R&D collaborations with Wallonia-Brussels

19/10/2020

Adrien Sellez
WBI - Science and Technology Liaison Office in Canada

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Who we are

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BELGIUM
Area: 30,528 km²
Population: 11,000,000 inhabitants

WALLONIA-BRUSSELS FEDERATION
Population: 4,600,000 inhabitants
Language spoken: French
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>University/Consulate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Uppsala Universitet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Universidade de São Paulo</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Tufts University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Consulat de Belgique - Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>UNIL Université de Lausanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>McGill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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What do we do?

Connect scientists, researchers, entrepreneurs with inspiring partners of excellence (i.e. research projects)

Facilitate academic programs, global innovation strategies and knowledge exchange

Support internationalisation efforts of our academic institutions and companies, with a specific focus on innovative start-ups and spin-offs

Inform about developments in science, technology and innovation policies and opportunities

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Our R&I Ecosystem

- 6 universities, 19 University colleges and more than 250 active spin-offs
- 11,000 researchers and 20 applied research centres
- 2.7% of GDP invested in Research (2017)
- 6 competitiveness clusters, 6 Business clusters and 7 research parks

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Key sectors: our competitiveness clusters

- Pharma & Medtechs
- Mechanical Engineering
- Aeronautics & Space
- Agrofood
- Transport & Logistics
- Cleantechs

3 categories of members:
- Companies
- Research units
- Training centres

4 core activities:
- Research
- Training
- Investment
- International development

4 objectives:
- Partnership opportunities
- Open innovative projects
- Critical mass of actors
- International outreach

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[Image of various logos and icons]
Focus on our universities

6 universities – either comprehensive or specialized
- Almost 90,000 students – 25% international students
- 21 study and research fields – covering the whole spectrum of science

Strong research-based education
- More than 4,000 academic and scientific staff
- Around 800 PhD graduate annually – 40% international PhDs

Excellence in Research & Innovation
- In the top ranks of Europe’s most innovative universities (ULB, UCL, U Liège)
- Strong network of Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTOs), coordinated by “LIEU”
EU/Canada priorities in R&I

Priority Areas in Canada-EU Cooperation:

- Health
- Oceans & Marine Technology
- Space
- Arctic Science
- Aeronautics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Agri-Food and Sustainable Agriculture
- Security (as first responders)
- Research Mobility

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Canadian participation to H2020

Total: Canada (100.0% 4.66 M€)

Pillars:
- Societal Challenges (50.1% 2.34 M€)
  - Smart, green and integrated transport (7.3% 339.59 K€)
  - Food security, sustainable agriculture (1.9% 86.30 K€)
  - Secure societies - Protecting (0.5% 25.00 K€)
  - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency (0.5% 23.93 K€)
  - Europe in a changing world - Low cost (0ppm 0.00 €)
- Excellent Science (26.7% 1.24 M€)
  - Research Infrastructures (20.0% 931.85 K€)
  - European Research Council (ERC) (5.9% 276.60 K€)
  - Future and Emerging Technologies (0.8% 35.00 K€)
  - Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions (0ppm 0.00 €)
- Industrial Leadership (23.0% 1.07 M€)
  - Space (14.7% 686.81 K€)
  - Euratom (0.2% 11.20 K€)
  - Advanced materials (6.9% 319.60 K€)
  - Information and Communication Technologies (1.4% 66.40 K€)
  - Nanotechnologies (0ppm 0.00 €)
  - Promote gender equality in research (0ppm 0.00 €)

Science with and for Society (2.3% 108.31 K€)

Source: signed projects, eCORA H2020 database, April 15, 2019
16 projects since 2014:

- 2 in Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- 7 in Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy
- 4 in Science with and for Society
- 3 in Smart green and integrated transports

Low EU/CA figures due to inexistant or very limited funding for Canadian participants until 2020,

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New Canadian co-funding mechanism

New Frontiers in Research (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)

- "2020 Horizon Global Platform Competition": funding dedicated to Canadian participants willing to join a European consortium in Horizon 2020
- 34 targeted calls for proposals. **Budget**: 10m$ over 4 years.
- **Scientific evaluation by experts** (standard process of the European Commission), administrative evaluation by Ottawa
- **Max funding per project**: 125 000$/year (incl. Indirect costs) for 4 years max.

