



Supporting
research for

90

years

fnrs
FREEDOM TO RESEARCH



“The 90 years of the
F.R.S-FNRS are an
important message
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excellence.”



The freedom to research



Knowledge is a critical issue for our societies. Investing in research and education constitutes the most efficient and most durable long-term commitment which can be achieved because the creation and dissemination of knowledge are major benefits of competitiveness and growth both on an economic and social level. For 90 years now we, at the F.R.S-FNRS, are at the very heart of this challenge and play an essential role through the development of fundamental research, the funding of researchers and projects and encouragement to provide training in research.

Today, we are more committed than ever before to taking up these major challenges. This is why we continue to encourage the exploration of new territories of fundamental research and a selfless pursuit of the knowledge which, as the history of science has demonstrated, leads to the most important discoveries for society. This “freedom to carry out research” has been essential for the F.R.S-FNRS ever since its creation and constitutes a decisive factor in the long term.

Our international positioning is also decisive: our policy of opening out onto the world is part of our DNA, because we are convinced of the added value of international collaborations. Scientific publications resulting from them are more visible, the scientific impact is greater and the development of the environment of researchers makes it possible to attain critical masses and access more financial resources (notably in terms of infrastructures or equipment), for more creative and ambitious projects.

In a world buffeted by gigantic mutations and profound uncertainties, the 90 years of F.R.S-FNRS are an important message for current and future generations: that of determination, stringency and excellence.

