancing centers of excellence for research or for societally relevant services are also welcome.

4. The research toolbox

Research project proposals under P4Science can take up different forms. A toolbox is provided from which FSI can choose a range of tools that best fit their research needs within 4 broad categories:



- **R&D project:** Research and development projects at national, European and/or international level. Short-term, long-term, new, existing, network, bilateral, etc. Planned activities (set of tasks) carried out by one or more partners aimed at achieving a set of coherent research actions and/or developments within a given time frame and budget. Time frame and budget can be set by the applicants, or given by the type of project, or respond to constraints imposed by the federal government or administration.

- **Synergy development**: seed money for exploration, impuls, launch, design, development, cluster and/or incubation actions. The funding covers the cost of synergy or networking activities instead of research and as such is used to organise events, short-term missions, communication activities, development of virtual networking tools, etc. This also includes seed money to help the FSI develop/start-up/trial an expertise/centre of expertise.

- **Valorisation/Impact**: Set of initiatives or actions aimed at promoting the use of research knowledge and deliverables, by making scientific insights available and usable for policymakers, society and/or industry.

- **Capacity/skills development**: investments to acquire, expand or enhance, maintain research skills needed to achieve the strategic scientific objectives for the sustainable development of the FSI (education, training, and professional development activities). Possible phases/steps/levels: [1] acquire skills [2] expand skills [3] achieve proficiency.

Only one category of the toolbox can be selected. The main objective/finality of the project defines which category from the toolbox must be selected.

Evaluation criteria will be set in function of the category of research tool applied within the research proposal. The different evaluation criteria in function of the different tools are detailed in a separate document available on the website of the call.

INCO initiatives (extra-European cooperation)

Today, advancing and maintaining a leading position in research is impossible without engaging in international cooperation. Collaborating with international partners strengthens scientific excellence, accelerates research progress, and enables the effective tackling of both global challenges (often complex and multifaceted) as well as local issues.

For this Call, the use of the extra INCO budget is therefore strongly encouraged.

Even if the funding of INCO initiatives - extra-European - is only seed money to support networking, international cooperation can already generate substantial benefits: the exchange of ideas, access to unique datasets and local contexts, methodological insights, specialised infrastructures, and the opportunity to test your methods or models in different ecological, geographical, or societal settings. Such exchanges can significantly enhance the robustness of your research, methods, and models, and open up new perspectives for your team's future work.

International collaboration can also serve as an important stepping stone, enabling researchers to join forces at a later stage in larger-scale research initiatives, such as those within the European framework programmes. This can help to optimise the use of resources such as databases, laboratories, equipment, and funding; attract excellent talent; strengthen your institution's visibility as an attractive international partner; and drive innovation.

Since 2021, the European Commission has been promoting the Global Approach to Research and Innovation (STI) and fostering openness. Studies clearly show that research conducted with international partners, both within Europe and beyond, achieves higher citation rates on average than research carried out solely within one country. International cooperation gives researchers access to top talent, specialised infrastructures, and unique datasets worldwide.

Rules with regard to the INCO funding line:

The INCO budget can be used in combination with one of the four toolbox project types (R&D, synergy development, valorisation/Impact and Capacity/skills development).

The maximum amount that can be requested for INCO activities is 30.000 EUR / project.

The funding can be used, for the specific networking activity (clearly linked to some workpackage(s)) for:

- Travels to the extra-European partner country for the Belgian team members for the INCO networking purposes – so not for example field work campaigns.
- Travels of the extra-European partner to Belgium (if necessary).
- The organisation of workshops to support international networking for example to prepare a proposal in the frame of EU Framework programme or another cooperation scheme.

PART III: PRACTICAL ASPECTS

5. Documentation

The following documents are available to applicants:

- Information file *(this document)*
- Submission - Evaluation criteria
- Guidelines Expression of Interest
- Guidelines Full Proposal
- Evaluation matrix
- Institution request form
- Budget rules
- Gender checklist
- Eligibility evaluators
- Personal data protection statement

The following proposal submission templates are available for information. Submission of the EoI and Full Proposal is done through the platform.

- Expression of Interest template
- Confirmation by DG of the institution
- Full Proposal template
- Budget table with budget rules and project budget template
- Gantt chart template

These documents are available on the webpage of the call.

6. How to submit a proposal

6.1. Submitting a proposal (Phase 1 & 2)

The programme P4Science follows a 2-step submission process: (1) Expression of Interest and (2) Full Proposal.

