

MINI GUIDE FRFS-WELBIO CALL FOR PROJECTS 2017

SCHEDULE

- **Opening** of the call on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [SEMAPHORE](#) for the online submission: **FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY 2017**

INSTRUMENT ¹		"FRFS-WELBIO" CALL 2017		
		DEADLINE TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC FORM	DEADLINE FOR THE ELECTRONIC VALIDATION	
			PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)	RECTOR
Starting grant	SGR	Wednesday 14 th February At 2 p.m. (GMT + 1)	Wednesday 15 th February At 2 p.m. (GMT + 1)	Tuesday 21 st February At 2 p.m. (GMT + 1)
Advanced grant	AGR			
Continuation grant	CGR			

SCOPE OF THE FRFS-WELBIO CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Fund for Strategic Fundamental Research (FRFS) is an Associated Fund of the F.R.S.-FNRS which funds the fundamental research of excellence in strategic axis, within the framework of a mission assigned by the Walloon region.

The FRFS-WELBIO is the FRFS strategic axis in life sciences.

The Governing Board of the virtual Walloon institute of fundamental research of excellence in life sciences (ASBL WELBIO) constitutes the animation and valorisation platform (PAVA) of the FRFS-WELBIO, named WELBIO.

WELBIO aims at supporting fundamental research by promoting research projects rigorously selected among the universities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation in order to translate scientific achievements in medical, pharmaceutical and veterinary biotechnology applications. The Walloon Government has guaranteed the FRFS-WELBIO significant resources for several years to support senior researchers who are proposing excellent scientific research projects with an undeniable valorisation potential.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSTRUMENTS

The "FRFS-WELBIO" Call for projects enables to apply for funding through 3 instruments:

- Starting grant (SGR)
- Advanced grant (AGR)
- Continuation grant (CGR)

¹ See section "Characteristics of the instruments"

FRFS-WELBIO research projects are for 4 years divided in 2 periods of 2 years. Funding of the second period should be allocated within the limits of the FRFS-WELBIO financial resources available and is subject to the assessment of a mid-term scientific report.

- An application via the SGR² instrument enables to apply for funding of a maximum of 200 k€ per year.
- An application via the AGR³ instrument enables to apply for funding of a maximum of 350 k€ per year.
- A CGR⁴ should assure continuity in the running of the initial grant, i.e., whether a Starting grant or an Advanced grant continuation. An application via the CGR instrument enables to apply for funding equivalent to the initial grant obtained (SGR or AGR).

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

By the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) to validate the application, the PI applicant should be:

- Either a Research Associate, a Senior Research Associate or a Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS and assuming the function and duties of such position,
- Or a researcher permanently appointed or on probation, but holding a position equivalent to a permanent position in a university of the French-speaking community of Belgium.

If the PI applicant who is appointed permanently and accesses pension / becomes professor emeritus after the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) and before the end of the funding scheme in case of granting, the submission of the application shall be subject to the prior approval of the Head of institution where the research will be carried out.

The PI applicant permanently appointed who will access pension / become professor emeritus by the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors) is not eligible⁵.

PROCEDURE AND EVALUATION CRITERIA (EX-ANTE EVALUATION)

The evaluation and the selection of projects submitted under FRFS-WELBIO Call for projects follow several steps under the responsibility of the Scientific Commission. The procedure includes a priority ranking which is submitted to the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the FRFS and the Governing Board of WELBIO. The FRFS BoT should decide on the granting or rejection after the Governing Board of WELBIO has acknowledged the proposals.

The evaluation criteria are the following: the quality of the curriculum vitae, considering the team size and the funding already granted; the quality of data upon which the project is built; the originality and feasibility of the project; the quality of the potential team and the focus on valorisation.

For researchers who have already benefited from a funding from a previous call for projects, concrete actions toward a potential valorisation of the results will also be assessed.

Appendix 2 of the "FRFS-WELBIO" Call for projects 2017 [Rules and regulations](#) details the evaluation procedure.

OPEN ACCESS POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS has decided to endorse the principle of Open access to publicly funded research. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open

² The PI applicant to the SGR instrument will be holding a Ph.D. obtained after defending a thesis and awarded by an academic institution for **12 years** maximum. This period shall expire on the validation deadline fixed for the academic authorities (rectors). The maximum period is extended for one year per childbirth occurring after obtaining the Ph.D. and defending a thesis

³ The AGR instrument is only applicable to experienced researchers.

⁴ The CGR is only applicable to WELBIO researchers whose initial FRFS-WELBIO project has come to an end, should the researcher still meet the eligibility criteria as referred to in [article 5](#) of the FRFS-WELBIO Call for projects 2017 Rules and Regulations.

⁵ This ineligibility criterion does not apply to PI applicants submitting a renewal application.

access to publications from F.R.S.-FNRS funded research projects and researchers under the “Open Access Green Road” business model.

Pursuant to the “[Rules and regulations](#) on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its associated funds”, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding granted through the call for projects “FRFS-WELBIO” instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS for the FRFS-WELBIO under Grant(s) n° (agreement number).

The PI, WELBIO researcher, F.R.S.-FNRS researcher / member of the university should mention his/her double affiliation in each of her/his publications or communications.

RESULTS VALORISATION

WELBIO ensures, with assistance from the experts, the follow-up of the project progresses, maintenance of confidentiality, detection of results with a valorisation potential, and adherence to the necessary constraints regarding public communication of the project results for the protection of intellectual property.

Intellectual property of the results from the research conducted within the framework of the research agreement is the exclusive property of the university of the French-Speaking Community of Belgium.

The valorisation of intellectual property is the responsibility of WELBIO, which performs this task through a valorisation committee, including the university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, a representative from the university's Technology Transfer Office, the PI and WELBIO.

The valorisation Committee may invite external people, subject to signature of a confidentiality agreement.

ALL THE DOCUMENTS, GUIDES, RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON

<http://www.fnrs.be/index.php/appels-reglements>