Véronique Halloin, Secretary General, F.R.S.-FNRS



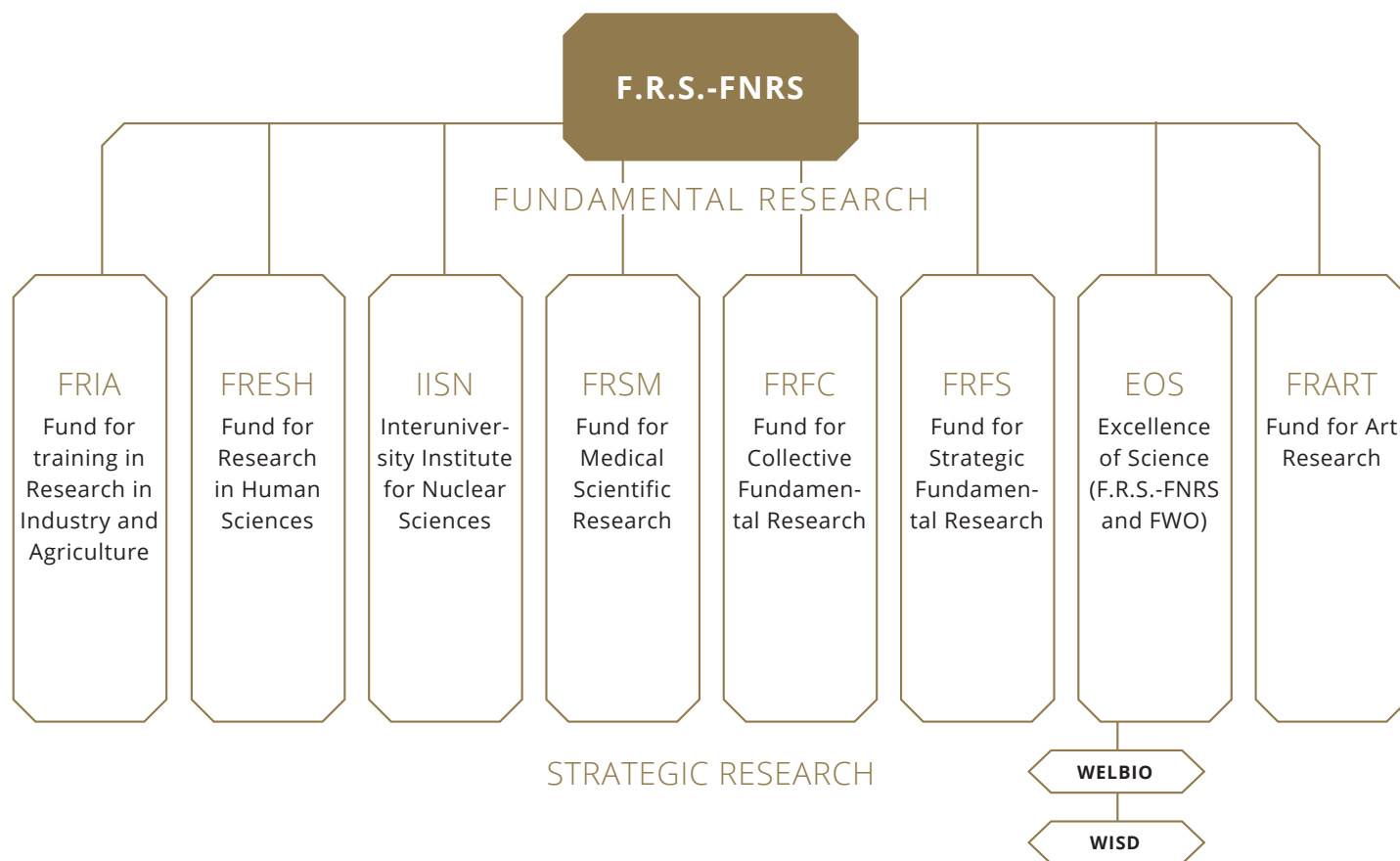
Fundamental and strategic

For 90 years, the Fund for Scientific Research - F.R.S.-FNRS has been a central player in fundamental research in Belgium. It favours the development of knowledge by funding research in all the domains of science: researchers, at different stages of their scientific development, projects and research credits, research equipment and infrastructures, and mobility and national or international collaborative projects.

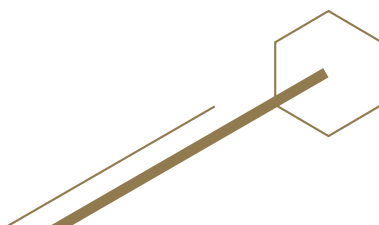
Fundamental research, prior to the process of innovation and economic development, plays an essential role as a driving force behind the production of new knowledge, and paves the way to innovation in numerous socio-economic sectors. It also makes it possible to train senior scientific personnel

in all the domains and to ensure the quality of the teaching in our universities.

Over the years, associated specialised Funds have been created to fund *strategic research*, in other words fundamental research carried out in predefined scientific sectors, identified as strategic because they may respond to potential applications or meet societal needs. These funds benefit from additional public subsidies and complement the core business of the F.R.S.-FNRS. Under the supervision of the F.R.S.-FNRS, these associated specialised Funds are directly linked to the evolution of research. Their structure and operations have been devised in such a way that together they form a coherent whole.



Creation in 2018 of a new Associated Fund specialised in research into art, the FRArt (Art Research Fund).



More
2000
active in all





Adapted support

The F.R.S.-FNRS employs over 2,000 researchers at different stages of their career.

With:

