



EOS
THE EXCELLENCE
OF SCIENCE

FAQ
CALL 2021

Please be aware that this document can be amended along the EOS call 2021 but the new EOS regulations and guide for applicants remain the prevailing documents of the EOS call 2021.

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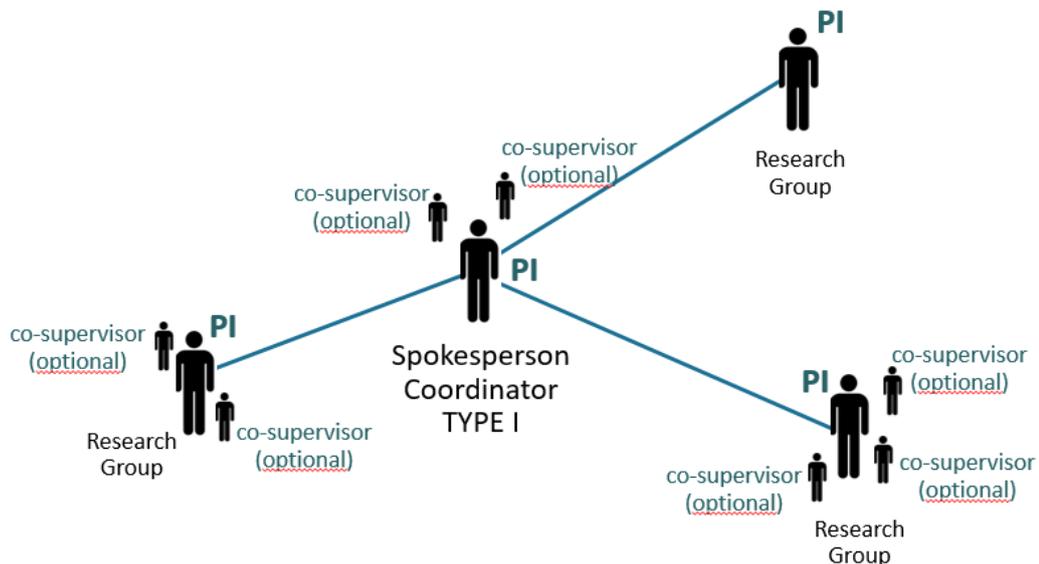
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Consortium

1. How should I interpret the different roles in an EOS consortium?

- Each EOS consortium must have 1 spokesperson-coordinator, he/she is also principal investigator of a TYPE I-FL or TYPE I-FR research group (mandatory).
- Each research group – independent if it concerns a TYPE I, TYPE II, TYPE III or TYPE IV research group – must have 1 principal investigator (mandatory).
- Each research group – independent if it concerns a TYPE I, TYPE II, TYPE III or TYPE IV research group – can have 1 or more co-supervisors (not mandatory).

General consortium structure



2. Each research group, regardless of the type of research institution this research group belongs to, may participate in only one EOS application. How do I need to interpret this?

In practice this means that for this EOS application round (2021) each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor once. If you decide to be PI of a research group in a certain EOS consortium, you can no longer act as a PI or co-supervisor in another EOS consortium. The same applies when you act as a co-supervisor of a research group in a certain EOS consortium. As a consequence, your name as a PI or co-supervisor can appear only once in the entire current EOS application round (2021).

Please note that researchers successful in the previous EOS call (2017) are still allowed to apply for an EOS research project in the new EOS call (2021). These researchers will be asked to explicitly indicate in the scientific section of the full proposal that the current EOS submission builds on a previously funded EOS project (call 2017). No specific priority or preference will be given to these researchers. Each EOS application submitted in call 2021 will be treated in the same way.

In case a researcher, successful in the previous EOS call (2017), submits an EOS research project in the new EOS call (2021), the intermediate report and the initial 2017 EOS project application (scientific project description and consortium motivation) can be made available to the final EOS panel members involved in the current evaluation process of the EOS call 2021 upon their specific request.

3. According to article 7 § 1 “A research group is defined as a principal investigator together with his/her co-supervisors from the same institution involved in the project”. Is it obligatory that the research group contains one or several co-supervisors?

No, there is no obligation to include co-supervisors in the research group. A research group can be composed by only one PI.

4. Are there any geographical restrictions on the affiliation of foreign partners (TYPE IV research groups)?

No, they can be from anywhere in the world as long as their participation in the EOS consortium is clearly needed and motivated in the EOS application and the TYPE IV PIs and co-supervisors comply with all the eligibility criteria (see Article 6 of the [new EOS regulations](#)).

5. Do the research groups within an EOS application need to correspond to the institutionalized research groups within the university/research institution? For example: can an EOS research group be composed by researchers from research group X and researchers from research group Y (from the same university/research institution)?

