

The Belgian Science Policy Office

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Supporting Networks, Strengthening S&T

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Outline

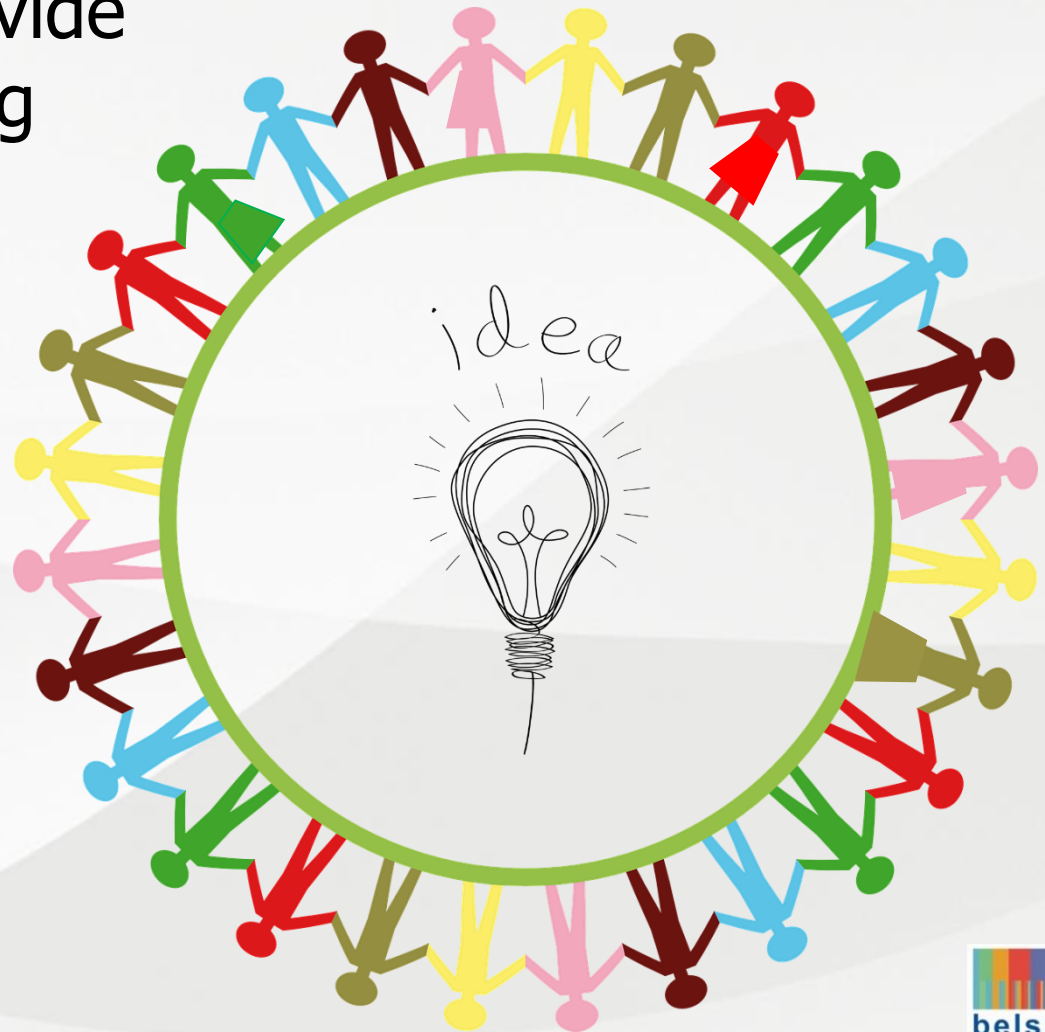
- I. Why supporting networks...?
- II. BELSPO's activities

Paradox

- Everyone agrees that scientific collaboration is important but pure support to networking is often negatively perceived



- Important to provide resources to bring people together



- *Ideal funding & initiatives' flow*

Support to
networking

Small-scale
R&I project

Big R&I
project

Networking activity as a step towards structural (long-term) co-operation between the involved institutions in (partner) countries

Types of support



II. BELSPO's activities



What is BELSPO...?