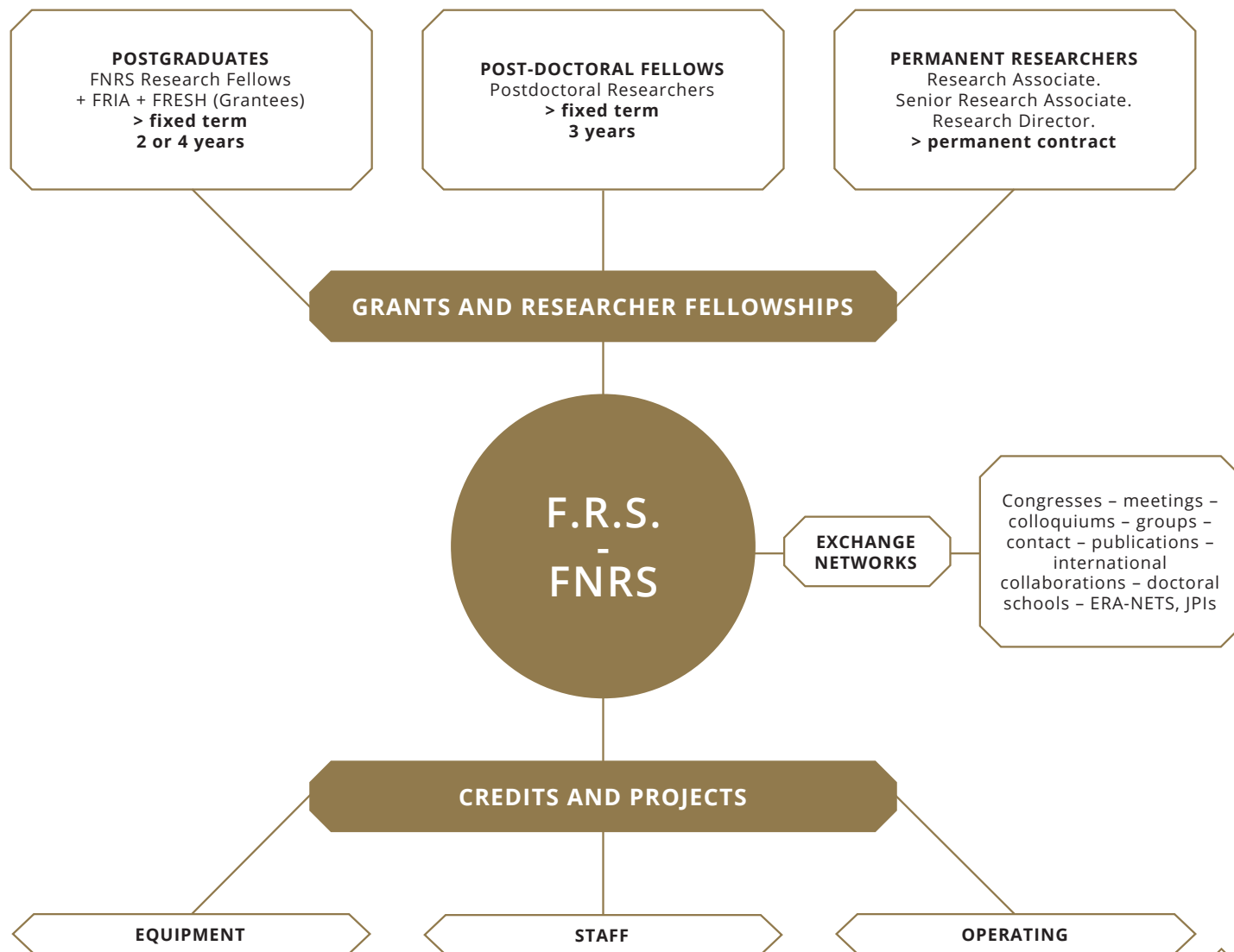
- ◆ either grants or fixed term contracts, for postgraduates (*Research Fellows*) or post-doctoral fellows (*Postdoctoral Researchers*) or even *Clinical Researchers*
- ◆ or permanent positions for experienced researchers (*Research associates, Senior research associates, Research directors*).

These researchers carry out their activities in **all domains of science**, in French-speaking universities which place their infrastructures at their disposal and involve them in their academic environment.

Other tools also make it possible to offer researchers, excellence project leaders, scientific and technical staff, equipment and operational resources.

Finally, financial support is also provided to enable researchers to increase their mobility and their international visibility and to be integrated in exchange networks.

All these researchers and research projects fall within a very specific regulatory framework when it comes to ethics, integrity and Open Access.





A Selection of researchers and projects based on excellence

The image of excellence associated with the F.R.S-FNRS is a result of rigorous methods of calls for projects and evaluations which are put in place to select the best projects and researchers to finance.

