



**Wallonie**  
**recherche**  
**SPW**

# **Public Funding for R&D Activities in Wallonia**

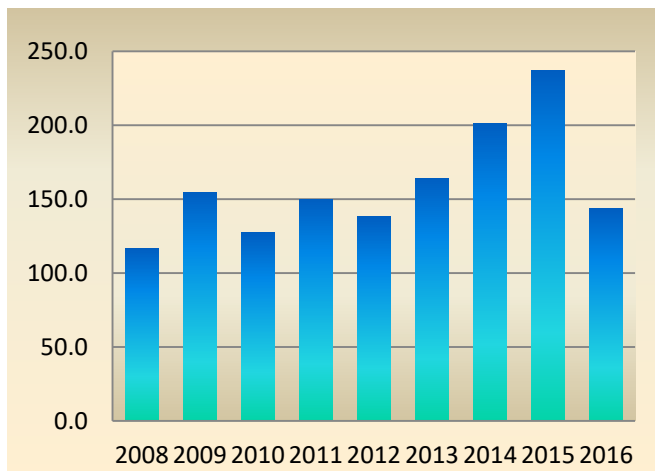
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## Wallonia support for R&D

For more than 10 years, the Walloon Government is strongly committed to encourage the redeployment of the industry, focused on high level technology and **innovation**  
→ Walloon decree defining a frame for the public funding of R&D activities

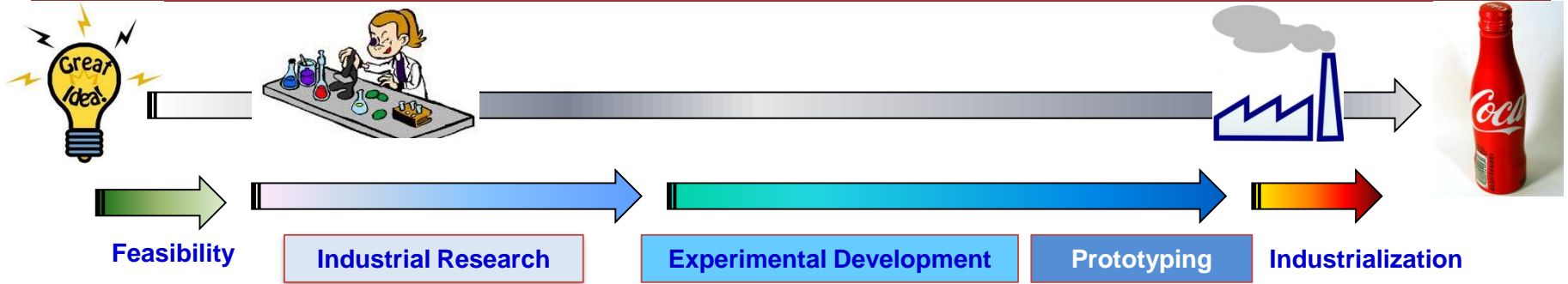


2015 = outstanding year with 3 big projects funded through the « Marshall Plan »

In 2016, Wallonia injected **144 Mio €** in financial support to R&D activities (mostly for R&D in private companies) :

- 41 Mio € in subsidies for Research activities
- 78 Mio € in repayable advances for Development activities
- 36 Mio € for « Plan Marshall » (Collaborative R&D)

## Definitions : 2 types of R&D activities



### Industrial Research

- Acquisition of new knowledges
- Creation of new products / processes / services
- Creation of complex components (incl. prototypes in lab environment)
- Validation of generic technologies / new concepts (incl. pilot trials)