Expression of Interest and confirmation document (Phase 1)

Prior to submitting a Full Proposal, applicants must first submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) via the online Submission Platform.

Because each FSI has an allocated budget for each call and each proposal must fit within the research strategy of the FSI, researchers must obtain the consent from their Director General before submitting an EoI within the P4Science programme.

At this stage, each FSI must provide the confirmation document to BELSPO motivating how each EoI fits within the **research strategy** of the FSI (mandatory) and – non-mandatory - a **priority ranking** of the EoI.

At the same deadline as the EoI the Director General of the FSI must submit the confirmation document with a list of EoIs accepted by the Director General of the FSI motivating for each how the proposal fits within the research strategy of the FSI. This document can include a preferred priority order of funding. Only the EoIs accepted by the Director General of the FSI will have access to the submission platform to create and submit a Full Proposal.

The eligibility of the EoI will be evaluated by BELSPO. If the EoI does not comply with the submission rules, is not complete or has not been submitted in time, it will be impossible to submit a Full proposal. EoIs do not constitute a step in the evaluation process; they will be used by BELSPO to seek foreign experts for the evaluation of the research proposals and by FSIs to make a pre-selection for the introduction of Full Proposals.

At this stage applicants are required to provide general indicative information regarding the proposal: title and acronym of the project, call priorities, budget range of the proposal, duration, a brief description of the intended project, keywords and the name and contact details of the partners. Accompanying the EoI, applicants will provide the name and contact details of 4 – 6 scientific experts capable of assessing their proposal, and a max. of 2 non-grata scientific experts that will be automatically excluded from the evaluation. s

The description of the project at this point is understood as an early stage of reflexion. The title and the summary of the Full Proposal may vary from that of the EoI to some extent. However, it cannot diverge to the point that the expertise mobilised for the evaluation of the proposal will become irrelevant. The acronym, call priorities, indicative budget, partners and keywords must remain the same.

If the funded partners were to change due to unforeseen circumstances after the EoI has been submitted and during the Full Proposal submission period, please contact the secretariat (P4Science@belspo.be) as soon as possible.

Deadline for Expressions of Interest:
25 June 2026 @14:00

Full Proposal (Phase 2)

If the Full Proposal does not comply with the submission rules, is not complete or has not been submitted in time, it will not be considered for evaluation. Applicants must submit the Full Proposal via the online Submission Platform.

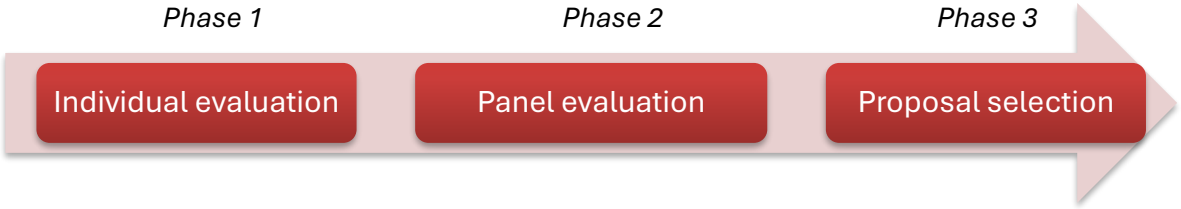
The Full Proposal is the ensemble of information and documents describing the intended research activity, its implementation and impact. At this stage, the title of the proposal and partner information will have to

be confirmed, and - in function of the selected tool(s) - applicants will introduce a detailed description of the intended project, including duration, workplan and calendar, budget, data management plan and ethics form.

Deadline for Full Proposals:
1st October 2026 @14:00

7. Evaluation and selection of proposals

The selection of proposals is based on an international peer-review evaluation of the Full Proposals that guarantees scientific excellence. The procedure, organised by BELSPO, develops as follows.