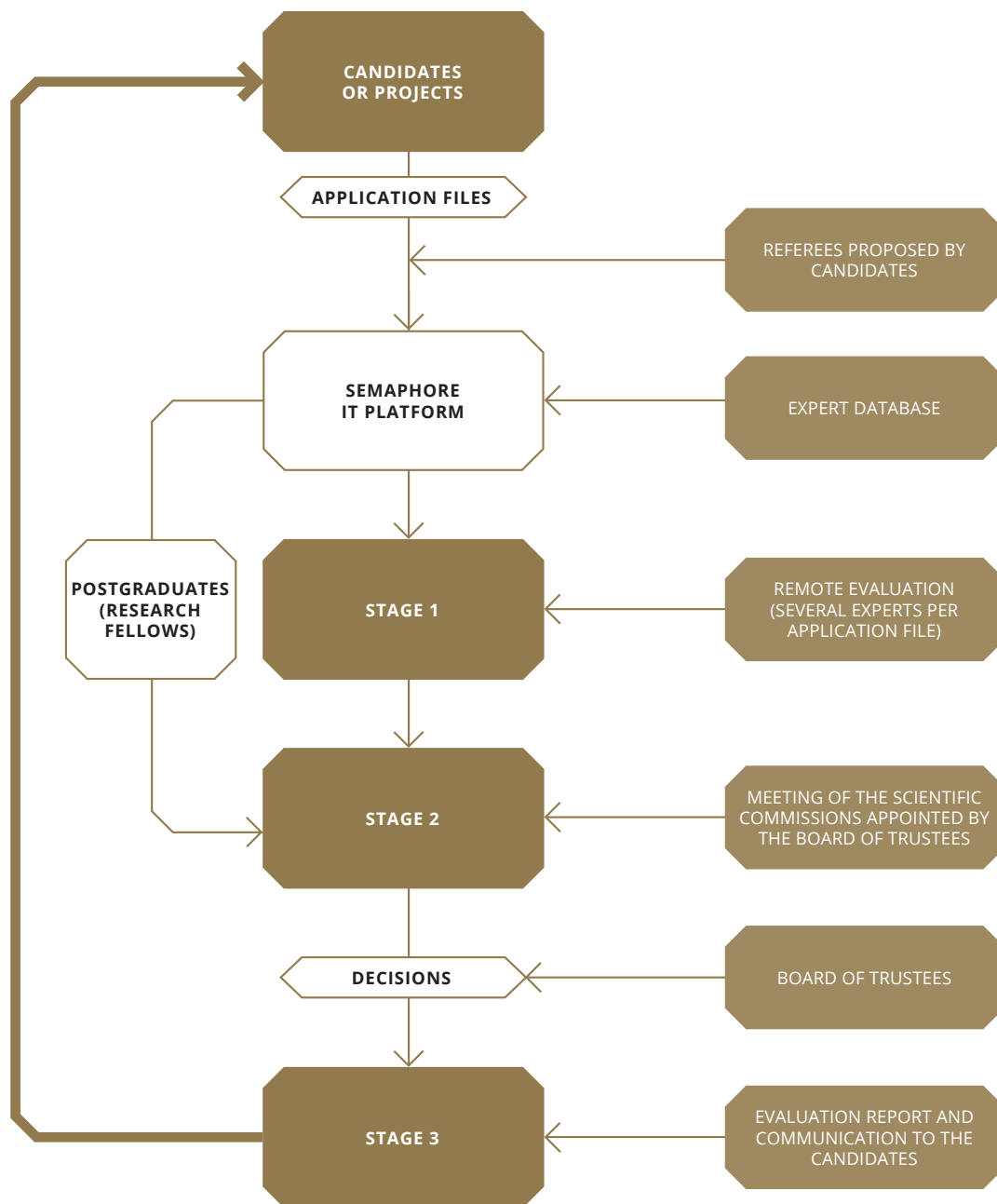
Each year, several calls for projects are organised which cover all the scientific domains (Life and Health Sciences, Exact and Natural Sciences, Human and Social Sciences). A majority of them are conceived according to a bottom-up approach, through the initiatives presented by the researchers themselves, by submitting their research proposal, without any particular orientation ... As part of specialised associated funds, other calls are farther structured according to a top-down approach, where we indicate broad themes of research, responding to societal needs or explicit perspectives for potential innovations.

Selection procedures are based on an international evaluation by peers, first of all remotely and then within the 18 Scientific Commissions. Each Scientific Commission is made up of 15 members including 9 international experts, of which the president.

As regards the FRIA (Fund for Training in Research in Industry and Agriculture) and FRESH (Fund for Research in Human Sciences) scholarship holders their selection is made after juries, the members of which are from the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, have interviewed the candidates.

