

Belgian - South-African research and technology cooperation

2018 JOINT CALL FOR NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

Information file

CLOSING DATE: 4 MAY 2018

A MAXIMUM OF 10 JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

1. Background

In line with the Science and Technology Agreement that was signed in January 2017 between South Africa and Belgium, the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) decided to launch the first joint call for supporting joint networking research activities between South African and Belgian young and emerging researchers. Applications for this call should be submitted by a date not later than 4 May 2018. Networking activities should start in 2019.

2. Aims of the Call

- To contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint activities in specified research fields;
- To provide an opportunity for young and emerging researchers in the two countries to engage;
- To contribute to research capacity enhancement

3. Areas of Cooperation

The call is open to all research subjects that fall under one of the two following **Belgian** conditions:

- are linked to projects that are or have been supported by one of BELSPO's research programmes
- are related to projects of our federal scientific institutions pace

Cooperation activities with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral research and innovation projects within the South African, Belgium and EU research programmes will be appreciated. Multidisciplinary networks including partners from different disciplines (engineering, eco-geographical sciences, human science are particularly encouraged. In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

4. Which activities are eligible for funding?

The purpose of this call is to support the networking research activities and mobility of researchers (and their postgraduate students) between the two countries. Research activities as such will not be supported by this call; they are financed by other funding resources or by the original project (BELSPO's topping up principle).

The funds can only be used for:

- Networking events (i.e. joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, regional conferences, etc.).
- International travel, accommodation, subsistence and local travel of researchers.
- Short-term exchanges of the partnering researchers' postgraduate students.
- Other networking activities as defined and motivated by the partnering researchers.

The funding of the bilateral networking activities is based on the **principle of reciprocity**. Each country finances the costs for activities carried out on its territory (e.g. the organisation of study visits, seminars, workshops, setting up of joint experiments), whereas the international travel costs are borne by the respective sending country.

5. Duration of projects

Joint networking activities will be supported for **three years** (starting in 2019 and until mid-2021).

6. Who may apply?

An application must designate two Principal Investigators, one in South Africa and one in Belgium, who will bear the main responsibility for the project activities, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this Programme.

South Africa: The call is open to young emerging researchers (researchers not older than 45 years on time of application) and residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. The South African PI (Principal Investigator) must be in possession of a PhD (received within the past 7 years).

Belgium: Proposals eligible under the present call are those related to projects that are or have been (co)funded by BELSPO (≥ 2012), ([BRAIN.be](#) (≥ 2012)), ([STEREO III](#)), ([ESA-PRODEX](#)), or projects of the federal scientific institutions (FSI's).. At least one promotor of the supported project should be involved in the proposal. Catching up with other Belgian research teams then the ones included in the initially supported projects is possible. The added value of such extension of the network has to be clearly explained.

Information about the above-mentioned research programmes is available via BELSPO's website: www.belspo.be →Fedra →Research actions. Information on the federal scientific institutions can be found in [annex 1](#).

7. How do I apply?

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner.

Proposals (via the submission file) must be received in both South Africa and Belgium. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Belgium, but not both countries, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding.

8. Deadline for submission of applications?

Applications must be submitted at NRF (23:59 p.m. CA Time) and at BELSPO (at 3 p.m. CE time) by 4 May **2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Please note that in South Africa only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

South Africa: Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **NRF / BELSPO 2018 Joint Call for Proposals**.
- Complete all compulsory sections applicable to you. Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.

Please do take note of the following aspects

- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host institutions for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Please contact your research office (or its equivalent) or Designated Authority if you have any queries.
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted.
- No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.
- Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

Belgium:

Applications are to be submitted at BELSPO by the Belgian coordinator via the submission file **by e-mail (in 'Word' and in 'pdf', with signatures)**. Applicants are encouraged to use the checklist with regard to the eligibility before submission of the proposal (checklist in [annex 2](#))

9. Funding Modalities

- Funding will be available for a maximum of **three years**.
- 3-year networking proposals must be jointly developed and completed by the partnering researchers on both sides.
- In both countries, apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities are encouraged to solicit other funding resources as needed.
- **BELSPO:** these funds are to be used as a top-up grant to an already existing/funded network/project and/or start-up grant for a much bigger bilateral/multilateral project between South Africa and Belgian research groups.

10. How much should I apply for?

South Africa: The NRF funding total amount should not exceed **R300 000**. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3 years, to be paid in annual instalments (**R100 000 per year**). Note that a commitment to both scientific and financial reporting on the project following its completion is an obligatory condition of funding. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.

Belgium: The maximum budget per proposal to be granted to the Belgian partner is **40.000 EUR**.

Participation of another relevant European partner in the network is possible but will not be funded by BELSPO nor by NRF. Such partner should be indicated as 'optional partner' in the application.

Please do take note that:

- you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines should you be successful;
- only a maximum of ten (10) joint projects will be funded for this call; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an obligatory condition of funding in subsequent years.

11. How are applications evaluated?

Following the eligibility check at each side, eligible **proposals will be peer-reviewed** in parallel at the Belgian and South-African side. The review panel will include recognized local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. The experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility of the work plan
- International significance
- Budget fitting to the work plan (value for money)
- Participation of postgraduate students

12. How will the proposals be selected?

Once the call is closed and all proposals are examined according to the eligibility criteria, the eligible proposals will be subjected to a selection process. Proposals will be evaluated both in Belgium (by BELSPO) and in South Africa (by NRF). The final selection will be jointly made by NRF and BELSPO. BELSPO and NRF will inform the Belgian and the South-African applicants of the selection.

13. Project follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Belgian Principal Investigators no more than 3 months after the end of the joint activities.
- The report will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims targeted in the submission.
- The joint publications, if any, by the researchers will mention the support from the NRF and BELSPO.

14. Intellectual Property

The researchers of each country, particularly the Principal Investigators, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of intellectual property that could result from the joint activities.

15. Where can I obtain more information?

At Stellenbosch University: Riana Coetsee - mjc@sun.ac.za

For South Africa: National Research Foundation	For BELSPO: Belgian Federal Science Policy Office
Teuns Phahlamohlaka Professional Officer: Overseas Cooperation Tel: +27 12 481 4385 E-mail: teuns.phahlam@nrf.ac.za	Brigitte Decadt Advisor international cooperation Tel: +32 2 23 83 570 Email: Brigitte.DECADT@belspo.be
Stephen Dlamini International Grants Officer: Grants Management System Administration Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4037 E-mail: DLAMINI@nrf.ac.za	

Annex I

The Belgian Federal Scientific Institutions

Institution	Website
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN-IRSNB)	www.naturalsciences.be
Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)	www.kikirpa.be
Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB)	www.aeronomie.be
Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB)	www.astro.oma.be
Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium (KMI-IRM)	www.meteo.be
Royal Museums for Art and History (KMKG - MRAH)	www.kmkg-mrah.be
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (RMFAB)	www.fine-arts-museum.be
Royal Museum for Central Africa (KMMA-MRAC)	www.africamuseum.be
Royal Library of Belgium (KB-BR)	www.kbr.be
State Archives (ARA-AGR) including the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (CEGESOMA)	www.arch.be www.cegesoma.be
Scientific Institute of Public Health (IPH)	www.wiv-isp.be
Veterinary Agrochemical Research Centre (VAR or CODA-CERVA)	www.coda-cerva.be
National Institute for Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC)	www.nicc.fgov.be
Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History	www.klm-mra.be



Check list Eligibility of proposals

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BELSPO checks if the proposals fulfill the mentioned eligibility criteria.

Promoters of proposals that are not eligible are informed by BELSPO.

The eligibility of each proposal is checked on the basis of the information provided by the applicants in the application file.

List of criteria

All proposals are checked on the following criteria. Only proposals fulfilling all criteria are evaluated.

➤ The application file is entered at latest on 4 May 2018 at 3h PM CE time ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The application file is sended in electronic format, (Word AND Pdf with signatures)	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The network is composed of at least one eligible Belgian partner and one South-African partner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ Optional partners provide their own funding	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The proposal concerns networking activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The proposal responds fits to the openness of the call as described in the guide	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The requested budget froma BELSPO does not exceed 40.000 EUR	<input type="checkbox"/>
➤ The duration of the proposal is maximum 2 years jaar	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ A proof of reception is delivered.