



**EOS**  
THE EXCELLENCE  
OF SCIENCE

**GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

**CALL 2021**

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## 1. AIMS & BACKGROUND OF THE EOS PROGRAMME

The EOS programme promotes joint research between researchers in the Flemish and French-speaking community, possibly in collaboration with foreign partners, by funding joint fundamental research projects in any scientific discipline.

### Major characteristics of the EOS programme:

- EOS call for fundamental research projects in all domains;
- Project duration of 4 years;
- Budget can be requested for staff, consumables, coordination costs and small research equipment.

A first EOS call was launched in 2017. In total 269 eligible projects were submitted of which 38 were granted (success rate of approx.14%) for a total budget of 118 mil. EUR. These projects started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 and will come to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.

Researchers successful in the previous EOS call (2017) are still allowed to apply for an EOS research project in the new EOS call (2021). Please be aware that in this case:

- 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).
- In that case 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.

## 2. EOS NOVELTIES – OPTIMIZATION MEASURES

In order to learn lessons and facilitate an optimization of a new EOS call in 2021, FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS ordered in Autumn 2019 an external audit of the EOS 2017 call by IDEA Consult after a public tender procedure. The audit was focused on the design of the programme, the evaluation process and the feedback procedure.<sup>1</sup>

Based on the audit report and specific recommendations formulated by IDEA Consult, F.R.S.-FNRS and FWO decided to introduce in the EOS call 2021 the following measures:

- **Two-step submission procedure**  
The main adaptation in the EOS programme is the introduction of a two-step submission procedure, with the submission of a pre-proposal (see section 5) in a first step and the submission of a full proposal (see section 6) for those successful in the first selection phase.
- **Simplified consortium conditions**  
The regulations have been simplified: an EOS consortium must be composed of minimum two (instead of three, see EOS call 2017) and maximum six research groups from TYPE I institutions with at least one research group from a TYPE I-FL institution and one from a TYPE I-FR institution (see section 4). This change will provide the researchers with more freedom to compose their consortium and will in addition allow bilateral Flemish-WBF

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<sup>1</sup> As the running EOS projects will only come to an end in December 2021, it was too early to assess the impact of the actual performed research funded by the EOS programme.

projects as well. In addition to the number of research groups from TYPE I institutions, each consortium may also contain up to two research groups belonging to TYPE II, III, and IV institutions.

- Deletion minimum total budget EOS research project**  
 The lower limit of the total yearly budget per project is no longer fixed (the former minimum limit was €450.000 per year in the previous EOS call). However, the yearly budget for each research group from a TYPE I institution is still fixed at a minimum of €120.000.
- New EOS regulations**  
 The EOS regulations have been updated according to the new measures mentioned above and are brought in line with the regulations of the regular FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS project funding. (see [new EOS regulations](#))

### 3. TIMETABLE

Launch of the EOS call 2021	27 November 2020
<b>Deadline for pre-proposals<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>23 February 2021 – 2PM Belgian time</b>
Inform applicants about eligibility	12 March 2021
Evaluation by EOS sub-panels	End-April 2021
Inform applicants about result of first selection step	23 April 2021
Opening of platform for submission of full proposal	23 April 2021
<b>Deadline for completing full bibliography (for researchers successful in pre-proposal step)</b>	<b>3 May 2021 – 2PM Belgian time</b>
<b>Deadline for full proposals</b>	<b>7 July 2021 – 2PM Belgian time</b>
<b>Deadline for digital consent by TYPE I host institutions</b>	<b>14 July 2021 – 2PM Belgian time</b>
External international peer-review	July - October 2021
Rebuttal phase	11 October – 18 October 2021 (2PM Belgian time)
Evaluation by EOS final panel	End-November 2021
<b>Ratification by FWO/F.R.S.-FNRS boards</b>	November/December 2021
<b>Start of the projects</b>	01 January 2022
Feedback to all spokesperson-coordinators	Early 2022

<sup>2</sup> **Please be aware** that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the pre-proposal/full proposal when all participants have validated their participation.

