



Directorate general operational for Economy, Employment and Research
Department for Research Programmes
Directorate for federal and international programmes

BEWARE (Belgium Wallonia REsearch) FELLOWSHIPS

Industry (SME's and Accredited Research Centres)

Co-funded by the EC Marie Curie Programme
(contract #600397 | Marshall Fellowships)

Call for proposals

Year 2015

Important dates

18 February 2015

30 April 2015

30 June 2015

30 September 2015

30 November 2015

Call opening

Cut-off date 1

Cut-off date 2

Cut-off date 3

Cut-off date 4

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It is necessary to read carefully the entire document before submitting a research project

1. Context

This call is part of the implementation of an integrated research policy which is more than ever an essential tool to ensure a mutation allowing the creation of jobs and economic redeployment of Wallonia. In this purpose, the establishment of a transfer and an effective exchange of knowledge and technology is crucial.

In addition, no one disputes that currently, for economic, environmental or technological reasons, research must fall within the context of sustainable development¹ as defined in the so called Brundtland Report.

BEWARE FELLOWSHIPS program is co-funded by the European Commission and is identified as contract #600397.

2. General description

This call for proposals aims at encouraging and support the innovation process in small and medium enterprises, and in the Walloon Accredited Research Centers (ARC), by allowing them to benefit from the expertise acquired abroad by highly qualified researchers through the funding of an industrial research project.

In the case of SMEs, this research will enable the development of new products, processes or services. In the case of ARC, this research will enable the acquisition and development of a new technology that may be enhanced by the centre beside the Walloon companies.

More specifically, projects that fall within the areas of the clusters established under the “Marshall Plan” and his successors are encouraged.

This call also fits into the 3 July 2008 Walloon Decree to support research, development and innovation in Wallonia (called “the Decree”).

a. Content and objective

The project will consist of industrial research as defined in Article 2 of the Decree.

In this context, the objectives of the **BEWARE Industry** program are:

- Provide the opportunity to the partner company to access to scientific and technological results that may have a positive impact on its expertise and allowing it to move towards economic development;
- Conduct research that would have a positive impact on the Walloon economic and social development and on the creation of sustainable jobs;
- Integrate a researcher enjoying international experience in technology transfer process via a stay in business 25% of the total term of at least 3 consecutive months.

The deliverable of the research will have to be unique, quantifiable, clearly identified, fully described and justified in relation to its potential value-creation and its innovative character.

b. Duration

This research will last from 18 up to 36 months and will not be extended.

¹ ANNEXE 1 Declaration on Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development - Council of the European Union Presidency Conclusions DOC 10255/05 Brussels, European Council 16 and 17 JUNE 2005

3. Applying

The **promoter** is

- A SME having a head office in Wallonia and meeting the definition of the recommendation from the European Commission from 6 May 2003 (2003/361/EC) (Official Journal L124 of 20 May 2003). SMEs must already be created at the launch of the call.

The following site enables SMEs to check their eligibility for this call:

[http://testpme.wallonie.be/;](http://testpme.wallonie.be/)

or

- An Accredited Research Center, meaning any organization whose primary purpose is to conduct research and perform service delivery contributing to technological and economic development of Wallonia, and which meets the definition in Article 10, 2° of the Decree and accredited in accordance with this Decree.

The project can be supported by one single promoter.

The **researcher** must be identified at the project submission. He must hold a PhD or have equivalent research experience (minimum 4 years). At the closing date of the call for proposals, the researcher may not have more than 10 years' experience from the date of obtaining the diploma giving access to doctoral studies and must be in a situation of transnational mobility (having spent less than 12 months in Belgium during the last 36 months).

In the case of hosting a researcher subject to visa and / or work permit, the host can register itself to the Federal Science Policy to be approved under the 'scientific visa "which provides the researcher work permits and offers an accelerated granting of a residence permit procedure. More information on

www.belspo.be/visa.

4. Legal basis and budget

The methods depending on aids are granted, as well as the intensity and definition of eligible expenses are those of the Decree which is available at the following address:

Erreur ! Référence de lien hypertexte non valide.

Erreur ! Référence de lien hypertexte non valide.

<http://wallex.wallonie.be/index.php?doc=14461&rev=15038-8406>

The text related to the Community Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation is available at the following address:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:FR:PDF>

Support model consists of grants.

The eligible costs are cofunded according to the following modes : the promoter contribution is minimum

- 30% for SMEs;
- 25% for Accredited Research Centers.

The funding balance is covered by the programme.
The eligible expenditures are:

- The entire researcher's salary;
- A flat sum of 9.000,00 € per semester to cover operating costs;
- A mobility flat sum of 2.700,00 € per semester for the researcher.

The grant agreement will not allow any budgetary increase after the signature of the contract.

The objective is to allocate 20 fellowships, 10 to SMEs and 10 to ARC.

5. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, a proposal must fulfil the following the conditions:

The application:

- must be submitted using the form imposed and must be responded to each of the headings and sub-headings;
- is accompanied by the collaboration agreement between the research unit and the industrial partner who sponsors the project;
- is also accompanied by a letter signed by the promoter and the industrial sponsor undertaking to engage the researcher in technology transfer activities for a period equivalent to 25% of stay at least three months continuously.

The researcher:

- is identified and meets the conditions set out in paragraph 3 of this call for proposals.

The research:

- aims at the development of a single product, a single method or a single new service;
- includes a credible scheme for results' valorisation;
- must not have already been subjected to public funding;
- must fall with the Walloon Region's abilities.

