



fnrs

LA LIBERTÉ DE CHERCHER



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PhD & POST-DOC FELLOWSHIPS AT FNRS

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European and International Affairs

BELGIUM

IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

GREAT FOOD



EXCELLENT SCIENCE

HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (1)

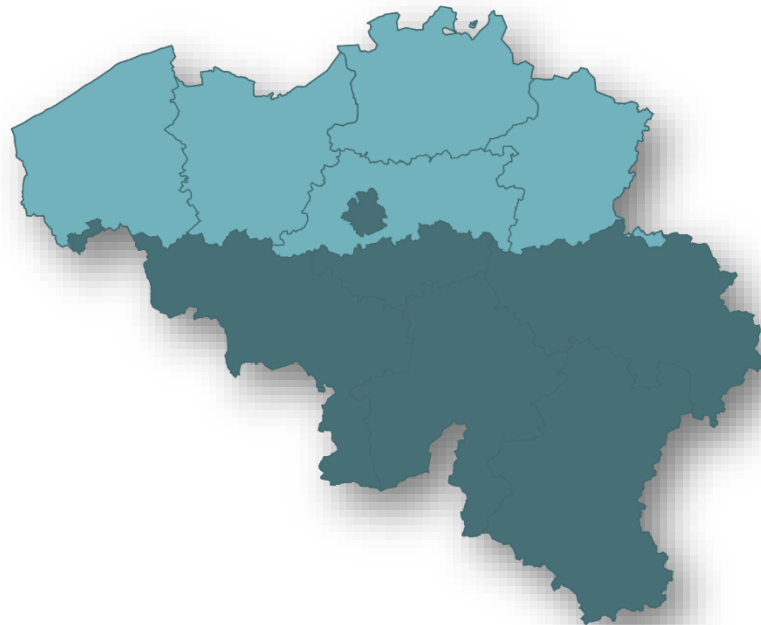
➤ Belgium

⇒ ~30.000 km² , ~11 millions population

⇒ 1 Federal Head, 3 Communities, 3 Regions

➤ **Wallonia-Brussels** (French-speaking Community)

Wallonia Region (southern part of Belgium) +
Brussels Region



HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (2)

➤ Wallonia-Brussels (W-B) (French-speaking Community)

⇒ ~4.5 millions population

⇒ **6 research-based universities** (PhD training); basic and applied research

⇒ 20 university colleges and 16 colleges of art

⇒ 1 funding agency for **basic research, all scientific domains**:

F.R.S.-FNRS

 UCLouvain



Key figures of F.R.S – FNRS (2016)

Resources

184 M€
Per year

90% of
Public funding

Researchers

2369

Scientists
supported
by the
FRS-FNRS

Research

~30M€*

~200 projects

* Annual
Average

International

4,2 M€

Invested in 2016

**MAKE RESEARCH
MORE
INTERNATIONAL**

The researchers of F.R.S – FNRS (2016)

2369
Researchers
under
contract

In the
6
universities
of the
Wallonia
Brussels
Federation

1047 PhD Students

293 Post-Docs **60% of Foreign Candidates**

202 Research Associates

110 Senior Research Associates

77 Research Directors

640 Grants Researchers



32 GRANTS

General call for PhD students

Call for Aspirant (ASP)

Call for Fellowships

- Opening: December
- Closing: February
- Panel: May-June
- Results: July
- Start of the Fellowship: October

Eligibility requirements:

Call open to all nationalities

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF
- ✓ Obtained Master degree enabling access to PhD studies before starting the Fellowship (within 3 years after obtaining such a degree)

Conditions	
DURATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP	2 + 2 YEARS
AMOUNT OF GRANT/YEAR	€ 38,800
RESEARCH COSTS/YEAR	€ 2,500

General call for PhD students

Call for Aspirant (ASP)

Evaluation criteria

QUALITY OF THE APPLICANT	QUALITY OF THE PROJECT	RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT
Academic CV, promotor's opinion (creativity, intellectual abilities etc.)	Feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact	
60%	25%	15%

