Fund for Scientific Research
F.R.S. - FNRS
Implementing OA Policy

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## R & D Public Funding in Belgium

### Federal Level
- Thematic programmes
- Space research
- 10 Federal Scientific Institutions
- International (organizations, infrastructures)
- The interuniversity attraction poles programme (IAP)
- Partial exemptions of researcher’s salary taxes

### Community Level
#### Basic Research
- F.R.S. – FNRS (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles)
- FWO Vlaanderen (Vlaamse overheid)

### Regional Level
#### Applied Research
- Région wallonne
- IBBT, IMEC, VIB, IOF, Hermesfonds

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**Lead agency procedure under preparation (2014)**
F.R.S.-FNRS: Key Points

Basic Research Funding Organization

160 M€ 2012 %

- French Community
- Federal
- Walloon Region
- National Lottery
- Télévie
F.R.S.-FNRS: KEY POINTS

Our missions?

- **FREEDOM for research:**
  - curiosity-driven research
  - bottom-up process, all scientific fields
  - criteria: scientific quality

- **Close ties with the 6 universities** of Wallonia Brussels Federation (**our main stakeholder**), host institutions of 2400 researchers

- **Ex-ante** evaluation procedure at the level of international standards (ERC)

- **Fellowships**: PhD, Post-doc, Permanent positions

- **Grants**: (operating costs, equipment, Human resources)

- **Scientific excellence** promoted: ~ 20 prizes annually

- **International mobility, transnational programs, dissemination**
First step: BICTEL/e (2002)

decision of the Administrative Boards of WBF Universities to implement an archive of theses and e-prints (bibliographic references, theses)

- in support of the dissemination of research outputs
- the archive must be searchable, accessible in full text, harvestable
- in practice, a total of 3,600 theses, partly accessible
Second step: Implementation of the Berlin Declaration

The FNRS and the University libraries committed to the OA principles.

Growing concerns about:

- the price increases in subscriptions to academic journals
- the current model of exclusive rights contrary to the dissemination of scientific research
- the rapid and wide dissemination of research results free of charge

The engagement leads to the adoption of the Green Road.
Third step: Enhanced coordination between the FNRS and University libraries to implement repositories supporting the Green Road

The repository must pursue the following goals:

- be institutional to reflect the institution’s research outputs
- be mandatory to obtain a good compliance success rate
- be interoperable and integrated in a worldwide network
- be searchable by engines
- ensure the authenticity, integrity, security and preservation
- provide quality and services (information, legal advice)
Mandates and institutional policies: 2007 - 2013

- Strong enforcement (mandate)
- Immediate deposit and free accessibility depending on embargo
- Deposit part of the evaluation process
- Incentives and sanctions
OA POLICIES @ F.R.S.-FNRS

Mandates and institutional policies: 2007 - 2013

2011: Recommandation for FNRS-funded researchers to submit their list of publications from the institutional repositories of the WFB

2013: Strong mandate

- Obligation on researchers to self-archive their publications
- Insuring accessibility no more than 6 months after the publication (12 months in SSH)
- Encouragement to publish in Gold journals but not covered by FNRS
- The refusal to fund hybrid model (double-dipping)
Successful implementation but still room for improvement

OA POLICIES @ F.R.S.-FNRS

[Bar chart showing the number of references, full text, and full text OA for DIAL, DI FUSION, and ORBI]
SOME CHALLENGES FOR OA POLICIES
F.R.S.-FNRS

- Evaluation process (bibliometrics, peer review)

- The transition to a new publication business model has a **cost**: Who pays how much for what?

- **Funding a fair Gold model**: is it the next step?; What is fair?

- Dealing with OA in social sciences and Humanities

- **Strong commitment towards our main stakeholders**
  - Universities; researchers
  - Science Europe; Eranet
Thank you for your attention!