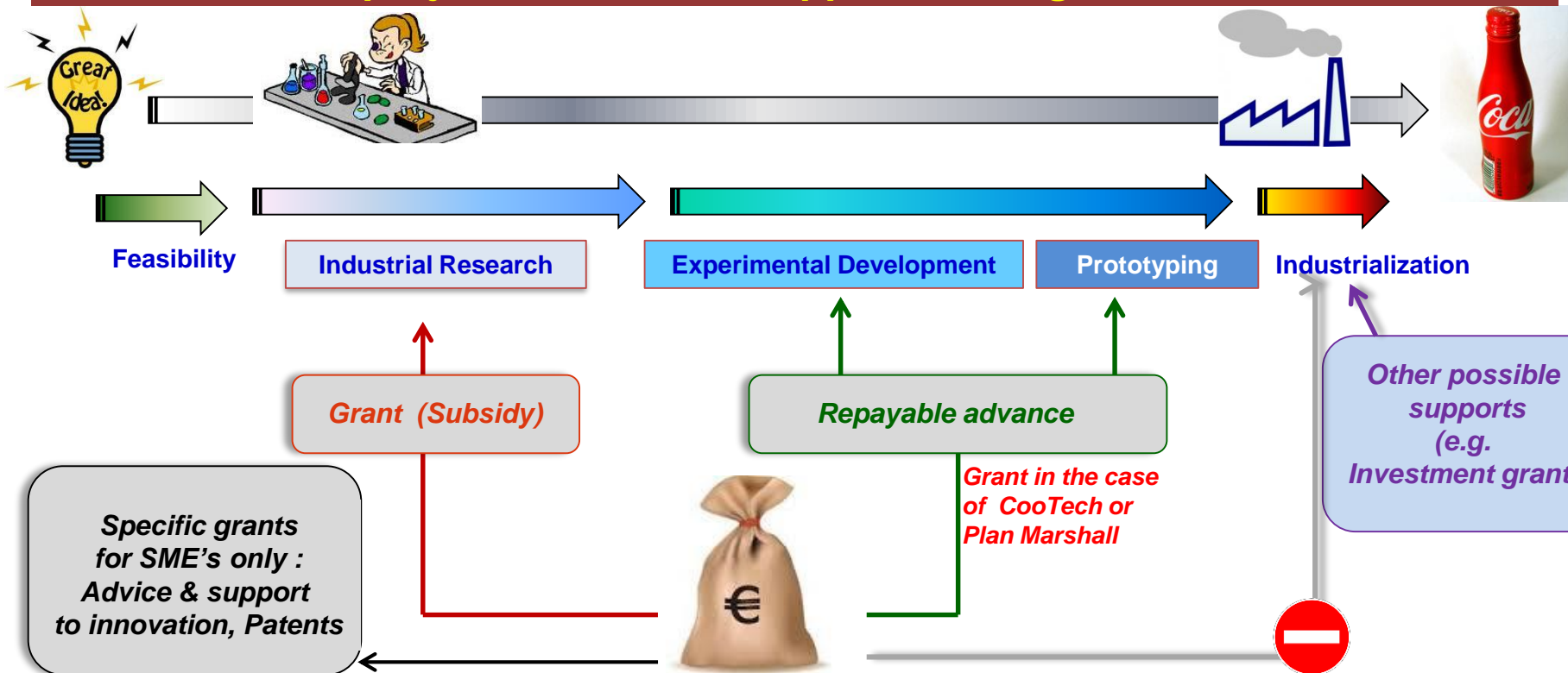
*Requires additional development steps before entering the market*

### Experimental Development

- Acquiring, using, associating, existing knowledges to produce innovative or improved products / processes / services.
- Includes assembly of prototypes or production trials (in real, industrial environment)
- Not included : routine modifications of products or processes, even if leading to improvements

*Close to market (6-12 months)*

# R&D projects : Financial support vs. stage of research



# Support to R&D projects – Evaluation Criteria

- **Innovation**
  - The project must be truly innovative, not only at the level of the company but also for the whole profession / activities field
- **Valorisation of the results**
  - Forecast for industrialization in Wallonia (investments ?)
  - Increase of business & profit (new markets, market shares)
  - Jobs creation in Wallonia (not only during research phase but particularly during exploitation phase)
- **Quality, technical feasibility, relevancy of the project**
  - From both scientific and business point of views
- **Environment – Sustainability**
  - The project must be at least neutral to environment and ideally should have a positive impact on sustainability
- **Financial status of the company**
  - Sufficient financial means (capital, sales / profit) to cover the part of the project expenses to be paid by the company

# Support to R&D projects – Summary

- **Who**
  - Company of any size (S,M or L) with a site of activities in Wallonia
- **For What**
  - Any field of activities (mechanicals, electronics, health, food...)
  - Research and/or Development
- **When**
  - Application year long – no call for projects
- **Answer delay**
  - From application : 2-4 months to get the decision (project analysis by administration → examination / decision by Selection Committee)
  - ± 6 months to get the initial money advance
- **Duration**
  - Usually 18 to 36-month projects
- **How much**
  - Pre-set rates, depending on qualification of R or D and company size
  - No limit in overall amount – individual evaluation/decision (per project : from 100,000 € to a few Mio €)

**Application forms : <http://www.wallonie.be/fr/formulaire/detail/20471>**

(in French but can be filled in English)

**Service public de Wallonie économie emploi formation recherche**

## Definition : Company size

	Numbers of Employees	Turnover	Balance sheet
<b>S</b> mall	< 50	≤ 10 M€	≤ 10 M€
<b>M</b> edium	50 - 250	≤ 50 M€	≤ 43 M€
<b>L</b> arge	> 250	> 50 M€	> 43 M€

### + Independence of the Company

(e.g. to define the level of funding, if a Small Co. is a 100% subsidiary of a Large one, it will be considered as a Large Co.

