



**Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP)  
and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)  
Call for joint research & innovation projects - 2024**

The Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI), announce the call for joint research & innovation projects in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by CONFAP and WBI on Academic and Scientific Cooperation between Wallonia-Brussels and Brazil.

The call aims at supporting scientific exchanges between research groups in Brazil, and from the French Community of Belgium, primarily in the following areas:

- Circular materials;
- Innovation for better health;
- Innovations for agile and safe design and production;
- Sustainable energy systems and habitat;
- Innovative Environmental Management and future Agro-Food Chains;
- Aeronautics and space;
- Digitalization;
- Amazonia.

**1. GENERAL AND COMMON PROVISIONS**

1.1. The program has the scope of supporting joint research projects, mainly in the fields of life sciences (health and medical technologies), agricultural sciences and agro-food production technologies, engineering sciences (mechanical and physical, chemistry and energy, transport and logistics, aeronautics and space, materials), environmental and digital technologies, as well as any project linked with the Amazonia, in order to promote exchanges between the two territories.

1.2. In Brazil, the entity responsible for the program is the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), together with the State Funding Agencies, FAPs which confirmed their participation.

1.3. In Belgium, the entity responsible for the program is Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) for the governments of Wallonia and Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles.

1.4. The selection of research projects will be performed by CONFAP, through the involved FAPs and by WBI.

1.5. The program aims to select joint research projects whose activities may start from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 for a maximum of two years.

1.6. Each joint research project proposal must plan its activities taking into account the expected maximum duration of 2 (two) years.

### **Calendar**

Schedule	Phases
May 13 <sup>th</sup> 2024	Call opening
July 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2024	Deadline for projects submission
July 22 <sup>nd</sup> to October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Evaluations
End of November	Joint Committee and final selection of projects
December 2024	Communication of the final selection of projects to the candidates
From January 2025	Beginning of activities / projects

## **2. CONDITIONS AND INCENTIVES OF APPLICATION FOR TEAMS OF WALLONIE-BRUXELLES**

2.1 Conditions: In addition to satisfying the general provisions described under point 1, the following conditions must be observed by proponents based in Wallonia-Brussels:

2.1.1 The research must be innovative and justify an added value for the team concerned and the scientific community as a whole;

2.1.2 The project must provide joint publication of scientific articles;

2.1.3 Applicants must come either from:

- Universities;
- Colleges;
- Public research institutes or technology centres;
- Spin-off and start-up linked to a university or college,

These entities must be based in Wallonia-Brussels (recognized by Wallonia or the Wallonia-Brussels Federation) and develop research and development activities.

The start-up or spin-off must be supported by an incubator located in Wallonia, or in a structure hosted by a higher education establishment recognized by Wallonia-Brussels (letter of support needed).

2.2 Means support that can be provided by WBI:

2.2.1 Short-term missions to Brazil (7, 10 or 14 days) up to a maximum of 2 people per year and per project.

WBI may support these missions under the following packages:

- For 7 days: 2500€;
- For 10 days: 3100€;
- For 14 days: 3900€.

Those packages include the following elements:

- Plane ticket (economy class, maximum 1.300€);
- Accommodation costs (in accordance with the regulations in force);
- Daily subsistence costs (according to the regulations in force - on 06.07.18: 51,00 euros).

2.2.2. Grants for Belgian researchers going to Brazil in the context of PhD (duration from 1 to 3 months revolving once), co-supervision PhD (duration from 1 to 6 months revolving once), or postdoctoral research (duration from 1 to 3 months revolving once).

Grants that may be supported by WBI:

- Monthly amount covering living expenses: 1147,56€ per month;
- Only one return air ticket per researcher (maximum 1.300€);
- Insurance according to WBI to the "Health Care" policy;
- Insurance according to WBI to "Repatriation" policy;
- Possible registration fees up to a maximum amount to justify of € 835.

The applicant may draw on any other source of public or private funding, either during the procedure or at the agreement stage. WBI's decision is final after verification of any double subsidization.

### **3. APPLICATION CONDITIONS AND INCENTIVES FOR BRAZILIAN TEAMS**

3.1 CONFAP: project proponents from Brazil must fulfil the following conditions:

3.1.1 The research must be innovative and justify the added value for the Brazilian State involved in the proposal, so as the relevance at Brazilian National / Federal level.