## 4. CONSORTIUM

Underneath tables will help you to form an eligible EOS consortium. It provides you with an overview of all the eligible institutions together with their particular conditions and eligible budget that these institutions can request. Each research group needs to have a principal investigator and each consortium should have one spokesperson-coordinator (this has to be one of the principal investigators of a TYPE I research group). For the detailed eligibility criteria, one must consult the [new EOS regulations](#).

**Please be aware of the following new measure:** an EOS consortium must be composed of **minimum two** and maximum six research groups from TYPE I institutions with at least one research group from a TYPE I-FL institution and one from a TYPE I-FR institution.

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/full proposal, especially the details under section 'personalia' with a particular focus on the sections 'general', 'diplomas' and 'posts/career'.

	Which institutions?	Who is eligible?	How to include in consortium?	What can be applied for?
TYPE I-FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universities in the Flemish community;</li> <li>▪ Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven, Faculty of Protestant Theology in Brussels;</li> <li>▪ Antwerp Maritime Academy;</li> <li>▪ Vlerick Management School and the Antwerp Management School;</li> <li>▪ Institute of Tropical Medicine.</li> </ul> <p>See Article 3 §1. of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators and spokesperson-coordinator: must hold at least one of the appointments or research fellowships of Art. 10, §1., §2. and §3. of <a href="#">FWO regulations research projects fundamental research</a>.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD, with a remunerated appointment at a TYPE I-FL host institution.</li> <li>▪ <b>Please note</b> that at least one PhD student should be recruited <u>by each community</u> (at least one at a TYPE-FL and one at a TYPE-FR institution).</li> </ul>	<p>Each EOS consortium must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include <u>minimum 2</u> and maximum 6 research groups from TYPE I institutions.</li> <li>▪ Include min 1 research group from a TYPE I-FL institution and 1 from a TYPE I-FR institution.</li> <li>▪ Each research group can participate in only one EOS application, so each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor <u>once per EOS call</u>. In addition, each individual researcher can only take up <u>one role</u> within the EOS consortium (PI or co-co-supervisor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budget for staff, consumables and equipment are eligible.</li> <li>▪ Each EOS consortium can apply for a yearly total consortium budget of max 1.000.000 EUR (<u>no minimum budget is imposed</u>).</li> <li>▪ Each research group from a TYPE I institution must apply for a minimum yearly budget of 120.000 EUR.</li> <li>▪ Each TYPE I institution may apply for a maximum yearly budget of 700.000 EUR.</li> <li>▪ The difference between the total requested budget of groups of TYPE I-FL and TYPE II-FL</li> </ul>