Any Company, whatever its size (S, M or L), is eligible for R&D financial support by the Region, provided it has a site of activities in Wallonia.

# Rates of funding for R&D projects



In % of eligible expenses

	Industrial Research		Experimental Development	
	Alone	Cooperation	Alone	Cooperation
Small	70	80	55	70 (or 60)
Medium	60	70	45	60 (or 50)
Large	30	40	35	50 (or 40)

Subsidy

Repayable advance (or Subsidy in case of cooperation)



# True Partnership ?

COOPERATION ??? (OU « SIMPLE » SUB-CONTRACTING)

- 2 (or more) **private Companies** (No University, Research Center...)
- **Non-linked companies** (through shareholders, CEO...)
- **Sharing :**
  - **During** the Research Phase :  
R&D activities (All the partners must bring **innovation**), risks, budget + Signature of a consortium agreement
  - **After** the Research Phase :  
IP and **exploitation of the results**
- **Max 70 % of total budget** for the « biggest » partner

# True Partnership ?

## COOPERATION

### Local cooperation

(all partners in Wallonia)

- At least one **SME**

### International Cooperation

- Partner(s) **anywhere in the world**
- A part of the project must be done in EU, but outside Belgium
- At least **50 % of total expenses done in Wallonia**
- Funding available only for the Walloon partner(s)

# Repayable Advance

## 1. During the project

- Upfront payment: 25 %
- Expense report and reimbursement of the expenses every 6 months

## 2. End of the project

- Final technical & financial reports and final reimbursement of the expenses
- Declaration of exploitation of the results (or non exploitation)

Exploitation	Non exploitation
Progressive annual reimbursements (on 3 to 15 years)	No reimbursement
30 % : predefined annual reimbursements 70 % : depending on product turnover	Results and PI transferred to Region
Total reimbursement : Between 30 % and 200 % of actual advance	

# Support to R&D projects : eligible expenses

## Salaries

Overall cost (salary + social security) of employees on the payroll of the company, directly and actively involved in the research project

## Operating

Raw materials, consumable, small equipment, tools, components for prototype, maintenance of equipment, missions abroad.

## Overheads

Fixed : 12 % of Salaries + Operating (1 + 2 above)

## Equipment

Depreciation of the equipment used in the R&D project  
leasing of equipment

## Subcontracting

HR : technical consultancy, Free-lance scientists, Management : CTO/CEO...  
Technical : specific analysis, engineering studies, certification...

## Poles of Competitivity – « Marshall Plan »

- **Call for R&D projects**
  - **Up to 3 calls per year organised by the Poles of Competitivity**
  - **Partnership mandatory**
    - Minimum 2 + 2 : 2 private companies (at least one with <250 employees) + 2 University Units or Research Centers - since 2015 : possibility of international partnership
  - **Evaluation in several steps** (quite long : ± 6 months)
    - By selection committees (pole-specific) + Administration + International Jury (common to all poles)
  - **Final project selection by the Walloon Government**
  - **Financial bonus**
    - Increased rates : + 10-15 % vs. Funding of « Classical » R&D projects
    - Possibility of grants for experimental development activities
    - Direct funding of Universities and Research centers

## Poles of Competitivity – « Marshall Plan »



In % of eligible expenses

	Industrial Research	Experimental Development
Small	80	60 (or RA 70)
Medium	75	50 (or RA 60)
Large	65	40 (or RA 50)
Research Centers	85	85
Universities	100	100

Subsidy

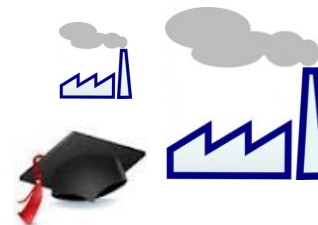
Subsidy or Repayable  
Advance

Research Centers & Universities funded directly by  
Walloon Region and not working as sub-contractants

# Cwality DE



**Cooperative Project - Experimental Development**  
**Partnership with accredited research centers**  
(Materia Nova,...)



3 calls/year



3 to 6 months



Length : max. 24 months



**Repayable Advance 55 % (small) – 45 % (medium) - 35 % (large)**

**Subsidy - CRA : 75%**

No specific amount (minimum 200k€, mean 500 k€)

Expenses = salaries, operating costs, overheads, equipment, subcontracting

# Advice & Support to Innovation



**Get a support** (technical/ marketing study) leading to the development of a new commercial product or service or to its positioning on the market.