EOS research groups can go beyond the limits of the institutionalized research groups. In practice, researchers from different labs, departments or research units (but from the same university/research institution) can be united in one and the same EOS research group. Please be aware that in every consortium the added-value of the combination of specific research groups and the necessity (of the expertise) of every individual researcher has to be clearly motivated. This rule applies to any type of institution.

Researchers from different universities/research institutions regardless of the type of institution, cannot be united in the same EOS research group.

6. Does the name of a research group have to be the official one as known in the university/research institution or can this be any kind of name?

The name of the research group can be different from the one known at the university/research institution.

7. Is the spokesperson-coordinator of an EOS consortium necessarily one of the PIs of a research group? Or can he/she be one of the co-supervisors?

The spokesperson-coordinator of a consortium must be a PI of a research group of a TYPE I-FL or TYPE I-FR institution.

8. How should I interpret Article 7 §5: “At least one PhD student should be recruited by each community (at least one at a TYPE-FL and one at a TYPE-FR institution).”?

This means that on the Flemish side minimum one full-time PhD student and on the French-speaking side minimum one full-time PhD student who carry out a thesis within the framework of the EOS program should be recruited for the total duration of the EOS research project (48 months). The total period of 48 months may be divided between two institutions from the same TYPE of the same consortium. It is authorized to spread the recruitment of a PhD student between two institutions belonging to the same type. There is no limitation in the number of PhD students that can be recruited.

Eligibility rules

1. Can the postdoctoral researcher hired on the EOS research project (paid by the EOS funding) be a co-supervisor?

No, co-supervisors should be researchers who have obtained a PhD, with a remunerated appointment at the host institution but not on the EOS research project (they cannot be paid with the EOS funding). See Art. 18 §3: “Remunerated spokesperson-coordinators, principal investigators and co-supervisors are not allowed additional remuneration from the approved EOS research project.”

Budget

1. Are several research groups from the same university/research institution (TYPE I) considered as one research group? In case of several research groups from the same university/research institution (TYPE I): how should the budget be calculated?

No, you can have several research groups in one and the same university/research institution (regardless of the type) as long as the added value of their respective involvement is scientifically motivated in the project application. If your application includes several TYPE I research groups from the same university/research institution, each TYPE I **research group** is subject to the minimum budget limit of €120,000 per year. However, there is a maximum limit of €700,000 per year per TYPE I **institution** (Art. 17 §3).

2. The board of FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS can allocate up to 10% of the total budget of an EOS research project to all included TYPE II, TYPE III and TYPE IV host institutions (Art. 17 §5). Is this on a yearly basis or for the total 4-year project period?

This maximum of 10% refers to the total 4-year project budget.

3. The difference between the total requested budget of the Flemish research groups of TYPE I-FL and TYPE II-FL institutions and the total requested budget of the French-speaking research groups of TYPE I-FR and TYPE II-FR institutions cannot exceed 20% (Art. 17 §4). Is this on a yearly basis or for the total 4-year project period?

The maximum of 20% difference of the total requested budget refers to the total 4-year project period. Please note that the regulations on the EOS consortium composition are more flexible

in the current call, however, the difference in total requested budget between the Flemish and French-speaking community is still in place.

Example:

	Budget [FR]	Budget [FL]	Other [TYPE III or IV]
Research group A (TYPE I-FR)	€ 350.000		
Research group B (TYPE I-FR)	€ 260.000		
Research group C (TYPE II-FR)	€ 220.000		
Research group D (TYPE I-FL)		€ 700.000	
Research group E (TYPE I-FL)		€ 500.000	
Research group F (TYPE IV)			€ 200.000
Total	€ 830.000	€ 1.200.000	€ 200.000
<p>Total budget requested for the proposal = € 2.230.000 Total requested [FL+FR] = € 2.030.000 Difference between [FR] and [FL] = € 370.000</p> <p>Method 1</p> <p>% [FL] = (Total requested [FL] / Total requested [FL+FR])*100 = (1.200.000/2.030.000)*100 = 59,1 %</p> <p>% [FR] = (Total requested [FR] / Total requested [FL+FR])*100 = (830.000/2.030.000)*100 = 40,89 %</p> <p>Difference = 59,1 %-40,89 % = 18,22%</p> <p>Method 2</p> <p>(Difference between [FR] and [FL] / Total requested [FL+FR]) < 20 % Difference = 370.000 / 2.030.000 = 18,22 %</p>			

4. What are the guidelines regarding overhead costs?

As stipulated by the government, overhead of 6% on the granted budget will be paid directly to the host institution for the TYPE I, II and III. For these host institutions overhead costs may not be applied for in the budget application of the EOS research project. For TYPE IV institutions, the overhead can be requested in the budget application and it will be paid through the responsible TYPE I institution of the spokesperson-coordinator.