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<p>TYPE I-FR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The six French-speaking universities from the French-speaking community.</li> </ul> <p>See Article 3 §2. of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators and spokesperson-coordinator: <i>chercheur qualifié</i> or <i>maitre de recherches</i> or <i>directeur de recherches en poste</i> of F.R.S.-FNRS, or must hold tenure track academic or scientific position within one of the research institutions from the French-speaking community.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD, with a remunerated appointment at a TYPE I-FR host institution.</li> <li>▪ <b>Please note</b> that at least one PhD student should be recruited <u>by each community</u> (at least one at a TYPE-FL and one at a TYPE-FR institution).</li> </ul>		<p>institutions and the total requested budget of research groups of TYPE I-FR and TYPE II-FR institutions cannot exceed 20% <u>relative to the total consortium budget</u>,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A research group can request budget for equipment up to 150.000 EUR during the entire EOS project (<u>except for the last project year</u>), respecting the budget limits. The total cost for equipment cannot exceed 300.000 EUR per EOS consortium. Requested equipment funding can take the form of matching funding.</li> <li>▪ Overhead may <b>not</b> be included in the budget application and will be transferred directly to the host institution.</li> </ul>
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	Which institution?	Who is eligible?	How to include in consortium?	What can be applied for?
<p>TYPE II-FL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO);</li> <li>▪ Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO);</li> <li>▪ Interuniversity Microelectronics Center (IMEC);</li> <li>▪ Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA);</li> <li>▪ Royal Conservatory of Antwerp;</li> <li>▪ Royal Conservatory of Brussels;</li> <li>▪ Royal Zoological Society – Antwerp (KMDA);</li> <li>▪ Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp (MuHKA);</li> <li>▪ Botanic Garden Meise;</li> <li>▪ Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB);</li> <li>▪ Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO);</li> <li>▪ Flemish School of Arts;</li> <li>▪ Flanders Make;</li> <li>▪ Flanders Marine Institute;</li> <li>▪ Flanders Heritage Agency;</li> <li>▪ Flanders Hydraulics Research;</li> <li>▪ Flemish Peace Institute.</li> </ul> <p>See Article 4 §1. of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators: must have obtained a PhD and have a <u>permanent</u> remunerated appointment at one of the listed TYPE II-FL institutions.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD, with a remunerated appointment at one of the listed TYPE II-FL institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition to the number of research groups from TYPE I institutions, each consortium may also contain up to 2 research groups belonging to TYPE II, III, and IV institutions.</li> <li>▪ Each research group may participate in only one EOS application, so each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor <u>once per EOS call</u>. In addition, each individual researcher can only take up <u>one role</u> within the EOS consortium (PI or co-supervisor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budget for staff, consumables and equipment are eligible.</li> <li>▪ Each EOS consortium may apply for a yearly total consortium budget of max 1.000.000 EUR (<u>no minimum budget is imposed</u>).</li> <li>▪ Up to 10% of the total budget of an EOS project can go to all included TYPE II, TYPE III and TYPE IV host institutions,</li> <li>▪ The difference between the total requested budget of groups of TYPE I-FL and TYPE II-FL institutions and the total requested budget of research groups of TYPE I-FR and TYPE II-FR institutions cannot exceed 20% <u>relative to the total consortium budget</u>,</li> <li>▪ A research group can request budget for equipment up to 150.000 EUR during the entire EOS project (<u>except for the last project year</u>), respecting the other budget limits. The total cost for equipment cannot exceed 300.000 EUR per EOS</li> </ul>

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TYPE II-FR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques (CRA-W);</li> <li>▪ Institut de Recherches Microbiologiques Jean-Marie Wiame (I.R.M.W.);</li> <li>▪ Musée Royal de Mariemont.</li> </ul> <p>See Article 4 §2. of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators: must have obtained a PhD and have a <u>permanent</u> remunerated appointment at one of the listed TYPE II-FR institutions.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD and have a remunerated appointment at one of the listed TYPE II-FR institutions.</li> </ul>	<p>consortium. Requested equipment funding can take the form of matching funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overhead may <b>not</b> be included in the budget application and will be paid directly to the host institution.</li> </ul>
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	Which institution?	Who is eligible?	How to include in consortium?	What can be applied for?
TYPE III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State Archives of Belgium;</li> <li>▪ Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy;</li> <li>▪ Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences;</li> <li>▪ Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage;</li> <li>▪ Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium;</li> <li>▪ Royal Museum for Central Africa;</li> <li>▪ Royal Library of Belgium;</li> <li>▪ Royal Museums of Art and History;</li> <li>▪ Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium;</li> <li>▪ Royal Observatory of Belgium;</li> <li>▪ Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Center;</li> <li>▪ National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology;</li> <li>▪ Scientific Institute of Public Health;</li> <li>▪ Royal Military School;</li> <li>▪ Belgian Nuclear Research Center;</li> <li>▪ Von Karman Institute;</li> <li>▪ Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History.</li> </ul> <p>See Article 5 of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators: must have obtained a PhD and have a <u>permanent</u> remunerated appointment at one of the listed federal (TYPE III) research institutions.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD and have a remunerated appointment at one of the listed federal (TYPE III) research institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition to the number of research groups from TYPE I institutions, each consortium may also contain up to two research groups belonging to TYPE II, III, and IV institutions.</li> <li>▪ Each research group may participate in only one EOS application, so each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor <u>once per EOS call</u>. In addition, each individual researcher can only take up <u>one role</u> within the EOS consortium (PI or co-supervisor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Budget for staff, consumables and equipment are eligible.</li> <li>▪ Each EOS consortium may apply for a yearly total consortium budget of maximally 1.000.000 EUR (<a href="#">no minimum budget is imposed</a>).</li> <li>▪ Up to 10% of the total budget of an EOS project can go to all included TYPE II, TYPE III and TYPE IV host institutions,</li> <li>▪ A research group can request budget for equipment up to 150.000 EUR during the entire EOS project (<u>except for the last project year</u>), respecting the other budget limits. The total cost for equipment cannot exceed 300.000 EUR per EOS consortium. Requested equipment funding can take the form of matching funding.</li> <li>▪ Overhead may <b>not</b> be included in the budget application and will be paid directly to the host institution.</li> </ul>