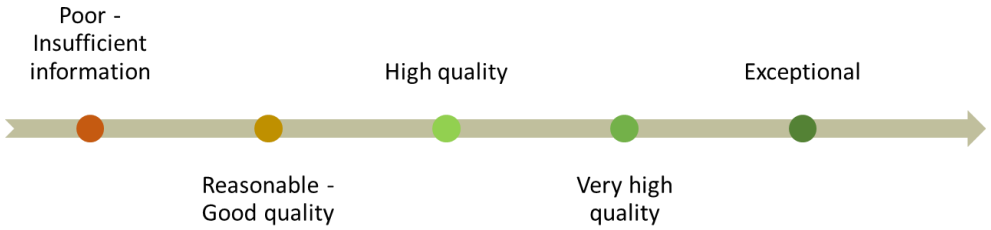
7.1. Remote evaluation (Phase 1)

For each Full Proposal, an individual remote evaluation will be performed by a set of 3 independent experts (based and working full time abroad) having an adequate combined expertise to evaluate the research proposal. BELSPO is responsible for composing this remote 'written evaluation team' with experts from BELSPO's own database and experts suggested by the applicants.

The written evaluation takes place remotely, via the **online Evaluation Platform**. During this assessment, the experts will only have access to the proposals they will evaluate. They will not know who the other 2 reviewers are for that proposal, nor will they have access to each other's evaluations.

Each reviewer will assess the proposal and provide comments considering a variety of (sub)criteria, in the categories of Scientific quality, Quality and efficiency of the implementation and Impact, depending on the research tool (cf. 4. The research toolbox).

The individual **evaluation criteria** are detailed in a separate document available on the website. Evaluators will assess these aspects of the proposal using the following scale**.**



Evaluation criteria are available on the website of the call.

! In order for the scientific experts to remain impartial and completely independent in their judgement, it is important they are able to work anonymously. The identity of the scientific experts is therefore not disclosed.

The individual evaluations constitute working documents in the preparation of the consolidated consensus evaluation report. Therefore, they are neither communicated to the members of the Programme Committee nor to any applicant, nor to any other external person.

7.2. Panel evaluation (Phase 2)

BELSPO will compose a **Panel of Experts**.

The panel will be composed of experts having the broadest possible expertise on the subjects addressed in the call. These will have not participated to the remote evaluation in the call[3]. The number of experts in the panel will depend on the topics and expertise that need to be covered.

Step 1: Pre-drafting of Consensus Report

The individual evaluations for each proposal will be compiled and transmitted to the panel members.

Each panel member will be tasked to prepare one or several draft consensus reports.

Step 2: Panel meeting

In preparation of the panel meeting, BELSPO will rank the proposals:

1. Translate the appreciations given to each sub-criterion in the draft consensus into numeric scores (from 1 for "poor-insufficient" to 5 for "exceptional").
2. Add the scores of the sub-criteria to obtain a total for each criterion.
3. Add these scores over the categories: Science quality/implementation/impact (if applicable).
4. Perform a total sum of the scores.

This ranking serves as input to the panel discussion. The outcome of this discussion is a finalised ranking (**Panel Funding Scenario**).

Prior to the meeting, each panel member will have access to:

- the Full Proposals
- the compiled individual evaluations (anonym)
- the pre-drafted Consensus Reports

[3] In case of need and as a last resource BELSPO may call upon panel members to perform remote evaluations, in the same way that if some panel member finds him/herself unable to attend, BELSPO may invite a remote expert to the panel.

During the meeting, the panel member who has pre-drafted the Consensus Report will present the proposal, followed by a discussion. Panel members reach an agreement regarding the position of the proposal in the **Panel Funding Scenario(s)** and the content of the **Consensus Report**, based on the documents provided.

- Panel Funding Scenario

  The **Panel Funding Scenario**, based on the pre-drafted document which ranks the proposals according to their score**,** will classify all proposals according to the individual evaluation criteria, and considering the panel evaluation criteria:
  - Budget availability
  - Complementarities and/or overlaps between proposals

  The **Panel Funding Scenario** will be accompanied by a **Panel Report** explaining the ranking.

  The **Panel Funding Scenario** will classify the proposals into:
  - Highly recommended for funding
  - Recommended for funding
  - Not recommended for funding

  The panel may list the proposals by order of preference for funding or put them in alphabetic order within each category.

- Project Consensus Report

The **Proposal Consensus Report** will consist of appreciations and comments for the different (sub)criteria. It will be based on the information extracted from the compiled individual evaluations, pre-drafted by one of the panel members, and the discussions held in the panel meeting.

At this stage, the **Proposal Consensus Report** is definitive. It will not be modified in the subsequent steps of the proposal selection, and it will be used as feedback for the applicants once the final selection of proposals has been made.