5. Are “subcontracting” fees allowed and, if so, in what proportion (fixed percentage or maximum of the consortium budget or of a specific partner)?

Subcontracting fees (for instance, the costs of using specialized equipment of a platform, sample processing, etc.) are allowed, including between partners. These shall always be routine tasks, without any creative input. The external reviewers and the experts of the panels will be attentive to the adequacy between the needs and the budget dedicated to subcontracting. As long as the request is scientifically justified, it will be accepted. Estimates and other budget projections for subcontracting can be loaded into the miscellaneous section. Please be aware that in no case the subcontracting option can be used

to pay overhead. The cumulative contribution from subcontractors shall not exceed 20% of the total consumables requested in the total EOS budget.

6. What exactly are the “coordination costs”?

Eligible coordination costs are expenses validated by the spokesperson-coordinator to coordinate the implementation and dissemination of the EOS project and need to be properly justified.

For example:

- meeting room and catering, travel, parking and visa costs related to a project coordination meeting;
- costs of creating and maintaining a website related to the EOS project;
- costs related to the organization of a colloquium;
- costs of publications of job vacancies on specialized sites;
- costs for administrative personnel justified in the context of project coordination. The research activities cannot be supported by the coordination budget.

7. Can PIs and/or co-supervisors be paid on the EOS research project? For instance, can a postdoctoral researcher which is remunerated by a TYPE I institution at the time of submission of the EOS proposal and who wishes to be co-supervisor include in the budget of the institution where he/she is paid a postdoc salary for 4 years that would allow him/her to be remunerated during the EOS research project (paid by EOS funding)?

No, it is not possible. See Art. 18 §3: *“Remunerated spokesperson-coordinators, principal investigators and co-supervisors are not allowed additional remuneration from the approved EOS research project.”*

8. Is there any budget limitation regarding the publication costs?

At FNRS, the OPEN ACCESS publications are limited to €750/article (see [Rules and Regulations on the application of OPEN ACCESS policy](#)). At FWO, no budgetary limitations are set for the OPEN ACCESS publications.

Application

1. In case ethical approval is needed, do I already need to have this approval before submission of my EOS research project?

No, you only need an ethical approval when the EOS research project or the specific work package(s) for which an ethical advice is needed, starts. However, in the EOS pre-proposal and full proposal, a specific section on ethical issues awareness has to be completed.

2. What are the formalities to be completed, documents to be completed, ... upstream in the application process?

- A legal statement will have to be agreed upon by the spokesperson-coordinator when submitting the EOS application.

- In addition, all principal investigators and co-supervisors will be invited to confirm their participation. Please be aware that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the pre-proposal and the full proposal when all participants have validated their participation.
- In case TYPE II, III and IV institutions are included in the EOS consortium, the spokesperson-coordinator will be required to upload in the EOS full proposal their consent form duly completed and signed by the head of the institution of the research group(s) concerned. This consent is required to submit the full proposal.
- For TYPE I institutions, the spokesperson-coordinator should not upload any consent form, as an electronic validation procedure by the rectoral authorities (or equivalent) is put in place allowing universities/research institutions (TYPE I) to validate the full proposals of their institutions. This needs to be validated by 14 July 2021.

3. How to submit an application?

(Please also consult the [EOS Guide for Applicants call 2021](#).)

- Make sure that the spokesperson-coordinator and any participant of the EOS research project has a user account on our site <https://eos.frs-fnrs.be>. If you already have a user account on the main F.R.S.-FNRS website <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>, your login gives you access to the online EOS platform as well.
- Create an EOS request through <https://eos.frs-fnrs.be> and complete the different sections of the online application form.
- Be sure to submit your application before the deadline.
- Before submitting your application, consider releasing the "printable version" and check that all the data is correct.

We strongly advise spokesperson-coordinators to start their EOS pre-application as soon as possible after the opening of the online EOS platform to see how this platform works, which documents and details are being requested, ...

4. How do I prepare my EOS pre-proposal and full proposal?

The spokesperson-coordinator is responsible to complete the application form and must attach documents and encode information relating to his co-participants (PIs and co-supervisors).

The spokesperson-coordinator will therefore collect from its co-participants the following information:

- For each PI and co-supervisor: first and last name, role in the EOS consortium, e-mail and research group (pre-proposal step)
- For each PI and co-supervisor: short scientific curriculum vitae including e.g. scientific impact and other scientific output and five most relevant publications to the project for each PI and co-supervisor (pre-proposal step)
- For TYPE II, III and IV host institutions: consent forms (full proposal step only)
- Please note that each researcher, affiliated to a research institution in the Flemish community (TYPE I or TYPE II) or to a TYPE III institution, has to have an account on the FWO e-portal (<https://fwoweb.fwo.be>) and update his/her account before submission of the pre-proposal, especially the details under section 'personalia' with a particular focus on the sections 'general', 'diplomas' and 'posts/career'.

