

QUESTIONS ON THE RESEARCH TOPICS

S4P Driven call 2024 - 2025

You can find the *Information file S4P – driven* [here](#) - Latest update of the document: 17/09/2024.

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1. Digital Transformation

- 1.1. Impact of new technologies on the federal level: threats, opportunities and the way forward for implementing the use of AI in the federal administrations (FPS BOSA, FPS Social Security, FPS Employment and Federal Audit) (ref. infofile 3.1).

When developing new AI tools, it is required to do a “fundamental rights impact assessment”. Should this be part of the proposal? Or should it be included in a separate proposal?

The Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment (FRIA) is a European regulation that will entry into force July 2026. It is thus not necessary to make a FRIA for this call. More information about this can be found on the [official website of the EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#), more detailed instructions on the regulation, will be released by the EU in the upcoming months.

How is the Chancellery involved in this project?

The [Information file](#) has been updated as opposed to the pre-announcement text that was published. It is not The Chancellery but the Federal Audit who is involved in this project (more specifically, in a test case). The Federal Audit is an independent service that administratively belongs to the Chancellery.

Can I include “foresight” in my research project?

Yes, you can if this fits the scope of the project.

- 1.2. How to make Artificial Intelligence an asset for the Belgian labour Market? (FPS Employment) (ref. info file 3.2).

No questions have been asked about this topic.

2. Strategic autonomy and resilience of Belgium

- 2.1. Evaluating R&D support measures and investments in the Belgian Defence technological and industrial base (Ministry of Defence) (ref. info file 4.1).

In the Information file, the BEPIDS project is mentioned. Can I use the data from that project or should additional data be collected?

This research topic, and potential the selected project, could be seen as a follow-up of the BEPIDS project. But in this case, there is a focus on the impact assessment of R&D investments and support. The BEPIDS project is expected to finish in October 2024, and once the database is finished, it will be available as input for this research project.

What will the data resulting from the BEPIDS project look like? What data should I analyze?

More information will soon be provided on this matter.

2.2. Strategic deployment of the personnel of Defence towards inclusion of different generations, civil personnel and reservist personnel (Ministry of Defence) (ref. info file 4.2).

No questions have been asked about this topic.

2.3. Strategic autonomy of the Belgian economy - scientific support for a better match between economic concepts and data (FPS Economy) (ref. info file 4.3).

Concerning the scientific request to gain more insight in economic dependency indicators, we want to clarify that the two key data operations that can offer more detailed insights on supply chains on the product level are (1) the concordance of CN8 and PRODCOM8 data and (2) cleaning and applying customs data to yield a real-time monitoring tool.

3. Inclusion, health and wellbeing

General question for the theme:

Is it foreseen to be able to do citizen science or use co-creation approaches?

We are open and flexible to your ideas on how to approach the topics, however, read the call text carefully to know what is asked and whether the research priority of your choice allows a lot of flexibility or not.

3.1. Optimizing ex ante redistribution impact measurements through improved indicators for non-take-up (FPS Social Security and FPP Social Integration) (ref. info file 5.1).

Are you only interested in indicators of non-take-up or are you also interested in improving take-up?

The FPS Social Security is mostly interested in the indicators of non-take-up. However, the PPS Social Integration wants to understand the issue better and is interested in e.g. policy recommendations on how to reach the people that are left behind. The research topic is thus broader than only looking at indicators.

3.2. Labour market integration of precarious groups: development of an instrument and framework for ex-post evaluation studies, including a case study on people with disabilities (FPS Social Security) (ref. info file 5.2).

No questions have been asked about this topic.

3.3. Innovative and evidence-based strategies to improve the mental wellbeing of independent workers (FPS Social Security) (ref. info file 5.3).

The call text requests that the research includes a survey, is this taken into account in the budget?

Yes. The financial resources for this data collection are included in the budget of 700 000 EUR foreseen for the project.

3.4. Implementation of the definition of nanomaterials in (novel) foods by developing and applying optimized electron microscopy-based analysis methods (FPS Health, Environment and Protection of the Food Chain) (ref. info file 5.4).

How will this research be implemented?

The result/ outcome of this research projects is meant to be implemented by the authorities with the relevant responsibilities, and new insights to be shared with other European members states. We want to stress that one of the direct outcomes of this research project should be to improve existing methods *in order to implement the methodology* and facilitate the integration of its use by the FPS Health.

Can I focus my research on nanoplastics? What range of nanomaterials should this research include?

This project will address issues for a representative selection of (nano)materials covering the complexity of (nano)materials applied in food.

The text in the information file refers to the following definition, applicable for the research:

Regulation (EU) 2015/22836 on novel foods provides a definition of engineered nanomaterials (cf. Article 3(2)(f)) which is applicable to novel foods falling within the scope of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 and to foods falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) 1333/20087 on food additives and EC Regulation 1169/20118 on the provision of food information to consumers ('nano' labelling)). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02015R2283-20210327>

It thus concerns food ingredients that are intentionally used as ingredients in the manufacturing of food products and meet the definition of “engineered nanomaterial”. It does not concern unintentional contaminants such as microplastics.

What are the rules and agreements regarding intellectual property?