General call for PhD students

Call for Aspirant (ASP)

Proposal requirements

THE RESEARCHER	THE RESEARCH PROJECT	WORK ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligibility criteria, • Class of honours and ranking (per cycle and per year of study) • Awards and honours (maximum 5) • list of publications Professional experience 	<p>Description of the project (4 pages):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Goals of the research, State of the art, Research project, Work plan <p>Graphs and charts (max. 2 pages)</p> <p><u>Strict compliance of the number of pages</u></p>	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p>

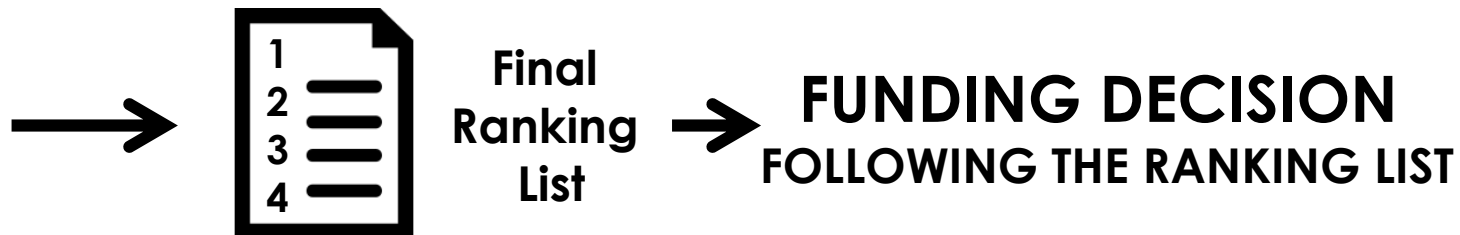
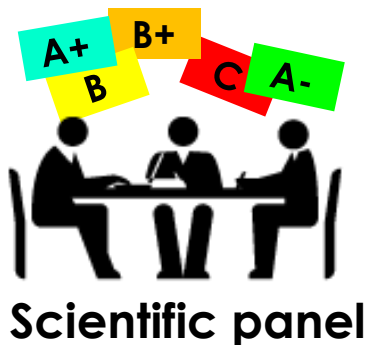
Call Procedures – Aspirant (PhD)

1 STEP procedure

Application



Scientific officer



FNRS Panels & Nomenclature

ERC based nomenclature

http://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/FRS-FNRS_Champs_descripteurs.pdf

- **SHS: Social Sciences and Humanities**
 - SHS-1: Sociology, Demography
 - SHS-2: Cognition, Psychology
 - SHS-3: Literature, Philosophy, arts
 - SHS-4: Archaeology, History
 - SHS-5: Economics, Law
 - **SVS: Medical and Life Sciences**
 - SVS-1: Molecular biology, Biophysics
 - SVS-2: Physiology, Immunology
 - SVS-3: Neurosciences
 - SVS-4: Aetiology, Public Health, Clinical sciences
 - **SEN: Exact and Natural Sciences**
 - SEN-1: Structure, Fluids, Nanosciences
 - SEN-2: Mathematics, Physics
 - SEN-3: Computer sciences
 - SEN-4: Natural sciences
 - **IDR: FORESIGHT**
Research project aiming at addressing a problem related to sustainable development
- Each panel: 1 President** outside WBF, **12 members** with a minimum of 2/3 foreigners

Tips and tricks to apply for an ASPIrant fellowship at the FNRS

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF is essential – work on the proposal in close collaboration with her/him
- ✓ Respect the number of pages of the proposal – anything too long will be disregarded
- ✓ Read the evaluation guide for a better understanding on how the proposal will be evaluated
- ✓ Submission in FR or EN, but translation in EN can be requested

Fonds pour la Recherche en Sciences Humaines (FRESH) SHS PhD

Call for FRESH

- Opening: July
- Closing: September
- Panel: November
- Results: December
- Start of the Fellowship: October (retroactive start)

