Funds: 174 million euro (2007) — 80% Flemish government, 6% federal, 14% other.

Support to individual researchers:
- 731 predoctoral fellowships: €23,178,344
- 723 postdoctoral fellowships: €41,594,610
- Research grants: €865,000

Funding of research projects:
- Personnel: €46,424,415
- Operating costs: €18,652,605
- Equipment: €4,683,734
- Odysseus programme: €32,771,000

Internationalisation of research:
- Scientific research networks: €750,000
- Visiting postdoctoral fellowships: €675,000
- Attendance of congresses: €650,000
- Student fellowships: €500,000
- Organisation of congress in Belgium: €225,000
- Least-developed countries: €510,000

Knowledge opens new horizons
The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) is an independent agency that supports fundamental research in all disciplines. The FWO provides the necessary funding on the basis of an interuniversity selection, and as such is the Flemish successor to the National Fund for Scientific Research, which was founded in 1928.

Knowledge creates opportunities
Deepening knowledge about society and its environment is the mission of the FWO. That knowledge also touches upon the essence of fundamental research. For as the level of knowledge of our society grows, so does the quality of our training. Young people with every opportunity to deploy their talents in a broad array of disciplines.

Research paves the way for development
Fundamental science extends the boundaries of our knowledge. Only then can innovation take root. For knowledge that opens new horizons paves the way for all new developments. And that is the only guarantee for economic growth, welfare and well-being.
The FWO is a public utility foundation under private law. This status ensures its full scientific independence.

The Board of Trustees of the FWO includes representatives of the Flemish universities, the Flemish and federal government, and the Flemish socio-economic community.

The Board of Trustees, an auditor and an internal Audit Committee examine all expenses, records and accounts. These are also available for inspection by the public supervisory authorities.

The scientific community evaluates all applications and scientific activity reports itself. To this end, the FWO puts together scientific committees including top researchers from Belgium and abroad. The FWO also consults external experts.

Foreign researchers are provided with the necessary resources to temporarily continue their research at a Flemish university with a visiting postdoctoral fellowship.

Flemish research teams are offered logistic and institutional support in their collaboration with colleagues abroad. This is often necessary to participate in major international projects or to co-ordinate research methods.

With its Odysseus programme, the FWO aims to get top researchers (back) to Flanders.

The FWO also works together with its European sister organisations in various networks. The FWO is, for example, an active member of the European Science Foundation and the European Heads of Research Councils.

The FWO stimulates international co-operation.

The FWO extends grants to individual researchers.

A research grant provides individual researchers affiliated with a Flemish university, with funds to finance their research.

The FWO supports research teams.

For research leader, the FWO provides funding via a research project. The funds can be used to hire extra scientists and technicians, or for equipment and operating costs associated with the execution of the research project.

The FWO rewards excellence in research.

Every five years the FWO awards five eminent Flemish researchers, selected by an international jury, with a prestigious prize. In addition, the FWO, in collaboration with the business community, each year awards scientific prizes to outstanding researchers. Both seasoned scientists and young talents thus receive recognition for their outstanding accomplishments.

The FWO invests in young talent.

The PhD fellowship offers young researchers the opportunity to obtain their PhD after four years of research.

A clinical PhD fellowship allows young clinical scientists to devote themselves part-time to their PhD research for a period of two years. Also non-scientific researchers can work one year full-time on the completion of their PhD thesis with a special PhD fellowship.

The FWO stimulates scientific careers.

Young researchers with a PhD who wish to embark on a scientific career?

A postdoctoral research fellowship allows them to perform full-time research at postdoctoral level for a period of three to nine years.

This support is also available to young clinical scientists with a PhD. A senior clinical fellowship allows them to work part-time on their postdoctoral research for a period of five to ten years, alongside their clinical activities.

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