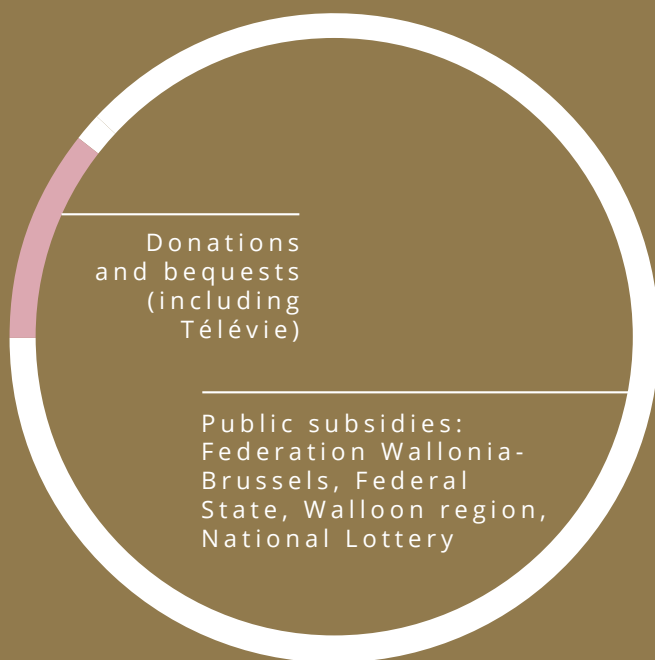
The F.R.S-FNRS has developed an ever-growing database of international experts (11,300 to date), who are regularly requested for their detailed and specific knowledge linked to the projects submitted. The main evaluation criteria are the excellence of the researcher and the scientific excellence of the research project.

