

1. SCHEDULE

Opening of the call: **TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2025** on [e-space](#) for the online submission.

INSTRUMENT	FNRS-WELCHANGE CALL 2025		
	ELECTRONIC VALIDATION DEADLINES ¹ ON E-SPACE		
	MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
WELCHANGE	Wednesday 28 th May at 2 p.m.*	Thursday 5 th June at 2 p.m.	Tuesday 12 th 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 decision-making bodies of the F.R.S.-FNRS at the end of the calendar year. The starting date of the WELCHANGE projects is the following: 1st January 2026.

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 personnel², operating and small equipment costs.

The WELCHANGE instruments and eligible expenses are detailed in the regulatory provisions.

3. CHANGES COMPARED TO CALL 2023

Valorisation of Open Science practices in the evaluation of applications

Starting with the Grants and Fellowships Call of 2025, Open Science (OS) practices implemented by researchers are eligible for consideration in the evaluation of applications. This initiative is part of the agreement on the reform of the research evaluation system, signed by the F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2023.

Specifically, applicants are **optionally** invited to describe their OS practices in an additional section of the application file. This narrative format will allow reviewers to recognise their efforts in this area. The comprehensive [OS-CAM](#) model provides examples of practices, but is not the sole reference source for this purpose.

It should be noted that these practices constitute a key element adding value to the application file (and more particularly of the CV), but is not an evaluation criterion per se. (F.R.S.-FNRS Board of Trustees on 3rd October 2024).

4. 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.

¹ All times are Brussels local time.

² The promoter is responsible for choosing the personnel to hire.

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.

WELCHANGE FORM
<p>FRAMEWORK AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">References of the application (for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the F.R.S.-FNRS website).<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Title, in French and in English (max. 200 characters each, including spaces) and,- Summary, in French and in English (max. 2,000 characters each, including spaces).Bibliometric indicators (in case these indicators are relevant in the research field)Scientific Curriculum vitae + Publications list³ of each promoter/co-promoterScientific section (see template)Ethical aspects
<p>BUDGET</p> <p>Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating, Equipment, Personnel</p>
<p>PREVIOUS FUNDING</p> <p>Connection with previous funding applications (submitted or granted)</p>
WELCHANGE SCIENTIFIC SECTION - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE
<p>Template</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Brief report on previous worksDescription of the projectSocietal impact and/or identification of potential societal benefitsPotential interdisciplinary approach of the projectPublications and environment of the main promoterPublications of the other promoters (only for Cross-university WELCHANGE)Description of Open Science practicesInteractions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the other co-promoters (only for Cross-university WELCHANGE)Additional comments

³ 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.

5. SPECIFIC REMARKS

5.1 Eligible expenses

The F.R.S.-FNRS policy on the eligibility of costs is set out in the [Practical Guide to Costs](#). The F.R.S.-FNRS only reimburses eligible expenses in accordance with the general provisions set out in this guide.

5.2 Personnel expenses

The (co-)promoter-applicant shall contact the relevant department of their host institution to assess the status of the personnel requested (mobility situation, grant, employee...), their working arrangements and an estimate of their cost based on the scientific seniority.

5.3 Reminder to the research community

Pursuant to the Regulation on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its Associated Funds, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding granted as part of the WELCHANGE instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

- In English: "This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [ID number]"
- In French: « Ce travail a été réalisé avec le soutien financier du Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS via le financement n° [identifiant numérique] ».

5.4 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)

QUESTIONS : credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be