fwo Opening new horizons
Applying for a Project fundamental research 2021
This presentation:

- Applicant’s “quick starting guide”
  - Supporting documents on programme webpage

- DISCLAIMER
  - Only key points discussed
  - Official & binding documents: regulations in Dutch
    - English regulations: no legal status
Outline

1. FWO mission & key figures
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance
3. Evaluation & selection process
4. Preparing your application
5. ... further reading & contact
1. FWO mission & key figures

• **Mission**
  - Funding of *fundamental & strategic* research
  - Funding programmes
    - Individual researchers (pre-, post-doc, mobility)
    - Research teams (projects, SBO, brain gain Odysseus,...)
    - Research infrastructure
    - Scientific prizes

• **Principles**
  - **Bottom-up** in all disciplines
  - **Scientific excellence** and interuniversity (incl. research institutes) competition
  - Transparent and **equal opportunities**
1. FWO mission & key figures

Budget 2021: **480 MEUR** (incl. EOS and Odysseus)

- **74%** fundamental research
- **16%** strategic basic research
- **6%** clinical research
- **4%** infrastructure

**Projects**
- Running projects FO: 1,082
- Newly granted projects FO (2020): 285
- Newly granted budget projects FO (2020): 128 M €

**Infrastructure fellowships**
- Projects: 27%
- Infrastructure: 6%
- Fellowships: 6%

**Success rate projects fundamental research (budget):** 22.3%
1. FWO mission & key figures

- **RESEARCH INTEGRITY**
  - Part of FWO Policy
  - Clause in call text, application and contract on commitment to RI
  - Profiles for (co)promoters and researchers
  - Articles in General Regulation and Regulation pre- and postdoc fellowships on procedure and sanctions in case of RI violation

- Read the detailed information and the RI Clause!

_Every applicant and beneficiary is expected to know the rules and what (s)he will be committed to._
Outline

1. FWO mission & key numbers
2. **Projects fundamental research at a glance**
3. Evaluation & selection process
4. Preparing your application
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Project fundamental research
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

- **Target group**
  - Professors ((co-)supervisor) and postdocs (co-supervisor) at universities/research institutes

- **junior/senior: parallel calls**

- **4-year projects (min. 2 y.) – start January 1, 2022**
  - fundamental research
    - Other projects: SBO, TBM, Odysseus, thematic, ...

- **Key dates**
  - Call open: Jan, 2021
  - Submission: Apr 1, 2021
  - Decision Board: Dec, 2021
  - Start project: Jan 1, 2022
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Junior and Senior

- Junior and Senior projects are evaluated as separate categories by the same expert panel.
- Junior and Senior projects have the same success rate.
- Same budget restrictions for Junior and Senior projects.
- Submission and evaluation of Junior and Senior follow the same timing and procedure.
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Eligibility window

PhD: \textit{before March 31 2009 March 31 2009 Apr 1 2021}

Rule applies to \textbf{ALL} applicants!

Extensions eligibility window: regulations, \textit{art. 10}, §5:

→ maternity-, parental-, sickness leave, mandatory military or civic service > 3m
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Eligible host institutions

• Main host institution (affiliation) – PI/co-PI
  • 5 Flemish universities
  • Evangelic Protestant Faculty Leuven / Faculty for Protestant Theology in Brussels
  • Maritime Academy
  • Vlerick Business School, Antwerp Management school,
  • Institute for Tropical Medicine

• + Flemish/federal research institutes – co-PI
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

• 3 types of applicant (‘roles’)
  
1. **supervisor-spokesperson**: the main applicant of the project, affiliated to a Flemish main host institution → mandatory for each project and entire duration

2. **supervisor**: the main applicant of a partner Flemish main host institution within the project → extra main host institution is optional, but only 1 supervisor per partner main host institution and entire duration
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

• 3 types of applicant (‘roles’)

3. co-supervisor:
   • the co-applicant within the same main host institution as a supervisor(-spokesperson) already mentioned → optional
   • the main co-applicant within an eligible non-main host institution within the project (engaged for entire duration)
     → non-main host institution is optional
   • the co-applicant within the same eligible non-main host institution → optional
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

• Example for the 3 types of applicant (‘roles’)

Professor A from university X applies together with colleague B from the same university, professor C from university Y and doctor D from institution Z.