<p>TYPE IV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foreign research institutions</li> </ul> <p>See Article 6 of <a href="#">new EOS regulations</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principal investigators: must have obtained a PhD and have a <u>permanent</u> remunerated appointment at the concerned TYPE IV research institution.</li> <li>▪ Co-supervisors: must have obtained a PhD and have a remunerated appointment at the concerned TYPE IV research institution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition to the number of research groups from TYPE I institutions, each consortium may also contain up to two research groups belonging to TYPE II, III, and IV institutions.</li> <li>▪ Each research group may participate in only one EOS application, so each individual researcher can only take up the role of principal investigator (PI) or co-supervisor <u>once per EOS call</u>. In addition, each individual researcher can only take up <u>one role</u> within the EOS consortium (PI or co-supervisor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget for staff and consumables are eligible.</li> <li>▪ Each EOS consortium may apply for a yearly total consortium budget of maximally 1.000.000 EUR (<u>no minimum budget is imposed</u>).</li> <li>▪ Up to 10% of the total budget of an EOS project can go to all included TYPE II, TYPE III and TYPE IV host institutions. For each research group (independent of the type) a separate budget section will need to be completed in the online EOS platform. However, for the practical implementation, TYPE IV host institutions will receive the allocated funding through the TYPE I institution of the spokesperson-coordinator following subcontracting modalities that need to be specified in the partnership agreement.</li> <li>▪ No budget for infrastructure can be requested.</li> <li>▪ For <u>TYPE IV institutions</u> the overhead can be requested in the budget application and it will be paid through the TYPE I institution of the spokesperson-coordinator.</li> </ul>
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## 5. PRE-PROPOSAL STEP

### I. SUBMISSION OF THE PRE-PROPOSAL

#### A. Links and technical details

Please be aware of the following new measure: the submission procedure has been optimized by introducing the obligatory submission of a pre-proposal. Containing both the scientific outline as well as sufficient data on the involved research groups, the pre-proposal will allow the experts of the EOS sub-panels to perform a first solid selection of research consortia that will be allowed to write down and submit a full proposal. When submitting the pre-proposal, the spokesperson-coordinator must select one of the three EOS sub-panels: Life Sciences, Exact Sciences or Social Sciences and Humanities. For a definition/description of each EOS sub-panel, please see [this document](#).

For the call 2021, a pre-proposal must be submitted through the online EOS platform (see: <https://eos.frs-fnrs.be> ) before the **deadline: 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2021, 2PM Belgian time**.

We strongly advise spokesperson-coordinators to start their EOS pre-proposal as soon as possible after the opening of the online EOS platform to see how this platform works, which documents (templates) and details are being requested, ... and to check with all co-participants that they have an active user account on the general F.R.S.-FNRS e-space (<https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be> ).

#### B. Who is responsible for the online submission of the pre-proposal?

All pre-proposals must be submitted by the spokesperson-coordinator, who is affiliated to a TYPE I institution and must meet the requirements for a principal investigator as defined in the ELIGIBILITY section of the [new EOS regulations](#) (or see Section 4. Consortium in these guidelines). The research coordination office (or equivalent) of each TYPE I institution (FL and FR) will have permanent access to the online EOS platform in which they can monitor the EOS pre- and full proposals for their specific institution (no consent or other action required yet in pre-proposal step).

**Please be aware** that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the pre-proposal when **all** participants have validated their participation. As soon as the spokesperson-coordinator enters the name and e-mail of a PI or co-supervisor, the spokesperson-coordinator has to click on the invitation button in order to send out an automatic invitation to this co-participant to confirm the participation, to agree upon the legal statement and to complete more info on the online EOS interface. A legal statement will also have to be agreed upon by the spokesperson-coordinator when submitting an EOS pre-proposal.

**Please also be aware** that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the pre-proposal when all completed data is consistent (e.g. verification of mandatory fields, compliance with the new EOS regulations, ...).

#### C. Language

All pre-proposals must be submitted in English.

## D. Conflict of interest (international peer-review)

Each EOS consortium (as a whole) can submit in the online EOS interface a list of maximum 3 undesired international experts.

## II. CONTENT & STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-PROPOSAL

<p><b>Consortium composition</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consortium administration: containing all details of the included research groups and institutions, together with the personal details of the spokesperson-coordinator and of all included principal investigators (PI) and co-supervisors.</li> <li>2. Consortium motivation (<u>STRICTLY up to 1.800 characters, including spaces, per research group</u>).</li> <li>3. 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 (<u>STRICTLY up to 2 pages per person</u> in Calibri Font 11pt, <u>specific template has to be used</u>).</li> </ol> <p>Please be aware that in the second step – the content of the full proposal – <u>no modifications</u> will be allowed within this Part 1, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- position (appointment) and percentage of position of the involved PIs and co-supervisors;</li> <li>- 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;</li> <li>- consortium motivation.</li> </ul> <p>Please be aware that no changes can be made to the consortium composition (research groups as well as involved PIs and co-supervisors) in the full proposal.</p>
<p><b>Scientific content</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project title (English – French – Dutch) and Acronym.</li> <li>2. Short summary in layman’s terms of the project (English – French – Dutch) <u>STRICTLY up to 1.500 characters including spaces</u>.</li> <li>3. Research field(s) and keywords.</li> <li>4. Scientific description of the project (<u>STRICTLY up to 3 pages including figures, references, etc.</u> in Calibri Font 11pt, <u>specific template has to be used</u>):       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. State of the art</li> <li>ii. Main hypothesis</li> <li>iii. Research approach &amp; key methodological aspects</li> <li>iv. Leap of knowledge: expected outcome and impact</li> <li>v. References</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. EOS sub-panel choice (see Section 5.iii Evaluation procedure): Life Sciences, Exact Sciences or Social Sciences and Humanities. For a definition/description of each EOS sub-panel, please see <a href="#">this document</a>.</li> <li>6. Ethical aspects: general question regarding potential ethical issues.</li> </ol> <p>Please be aware that in the second step – the content of the full proposal – <u>no modifications</u> will be allowed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- project title and acronym;</li> <li>- research field(s) and keywords.</li> </ul>

Please be aware: if the page limitations, set out in the instructions are not respected, the application can be declared ineligible.

### III. EVALUATION PROCEDURE & CRITERIA OF THE PRE-PROPOSAL

#### A. The EOS evaluation procedure of the pre-proposals

- **Step 1:** When submitting the pre-proposal, the spokesperson-coordinator must select one of the [three EOS sub-panels](#): Life Sciences, Exact Sciences or Social Sciences and Humanities. These EOS sub-panels will be composed of international experts with a broad vision on science in general, including both domain-specific experts and representatives from each of the two other sub-panel fields to guarantee a certain degree of interdisciplinarity. The EOS sub-panels will meet in April 2021 to examine and evaluate the pre-proposals. Each pre-proposal will be assessed by 3 EOS sub-panel experts. Each of these 3 experts will be asked to provide detailed comments and a grade on each evaluation criteria. One of the experts will be designated as the rapporteur and will be responsible for the validation of the panel's final report included in the feedback to the spokesperson-coordinator. All 3 EOS sub-panels will apply a common success rate (applied on the amount of submitted projects per sub-panel) in order to allow a balanced representation of the fields in the second evaluation step (full proposal).
- **Step 2:** Spokesperson-coordinators will be notified on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021 about the result of this first selection step.
- **Step 3:** Successful spokesperson-coordinators will have to submit their full proposals before the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 (2PM Belgian time) through the online EOS platform that will be opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021.
- **Step 4:** Each spokesperson-coordinator, also the ones being not successful in the pre-proposal step, will receive feedback early 2022. Spokesperson-coordinators who were not successful in the pre-proposal step will receive a final report from the EOS sub-panel. Spokesperson-coordinators who were allowed to submit a full proposal will receive feedback including all external reviews and the report from the final EOS panel.

#### B. Evaluation criteria for pre-proposal

The main evaluation standard is excellence in the following criteria:

- **Quality of the EOS consortium (40%):**
  - Scientific capacity of individual participants of the EOS consortium
  - Composition and motivation of the EOS consortium
- **Quality of the EOS project (60%):**
  - Proposed research idea
  - Proposed research approach: methodological aspects and feasibility
- **Additional & non formal evaluation criteria.** In the event of ex-aequo ranking, the following criteria could be taken into account:
  - Interdisciplinarity of the research project;

- The gender balance among investigators;
- The involvement of junior research groups (researchers with no more than 10 years postdoc seniority).

For more details, [see scoregrid for EOS pre-proposal](#).

## 6. FULL PROPOSAL STEP

### I. SUBMISSION OF THE FULL PROPOSAL

#### A. Links and technical details

Each spokesperson-coordinator will be notified on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021 about the result of the first selection step (pre-proposal step, see Section 5).

Successful spokesperson-coordinators will have to submit their full proposals before the **7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 (2PM Belgian time)** through the online EOS platform (see: <https://eos.frs-fnrs.be> ) that will be opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021.

#### B. Who is responsible for the online submission of the full proposal?

All full proposals must be submitted by the spokesperson-coordinator, who is affiliated to a TYPE I institution and must meet the requirements for a principal investigator as defined in the ELIGIBILITY section of the [new EOS regulations](#) (or see Section 4. Consortium in these guidelines).

**Please be aware** that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the full proposal when **all** participants have re-validated their participation. Each co-participant will be required to re-validate his/her participation as soon as the full proposal is being created.

**Please also be aware** that the spokesperson-coordinator can only submit the full proposal when all completed data is consistent (e.g. verification of mandatory fields, compliance with the new EOS regulations, ...).

#### C. Language

All full proposals must be submitted in English.