Conditions	
DURATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP	2 + 2 YEARS
AMOUNT OF GRANT/YEAR	€ 35,200
RESEARCH COSTS/YEAR	€ 2,500

Eligibility requirements:

Call open to all nationalities

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF
- ✓ Obtained Master degree in any discipline in Social Sciences and Humanities at the deadline of the call

Call Procedures – FRESH (PhD)

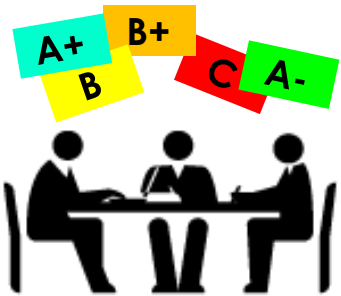
2 STEP procedure

Application



@SEMAPHORE

<https://applications.frs-fnrs.be/register/>



FRESH Juries:



Preselection



QUALITY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT	40%
COMPETENCIES OF THE CANDIDATE	40%
RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT	10%
SOCIETAL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT	10%

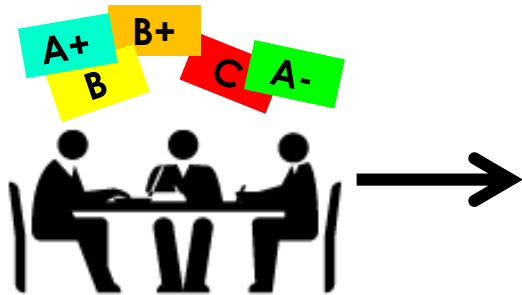
1. Cultural Challenges

2. Economic and Social Challenges

Fonds pour la Recherche en Sciences Humaines

Call for FRESH – SHS PhD Evaluation criteria

2nd step: Oral Examination

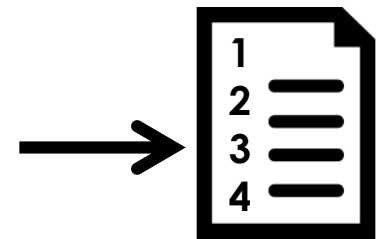
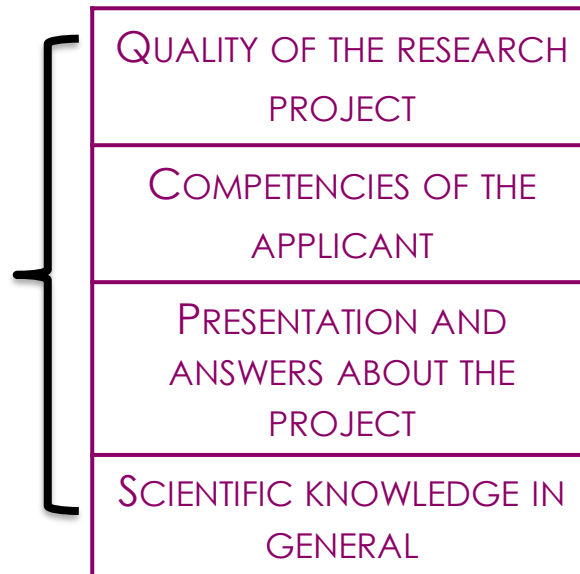


FRESH Juries:

- 1. Cultural Challenges**
- 2. Economic and Social Challenges**

**10 minutes
presentation**

**20 minutes
Q&A**



**Final
Ranking
List**

Fonds pour la Recherche en Sciences Humaines

Call for FRESH – SHS PhD

Proposal requirements

THE RESEARCHER	THE RESEARCH PROJECT	WORK ENVIRONMENT	THE REFEREES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligibility criteria, • Class and ranking (per cycle and per year of study) • List of publications (if any) • Professional background • Title Master Thesis 	<p>Description of the project (4 pages):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Goals of the research, State of the art, Research project, Work plan <p>Graphs and charts (max. 2 pages)</p> <p><u>Strict compliance of the number of pages</u></p>	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p>	<p>Contact details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 referee other than the promoter - 1 referee involved in the field outside of academics

