

# F.R.S.-FNRS MINI-GUIDE PDR-THEMA CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES CALL 2021

French version: [click here](#).

Regulations of the call: [click here](#).

## 1. SCHEDULE

**Opening** of the call on the web-based application of the F.R.S.-FNRS [e-space](#) for online submission:  
**TUESDAY MAY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

PDR-THEMA CARDIO CALL 2021		
DEADLINE <sup>1</sup> FOR THE ELECTRONIC VALIDATION ON E-SPACE		
MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
Friday July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021 at 2 p.m.*	Thursday July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 2 p.m.	Thursday July 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 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 in advance.

Funding decision will be taken by the decision-making bodies of the F.R.S.-FNRS. The starting date of the instrument is the following: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## 2. INSTRUMENT'S CHARACTERISTICS AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

This call aims at funding **3-year research projects** on **cardiovascular diseases** in a broad sense.

There is no additional thematic constraint. The jury will have to consider whether a project is qualified in case the topic addressed is out of the scope at hand. All scientific approaches and techniques are qualified: molecular biology, public health, modelling, clinical trials, preclinical studies, medical engineering...

	Duration	Limits €/project	Nature
PDR-THEMA-CARDIO	3 years	450	Operating costs, equipment, personnel.

<sup>1</sup> All times are Brussels local time.

## Eligible personnel

Categories	Activity	
	Part time	Full time
Doctoral Researcher – Grant	n/a	x
Doctoral Researcher – Salary	x	x
Postdoctoral Researcher	x	x
Non-doctoral Researcher - Salary	x	x
Technician - Salary	x	x

n/a = not applicable

- Concerning **Postdoctoral Researcher**, the promoter contacts the relevant department of his/her institution to determine the status (mobility situation, employee...) and the time of occupation.
- Holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) are eligible for **Non-doctoral Researchers** category. The Non-doctoral Researcher cannot, under any circumstances, start any personal research work leading to a Ph.D. during the working hours devoted to this function.
- Concerning **Technician**, holders of a Master's degree (or equivalent) or a Ph.D. cannot be recruited under this category.

## Call features

- Personnel costs are optional and not subject to limitation.
- Remuneration for personnel employed is not capped.
- Equipment costs are limited to 30% of the total budget requested.
- Subcontracting is limited to 20% of the total budget requested.
- Budget may be requested for institutions outside the French-speaking Community of Belgium (CFB) and is limited to 20% of the total budget requested.
- Transfer between expense items may be accepted during the project, subject to notification to the F.R.S.-FNRS.
- Transfers between the main promoter and the co-promoter(s) during the course of the project are permitted, subject to notification to the F.R.S.-FNRS by the main promoter and the co-promoter(s).

## 3. SPECIFIC REMARKS

### 3.1 VAT exemption as part of a clinic – university collaboration

The decision of the Board of Trustees of F.R.S.-FNRS of 5th December 2019 concerning research projects involving university clinics will apply to PDR-THEMA (see budget section).

The implemented measure allows university clinics to invoice their services without VAT when they are involved in the projects as true research partners in their own right. In order to do this, the involvement of the university clinic (CHU) targeted by the collaboration must be described in the scientific part by assigning it one or more tasks.

The involvement of a university clinic requires a collaboration agreement, to be uploaded in the form or sent by e-mail (prix@frs-fnrs.be) at the latest on the validation date by the rector. This agreement must, at least, contain the following elements: name of the 'CHU', clinical department, head of the department concerned, name of the financial director and name of the university with which the CHU is collaborating.

Warning: Only the services of a CHU or a department of a CHU listed in this [appendix](#) are eligible for VAT exemption.

### 3.2 Ethical aspects

As from 2018, in order to reduce the Ethics Committees workload and to make the administrative procedures more flexible for applicants, the researchers concerned by ethical questions will be required to submit their questionnaire as well as the opinion of the Ethics Committee to the F.R.S.-FNRS only in case the submitted grant is awarded. Effective granting will be subject to a favourable opinion of the Committee.

### 3.3 Open access policy

The F.R.S.-FNRS endorses the principle of Open access to publicly funded research. This support has led to the implementation of an institutional mandate providing Open access to publications from F.R.S.-FNRS funded research projects and researchers under the "Open Access Green Road" business model.

The [Regulation](#) specifies the conditions under which the F.R.S.-FNRS grant recipients shall store, when possible, all the funded research results of which they are authors or co-authors in their institution's repository.