• Supervisor-spokesperson: Prof. A
• Supervisor: Prof. C
• Co-supervisors: Prof. B and Dr. D
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

- **Supervisor(-spokesperson)**
  - ZAP or equivalent appointment with PhD of minimum 50 percent at a **main host institution**
  - research director of FWO
  - ERC grantee at a **main host institution**
  - Odysseus II grantee with a **Flemish university** as main host institution.
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

• Supervisor(-spokesperson)
  • OR ZAP of min. 10 percent at a main host institution combined with
    • research fellowship FWO
    • or appointed at
      – main host institution
      – Flemish academic hospital
      – Flemish hospital with an academic character
      – recognised Flemish or federal research institution
      – Strategic Research Centre (SOC)
      – academic programme of Flemish School of Arts

• Total employment percentage min. 70%
  (=10% ZAP + 60% other option above)
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

• **Supervisor** (-spokesperson)
  • OR ZAP of min. 5% combined with appointment at a Flemish Academic Hospital as
    • clinical head
    or
    • assistant clinical head
    or
    • equivalent function
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Who can apply?

- **Co-supervisor**
  - researcher of at least postdoctoral level → Incl. researchers supervisor-level
  - remunerated appointment at one of the following institutions:
    - main host institution
    - academic programme of a Flemish School of Arts
    - recognised Flemish research institute
    - recognised federal scientific institute (Dutch-speaking staff)
    - non-Flemish institute → 10% of total budget
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

How many applications can you submit?

- Per supervisor-spokesperson, supervisor or co-supervisor (also without budget): **maximum 2**
- **Total of requested and ongoing fundamental research projects** by a supervisor-spokesperson, supervisor or co-supervisor: **maximum 2** (excl. EU, bilateral a.o.)

- If **funding** is applied for (past & present)

- **Reference date**: the date on which a newly awarded research project fundamental research would normally start

- Projects started **before Jan. 1 2019** are **not** taken into account
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

NEW: applications VIB

• Per expert panel: max. 50% budget can be allocated to projects with applicants affiliated to Flemish Institute for Biotechnology (VIB)

• Exempted from that limit: projects with applicants affiliated to VIB combined with (co)promoters without VIB-affiliation

• Remember to add all affiliations in the ‘Personalia’ section of your E-Portal
2. Projects fundamental research at a glance

Eligible budget

- **Duration**
  - In principle 4 years, minimum 2 years
  - Also as continuation of previous project (no separate programme)

- **Staff and consumables:**
  - €45.000 - €130.000 / year / per host institution
  - Lower limit partner: €0 or 20.000 / year

- **Equipment:**
  - max. €150.000 for entire project

- **NEW:** max. 10% of the total budget for non-Flemish research institutions

  → agreement between supervisor-sp – non-Flemish co-supervisor
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3. Evaluation & selection process
Single submission and 2-step evaluation & selection process

Step 1
Remote assessment:
2 ext reviewers + 2 panel members
+ rebuttal by applicants (only for correction/clarification)
→ synthesis by panel rapporteur

Step 2
Panel meeting
consensus scoring & ranking

Selected proposals
Rejected proposals

Project fundamental research
3. Evaluation & selection process

Submission to panels

- Each panel
  - 12 members incl. international scientific chair
  - >50% members with non-Flemish affiliation

- Panel structure
  - 30 panels in 5 scientific domains
  - 1 interdisciplinary panel (cross-domain)

- Choose panel that best fits your application! *Choice is responsibility of applicant(s) only!*

- Evaluation of your proposal:
  - Consensus panel decisions (scoring & ranking) in both steps
  - Roles:
    - 2 panel members as internal evaluators
    - 2 external reviewers (on-topic specialists)
      - Selected by FWO
      - You can suggest (up to 3) experts to be excluded
    - Rapporteur (synthesis & feedback)
3. Evaluation & selection process

Evaluation criteria

• **Research team** 25% weight
  - Scientific capacity, track record and collaboration

• **Project** 75% weight
  - Scientific quality, relevance & originality
  - Quality of the research approach & feasibility

• **Budget**: no criterium, but advise by panel to board of trustees

Project fundamental research
3. Evaluation & selection process

Scoring descriptors & grids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final scores: panel consensus

Weighted Total Score (WTS) -> ranking

Project fundamental research
Rebuttal

- **9 – 23 September 2021**: 2 internal + 2 external reports sent to applicants for reaction
  - Only comments, no scores
  - *Supervisor-spokesperson will receive email invitation for rebuttal on September 9 2021 at email address(es) provided in e-portal; if you do not receive this email (check spam), contact us!*
- Not mandatory, but your opportunity to clarify elements
- Max. 3 pages (no other document can be uploaded)
- *Only for clarification, correction of concrete comments in the reports*
- No new elements, defence, design, ... of the proposal
- Be constructive and mind your wording