For the sake of transparency and to provide the opportunity to improve their proposal(s) in the future, **applicants will receive an anonymised version of their Consensus Report(s)**

7.3. Proposal selection (Phase 3)

The **Programme Committee** will receive the following documents:
- Summary of the proposals
- Panel Funding Scenario
- Panel Report explaining the Panel Funding Scenario
- Consensus Report of each proposal
- Preferred funding order for each FSI (optional)

Based on these documents, the Programme Committee will perform a strategic selection of the proposals, delivering a **Programme Committee Funding Scenario**.

The Funding Scenario will be formulated considering the following rules:

- In NO case will proposals deemed 'not recommended for funding' be considered
- In NO case will proposals deemed 'highly recommended for funding' be put aside

The decision on the final selection of proposals to be funded is made by the **Minister** in charge of **Science Policy** based on the **Programme Committee Funding Scenario**.

8. CONTACTS

Further information can be obtained by contacting the **secretariat**: P4Science@belspo.be

9. COMPLAINTS

BELSPO places great importance on the quality of its service and on improving the way it operates. A special form to handle complaints has been created.

The complaint form is available at the following address:
http://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/complaints_en.stm

Complaints submitted anonymously or which are offensive or not related to our organisation will not be processed.

A complaint is handled as follows:

- Once your complaint has been filed, a notification of receipt will be sent.
- The complaint will be forwarded to the relevant departments and individuals and will be processed within one month.
- An answer will be sent by e-mail or letter.
- The complaint will be treated with strict confidentiality.

If you are dissatisfied by the initial response to a complaint, you can always contact the Médiateur Fédéral/Federale Ombudsman, rue de Louvain/Leuvenseweg 48 bus 6, 1000 Brussels (email: contact@mediateurfederal.be/contact@federaalombudsman.be).

ANNEX 1 : Toolbox

R&D project

Research and Development projects. Short term, long term, new, existing, network, bilateral, … Planned activities (ensemble of tasks) performed by one or more partners aimed at achieving a set of coherent research actions and/or developments within a given timeframe and budget. Timeframe and budget may be fixed by the applicants, or given by the type of project, or respond to constraints imposed by the federal government or the administration.

- *National R&D project*: created to support the scientific potential of FSI in their specific areas of expertise and/or missions, national R&D projects can only be submitted by FSIs. These projects with a duration of 2 to 4 years may or may not be implemented in collaboration with other FSI and/or (inter)national research institution partners.

- *EU/Int research initiatives*: participation in an EU/international research initiative or call for projects.

  (a) This funding will be used to finance said initiative or project:
  (i) within the EU/international funding scheme: if the project/initiative is selected for funding
  (ii) outside the EU/international funding scheme (seal of excellence): if the project/initiative, of high quality, is not selected for funding due to lack of budget of the partner funding agencies, AND provided the FSI can demonstrate the project is worth implementing as stand-alone.
  (b) This funding will 'return' to the FSI budget if:
  (i) the project is not selected for funding due to lack of sufficient quality, OR
  (ii) the FSI cannot demonstrate its value as stand-alone project.

- *Matching funds international research initiatives:*
  Participation in an international research initiative for which the FSI is recognised as a strategically important partner for joining the research consortium or network but without BELSPO listed as funding agency and without full direct funding of FSI costs by the initiating organisation.

- *Infrastructure development (national, European, international):* linking of Belgian Federal infrastructures or components with a given centralised or decentralised (data or other) national, European or international infrastructure at any point of its lifecycle - to establish, develop, or provide services to different stakeholders (science community as first users) and/or to foster high quality research cooperation on the 'common goods' or other.

- *Prototype/testbed initiative:* allowing to test specific methods (cf. ERC: Proof of Concept) or models in (other) socio-economic or ecogeographic contexts (Europe/international) in order to refine it or to enhance the robustness of the method/model for applicability in different conditions /for divers specific uses.

- *Systematic observations:* funding of specific activities for further developing the systematic observation of variables (progress and/or quality) performed by the FSI in support of ongoing or future research.

- *Citizen science project:* financial support to any aspect related to this type of activities performed by voluntary public.

- *Valorisation of administrative or scientific databases:* financing of scientific activities enabling the scientific exploitation of administrative or scientific databases (cf. access to surveys and numerous administrative registers).

Capacity/skills development

Investment to acquire, expand or strengthen, maintain skills required to achieve strategic scientific objectives for the sustainable development of the FSI. It includes activities related to education, training and professional development. Possible phases/steps/levels: [1] acquiring skills [2] advancing skills [3] achieving skill proficiency.