3.1.2 Eligible Institutions: public or private (non-profit) Higher Education and Research Institutions, Scientific Institutions, Technology and Innovation Institutions, based in Brazilian States participating to the call, though their respective State Funding Agencies (FAPs), namely:

1. Fundação Araucaria (Paraná)
2. FAPEAL (Alagoas)
3. FAPEAM (Amazonas)
4. FAPEAP (Amapá)

5. FAPEG (Goiás)
6. FAPEMA (Maranhão)
7. FAPEMAT (Mato Grosso)
8. FAPEPI (Piauí)
9. FAPERGS (Rio Grande do Sul)
10. FAPERJ (Rio de Janeiro)
11. FAPES (Espírito Santo)
12. FAPESB (Bahia)
13. FAPESC (Santa Catarina)
14. FAPESP (São Paulo)
15. FAPESPA (Pará)
16. FAPESQ (Paraíba)
17. FUNDECT (Mato Grosso do Sul)
18. FAPERO (Roraima)

#### **4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

In Wallonia-Brussels, project leaders must hold a doctorate or equivalent degree, and be linked to a structure described in point 2.1.3. of this call.

As general rule, applicants from Brazil must be PhD candidates or have a doctoral or equivalent degree, and be linked to a Research Institution located in Brazilian States participating in the call, through their Respective State Funding Agencies; have scientific or technological production evaluated by Curriculum (*Súmula Curricular*).

Specific eligibility criteria must be always verified directly with the participating FAPs.

Researchers from different Brazilian states can participate in the same proposal - thus involving more than one FAP, in partnership with their counterparts from Wallonia-Brussels.

#### **5. EVALUATION AND FUNDING**

##### 5.1. Assessment procedure:

The proposals will be assessed according to the evaluation procedures put in place by the two parties: CONFAP, through its FAPs and Wallonie-Bruxelles International.

After the submission deadline, the proposals will be verified on the basis of the eligibility criteria and budgetary rules of WBI and of the involved FAPs.

Eligible proposals shall be evaluated respectively by the participating Brazilian State Funding Agencies – FAPs, on the Brazilian side, and by WBI (with the assistance of the DGO6 of the SPW and/or the FNRS), on the Belgian side, according to their respective rules and procedures.

A joint committee, composed by representatives from WBI and CONFAP/FAPs, shall be held in order to consolidate the respective evaluations and deliberate on the projects to be approved.

##### 5.2. Evaluation criteria:

### 5.2.1. Scientific quality

#### 5.2.1.1. Objectives

- The scientific importance of the project
- Originality and innovative character
- Clarity of the research objectives

#### 5.2.1.2. Methodology

- Relevance of the methodology with regard to the objectives
- Originality and innovative nature of the proposed methodology
- Feasibility
- Relevance of the work plan

#### 5.2.2. Consortium and research Team

- Quality of the institutions involved
- Quality of the project managers (background, experience, ...)
- Previous results obtained in the field of the project
- Composition of the research team
- Added value of the collaboration
- Feasibility in terms of team experience

#### 5.2.3. Quality and feasibility of the project management and implementation

#### 5.2.4. Added value for the Brazilian States involved in the proposals (for the Brazilian side)

#### 5.2.5. Added economic value for Wallonia

#### 5.2.6. Coherence, coordination and balance between the teams from Brazil and Wallonia Brussels, jointly involved in the submitted proposals.

Evaluation criteria should guide the elaboration of the proposals, following the application form template provided in Annex I.

### 5.3 Funding:

Research teams from Brazil and from Wallonia-Brussels shall be respectively funded by the participating FAPs, and by WBI, according to their respective budgets, rules and procedures.

## **6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Project proposals must use the application form (Annex I of the present call), including the additional documents requested, to be presented in the same document, as annexes.

The Wallonia-Brussels applicants must send by email and by post the project proposals to:

Alexandre Gofflot [a.gofflot@wbi.be](mailto:a.gofflot@wbi.be)  
Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI)  
Place Saintelette 2  
1080 Bruxelles

Brazilian applicants must submit their proposal to CONFAP, using the call platform:  
<https://sistema.confap.org.br/>

Some FAPs may request that proposals are also submitted directly to the involved State Funding Agency; this must be verified directly with the involved FAP.

In order to be eligible, the same proposal needs to be presented by Brazilian and Wallonia-Brussels project partners.

## **7. CONTACT DETAILS**

CONFAP: Elisa Natola  
Advisor for International Cooperation  
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Contacts of the involved FAPs are available on CONFAP's website - <https://confap.org.br>, together with the documents related to the present call.

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