Project fundamental research
3. Evaluation & selection process
Decision and feedback

- Decision by board of trustees (December 2021)
- Results on www.fwo.be
  - Notification to all
- Contracts
  - start January 1, 2022
- Feedback to all candidates
  - Experts comments and scores on 2 criteria
3. Evaluation & selection process

Feedback

All feedback AFTER selection decision by Board consensus scores of the panel

**Research team**

- Synthesis by rapporteur, based on
  - Internal en external reports
  - Rebuttal
  - Panel discussion

**Project**

- Synthesis by rapporteur, based on
  - Internal en external reports
  - Rebuttal
  - Panel discussion

_WTS_

- [3,5]
- [4]
- [3,6]
3. Evaluation & selection process

Timeline evaluation and selection

- Submission: 1 Apr 2021
- Eligibility: Apr 2021
- Ext/Int peer review: Apr-Aug 2021
- Rebuttal: Sept 2021
- Selection: Nov-Dec 2021
- Feedback: Jan 2022
- Start contract: 1 Jan 2022
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4. Preparing your application

How?

- E-Portal (www.fwo.be) *(register at least 24 hours in advance)*

E-loket
To sign in. Click [here](#)
Not registered yet? Register [here](#)
4. Preparing your application
E-portal – application form

Choose junior or senior!

admin eligibility positioning
4. Preparing your application

E-portal – application form

Evaluation ‘team’

Evaluation ‘project’

Project fundamental research
4. Preparing your application
E-portal – application form

**Evaluation criterium ‘team’**

- Scientific capacity, track record and collaboration of
  - Supervisor(s) (spokesperson)
  - Co-supervisor(s)

Also (in CV under tab *Host institutions & Supervisors*):
- 5 main publications
- Other scientific output + impact
- Scientific awards
4. Preparing your application

E-portal – application form

Project description (tab ‘Project’)

WORD template – max. 10 p.

- Rationale and positioning within state-of-the-art
- Scientific research objective(s)
- Research methodology and work plan
- References
- Re-submission? Changes with previous version? – Continuation of previous project?

Other important issues

- Submitted for other funding?
- Science communication
- Fit within the research group(s)
- (Inter)national context
- Collaboration/coordination/role/complementarity research groups

Evaluation criterium ‘project’ step 1

- Scientific quality, relevance & originality
- Quality of the research approach & feasibility
4. Preparing your application
Don’t forget... to SUBMIT!

Projects are submitted by the **host institution**!
Hence **internal deadlines** may apply!

→ automatic confirmation follows
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To read: info and regulations

- **Overview projects fundamental research programme**
- **General regulations**
- **Regulations on projects fundamental research**
- **Internal & external peer review**
Who to contact

- olivier.boehme@fwo.be
- an.goris@fwo.be
- tanja.rubbrecht@fwo.be
- FWOhelpdesk@fwo.be (e-portal/IT related issues)
Weave Projects

Weave:

- **Bottom-up cross-European initiative** developed by European research funders;
- To support excellent **collaborative bilateral/trilateral research projects** across borders;
- Through a **single evaluation** of the proposals;
- Based on the **Lead Agency Procedure principle**: The funder that receives the proposal (the so-called Lead Agency) evaluates the proposal according to its internal rules set out for its respective national or regional programme open for collaborative Weave projects. The funding recommendation is then communicated to the other funders involved (so-called Partner Agencies), for approval and budgetary purposes.

Replaces past individual agreements and LAP calls FWO had with Austria, Luxembourg, Slovenia, and Switzerland
Current participating funders:

- Austrian Science Fund/FWF
  AUSTRIA
- Research Foundation Flanders/FWO
  BELGIUM
- Czech Science Foundation/GAČR
  CZECH REPUBLIC
- Luxembourg National Research Fund/FNR
  LUXEMBOURG
- National Science Centre/NCN
  POLAND
- Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development/FORMAS
  SWEDEN
- Fund for scientific research/FNRS
  BELGIUM
- Croatian Science Foundation/HRZZ
  CROATIA
- German Research Foundation/DFG
  GERMANY
- Research Council of Norway/RCN
  NORWAY
- Slovenian Research Agency/ARRS
  SLOVENIA
- Swiss National Science Foundation/SNSF
  SWITZERLAND
Weave Projects