- *PhD*: Funding of a person holding a master degree for the purpose of accomplishing a PhD thesis within an FSI on their research priorities (to develop the potential of the FSI), in collaboration with a university (Belgian or foreign) under the following conditions:
  a. The person will be inscribed at the Belgian or foreign university.
  b. The person will be (partially) funded by the FSI.
  c. The research in the PhD thesis will be in line with the research priorities of the host FSI.
  d. The implementation of the PhD research will be done at the FSI.

- *Talent in Belgium*: Recover, by an FSI, of an active researcher, either Belgian or who has studied or worked in Belgium, but currently working outside Belgium, to engage in research activities within said FSI. This initiative aims at encouraging international mobility and is open to
  (i) Belgian citizens with the purpose of recovering (Belgian) talent
  (ii) international/EU citizens with the purpose of attracting foreign talent.

- *Shared researcher*: recruitment of a researcher working part-time in an FSI and part-time in another Belgian research institution to develop sustainable joint research activities between the FSI and other research institutes.

- *Staff exchange/scientific mobility*: temporary internship of FSI researcher in another host institution or a (foreign) researcher in an FSI, with the aim to acquire, advance or achieve proficiency in particular relevant skills, methods, or fields of knowledge, which may take place unilaterally or in the form of exchange with another researcher from the host institution.

- *Training activity*: support the (advanced) training of the institution's research staff in the field of scientific research, proposal writing and career development, including in Open Science and Open Research Data.

Synergy development

Seed money for impulse / launch / design / develop / cluster / incubation actions. The funding covers the expenses of synergy or networking activities rather than research and as such is used to organise events, short-term missions, communication activities, development of virtual networking tools, …

- *Development of new research or development of ideas:* explore new ideas, transdisciplinary approaches, complementarities/partnerships for R&I cooperation, matchmaking exercises, … enabling growing in excellence and /or contribution to global challenges.

- *Knowledge hub:* help FSI to develop a knowledge hub to actively transfer knowledge and build capacity in their specific areas of expertise or missions, including in Open Science and Open Research Data. These gateways/platforms serve regulators and policy makers, facilitators, the community, direct visitors to the existing and emerging initiatives most suited to their needs, provide links to repositories, marketplaces, databases, projects, …

- *Networking/coordination action (bilateral/EU/international):* help FSI to develop and/or extend interdisciplinary research networks and partnerships, bringing together researchers, innovators and other

professionals including private/industry/commercial specialists, who are based in Europe and beyond, to collaborate on research topics within and outside research domains of the FSI, for a limited time period.

- *Expertise/Excellence centre:* help the FSI with the development/start-up/pilot phase of an expertise/excellence centre.

- *Clustering initiative:* bringing together results from different research initiatives or research infrastructures to broaden the scope and strengthen the impact of the gathered knowledge.

Valorisation/Impact

Ensemble of initiatives or actions directed towards promoting knowledge and deliverables, by making scientific insights available and useable to policy makers, society, the scientific community and or industry.

- *Knowledge valorisation:* activities directed towards promoting knowledge and technology use, capturing or enhancing value from science, by engaging in science communication activities and making scientific insights available and useable to policy makers, society and/or industry, scientific actors from other disciplines, …

- *Open science initiative:* activities directed towards the spreading knowledge and data as soon as it is available using digital and collaborative technology, expert groups, publications, services, news, media, and events.

- *Science reporting:* activities intended to document the process, progress, and or results of (i) technical or scientific research or (ii) of the state of a technical or scientific research problem, if possible, including recommendations and/or conclusions of the research (services).

- *Knowledge transfer:* funding of specific activities focused on sharing or disseminating of knowledge, experiences, processes and/or best practices from the organisation source of knowledge to a recipient organisation over a specific period of time.

- *Stakeholder involvement:* the identification, analysis, planning and implementation of actions designed to involve a wide range of actors, such as national policy makers, research funding organisations, relevant research communities from academia and industry as well as user communities and, whenever relevant (i.a. in citizen science projects), citizens as a key pre-requisite for achieving impact and ensuring societal relevance of research output.

- *Research assessments:* funding of activities - collecting and interpreting data - to assess the significance, reach and attribution of scientific/societal impacts from research.

- *Valorisation of administrative or scientific databases:* financing of scientific activities linked to the valorisation of administrative or scientific databases. The aim is to support FSI in opening their data infrastructure and to comply with the FAIR principle (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable).