

Prospective Research
Regulation and topic of the call 2020

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1. PROGRAMME

AIM OF THE PROGRAMME

Through the *Prospective Research* programme, the Brussels-Capital Region is hoping to fund research projects from a dual perspective: to provide a solid regional prospective vision; to build solutions to the specific challenges it will face in the years to come. The solutions proposed by the funded projects must take into account Brussels' urban complexity as well as the Region's environmental, social and economic transition objectives.

The programme targets researchers in human science as much as researchers in exact or applied science. The projects must pay sufficient attention to the development (focusing on politics and/or society) of research.

BENEFICIARIES

Prospective Research is aimed at researchers from Research institutions, having at least one operational headquarters in the Brussels-Capital Region. Article 15 ee¹ of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) defines research bodies as follows: *an entity (such as a university or research institute, technology transfer agency, innovation intermediary, or a physical or virtual scientific cooperation body, irrespective of its legal status (public or private) or way of financing, whose main activities are fundamental or industrial research or experimental research, completely independently, and which is responsible for the broad distribution of its results through education, publication or transfer of knowledge.*" The research partners that can use Innoviris for this call are research institutions that fit this definition and having at least one operational headquarters in the Brussels-Capital Region.

If the applicant is not a University, University college or Collective research centre, its classification as a research Institute must be certified by means of the appropriate "research body classification form" (available on the Innoviris website in the Prospective Research tool box). This form must only be submitted to Innoviris once per calendar year. Applicants and/or beneficiaries must inform Innoviris of any change to this status. Innoviris also reserves the right to examine the status of any applicant (University, University college, collective research centre or other research body) during the admissibility phase if there are any doubts regarding its classification as a research body. This may take place by supplying the applicant with a "research body classification form", which must be completed in full and returned to Innoviris.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECTS

Projects can come from individual researchers or several researchers and/or research groups working together on a research project, in which each partner is studying one aspect of the issue. For each project, a promotor-coordinator must be identified. This person is responsible for the project's scientific and administrative management. One or more co-promotors may be appointed for a project, in addition to the promotor-coordinator. Each promotor is responsible for the supervision of the researchers. The resources allocated to the project must be appropriate for the programme and its objectives.

^{1 1} <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:198:FULL&from=EN>

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The personal data collected by Innoviris, the data controller, by means of which this form is for the purpose of processing your application for funding (which involves in particular analysis and evaluation by Innoviris and an external jury). Their processing is based on the processing necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject and for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. No data is shared with third parties without the prior consent of the data subject or unless a legal obligation obliges Innoviris to do so. Innoviris makes every effort to ensure the confidentiality and security of the data processed. The retention time shall be that which is necessary to achieve the purposes of the processing concerned. If you have any questions or wish to exercise your rights under Articles 15 to 22 of the DPMP, please contact dpo@innoviris.brussels or consult our "privacy" web page.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Innoviris is responsible for the scientific and administrative coordination of the *Prospective Research* programme. This document contains all the information researchers need to submit a project for the *Prospective Research* 2020 call for projects. Applications for this call must be submitted at the latest by **Wednesday, December 9th 2020 at 12 pm (noon)** via an electronic version with qualified signature² to funding-request@innoviris.brussels (copied to epottier@innoviris.brussels). If qualified signature is not possible, a paper version must also be submitted to Innoviris, 112 Chaussée de Charleroi, B-1060 Brussels.

Applications must be prepared using a form available on the Innoviris website in the Prospective Research Tool box, and must comply with the directives set out in this regulation. Your application will not be considered for evaluation if it does not comply with the regulation.

PROCESS OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Prospective Research is a themed call for projects. This means that the proposals put forward may only be submitted in response to a concrete call for proposals on defined themes. The call for projects is composed of one phase. Following an (admissibility) analysis by Innoviris advisers, in accordance with the criteria stated in this regulation, the admissible proposals will be assessed by an external jury of experts consisting of regional stakeholders, academic researchers and forecasting experts, based on predefined criteria that are also included in this regulation.

TOPIC OF THE CALL 2020 "INTERROGATE SYSTEMIC CRISES AND EXPLORE POSSIBLE FUTURES"

In view of the current context, the topic presented below has been chosen for this 2020 call:

While the link between pathogens and their environment has always been at the heart of public health, the ongoing emergence of infectious diseases, transmitted from animals to humans over the last 40 years ("Asian flu" in 1957, "Hong Kong flu" in 1968, etc.; SARS, MERS, H1N1, etc. since the 2000s) can be explained today by the dramatic changes brought about by urbanisation, factory farming,

² <https://economie.fgov.be/fr/themes/line/commerce-electronique/signature-electronique-et>

deforestation and climate change³. The imbalances and the growing links between living species, plants, wild animals, pets and humans have intensified. In the words of Emanuele Coccia, "as the world is the same for us all and for all species, each design activity is also an activity that blurs the borders and shakes up the world of other species. Every time a bee, an oak or a bacteria changes its environment to make its own life possible, this species also changes that of others."⁴

Since the 1970s, a growing debate has been underway looking at both the benefits and the disadvantages of modernisation, such as the emergence of these infectious diseases under the effects of anthropogenic changes. Warnings about climate change have been largely ignored⁵. It took the COVID-19 pandemic and global lockdown for our development models to be interrogated in depth in our regions. While at the end of this pandemic, voices are calling for a return to business as usual, others, such as John Vandaele⁶, believe that this will no longer be possible: "Een samenleving mag en moet vandaag iets meer ambiëren dan alleen maar economische groei, die ze dan vervolgens aan de markten overlaat⁷."

Innoviris is launching a post-COVID-19 call for projects via its Prospective Research programme, with the goal of supporting prospective scientific research to help the Brussels public authorities define a way of moving from a pandemic crisis situation (health, social, environmental, economic, etc.), to a desired situation in the Brussels Region⁸. Prospective Research is therefore calling for researchers to construct scenarios for possible futures involving a new major crisis. Based on these possible futures, scenarios for exiting this crisis and moving towards desirable futures must be produced for the use of Brussels politicians and citizens, so that they can gain an overview and in order to make them aware of challenges. In the words of Andrew Lakoff⁹, this call for projects must allow us to discover more about current vulnerabilities and develop tools to reduce them. The living conditions of Brussels residents, and the available resources and infrastructures must be studied together within the perspective of a social, economic and climate transition that respects living things and the earth.

The political decision-makers in Brussels will therefore be required to make decisions for the recovery and redeployment of the Region, whilst also preparing for a new pandemic: what demonstrations of possible futures can you create, what are those that are desirable, and what can we put in place to achieve them?

³ Keck F., 2020, Les sentinelles des pandémies. Chasseurs de virus et observateurs d'oiseaux aux frontières de la Chine, Zones sensibles.

⁴ In Coccia E., 2020, Métamorphoses, Payot et Rivages.

⁵ In Kerck F., 27 mars 2020, interview in the newspaper Le monde: https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/03/27/coronavirus-c-est-une-occasion-a-saisir-pour-changer-notre-mode-de-vie_6034646_3224.html

⁶ Analysis: "De contouren van een nieuw politiek-economisch model voor de wereld. Dé vraag in deze verwarrende tijd: wat komt er na de neoliberale globalisering? », in Mondiaal News, 19 March 2020: <https://www.mo.be/analyse/een-nieuw-politiek-economisch-model-doemt-op>

⁷ A society can and must today aspire to something more than just economic growth, which it then leaves to the markets.

⁸ For desired situations, see for example the various Brussels policy declarations (Declaration of regional governmental policy, Resource and waste management plan, the 20/30 Strategy, Be in transition, etc.).

⁹ Lakoff, A., 2017, *Unprepared: Global health in a time of emergency*. Univ of California Press.

As an illustration (not exhaustive), the decision-makers may have to answer the following questions:

- *On the **geo-economic** operation of Brussels: how can an economy be relaunched following a crisis that had the scope and impact of the war, in which no infrastructure was destroyed (there are no bridges, roads or houses to rebuild, etc.), but in which economic activities were jeopardised and social structures placed under pressure? How can our economy be regulated? How can a socio-climatic transition be implemented? Which will now be the critical and strategic sectors of the Brussels Region? How can work be carried out? What should be relocated? What are the interdependencies/dependencies and what are the indirect consequences for Brussels? What will be the effects of climate change? What about resources and their depletion?*
- ***Future Brussels governance models.** The same virus did not strike in the same way in Singapore, New York, Paris and Brussels. As was stressed by Bruno Latour¹⁰, its level of virulence varied depending on the different modes of association between microbes, certainly, but also the capacities of the State, the organisation of hospitals, law, civic practices, acts of solidarity, etc.*

On the one hand, what do these situations teach us about our model of society in Brussels, its resources and its infrastructures? Which permanent infrastructures financed by tax can we not do without? Which institutional mixes (State/market; public/civic) can we now create so that we can deal with crises of this magnitude?

On the other hand, how and with whom can we now make decisions to ensure that the equilibrium of each person in the city-region of Brussels is heard, accepted and respected?

From the social to the geopolitical, how can we rethink our democratic models?

- ***Space management and urban development.** How can we move away from this illusory and dangerous opposition between the city and the forest and detach ourselves from the myth of a contradiction between civilisation and what we call "wild", "natural" space? How can we redesign the Brussels capital region so that we stop feeding into the illusion of the autonomy of the human body? No city can survive without interspecific encounters between women, men, plants and animals¹¹. How can we rethink the planning of urban space in order to make human contact and dialogue possible, despite the crisis?*

¹⁰ Opinion in Le Monde 26-03-2020 on the difference between health crisis and ecological mutation.

¹¹ In Coccia E., 2020, op.cit.

TIMETABLE

- **Submission of complete proposals:** December 9th 2020 at 12 pm (noon)
- **Assessment:** December 2020 – March 2021
- **Decision by the government:** May – June 2021
- **Launch of the projects:** Between 1st of august and 1st of October 2021

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

1. Admissibility analysis

The analysis of the admissibility of the proposal is carried out by Innoviris. The proposal is considered admissible if it meets the following criteria:

- The identified researcher(s) must hold at least a Master at the start of the research;
- The promotor(s) is/are (an) established professor(s) or established researcher(s) in a Brussels research Institution or the Institute's research director(s);
- The application was submitted before the expiry of the deadline mentioned on the form;
- The application has been drafted in accordance with the formal requirements (use of the correct form, compliance with the requested number of pages, the form is complete, etc.);
- The applicant(s) must have complied with all the obligations with regard to any previous aid granted by the Region;
- The project must not have started before the submission of the subsidy application; Moreover, if the subsidy is granted by Innoviris, it will start on the starting date of the agreement (between 1 August and 1 October 2021).
- The regional development and policy decision-making strategy must be clearly presented;
- The project must have at least an indirect link with regional competences.
- The project must be in line with the theme identified by the Region.

Depending on the number of projects submitted, and in accordance with article 18 of the decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region implementing the order of July 27, 2017 for non-economic purposes, Innoviris may carry out an initial evaluation of the proposals based on the evaluation criteria presented below in point 2 . Only projects that have passed this first evaluation stage can be presented before an expert jury.

2. Evaluation by an external jury of admissible proposals

Proposals considered admissible will be evaluated by an external jury composed of academic experts and prospecting specialists, as well as representatives of Innoviris and other regional institutions. The evaluation will be based on the submitted documents (which will be sent to the jury members after signing a confidentiality agreement), based on the following evaluation criteria:

- **The feasibility and scientific quality of the project (30%):**
 - Is the project original and innovative in relation to the state of the art?
 - Are the research field, theoretical context and research issue clearly defined?
 - Are the objectives, research questions, methodology and programme clear?
 - Is the work programme developed in a relevant manner?

- Does the project demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the reality of the situation in the field?
- **- The prospective approach (30%) :**
 - **The base (10%) :**
 - Is the choice of the time horizon identified?
 - Is the preferred type of prospective approach explained and relevant to the research issue?
 - Is the method for identifying prospective issues explained?
 - Is the choice of the spatial framework well identified: does the proposal contextualize the region with regard to the country, Europe, etc.?
 - **Scenarios (10%) :**
 - Does the project propose different scenarios?
 - Are the scenarios complementary to each other; are they articulated to each other in a relevant way?
 - Does the project describe well the method of construction of the scenarios?
 - Does the project address different types of futures (those that are possible (positively or negatively); those that are desirable/undesirable; ...)?
 - Are the blindspots well identified and are they taken into consideration?
 - Does the methodology identify the bifurcations, the necessary breaks, the paths to desirable futures?
 - **Strategic options (10%) :**
 - Does the project propose a methodology to explore desirable futures?
 - Does the project present a methodology to define the strategic options relevant for the Brussels Region?
- **The social, economic and/or environmental impact on the Brussels-Capital Region (30%):**
 - Do the expected results have the potential to contribute to the social, economic and/or environmental development of the Region? Are there any results that could be implemented by the Region and the public authorities?
 - Do the results of the project feed the political and citizen debate? Could the results be made accessible to the general public (popularisation)?
- **Quality of the consortium and appropriateness of the resources envisaged (10%):**
 - does/do the researcher(s) have the expertise required to carry out this research? do they have sufficient knowledge of the situation on the ground?
 - if there are several researchers or research groups: is there sufficient cohesion and complementarity between the partners?
 - is the requested budget in aligned with the project?

The cohesion and complementarity of all the projects will be taken into account during the evaluation.

If the jury considers it necessary, Innoviris will organize an interview with the research team to complete the evaluation.

SELECTION OF FINAL PROPOSALS

The selection of final proposals is made by the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region on the basis of the results of the jury evaluation and the analysis of Innoviris.

As an indication, for the Prospective Research 2019 call, Innoviris received 42 expressions of interest. After the first admissibility analysis, 25 projects were selected. In the end, the jury decided on the selection of 6 projects whose total amount corresponded to an available budget of approximately 2 million euros.

For this 2020 call, a budget of 2.350.000 euros has been allocated.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The subsidy covers the salary of the researcher(s), instrument and equipment costs, the “other operating costs”, subcontracting and overhead costs. For detailed "Eligible Costs", please refer to Appendix 1 of this document. The financial package for proposed projects may be 2, 3 (2+1 year) or 4 years (2+2 years).

There is no maximum amount with regard to the operating and personnel costs that can be requested for a project. There is a funding ceiling for all the projects in this call. A project's score (based on the above-mentioned criteria), its ranking amongst all the projects and the available budget will determine whether or not the project is funded. The requested budget must correspond to the workload.

3. FOLLOW-UP OF SELECTED PROJECTS

For the selected projects, the promotor-coordinator will ensure that the various stages of the launch and follow-up of the project are respected. This is necessary for the successful progress of the programme. Innoviris will provide the financial and scientific follow-up of the projects based on the documents provided by the coordinator. In this respect, the documents submitted to Innoviris for the project follow-up are very important elements that must be completed correctly. They make it possible to assess the quality of the work carried out and provide a better follow up of the project.

For financial monitoring, the modalities for the introduction of reports will be defined in the agreement.

For the scientific follow-up, the activity reports, reports by the follow-up committees and a final report will be submitted to Innoviris at specific times. Templates will be provided to the project teams for this purpose. It is also expected that projects will be represented at *Prospective Research* events during their cycle (for example, kick-off, policy-science workshop, final event at the Brussels Parliament, etc.).

Once the project is completed, the policy brief must be drafted and contain the main results and recommendations of the project; Innoviris will distribute this to political stakeholders and it may be discussed at the Brussels Parliament. The publication of the research in *Brussels Studies* is strongly encouraged.

After nine months

Innoviris will hold a follow-up committee after the first nine months. This follow-up committee will assess the progress made in the project: a verbal presentation will demonstrate the following elements:

- General project information;
- First research milestones (in relation to the original work programme);
- Possible changes to the program;
- Prospects/applications for the Region.

After 18 months: preparation for renewal

At the end of the 18 months, if applicable, a renewal request including a detailed report describing in particular the activities carried out since the beginning of the project, the results achieved and the future program is submitted to Innoviris in an electronic version with qualified signature (if qualified signature is not possible, a paper copy must also be submitted including the original signatures). This document will be subject to an evaluation with an oral defense before a jury of independent experts and an Innoviris's scientific advisor. The evaluation will cover the research carried out during the first 18 months, the proposed program for the continuation of the project and the proposals for valorization for the Region. **This evaluation will lead or not to the renewal of the project.**

For three-year projects, the requested document will include the detailed report as well as a plan for the closure and valorization of the research results.

After 36 months:

For three-year projects, the final research report and the *Policy Brief*.

For four-year projects, a follow-up committee will be held with Innoviris and the relevant regional administrations to discuss a plan for the conclusion and the development of the research results. This follow-up committee will report on the progress made by the project since the last research report and prepare for the progressive reappropriation of the results by the public authorities/administrations. It will include an oral presentation containing the following information:

- general project information;
- summary of the progress made by the project since the 24-month report;
- results of the third year of work (in relation to the original work programme)
- Possible changes to the program
- preparation for development and the political recommendations: plan for conclusion and development.

At 48 months: the final research report *and* the *Policy Brief*.

4. FORMS AND INFORMATION

The application form and “Regulation and topic of the call 2020” can be found on the <https://innoviris.brussels/prospective-research>.

For further information, please contact: Emmanuelle Pottier: epottier@innoviris.brussels . Tel : 02.600.50.14.

5. APPENDIX 1 : ELIGIBLE COSTS

Staff costs

These are all costs related to the staff (the researcher, the alter ego on the payroll and the part-time technical support staff).

Costs related to the execution of the technical objective

1. Costs of tools and equipment:

These costs correspond to the depreciation of instruments and equipment used for the project. If instruments and equipment are not used for the project for their entire lifetime, only the depreciation costs which correspond to the duration of the project are authorised, calculated on the basis of generally applicable accounting principles.

The depreciation is calculated in proportion to the duration of the project and the percentage of use of the equipment. The whole is reduced to a period of three years for IT equipment and a period of five years for scientific and technical equipment.

Calculation:

- IT equipment: $(\text{Quantity} * \text{Unit cost} * \text{Number of months of use during the project} * \text{percentage of use}) / 36$
- Other equipment: $(\text{Quantity} * \text{Unit cost} * \text{Number of months of use during the project} * \text{percentage of use}) / 60$

2. Other operating costs

These costs cover the current expenditure relating to:

- IT costs (a laptop or fixed computer per person on the budget, software licences for the period of the project, calculation costs)
- Minor scientific and technical equipment
- Consumables (chemical products, materials)
- Books and documentation
- Missions expenses in Belgium or abroad (seminars, conferences, one-off technical training, travel, rental of a car used in the context of technical approval).
- Student jobs;
- Miscellaneous (costs of scientific or commercial meetings with external persons of the beneficiary or of the team, photocopies done outside of the institution, etc.)

Clarify all budgetary sub-items (unit cost * quantity).

3. The costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under the condition of full competition as well as the costs of consultancy and similar services used solely for the purposes of the project.
4. General costs: This is a lump sum to cover the additional costs directly linked to the implementation of the project (secretariat, accounting, telecommunications). It is a lump sum of maximum 10% of the sum of the other operating costs and the staff costs for employees.