**Get an advice** to acquire un new technology.



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



Length : the time of the study  
(to be performed by University, Research Center  
ou sub-contractant)



**Subsidy : 75 %**

Cost : market price (quotation required)

Max : 200.000 € in 3 years

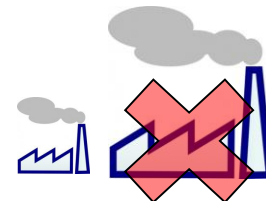


# Intellectual property - Patent



## To protect an Innovation by filing a Patent

- PATDE : First filing of a patent application
- PATEX : geographical extension of the patent
- PATOP : costs linked to an opposition to the filed patent



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



Length : the time required for the service  
(by the patent agent)



**Subsidy : 35 to 50 %** (depending on how long the company is the owner of the patent)

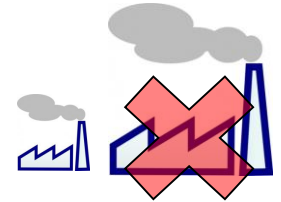
Expenses = cost of the patent agent work : writing, translation...+ cost of filing and others official procedures

*But never the annual payments to maintain the patent*

# « Responsible » of a Research Project - RPR



**Hiring** a person responsible for managing an R&D **project** leading to a **technological innovation** (with perspectives of commercial exploitation)



Only for SME



Yearlong



Max 3 months



6 to 24 months



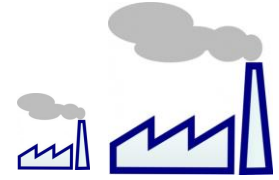
**Research : Subsidy 70 % (Small) – 60 % (Medium)**  
**Development : Subsidy 45 % (Small) – 35 % (Medium)**

Expenses = salary of the person + missions abroad + seminars + specialized documentation

# FIRST entreprise – FIRST Docteur – FIRST international



To fill in a gap of knowledge in the company.  
**Partnership with a University or a Research Center (in EU)** Training / Transfer of knowledge  
**Hiring** a scientist (Engineer, Master, PhD)  
**Research** (also **Development** if subsidy < 150 k€)



3 call/year



Max 3 months



12, 18, or 24 months



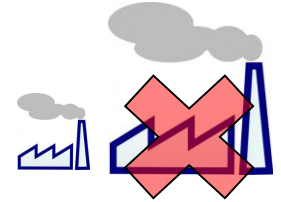
**Research : Subsidy 70 % (Small) – 60 % (Medium) - 30 % (Large)**  
**Development : Subsidy 45 % (Small) – 35 % (Medium) - 25 % (Large)**  
Expenses = salary of scientist + 10% fixed overheads + 5.000 € / semester for partner lab + travel expenses in case of FIRST International  
*No other expenses (e.g. no sub-contractant or operating costs)!*

# BeISME



## Cooperative Project

**Minimum 2 partners** from two different belgian regions



**Only for SME**



1 call/year



6-8 months



12-24 months



**Research : Subsidy 70-80 % (Small) – 60-70 % (Medium)**

**Development : Repayable Advance 55-70 % (Small) – 45-60 % (Medium)**

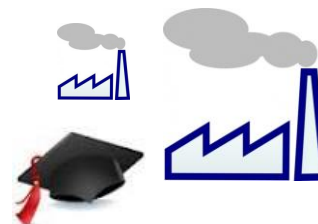
Expenses = salaries, operating costs, overheads, equipment, subcontracting  
Max 250k€

# Eureka/Eurostars/Ira-SME



**Cooperative Project**

**Minimum 2 partners, at least 1 research intensive SME**



1-2 calls/year



6-8 months



Max 24 or 36 months



**Research : Subsidy 70-80 % (Small), 60-70 % (Medium), 40% (Large)**  
**Development : Repayable Advance 55-70 % (Small), 45-60 % (Medium), 35-50% (Large)**  
+ CRA (75%), Universities (100%)

Expenses = salaries, operating costs, overheads, equipment, subcontracting

# M.era.Net



**Cooperative Project** – thematics including Material Sciences

**Minimum 3 partners from two different regions**

Check topics for each call



1-2 calls/year



6-8 months



Max 24 or 36 months



**Research : Subsidy 70-80 % (Small), 60-70 % (Medium), 40% (Large)**  
**Development : Repayable Advance 55-70 % (Small), 45-60 % (Medium), 35-50% (Large)**

+ CRA (75%), Universities (100%)

Expenses = salaries, operating costs, overheads, equipment, subcontracting

## Other european calls

**CORNET** for accredited research centers

**CoBioTech** for industrial biotechnologies

**Manunet** for manufacturing

# Contacts

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