Tips and tricks to apply for a FRESH fellowship at the FNRS

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF is essential – work on the proposal in close collaboration with her/him
- ✓ Respect the number of pages of the proposal
- ✓ Societal impact should be demonstrated – players groups or sectors that will benefit from the research project
- ✓ Support letter from a referee in the field outside of the academic sphere

General call for POST-DOCS

Call for Chargé de Recherche (CR)

Call for Post-Doc Fellowships

- Opening: December
- Closing: February
- Panel: May-June
- Results: July
- Start of the Fellowship: October

Eligibility requirements:

Call open to all nationalities

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF
- ✓ Obtained PhD degree at the deadline of the call (**within 5 years after obtaining such a degree**)

Conditions	
DURATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP	3 YEARS
AMOUNT OF GRANT/YEAR	€ 76,900
RESEARCH COSTS/YEAR	€ 2,500

General call for POST-DOCS

Call for Chargé de Recherche (CR)

Evaluation criteria

QUALITY OF THE APPLICANT	QUALITY OF THE PROJECT	RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT
Number and quality of the publications; promoter's opinion; awards	Feasibility, methodology, originality, potential impact	
40%	40%	20%

General call for POST-DOCS

Call for Chargé de Recherche (CR)

Proposal requirements

THE RESEARCHER	THE RESEARCH PROJECT	WORK ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligibility criteria, • Class of honours and ranking (per cycle and per year of study) • Awards and honours (maximum 5) • list of publications • Bibliometric data • Professional experience 	<p>Description of the project (4 pages):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Goals of the research, II. State of the art, III. Research project, IV. Work plan <p>Graphs and charts (max. 2 pages)</p> <p>Previous research achievements</p> <p><u><i>Strict compliance of the number of pages</i></u></p>	<p>Facts that assess whether the environment (the intellectual means and/or equipment available to the applicant) is consistent with the aims of the research project.</p>

Calls Procedures – Fellowships

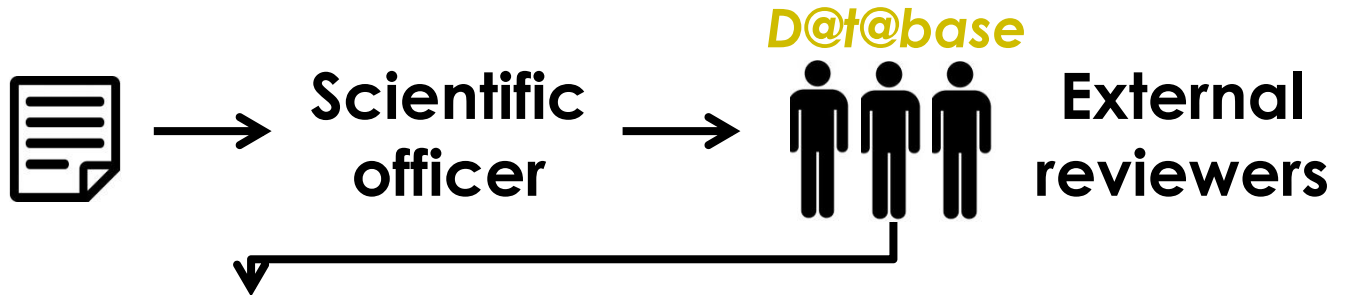
STEP 1: Submission and external evaluation