6. Evaluation criteria and projects selection

The proposals are only evaluated on the basis of the submitted documents at the cut-off dates of the call and according to the following criteria:

Selection criteria	Threshold
Quality of the proposal and sustainable development (10%)	3/5
- Matching of the project content with the call for proposals - Adequacy of the work plan and budget with the project objective - Relevance and clarity of responses to each of the headings and sub-headings, quality of presentation and proposal writing - Does the project fosters reaching market of clean technologies, products or services that reduce environmental risk and minimize pollution and use of resource use energy? - Does the project promotes social development (access to knowledge, reducing inequality,	

impact on health and living conditions)? - Is the environment integrated in the management of R & D process (sustainability criterion when purchasing supply, certification system, taking into account the potential negative impacts)?	
Quality of the applicant (25%)	3/5
- Researcher's expertise in the project field - Added value for the researcher's career	
Quality of the hosting institution (15%)	3/5
- Scientific and/or technologic promoter's capacity to conduct research and to improve his knowledge in the field - Promoter's capacity to supervise the researcher's work - Relevance of the industrial sponsor and its input to the project	
Technological quality of the project (20%)	3/5
- Innovation - Collaboration establishment / development between the research unit and the industrial sponsor - Relevance of the project in relation to the technical and economic needs (market driven)	
Valorisation (30%)	3,5/5
- Size of the market reached by the industrial sponsor and turnover referred - Protection of results and valorisation strategy - Valorization capacities by the industrial sponsor - Valorization opportunities in Wallonia - International valorisation opportunities	
Total treshold	18/25

The evaluation is based on the following ratings : 5 = excellent ; 4 = very good ; 3 = good ; 2 = fair ; 1 = insufficient ; 0 = poor

In addition to this *ex ante* evaluation, which is crucial for the selection of projects, an *ex post* evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project to determine the impact, anticipated or unanticipated, in economic, social and environmental terms. If the criteria is not applicable, the rate will be 3.

7. Selection process

The eligibility of each project is reviewed by DGO6 based on the criteria set out in point 6 of the call for proposals. Ineligible projects are not subjected to evaluation.

Each eligible projects is evaluated by two independent external experts based on a framework provided by DGO6 that includes all the criteria stated in point 7.

On the basis of experts' evaluations, DGO6 and the Sustainable Development Department write an expert summary report (ESR form, see below) according to the criteria listed in point 6 of the call for proposals.

Afterwards, DGO6 provides the following documents to a Selection Committee:

- ESR forms will be written by DGO6 and will be validated by external experts. One form will be written by evaluated project
- A grid incorporating synthetically all ratings assigned at the end of expertise

These documents are classified 'Restricted' in accordance with Article 20 of the Royal Decree implementing the 11 December 1998 Law on classification and security clearances.

The Selection Committee deliberates on the basis of all these elements. It is composed of

- One representative of Wal-tech (Research centers network)

- One representatives of LIEU network (University network)
- One representative of *Union wallonne des entreprises*
- One representative of Wallonie Brussels International
- One representative of the *Société régionale d'investissement de Wallonie*
- Two representatives of DGO6 – Research Programmes
- One representative of Sustainable Development Department
- One representative of the Walloon Minister for economy, industry, innovation and digital economy

DGO6's experts, who analyzed the projects, are involved in the process and inform the members of the Selection Committee. These and DGO6's experts are bound non disclosure.

Promoters are encouraged to mention in their proposal the elements for which they wish the utmost confidentiality. In this case, only two experts and technical staff designated to evaluate and treat the project have access to this information.

The Chair of the Selection Committee is provided by DGO6 representatives. The organization, administration and secretariat are carried out by DGO6.

In case of a vote (majority), each Committee member has one vote. The Chair's vote counts double in the event of a tie. Observers and experts have no voting rights.

The recommendation of the Selection Committee establishes a ranking of the projects. This ranking based the decision of Vice-President and Minister of sustainable Development and public Service.

It is established as follows:

- Proposals are classified in priority list. Two groups of proposals are created: the recommended (having obtained at least "good" to the five criteria) and the rejected (having obtained a "fair" or lower to at least one out of five criteria);
- In the "recommended" group created in the previous point, projects are ranked in descending order of the cumulative value of the ratings on the five criteria. To perform this ranking, a rating of "excellent" is assigned the value 5, the "very good" rating is assigned the value 4 ...
- In case of a tie, the criteria "Quality of the researcher" and "Technological quality of the project" are then taken into account to decide between the tied proposals;
- Proposals that could not be decided between these two criteria are declared tied;

8. Contract

Selected projects are subject to agreements that determine the conditions under which the Walloon Region is providing a grant to the beneficiaries.

Upon notification of the funding decision by the Minister for Research, DGO6 writes the agreement binding the Walloon Region and the beneficiaries.

This agreement must occur within the 90 days from the cut-off date.

9. Proposal submission

An information session between DGO6's officers and the project promoter may be organized, at the promoter's request, prior to final proposal submission.

A detailed proposal prepared using the form available on the portal of research and technology in Wallonia must be filed for the cut-off dates at the latest.

The date of receipt by DGO6 only prevails.

DGO6 will deliver by mail to the promoter an acknowledgement receipt of the proposal submitted in this call. This acknowledgment will include the file number, which number shall be included in all future correspondence relating to the project. From that moment, the progress of the process can be consulted by the promoter via a secured and particularized link to the website "Project Management" of DGO6.

After the deadline for submission of detailed proposals, DGO6 takes into account only the elements that are communicated in response to a request in the frame of the examination process.