

## 1. SCHEDULE

**Opening** of the call on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [e-space](#) for the online submission: **THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**.

INSTRUMENT	FNRS-WELCHANGE CALL 2023		
	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES <sup>1</sup> ON E-SPACE		
	MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
<a href="#">WELCHANGE</a>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June at 2 p.m.	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June at 2 p.m.

\* Please note that this is a **fixed deadline** and the applicant will not be able to edit, save or submit the application once this deadline has passed. Please make sure that it is submitted on time.

Funding decision will be made by the F.R.S.-FNRS board at the end of the calendar year. The starting date of the WELCHANGE projects is the following: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

## 2. INSTRUMENTS

Rules and regulations related to eligible expenses have been defined to meet the specific needs of wide-ranging scientific fields.

➤ **WELCHANGE**: a funding instrument aiming to support research projects with potential societal impacts. These projects must be submitted by a main promoter-applicant active in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SHS). The program allows collaborations with co-promoters from the Life Sciences (SVS) or Natural Sciences (SEN). The WELCHANGE program offers full project funding including personnel<sup>2</sup>, operating and small equipment costs.

The WELCHANGE instruments are summarised in the table below. The eligible expenses are detailed in the regulatory provisions.

	Duration	Limits	Nature
<b>WELCHANGE</b>	4 years	30 – 84 k€/year <sup>3</sup>	<b>For Single-university WELCHANGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 0 to 1 FTE max. 52,5 k€ (no CV)</li> <li>➤ Operating and equipment costs max. 31,5 k€ (or max. 63 k€ if personnel not requested)</li> </ul>
		30 – 120,75 k€/year <sup>2</sup>	<b>For Multi-university WELCHANGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 0 to 2 FTE max. 105 k€ (no CV)</li> <li>➤ Operating and equipment costs max. 15,75 k€ (or max. 63 k€ if personnel costs minimised, but with a max. limit of 120 k€)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

<sup>2</sup> The promoter is responsible for choosing the personnel to hire.

<sup>3</sup> On an annual average for the duration of the project.

### 3. CONTENT OF A PROPOSAL

Applicants will have the choice of writing their proposal either in French or in English. For some fields, using English can broaden the number of experts likely to take part in the evaluations.

The applicants will have to choose from 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of importance and they may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords (if necessary). The F.R.S.-FNRS will base the selection of 1st-step experts on those pieces of information along with the summary of the project.

If necessary, applicants may indicate up to 3 experts they do not wish to have as reviewers and provide a justification.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal** (scientific section relevant to the instrument selected, number of pages allowed for documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Scientific Commissions assessing the application file.

**NOTICE: no further change or modification** can be made in the proposal after the validation deadline set for the main promoter.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table hereafter.

<b>WELCHANGE FORM</b>
<b>FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>References of the application (for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the <a href="#">F.R.S.-FNRS website</a>).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Title</b>, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and,</li><li>- <b>Summary</b>, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).</li></ul></li><li>Bibliometric indicators (in case these indicators are relevant in the research field)</li><li>Scientific Curriculum vitae + Publications list<sup>4</sup> of each promoter/co-promoter</li><li>Scientific section (see template)</li><li>Ethical aspects</li></ol>
<b>BUDGET</b> <p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating, Equipment, Personnel</p>
<b>PREVIOUS FUNDING</b> <p>Connection with previous funding applications (submitted or granted)</p>
<b>WELCHANGE SCIENTIFIC SECTION - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE</b>
<u>Template</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brief report on previous works</li><li>Description of the project</li><li>Societal impact and/or identification of potential societal benefits</li><li>Potential interdisciplinary approach of the project</li><li>Publications and environment of the main promoter</li><li>Publications of the other promoters (only for Cross-university WELCHANGE)</li><li>Interactions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the other co-promoters (only for Cross-university WELCHANGE)</li><li>Additional comments</li></ol>

<sup>4</sup> Promoters who have been working *for 2 years at least* in institutions of the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB) that have set up an institutional repository (IR) must submit their publications list in a PDF format, directly created from this repository, and choose the appropriate F.R.S.-FNRS format.

## 4. SPECIFIC REMARKS

### 4.1 Personnel expenses

For all personnel, the promoter shall contact the relevant department of their host institution to determine their status and obtain an estimate of the total personnel costs involved based on the scientific seniority.

Non-doctoral Researcher and Technician categories are subject to an annual limit, calculated in proportion to the number of days worked. Limitations in force in 2024 are the following:

➤ Non-doctoral Researcher	39.700,- € (part time) ; 78.400,- € (full time)
➤ Technician	34.000,- € (part time) ; 66.500,- € (full time)

### 4.2 Ethical aspects

As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire as well as the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the F.R.S.-FNRS only in case the submitted grant is awarded. Effective granting will be subject to a favourable opinion of the Committee.

### 4.3 Open access policy

The F.R.S.-FNRS endorses the principle of Open access to publicly funded research. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open access to publications from F.R.S.-FNRS funded research projects and researchers under the "Open Access Green Road" business model.

This mandate specifies the conditions under which the F.R.S.-FNRS grant recipients shall store, when possible, all the funded research results of which they are authors or co-authors in their institution's repository.

### 4.4 Reminder to the research community

Any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding allocated via the FNRS-WELCHANGE Call shall mention the source of the funding as follows: "This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [funding or agreement number]".

### 4.5 Involvement of CHU partners

The following measure applies to WELCHANGE.

University hospitals, clinics or hospital departments, hereafter referred to as "CHU", provide specific services to university researchers to carry out projects funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

To best use the funds allocated to scientific research, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables researchers to include, as research partners, the CHU actively participating in the research project provided that these partner institutions are considered as entities affiliated with the host university receiving the funding requested.

In this respect, the F.R.S.-FNRS enables the university to declare the costs strictly generated by the CHU to carry out the funded project. The university is responsible for the CHU's compliance to regulations applying to beneficiaries of F.R.S.-FNRS funding, as well as to relevant tax regulations.

To proceed, the researcher must **imperatively** detail in their application form:

- the tasks and work packages undertaken by the CHU (in the [template](#))
- the budget required to conduct these tasks (under "Budget")

The researcher shall contact the relevant departments of their host university regarding the legal and financial regulations pertaining to this measure.

Please note: Are eligible only the hospitals, clinics or hospital departments affiliated with a university and listed in this [Appendix](#).

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/EN/REGLEMENTS-GUIDES](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/reglements-guides) AND [HTTPS://WWW.FRS-FNRS.BE/EN/CHARTE-VIE-PRIVEE](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/charte-vie-privée)