International selection procedure



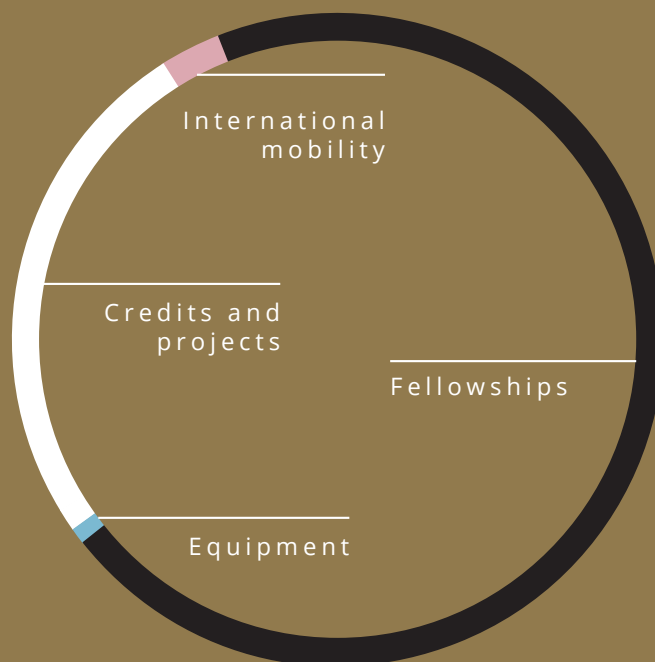
Key figures 2017

Resources

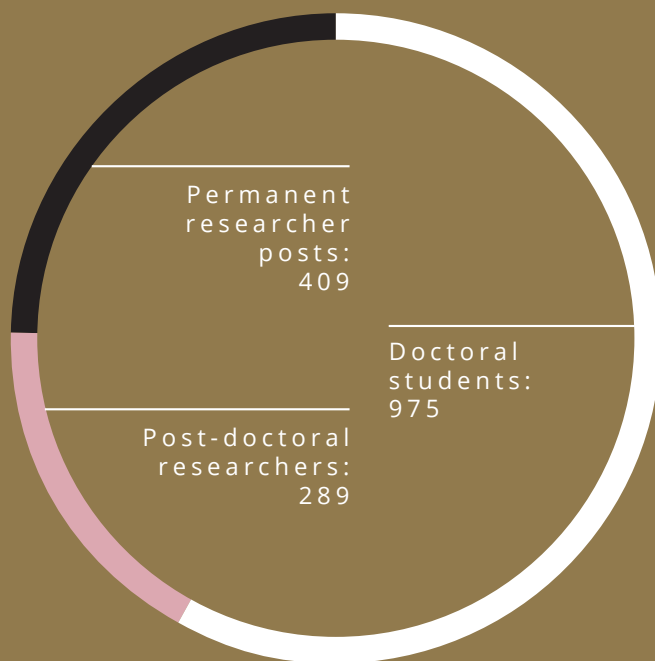


€180,000,000

Support to researchers



Grants and fellowships: 1,673*



Researchers employed as part of projects: 653



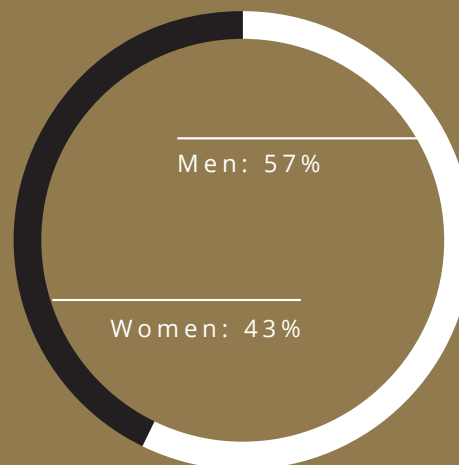
*Figures on 01/01/2018

Evaluation

11,300
international experts
in our databases

18
international
scientific panels

45
Belgian
panels



Research without borders



Faced with increasingly global challenges, the interdisciplinary and international character of scientific research is reinforced. The F.R.S.-FNRS is involved in the European and international networks, thus promoting the coherence of research policies and scientific collaborations. Within this context, the F.R.S.-FNRS gets involved in different bodies and devices.

As regards the funding of research:

- ◆ **ERA-Nets:** the F.R.S.-FNRS participates in around fifteen projects as part of its network of European agencies for the funding of research.
- ◆ **Joint programming:** for the F.R.S.-FNRS joint programming represents an opportunity to pool its resources through a multilateral partnership. The F.R.S.-FNRS follows all ten initiatives of the current joint programme (JPI) and participates in certain calls for joint proposals.

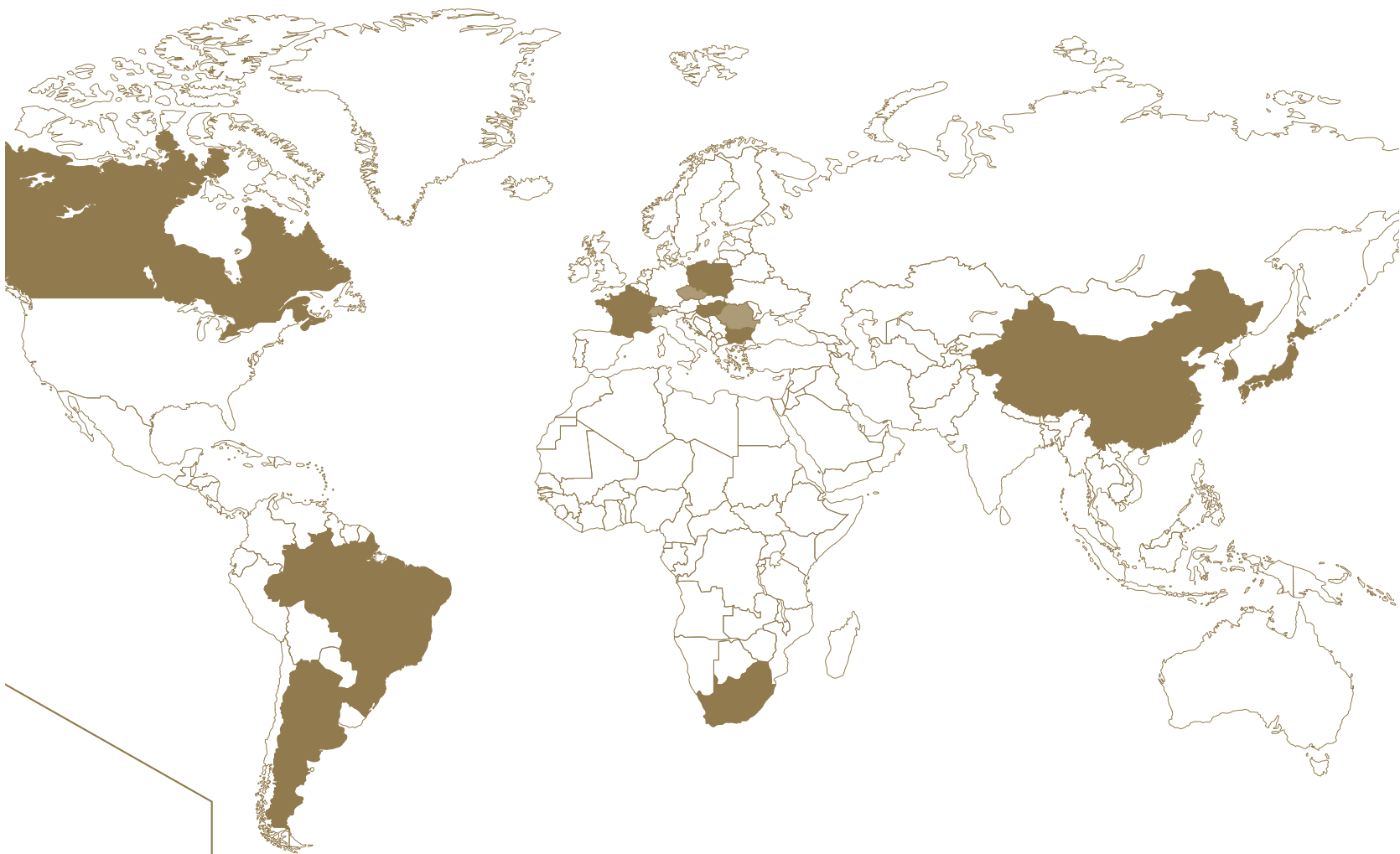
As regards scientific policy:

- ◆ **Science Europe:** the F.R.S.-FNRS is one of the seven founding members of this body, the objective of which is to promote collective interests of research centres and agencies for the funding of research in Europe.
- ◆ ...

The NCP serves researchers

Hosted by the F.R.S.-FNRS, the NCP-FNRS is the National Point of Contact for Horizon 2020, the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, encouraging mobility (Marie Curie grants) and exploratory research (ERC grants, European Council of Research).

Since 2003, the F.R.S.-FNRS has also been the bridgehead body of Euraxess for universities within the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, which offer personalised assistance to researchers in mobility and provide them with different information.



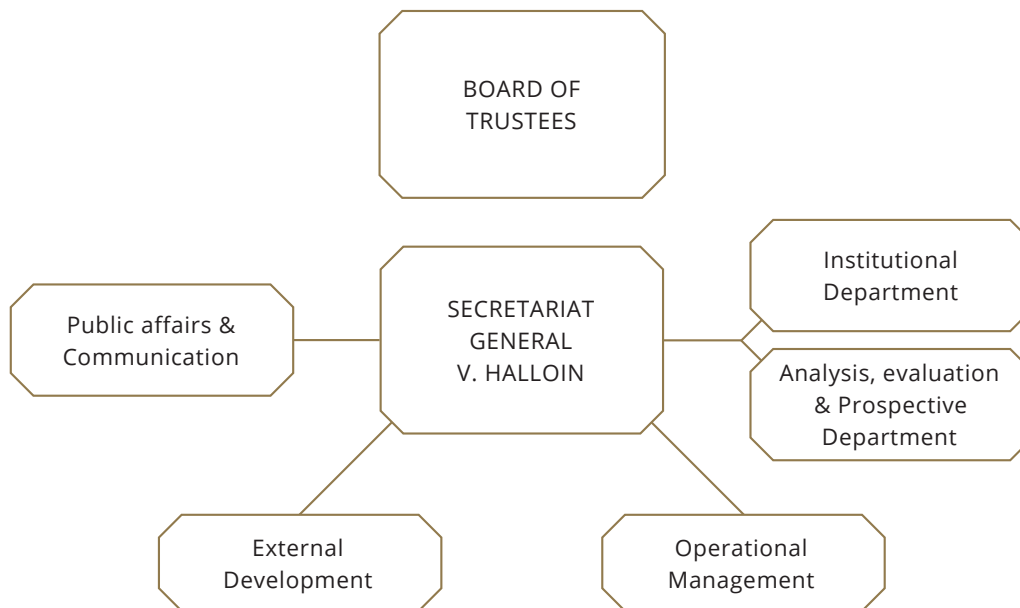
Cooperation agreements throughout the world

Numerous bilateral partnership agreements with foreign institutions, akin to the F.R.S-FNRS (for example with South Africa, Brazil, China, South Korea, Japan, Quebec, Switzerland and Luxembourg, ...) have been concluded.

In the same way, several cooperation agreements have also been made with institutions such as, for example, the CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) and others facilitating collaborative research, networking and the sharing of infrastructures. In addition to ensuring the presence of our researchers on European and international levels, these large-scale collaborations contribute to increasing their competitiveness and visibility.