### II. CONTENT & STRUCTURE OF THE FULL PROPOSAL

<b>Consortium composition</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consortium administration: the positions and percentages of positions of the involved PIs (other than the spokesperson-coordinator) and co-supervisors can be updated in the full proposal. No changes can be made to the consortium composition (research groups as well as involved PIs and co-supervisors) submitted in the pre-proposal. <b>Please be aware</b> that in case of an update, the administration will again check the eligibility of these researchers. If someone no longer complies with the eligibility requirements, the EOS full proposal can still be declared ineligible.</li> </ol>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Consortium motivation: the text inserted in the pre-proposal can be updated in the full proposal, but the same limitation of characters needs to be respected: <u>STRICTLY up to 1.800 characters including spaces.</u></li> <li>3. Consortium management: interactions, distribution and coordination of the tasks (<u>STRICTLY up to 5 pages including figures, references, etc.</u> in Calibri Font 11pt, <u>specific template has to be used</u>).</li> <li>4. The 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 can be updated in the full proposal. However, the page limitations still needs to be respected (<u>STRICTLY up to 2 pages per person</u> in Calibri Font 11pt) and the <u>specific template has to be used</u>.</li> <li>5. The full bibliography for each PI and co-supervisor (of EOS consortia successful in the pre-proposal step) has to be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2021 and can be updated in the full proposal before the deadline of the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.</li> <li>6. Consent forms TYPE II, III and IV host institutions (<u>specific template has to be used</u>). The consent of TYPE I host institutions will be required digitally through the online EOS platform by 14 July 2021.</li> </ol>
<b>Scientific content</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project title (English – French – Dutch) and Acronym (identical to the one submitted in the pre-proposal).</li> <li>2. Research field(s) and keywords (identical to the one submitted in the pre-proposal).</li> <li>3. Short summary in layman’s terms of the project (English – French – Dutch): the text inserted in the pre-proposal can be updated in the full proposal but the same limitation of characters needs to be respected: <u>STRICTLY up to 1.500 characters including spaces.</u></li> <li>4. Scientific description of the project (<u>STRICTLY up to 15 pages including figures, references, etc.</u> in Calibri Font 11pt, <u>specific template has to be used</u>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of the art</li> <li>• Objectives &amp; research hypothesis</li> <li>• Methodology</li> <li>• Work plan and timetable</li> <li>• Contingency plan</li> <li>• Bibliographical references</li> <li>• Science communication and outreach activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Data Management Plan</li> <li>6. Ethical aspects: confirmation regarding the ethical clearance for the start of the project and list of questions regarding ethical issues.</li> </ol>
<b>Budget</b>	<p>Requested budget and motivation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff</li> <li>2. Operating costs &amp; consumables</li> <li>3. Equipment</li> <li>4. Coordination costs (only eligible for the spokesperson-coordinator’s research group)</li> </ol>

Please be aware: if the page limitations, set out in the instructions are not respected, the full proposal can be declared ineligible.

### III. EVALUATION PROCEDURE & CRITERIA OF THE FULL PROPOSAL

#### A. The EOS evaluation procedure of the full proposals:

- **Step 1:** Spokesperson-coordinators successful in the first selection step (pre-proposal step) will have to submit their full proposals before the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 (2PM Belgian time) through the online EOS platform that will be opened on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021.
- **Step 2:** Each submitted full proposal will be sent to international on-topic reviewers. They will be asked to provide detailed comments and a grade on each evaluation criteria.
- **Step 3:** Applicants will be allowed to respond to the international review reports (rebuttal phase, instructions will be provided in due time). Each spokesperson-coordinator will be notified on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 and given time until the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 (2PM Belgian time) to respond on the comments made by the international on-topic reviewers. The rebuttal will be submitted through the online EOS platform.
- **Step 4:** Each submitted full proposal will be attributed to high-level international experts from the final EOS panel who will study and summarize the full proposal, the international peer reviews and the rebuttal. Each expert will then be asked to provide detailed comments and a grade on each evaluation criteria. One of the experts will be designated as the rapporteur and will be responsible for the validation of the panel's final report included in the feedback to the spokesperson-coordinator.
- **Step 5:** The scientific final EOS panel gathers end-November 2021 and establishes a consensus ranking of the projects based on excellence, which is binding.
- **Step 6:** Ratification of the list of selected projects by the FWO/F.R.S.-FNRS boards.
- **Step 7:** Each spokesperson-coordinator, also the ones being not successful in the pre-proposal step, will receive feedback early 2022. Spokesperson-coordinators who were not successful in the pre-proposal step will receive a final report from the EOS sub-panel. Spokesperson-coordinators who were allowed to submit a full proposal will receive feedback including all external reviews and the report from the final EOS panel.