Fictional example:

1. Collaborative research project
2. Submission to the Lead Agency (free choice)
3. Solely responsible for the evaluation
4. Partner Agencies ratify the funding decision of the Lead Agency
5. Each research funder finances its own researchers

Swiss Research Funder (SNSF)  Austrian Research Funder (FWF)  Flemish Research Funder (FWO)

RG1 (Swiss)  RG2 (Austrian)  RG3 (Flemish)

Given that Weave is a fictional example, the actual funders involved in the real project may differ. The diagram illustrates the structure and process of the collaborative project, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of each partner agency.
FWO as LEAD Agency:

- Collaborative proposal:
  - submitted to one of the 31 FWO panels as a jr or sr research project fundamental research. Be aware that also the postdoctoral seniority of all foreign (co-)supervisors needs to be taken into account for classification in jr or sr category.
  - Foreign partner(s) still need to make an administrative submission at the Weave research funder for which they are eligible!!
  - evaluated in competition with all submitted FWO jr or sr research projects fundamental research.

- Flemish partner:
  - regulations (eligibility, budget, ...) research projects fundamental research apply, however not possible to add non-Flemish partner for max. 10% of FWO funding;
  - included in max. of 2 projects per application round and max. of 2 requested + running projects as from January 1st 2019!

- Foreign partner(s):
  - Eligibility, budget, ... according to regulations foreign research funder for which participating foreign researchers are eligible.
FWO as **LEAD** Agency:

Progressive FWO roll-out of Weave over the coming years:

For the current 2021 call FWO only accepts **bilateral or trilateral projects** with researchers from the following countries:

- **SLOVENIA** through ARRS (Slovenian Research Agency) (link will be active soon)
- **LUXEMBOURG** through FNR (National Research Fund)
- **AUSTRIA** through FWF (Austrian Science Fund)
- **SWITZERLAND** through SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)
FWO as PARTNER Agency:

• Collaborative proposal:
  • submitted by the responsible foreign research group at the Weave research funder for which it is eligible.

  **Flemish participants still need to make an administrative submission at FWO!!**
  • evaluated according to the project funding scheme the Lead Agency made available for collaborative Weave projects.

• Flemish partner:
  • regulations (eligibility, budget, ...) research projects fundamental research apply;
  • included in max. of 2 projects per application round and max. of 2 requested + running projects as from January 1\textsuperscript{st} 2019!

• Foreign partner(s):
  • regulations (eligibility, budget, ...) foreign research funder for which foreign participating researchers are eligible.
FWO as **PARTNER** Agency:

Progressive FWO roll-out of Weave over the coming years:

In 2021 Flemish researchers can submit together with their foreign partner a bilateral research project at the following Weave research funders (Lead Agency) for which their foreign partner is eligible:

- **SLOVENIA** through ARRS (Slovenian Research Agency) (link will be active soon, deadline in Autumn/Winter 2021, start project January 2023)
- **LUXEMBOURG** through FNR (National Research Fund)
- **AUSTRIA** through FWF (Austrian Science Fund)
- **SWITZERLAND** through SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)
**FWO as PARTNER Agency:**

Progressive FWO roll-out of Weave over the coming years:

In addition – and if desired – it is possible to extend the project to a trilateral project because all aforementioned research funders have bilateral agreements as well with other Weave partners making the following trilateral combinations possible:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flemish researcher(s) submitting a joint research project with...</th>
<th>Luxembourg through FNR</th>
<th>Austria through FWF</th>
<th>Slovenia through ARRS</th>
<th>Switzerland through SNSF</th>
<th>Germany through DFG</th>
<th>Czech Republic through GAČR</th>
<th>Croatia through HRZZ</th>
<th>Poland through NGN</th>
<th>Belgium-Wallonia through F.R.S.-FNRS</th>
<th>Norway through RGN</th>
<th>Sweden through FORMAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg partner(s) at FNR</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austrian partner(s) at FWF</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenian partner(s) at ARRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss partner(s) at SNSF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please be aware that within the Weave initiative only bilateral or trilateral collaborations are possible.*
Weave Projects

More information:

• [European Weave webpage](#) including simulation tool: With whom can I submit what where?
• Weave-specific [FWO webpage](#) including more background info as well as what to do in case FWO acts as Lead Agency or Partner Agency
• FWO contacts:
  • [weave@fwo.be](mailto:weave@fwo.be)
  • Isabelle Verbaeys – Head of International Affairs – T +32 2 550 15 31 [Isabelle.Verbaeys@fwo.be](mailto:Isabelle.Verbaeys@fwo.be)
  • Gregory Absillis – Science Policy Advisor International Affairs – T +32 2 550 15 29 [Gregory.Absillis@fwo.be](mailto:Gregory.Absillis@fwo.be)
  • Tinne Jacobs – Advisor International Affairs – T +32 2 550 15 44 [Tinne.Jacobs@fwo.be](mailto:Tinne.Jacobs@fwo.be)
Good luck!
Join the FWO-Community
More information about the FWO

www.fwo.be
Information about FWO’s operation, regulations, scientific prizes and appeals...
All publications are free to download

www.geschiedenisfwo.be
Module about FWO’s history

Join us
Thank you for your attention
### FUNDAMENTAL-RESEARCH-PROJECT: scoring-descriptors “Research-group”

#### 1. Scientific-capacity, track-record-and-collaboration-of-the-research-group

This criterion assesses to what extent the applicants have the necessary competences and infrastructure to implement the proposed research-project. This criterion also assesses to what extent the individual applicants, taking into account their scientific seniority, have made important contributions to the state-of-the-art in their respective domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CR</th>
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<th>B-R</th>
<th>B-R</th>
<th>A-R</th>
<th>A+R</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>&gt;30% R</td>
<td>&gt;20% R</td>
<td>&gt;10% R</td>
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<td>1R</td>
<td>2R</td>
<td>3R</td>
<td>4R</td>
<td>5R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Fair/Reasonable</td>
<td>Good/Very-good</td>
<td>Excellent/Outstanding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1. Scientific-capacity, track-record-and-collaboration (supervisor/spokesperson, (co-)supervisor(s), and research-team(s))

**Essential research-expertise, knowhow or infrastructure is lacking to carry-out this project.**

The track-record and main research-achievements of some of the included individual researchers is, taking into account their scientific seniority, less present, or less competitive.

And (if applicable):

The complementarity of the involved research-groups is not well described or lacking.

**The proposing PI’s and research group have a good scientific track-record. There are some doubts on whether the available competence is sufficiently fitted to an optimal execution of the project.**

And (if applicable):

The consortium is not optimally composed; some expertise is either lacking or overlapping.

**PI’s and involved research teams have evidence of a proper scientific track-record and research achievements (considering PI’s scientific seniority). The available research expertise is fit to the project.**

And (if applicable):

PI’s and involved research teams’ evidence a growing scientific reputation. This project seamlessly fits this progress.

And (if applicable):

Complementary expertise and proper collaboration between research groups.

**The scientific track-record and research achievements of all included PI’s and research teams is excellent and internationally recognized, and fully suited to execute the proposed project.**

And (if applicable):

PI’s and involved research teams’ evidence a growing scientific reputation, for which the project could be a breakthrough.

And (if applicable):

There is pronounced synergy between consortium partners.
2. Fundamental research project: scoring descriptors “Project”

2.a. Scientific quality, relevance of the research project & originality

An FWO research project must have an important contribution to the current international state of the art. To what extent is the proposal original and will it generate knowledge that goes beyond the state of the-art (e.g., novel theories, innovative concepts or approaches, new methods, ...)?

2.b. Quality of the research approach and feasibility of the project

To what extent is the proposed research approach appropriate to achieve the goals laid down in the research project? To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible, bearing in mind the project duration of four years? Feasibility also includes an assessment whether adequate staffing (profile (PhD, postdoc, technicians) and a good estimation of the workload and required consumables/equipment) are requested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>B-R</th>
<th>SR</th>
<th>B+SR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
<td>5R</td>
<td>4R</td>
<td>3R</td>
<td>2R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>1R</td>
<td>2R</td>
<td>3R</td>
<td>4R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair/Reasonable</td>
<td>5R</td>
<td>5R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good/Very Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent/Outstanding</td>
<td>5R</td>
<td>5R</td>
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<td>5R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.a. Scientific quality, relevance of the research project & originality

- The proposal contains structural flaws and/or does not offer scientific added value to the international state of the art and to already ongoing research.
- The project does not contain real scientific risks or challenges.

2.b. Quality of the research approach and feasibility of the project

- The research approach shows serious flaws or shortcomings. The research approach must be improved substantially.
- The match between research goals and research approach needs to be adjusted considerably, and (if applicable).
- The work distribution is not well-balanced taking into account the expertise of the partners. The roles of each partner are not well-defined.

2. Project fundamental research