- Staff: roughly 2,750 (incl. FSI's)
- Annual budget: approximately 540 M€
- Multiple activities:
 1. Funding & support of the Federal Scientific Institutions (FSI's)
 2. Management of Belgian participation in space research programmes
 3. Management of national research programmes
 4. **Coordination (national & international)**
 5. Monitoring of the S&T system
 6. Contact point for R&I tax incentives
 7. (BELNET)

The Federal Scientific Institutes (FSIs)

- 10 institutes under BELSPO supervision
- 2,500 staff members (incl. +/-720 R&D)
- More than 1.4 M visitors a year
- Public service missions (heritage, educative, cultural, scientific, social)



What do we do in the area of international S&T co-operation?

- Try to choose the most appropriate mechanism - bilateral or multilateral - for cooperation with target countries



- India
- China
- Vietnam
- Brazil
- South Africa (African countries)

What are the objectives of our international co-operation?

- To join forces in order to maximise R&D efforts
 - ▶ doing more with the available resources
- To build national expertise and, in particular, to reinforce the scientific potential of our Federal Scientific Institutes
- To contribute to the European Research Area

BELSPO's instruments for international co-operation

Own R&I programmes:

- BRAIN 2.0 (2019 - 2023)
Total budget of 88,2 M€

- STEREO III (2014-2020): <https://eo.belspo.be/en>
Total budget of 28,6 M€

- ...




BELSPO's instruments for international co-operation

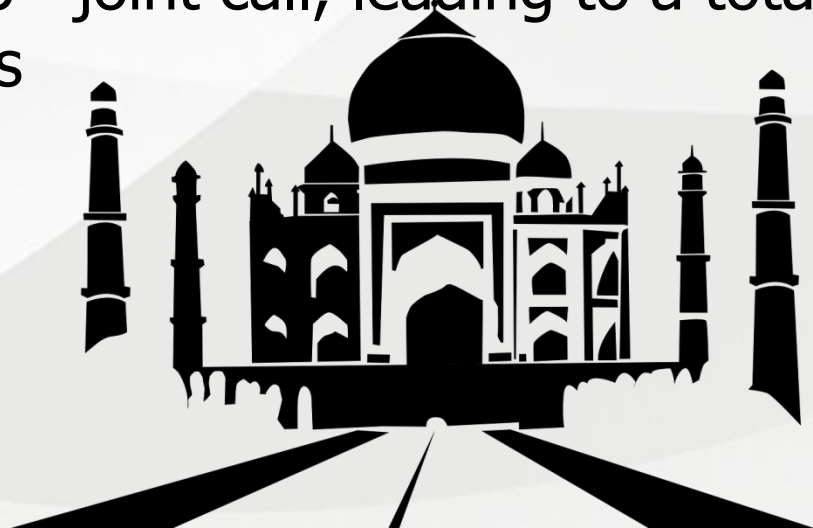
Own research infrastructures:

- Ocean research vessel 'Belgica'
- Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms
- MYRRHA (in the pipeline)



Bilateral co-operation with India

- **3 November 2006:** agreement on S&T co-operation
- **17 November 2009:** agreement between ARIES & BELSPO to build the DOT 3.6m telescope in Devasthal
- **13 April 2011:** 2nd Commix meeting  1st call 'Topping up for Networking'.
- **2017:** launching of the 3rd joint call, leading to a total of 16 joint funding networks



Bilateral co-operation with India

Support to networking - tool assessment (1st call):

- The support granted offered “good leverage effect via the annual workshops to establish a promising collaboration network”
- “Successful interchanges of young researchers (PhD, postdocs), with 6 co-publications”
- Useful tool for enhancing synergies and developing the basis for long term standing relations; possibility of combination with other kinds of funding

More information...?

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