#### B. Evaluation criteria for full proposal

The main evaluation standard is excellence in the following criteria:

- **Quality of the researchers:**
  - CV and publications
  - International recognition
  - Main research achievements
- **Quality of the project:**
  - Feasibility and focus
  - Methodology
  - Originality
- **Quality of the consortium:**
  - Scientific justification for the involvement of each research group
  - Collaboration, coordination, and communication between the research groups
  - Work management and balance in terms of work contribution
  - Complementarity/synergy of the research groups and their expertise

- **Additional & non formal evaluation criteria.** In the event of ex-aequo ranking, the following criteria could be taken into account:
  - Interdisciplinarity of the research project;
  - The gender balance among investigators;
  - The involvement of junior research groups (researchers with no more than 10 years postdoc seniority).

The scoregrid for full proposal will be made available in due time.

## 7. GDPR, DISSEMINATION & IPR

### A. General

- **GDPR:** The F.R.S.-FNRS and the FWO process the personal data transmitted to them in accordance with the legislation in force, and, in particular, the Regulation 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, applicable from 25 May 2018 (hereinafter the "GDPR"). More information about the personal data processing is available in the [EOS privacy policy](#).
- **Acknowledgment:** The acknowledgement of the EOS funding is mandatory. All beneficiaries are required to include in every dissemination of results and in every communication activity, including outreach activities:
  - the EOS logo;
  - the following disclaimer "This project (EOS number) has received funding from the FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS under the Excellence of Science (EOS) programme".
- **Intellectual property:** Upon approval of the EOS research project, the EOS consortium has to engage in a partnership agreement including all research institutions involved in the consortium and stipulating the terms and conditions applying to publications, confidentiality and the protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights resulting from the EOS research project. The final partnership agreements need to be provided to both FWO and F.R.S.-FNRS in the first budgetary financial year of the approved EOS project.

### B. F.R.S.-FNRS

- **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 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.

### C. FWO

- **Open access policy:** see FWO's General Regulations Art. 2 § 2. Following the Berlin Declaration of 2003 for the promotion of free access to scientific knowledge and cultural heritage, beneficiaries of FWO fellowships, grants and projects must deposit the publications resulting in whole or in part from the FWO subsidies, in a public "Open Access" database, in accordance with the provisions of Art. XI.196, §2/1 of the Code of Economic Law, within one year from the date of publication, in order to effect greater impact and valorisation of their work. The FWO derives the Open Access definition from the aforementioned Berlin

Declaration and therefore expects worldwide and free online access to the above-mentioned publications for everyone, both within and outside the scientific context. Researchers are also advised to publish their other publications in such an "Open Access" database, the so-called "Open Archives", together with the research data that resulted in these publications.

## 8. CONTACT & HELPDESK

- **EOS PLATFORM**  
<https://eos.frs-fnrs.be>
- **FAQ on the EOS call 2021**  
[https://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/EOS\\_FAQ\\_2021.pdf](https://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/EOS_FAQ_2021.pdf)
- **Templates EOS call 2021**  
<http://www.eosprogramme.be/index.php/about-eos>
- **General EOS website**  
[www.eosprogramme.be](http://www.eosprogramme.be)
- **General inquiries on the programme**
  - F.R.S.-FNRS: Arnaud Goolaerts, Maximilien Cogels & Ioana Ursu ([eos.helpdesk@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:eos.helpdesk@frs-fnrs.be))
  - FWO: Isabelle Verbaeys, Gregory Absillis & Tinne Jacobs ([eos@fwo.be](mailto:eos@fwo.be))