Application

English preferred



Peer review



Criteria 1: the applicant (CV, track record, mobility, ...) **A+** to **C**

Criteria 2: the Project **A+** to **C**

Criteria 3: the proposed research environment **A+** to **C**

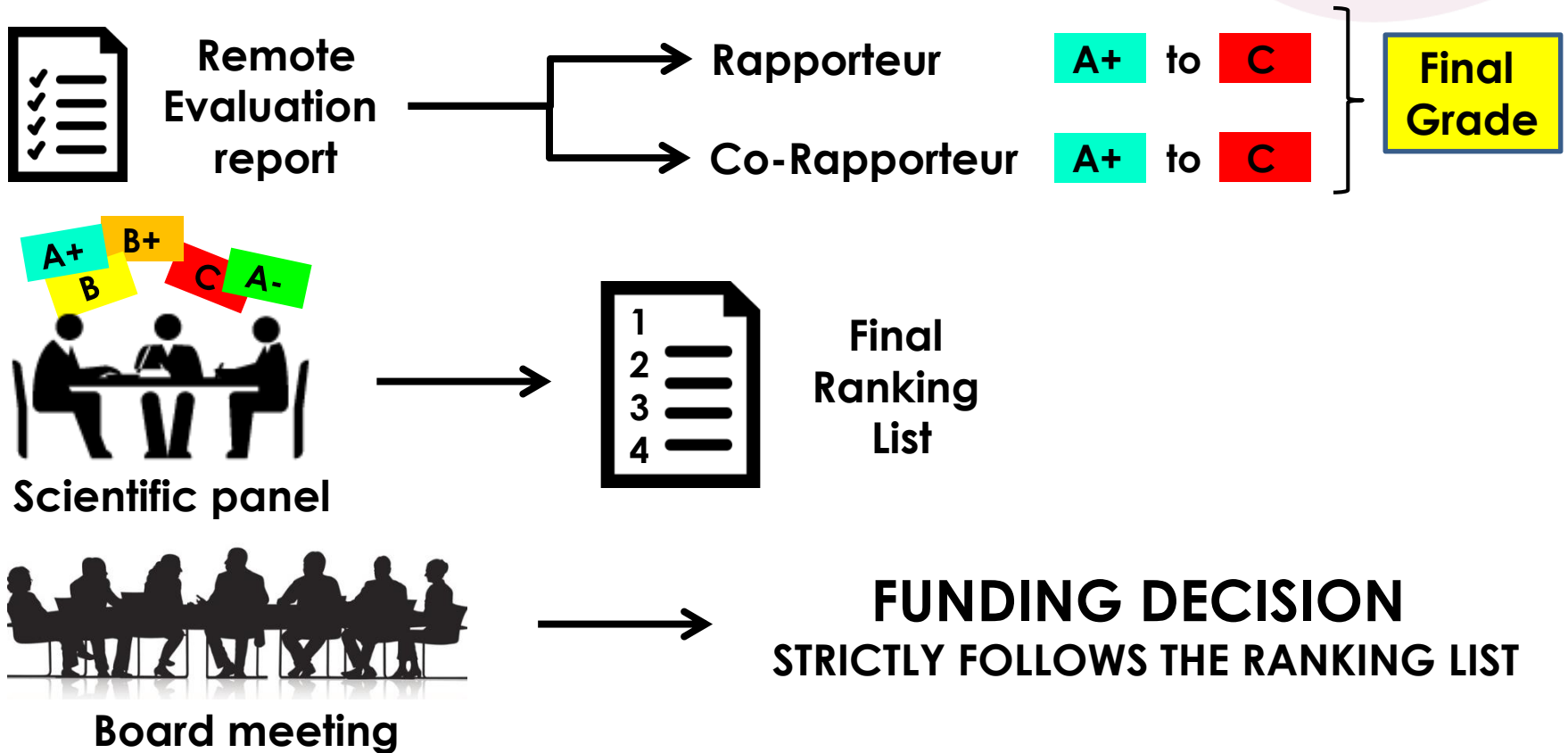


Remote
Evaluation
report



Calls Procedures – Fellowships & Grants

STEP 2: Panel meeting and Projects Ranking



FNRS Panels & Nomenclature

ERC based nomenclature

http://www.frs-fnrs.be/docs/Reglement-et-documents/FRS-FNRS_Champs_descripteurs.pdf