### 3.4 Reminder to the research community

Any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding of the PDR-THEMA shall mention the source of the funding as follows: "This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS under Grant(s) n° [agreement number]".

## 4. ACCUMULATION RULES

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- One may combine several F.R.S.-FNRS funding schemes, e.g., CDR, PDR, EQP, PINT-BILAT-P, PINT-BILAT-M, PINT-MULTI.
- The number of applications that can be submitted as a main promoter or co-promoter is limited to a single application per PDR-THEMA call.
- The project submitted to the PDR-THEMA cannot be identical to a PDR-THEMA project currently being funded or to a project previously funded by a PDR-THEMA.
- In case of recurring PDR-THEMA calls on the same theme, laureates may not apply for the next edition if its closing date<sup>2</sup> is set before 18 months following the previous edition.
- The F.R.S.-FNRS reserves the right to ask the promoters for a justification in case the submitted PDR-THEMA project is similar to a PDR project submitted in the framework of the call for Credits and Projects. This justification could then be transmitted to the members of both Commissions.

## 5. EX-ANTE EVALUATION

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### Evaluation process

Two-step evaluation procedure:

- Remote evaluation
- Evaluation by a Panel appointed by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS. The panel is composed of experts working outside the CFB.

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<sup>2</sup>In this case, the closing date is the validation deadline fixed for the main promoter-applicant on the [e-space](#) platform.

## Evaluation criteria

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
Quality of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ academic CV</li><li>➤ international recognition</li><li>➤ ability to conduct the submitted research</li></ul>	40%
Quality of the research project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ novelty of the hypotheses and methodology</li><li>➤ sound concept and theories</li><li>➤ feasibility (including adequacy of the work environment)</li></ul>	40%
Potential impact on the field of cardiovascular diseases (including the translational approach of the project)	20%

The expert Panel shall assess the adequacy between the budget requested and the research project submitted. The Panel may reduce the requested budget up to a maximum of 15%. If the adequacy between the research project and the requested budget is not justified and appears to require a reduction of more than 15%, the research project will not be deemed fundable.

## 6. EX-POST EVALUATION

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Promoters whose projects have been funded shall submit a final report upon request of the F.R.S.-FNRS which will contact them when the project expires after 3 years.

## 7. EXEMPTIONS WITH REGARD TO PDR-THEMA REGULATIONS

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The PDR-THEMA Call 2021 does not provide for any exemption with regard to the PDR-THEMA Regulations in force.

## 8. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF A PROPOSAL

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Applicants will have the choice to write 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.

It is recommended to applicants to submit their application in English. Should the application file be submitted in French, the F.R.S.-FNRS may require the applicant to provide a translation in English for the purpose of conducting the [ex-ante evaluation](#).

The applicants choose from 2 to 6 descriptor fields in order of importance and may complete this selection by adding unrestricted keywords.

The F.R.S.-FNRS insists on **strict compliance with the instructions given for each part of the proposal** (scientific section, number of pages allowed for documents to be enclosed with the application form...) and stresses again the sovereign consideration of the Panel assessing the application file.

The application file contains the main sections described in the table below:

## FORM

### Framework and description of the project

1. References of the application (for the funded proposals, these data are released and made public on the [F.R.S.-FNRS website](#))
  - **Title**, in French and English
  - **Summary**, in French and English
2. Selection of descriptors fields
3. Bibliometric indicators
4. Scientific Curriculum vitae + Publications list<sup>3</sup> of each promoter/co-promoter
5. Scientific section (see template)
6. Ethical aspects

### Budget

Description and justification for the resources requested: Operating costs, Equipment, Personnel

## SCIENTIFIC SECTION - PLEASE USE THE TEMPLATE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE

### ➤ PDR-THEMA

[PDR-THEMA template](#)

1. Brief report on previous works
2. Description of the project
3. Comments on changes in case of resubmission
4. Publications and environment of the main promoter
5. Publications of the co-promoter(s) (if applicable)
6. Interactions and distribution of the tasks among the main promoter and the co-promoters or the CHU (if applicable)
7. Additional comments

ALL DOCUMENTS, GUIDES AND REGULATIONS AND PRIVACY POLICY ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/reglements-guides>

<https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/charte-vie-privee>

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<sup>3</sup> Promoters who have been working for 2 years at least in institutions of the 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.