The spokesperson-coordinator has to proceed step by step when completing the online EOS platform (for the pre-proposal as well as for the full proposal):

1. List each "Research group" in the "Consortium" section (pre-proposal step).
2. Then list each co-participant (principal investigators and co-supervisors) and link them to one of the previously defined research groups (pre-proposal step).
3. Click on "Invite Co-participant" to request a confirmation of his/her participation in an EOS consortium and receive their consent (pre-proposal and full proposal step).
Warning: The spokesperson-coordinator will not be able to submit the pre- and full proposal if a co-participant has not confirmed his/her participation.
4. Then complete the other data/sections requested (pre-proposal and full proposal step).
5. Download the available (obligatory) Word templates and prepare them offline. You upload them in the online EOS platform when they are final (pre-proposal and full proposal step).
6. Before submitting your pre-proposal and full proposal, we advise you to check the "printable version" and check that all the data is correct.

5. How do I choose the correct EOS sub-panel?

The spokesperson-coordinator is responsible for selecting the EOS sub-panel in which the proposal fits best. For a description of each EOS sub-panel, see [this overview](#).

6. How do I verify that the co-supervisor contemplated in my application is admissible?

- Make sure that the person is not already involved in another EOS application (each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor once within the entire EOS call 2021).
- Check the administrative status of the person with the academic authorities (or equivalent) of his/her institution. Make sure to pay attention to all eligibility criteria as listed in [the new EOS regulations](#).

7. I don't know where to enter budget details related to my EOS research project in the online EOS platform?

The new EOS call 2021 is organized in 2 steps. The budget must not be entered yet during the "pre-proposal" step and will only be required if your file is selected for step 2 (full proposal).

8. Can I make changes to my application once the submission deadline has passed?

No, if the submission deadline (for pre-proposal: 23 February 2021 / for full proposal: 7 July 2021) has passed, you are no longer allowed to make changes to your EOS application.

9. How do I verify that all my co-participants have confirmed their participation and gave their consent?

The status of confirmation of each co-participant can be monitored by the spokesperson-coordinator in the online EOS application form in the "Participants" section.

10. My EOS application (pre-proposal or full proposal) is submitted. Where can I find it?

You can still view your application by logging in on <https://eos.frs-fnrs.be> even when the application has been submitted.

11. How do I verify that my EOS application (pre-proposal or full proposal) is complete and without any errors?

- By clicking on the "Save" button, you save the data in the online EOS platform and you trigger a process to verify your data.
- An error report is then displayed at the top of each section, mentioning any problems encountered during the last save.
 - o For example, if you added John Doe as a co-supervisor but did not add his CV, an error will pop-up indicating that a document is missing.
 - o For example, if you added the same person twice to your EOS research project, or if you added a co-participant who is already registered on another application, you will also get an error popping-up.
- Please pay attention to check any errors in 2 steps:
 1. Verification of mandatory fields;
 2. Verification of data consistency regarding the new EOS regulations.

As long as the error log is not empty, you will not be able to submit your EOS pre-proposal or full proposal.

12. Is it possible to change the spokesperson-coordinator of an EOS consortium – when the EOS pre-proposal has already been started – before the deadline of the submission of the pre-proposals (23rd of February 2021)?

It is not possible to change in the online EOS platform the spokesperson-coordinator of an EOS pre-proposal which has already started. If you want to change the spokesperson-coordinator, this person has to create a new EOS pre-proposal from his/her own E-space account.

13. How can I indicate collaboration with other researchers who are not PI or co-supervisor in my EOS research project?

Collaborations with other researchers have to be highlighted directly in the scientific description of your EOS research project.

14. If I am selected after the pre-proposal step, will I be able to update my CV and my list of publications?

In the second step (full proposal step) modifications/updates will be allowed until the 7th of July 2021 (deadline for full proposals) to the following items:

- positions (appointments) and percentages of positions of the involved PIs and co-supervisors;
- short scientific curriculum vitae including e.g. scientific impact and other scientific output and five most relevant publications to the project for each PI and co-supervisor;
- consortium motivation.

The full bibliography for every PI and co-supervisor (of EOS consortia successful in the pre-proposal step) has to be completed by the 3rd of May 2021 and can be updated in the full proposal.

Please be aware that in the full proposal no changes can be made to the consortium composition (research groups as well as involved PIs and co-supervisors).

For more information, please consult:

- General EOS website: www.eosprogramme.be
- [EOS regulations call 2021](#)
- [Information on the key elements and timeline of the new EOS call in 2021](#)
- [EOS Guide for Applicants call 2021](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the F.R.S.-FNRS (eos.helpdesk@frs-fns.be) or the FWO (eos@fwo.be) helpdesk.