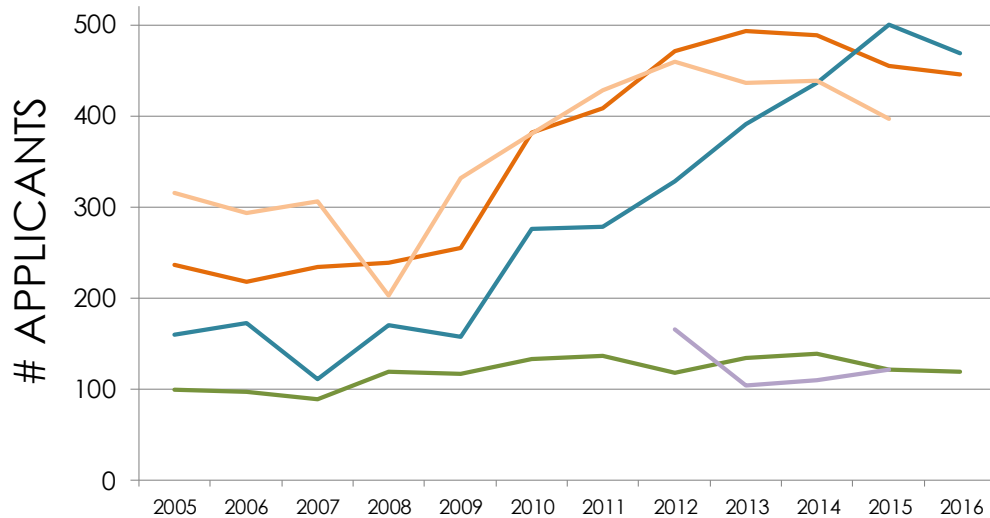
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Tips and tricks to apply for an POST-DOC fellowship at the FNRS

- ✓ Promotor (permanent research staff) in one of the six universities of the WBF is essential – work on the proposal in close collaboration with her/him
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National Calls: Facts & Figures