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European partnerships

- Multilateral research funding programs
- International calls for proposals in targeted areas
- Each project partner is funded by his own regional/national funding agency (for ex: Canadian institutes of health research)
- All research projects must be transnational and involve at least 2 participants from 2 different countries
- Non EU countries may decide to participate to specific ERA-NETs => 🇨🇦 has participated to 15 programmes
# « Active » networks with joint Canada/Wallonia participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Funding agency</th>
<th>Call deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIST-ERA</td>
<td>European coordinated research on long-term ICT and ICT-based scientific challenges</td>
<td>FRQNT (tbc)</td>
<td>Winter 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M ERA NET</td>
<td>Materials and battery technologies</td>
<td>PRIMA Québec</td>
<td>19/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERAMIN3</td>
<td>Raw Materials for the Sustainable Development and the Circular Economy</td>
<td>PRIMA Québec</td>
<td>1/04/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15/09/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENDER NET Plus</td>
<td>Promoting Gender Equality</td>
<td>NSERC &amp; CIHR</td>
<td>No open call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroNanoMed III</td>
<td>Nanomedicine</td>
<td>FRQS</td>
<td>21/01/2020</td>
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<td>10/06/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERA-HDHL</td>
<td>Biomarkers for Nutrition and Health</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>No open call</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Alberta-Europe Technology Collaboration Fund

- Set up in Feb. 2018 by the German-Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research and the Alberta Government’s Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation

- Open to Albertan SMEs. Research organisations and university institutes are welcome to participate as additional project partners but cannot receive GCCIR funding.

- Maximum project contribution by GCCIR is $250,000 CAD

- Current corresponding European Call for proposals with in March and September (IRA SME programme)
Bilateral Research Funding programme with Québec

2 calls for proposals (one foreseen in 2021)
10 funded projects (Interdisciplinarity)
50+ researchers
1,95 millions € (F.R.S.-FNRS)
2,6 millions $ (FRQ)
100 000$/year for 3 years for the Québec researchers
EUREKA – the network

Membres
(40 countries + EU Commission)

National info points
(Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina)

Associated members
(Canada, Chile, South Africa)

Partners
(Corée du sud)

Coopérations
International network for market-driven industrial R&D

National Research Council Canada is a member

=> NRC's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) for Canadian SMEs

- Open all year long - 2 countries min; applied research
- Mini 1 company, 1 research centre (+universities)
- « Bottom-up », all sectors and markets (except military)
- Max project duration: 3 years, then commercialization under 2 years
All the programmes of our National Research Fund are open to the world!

- The FRS-FNRS employs about 1,700 researchers at different stages in their careers. Funding is available for:
  - **Doctoral researchers** (~1000 people)
  - **Postdoctoral researchers** (~ 300 people)
  - **Permanent researchers** (~ 400 people)

- Calendar & rules of all the calls are available [here](#)
Researchers’ mobility

« BEWARE Fellowships » programme

- Research contract of up to 3 years in Wallonia
- Skills/qualifications: Phd or 4 years of experience
- **50% with a company**, 50% with the Academic institution
- Bottom-up (open to all disciplines)
- Average annual salary of $120,000 (+ allowances)
- 75 positions available over 3 years
- Next deadline: April 2021
Joint WBI/Mitacs Globalink Research Award (IN & OUT)

- Up to 10 research projects in Wallonia-Brussels funded by Mitacs/year
- $6,000 per graduate student/ postdoctoral fellow (additional funding sources are possible)
- 12 to 24 weeks
- Open-ended application process
- Open to all disciplines
- Up to 10 research projects in Canada for Belgium researchers/year (funded by WBI)
Wallonia-Brussels International excellence grants

- **“WBI IN” programme**: for postdoctoral researchers only
- Scholarship of ~$3000/month (+ travel costs & healthcare insurance)
- Short (1-3 months) to long-term stays (1 year, +1)
- Open to all disciplines with specific interest in

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<td>Transport &amp; Logistics</td>
<td>Environmental technologies</td>
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- 17 grants this year (India & France most represented)
- **WBI World**: possibility to welcome Belgian researchers in Canada (phd & postdoctoral researchers)
Thank you

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