Ready for the future

The Administration of the F.R.S.-FNRS, is made up of 72 collaborators, determined, demanding and placing their know-how at the service of science and researchers. A team made up of administrative staff, scientific experts (Scientific Officers), and numerous competences required for the selection and administrative and financial management of researchers and research projects. The F.R.S-FNRS, is also an IT system which makes it possible to manage more than 4,500 funding requests, 5,000 remote expert reports and 2,000 evaluations of members of the commissions and scientific panels... each year.





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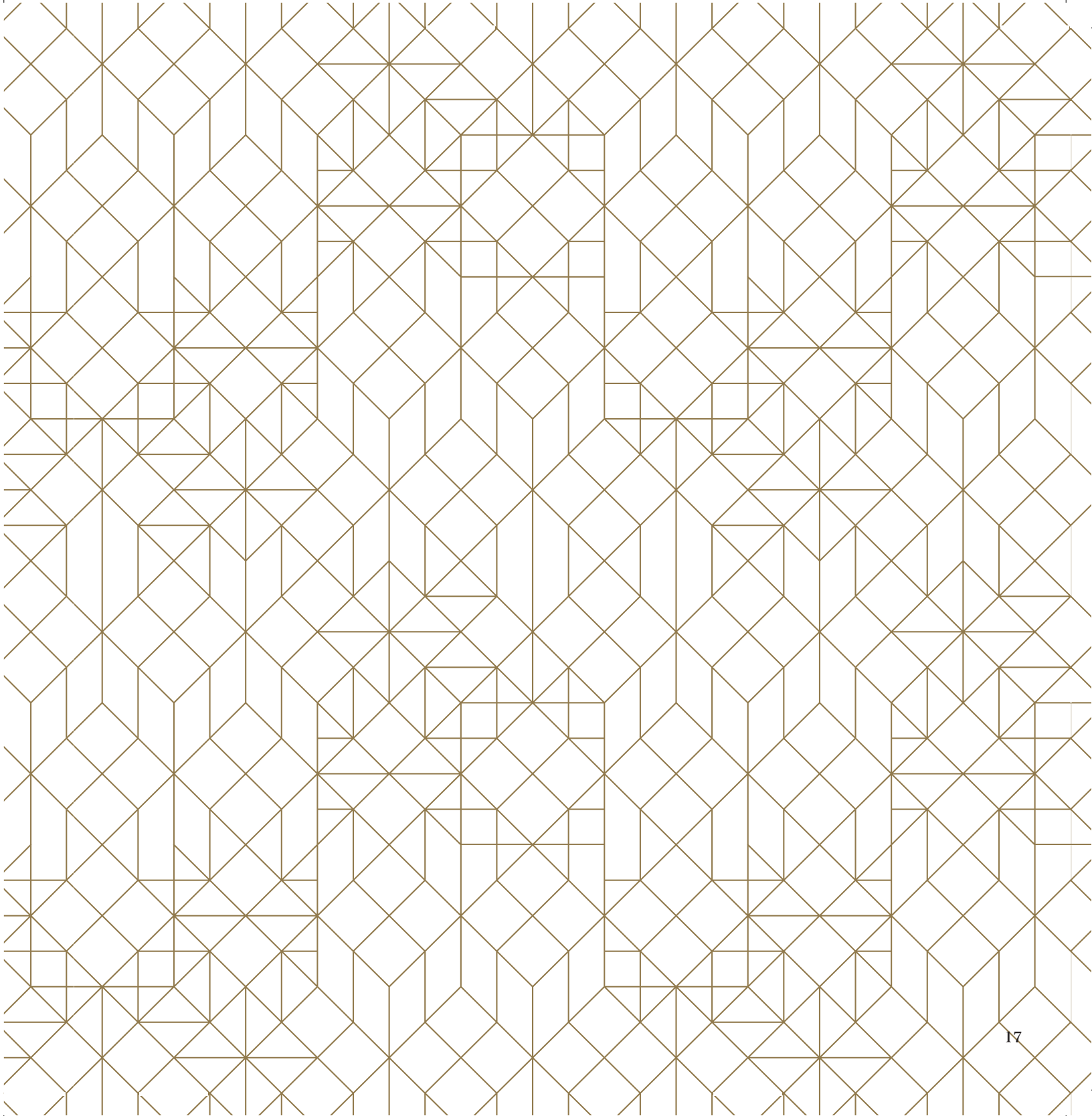
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