All information regarding ownership and valorisation of research results can be found in Article 12 of the “General conditions applicable to the contract (Annex II)” (Algemene voorwaarden van toepassing op het contract (Bijlage II)/ Conditions générales applicables au contrat (Annexe II)). This document will soon be published on [our website](#). To give you an idea in the meantime, an older version of this document is available [on the website of one of our previous programmes \(Brain-be 2.0\)](#).

3.5. Endocrine disrupting chemicals: Development of new test and chemical risk assessment methodologies for thyroid hormone system disruption in humans and the environment (FPS Health, Environment and Protection of the Food Chain) (ref. info file 5.5).

We want to stress that it is requested to develop methodologies that will be validated afterwards in the research project.

Does my research unit have to be involved in the PARC project to apply for this research topic?

It is not mandatory. However, when your research unit is involved in the PARC project, there is a possibility to receive additional European funding to carry out your research. In case you are not involved, you will maximally receive the budget indicated in the Information file.

Can we link to a partner that is already involved in the PARC project?

You are allowed to link/collab? with a partner that is already involved in the PARC project however there is no obligation to do so. There are already several Belgian labs involved in the PARC project. You can contact them if you want to collaborate.

What are the rules and agreements regarding intellectual property?

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3.6. History of persecution and social exclusion of people on basis of their sexual orientation at different periods in our history (State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity, attached to the Minister for Mobility and Institute for the Equality between men and women) (ref. info file 5.6).

No questions have been asked about this topic.

Important notice (17/07/24):

This topic **will be withdrawn** from the call. Our apologies regarding this late adjustment. Please direct any questions regarding this topic to S4policy@belspo.be.

4. Green and societal Transformation

4.1. Monitoring Circular Economy in Belgium: methods of data collection, development of Indicators and analyses of circular business (FPS Economy) (ref. info file 6.1).

No questions have been asked about this topic.

4.2. The transition towards climate neutrality in Belgium: how to activate psycho-sociological levers to foster “sobriety” options? Scoping analysis and sectoral deep dives (FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment) (ref. info file 6.2).

What should the main outcomes of the research be?

We want to stress that the research project should focus on how, from a psycho-sociological perspective, to activate levers to decarbonize Belgium in the long run, especially levers that correspond to the deployment of sobriety options. Ideally, policy recommendations should be elaborated.

Is there flexibility regarding the duration of the project?

The suggested duration of the project is three years, however it is necessary that a first set of results (as suggested in the information file, most likely based on a literature review), are shared with the FPS and other interested stakeholders in order to already start to initiate change.

Can biodiversity(-loss) be included in this project?

The ultimate question of this research topic is: "What policies could be implemented in Belgium to activate psychological and sociological levers to support the implementation of sobriety measures as part of the climate transition?". If you can include a focus on biodiversity(-loss) that fits the requested scientific support, you are welcome to do so.

However, the focus is on the overall levers for climate mitigation; hence, there are links with biodiversity issues (especially in relation with the agriculture and land sectors, see www.climatechange.be/2050) but this should not be the main/only focus of the research in the context of this project.

In the sentence: “The question is not [...] oriented towards the analysis of potential current and everyday behavioural changes” (info file, p. 34), how can non everyday behavioural changes be interpreted?

The goal of the research is to identify the levers to participate and successfully implement these in system changes in the mobility sector, building sector, etc. The ambition is to broaden the scope of the analysis and go beyond what is most often the primary focus in research on, i.e. climate/environment as the (only) individual motivation to act on reducing emission. Rather the research team should explore levers of individuals’ motivation within the realm of other spheres such as the social, psychological, economic and cultural sphere, and should explore levers to act and engage towards system changes in the different sectors.

4.3. Research into the interactions between planetary boundaries and their evolution in preparation for risk analyses for Belgium (FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment: Center for Risk Assessment of Climate Change (CeRAC) (ref. info file 6.3).

Can biodiversity(-loss) be included in this project?

The scope of the research includes all planetary boundaries, including biodiversity (-loss), land-use, water-use, etc.)

4.4. Development and validation of an operational model to assess the dispersion of sand extraction plumes in the Belgian part of the North Sea (FPS Economy) (ref. info file 6.4).

What is meant by the operational model?

The model that is requested should be interpreted as an *operational/turnkey model (that can thus be used routinely)*, that will be used by the FPS Economy - after its completion and validation - to estimate a posteriori the plume dispersion associated with each dredging trip. This includes access to the hydrodynamic data required for the model.

FPS Economy will provide the extraction data (such as: position of vessel, starting time overflows, initial granulometry) itself. It is therefore expected that the research team will collaborate closely with the FPS Economy to achieve this objective!

Will BELSPO/FPS Economy foresee ship time, or should I include this in my budget estimation?

If you foresee a campaign at sea after 2025, current issues should have been resolved and you would be able to use the Belgica.

If you foresee a campaign at sea in 2025, you should ask KBIN/IRSNB for ship time. The call for ship time is opened at the moment. If you want to rent another ship, you have to take this into account in your budget.

4.5. Renewable energy in the transport sector in light of the new EU regulation: potential of Belgium to reach the targets (in 2035) and potential of renewable energy sources within Belgium (FPS Economy & FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment) (ref. info file 6.5).

No questions have been asked about this topic.