Applications and success rates



— PhD students

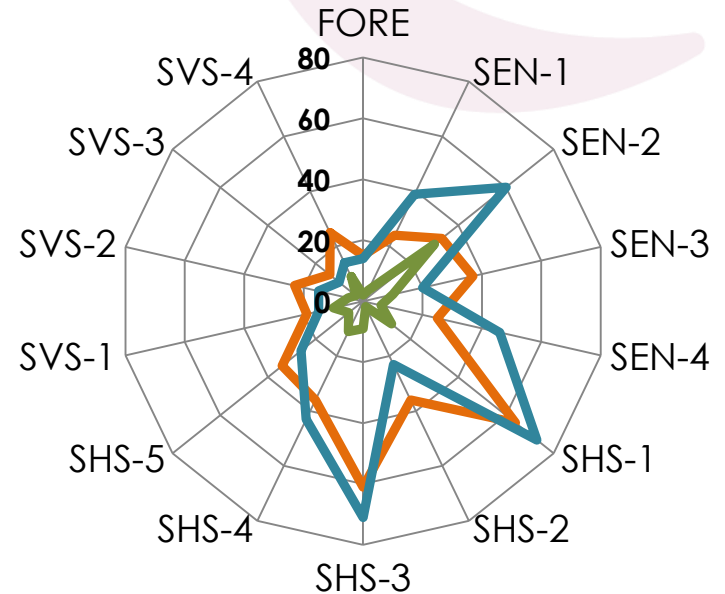
— Post-docs

— Tenure positions

- Average success rates**

- PhD Students: 18-20%

- Post-doctoral fellows: 15-20%



National Calls: Facts & Figures

International candidates

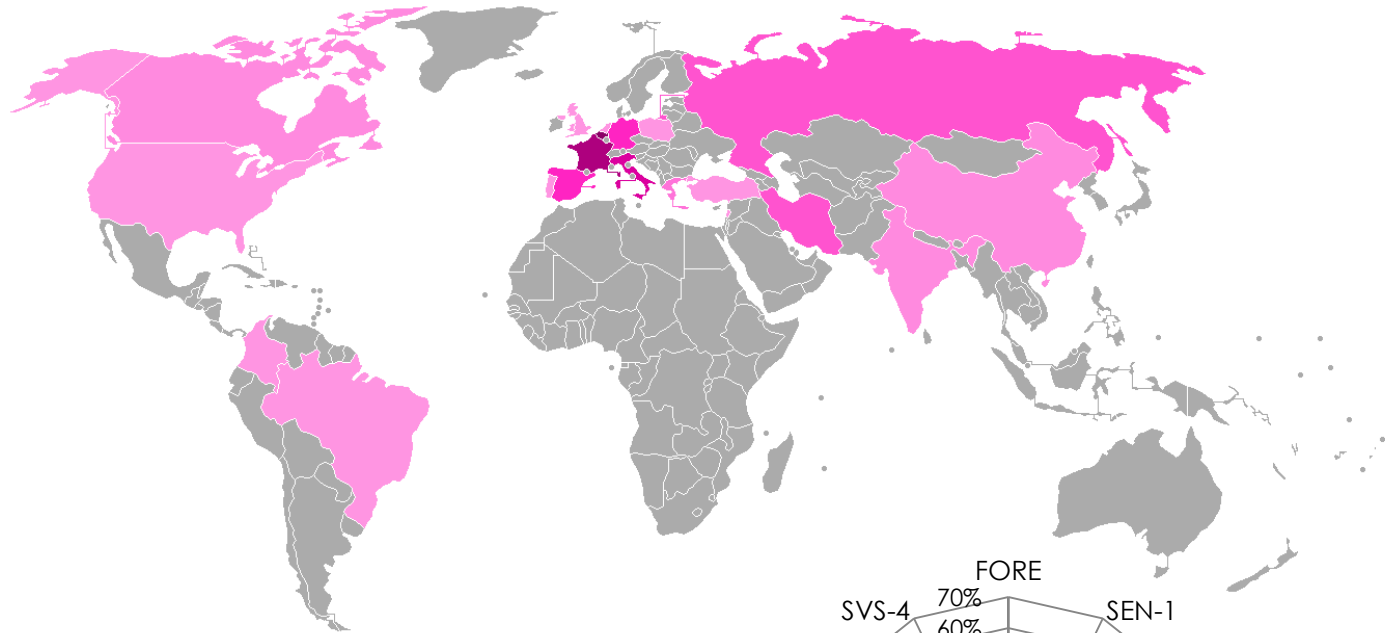
- **62** Nationalities
- **48%** of applicants to post –doc positions got their PhD in another country
- **46%** of the selected post-docs got their PhD in another country
- **28%** of applicants to PhD student positions got their Masters in another country
- **20%** of the selected PhD students got their Masters in another country
- **60%** of applicants to Post-doc positions are foreigners
- **29%** of applicants to PhD student positions are foreigners



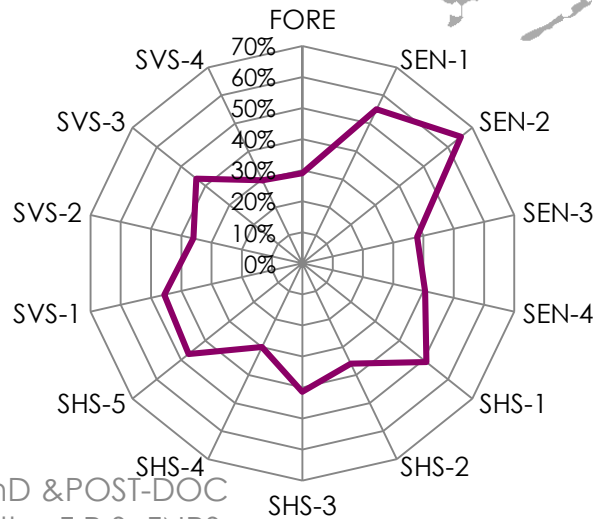
**Steep internationalisation of our
Post-doctoral calls since 2011**



Most Represented Countries



Belgium	692	58,3%
France	155	13,1%
Italy	91	7,7%
Spain	27	2,3%
Germany	19	1,6%
Iran	12	1,0%
Russia	12	1,0%



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