

**ANNEXI:
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES
(2023 CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NETWORKS)
TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION – FLANDERS (FWO)
AND
UNIVERSITIES WALES, ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL WALES PARTNERSHIP**

In compliance with the AGREEMENT signed by Universities UK (operating as Universities Wales) and the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) on April 19th, 2023, the PARTIES agree upon the following implementation guidelines of Scientific Research Networks (SRN) involving Welsh research groups for the 2023 SRN call.

I. The Scientific Research Network (SRN) program at FWO

All info (including the application form) on the SRN program, its application, evaluation and granting procedure as well as its valid [regulations](#) can be found on the [FWO website](#). **Applications must be submitted by e-mail to interprog@fwo.be by the 1st of September 2023 (5pm) CET.**

II. Top-up funding by Global Wales

To promote the involvement of Welsh research groups in international networks, Universities Wales on behalf of the Global Wales (GW) partnership will make up to £8k available per annum for the next three years (January 2024 until July 2026). The funding will enable the participation of Welsh research groups in proposals for Scientific Research Networks (SRN) which will be submitted to and evaluated by the FWO. Universities Wales will provide a top-up of up to £4k a year for three years for each selected SRN involving a research group from Wales who applied through the 2023 call. To note: where the number of qualifying groups from Wales exceeds the availability of GW top-up funding, the ranking of the bid by the Cross Domain Panel, will be taken into consideration.

General eligibility

In order to be eligible for a top-up funding from Global Wales:

1. the submitted SRN proposal must include a minimum of one research group from one university from Wales with strong encouragement for the Welsh research group to involve participants from more than one Welsh university;
2. at least one guest lecture, workshop, seminar, symposia, conference has to take place in Wales during the duration of the funding contract with University Wales.

Eligible institutions and research groups are the following Welsh universities: Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Swansea University, University of South Wales, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Wrexham Glyndŵr University and the Open University in Wales. Universities Wales will assess whether the included Welsh groups are eligible to receive top-up funding.

Participation of junior research groups and a gender balance are encouraged. Moreover, Global Wales particularly encourages applications from the areas identified as areas of excellence by the Wales Innovation Network. These are submissions that align to the Wales Innovation Network five core thematic areas or Beacons, and / or the collaborative clusters outlined in Horizon Europe.

The WIN beacons are:

1. Green Future Wales
2. Healthy Wales
3. Welsh Digital Transformation
4. Culture and Creativity Cymru
5. Materials and Manufacturing Cymru

Eligible cost categories

- the organisation of guest lectures, workshops, seminars, symposia, conferences to take place in Wales;
- supporting scientific collaboration visits (travel and accommodation expenses) affiliated to the Flemish and Welsh research groups of the Scientific Research Network, in charge of carrying out information-gathering activities with the other research groups in the Network;
- supporting travel and accommodation expenses of researchers from participating Welsh partners; to relevant events with partner countries;
- secretarial costs for organising guest seminars, a limited number of symposia, workshops and research coordination meetings;
- Other expenses subject to prior consent by Global Wales.

Finance and reporting

Welsh research group(s) need to include and justify a ‘request for top-up financing’ up to a maximum of £4k per year up until June 2026 within the SRN proposal submitted to FWO.

Financial and other reporting deadlines from the Universities Wales top-up occur in June of each project year. To note, this means that the financial spend and activity undertaken in the first year by the Welsh research group must take place during the first six months of the SRN and no later than 30 June 2024.

Payment schedule and reporting

The total top-up funding available for each eligible Wales research group forming part of an SRN is up to £4k per annum. The funding will be paid in 2 instalments annually as follows:

| | First Instalment | Second Instalment |
|---------------|---|---|
| Year 1 | 70% of the funding will be paid within thirty days of establishing the SRN in January 2024. | Initial activity identified as taking place in Year 1 by the participating Welsh research group/s must be completed by 30 June 2024. Following this, a short, written update shall be submitted to Global Wales no later than 07 July 2024. The remaining 30% will be paid within thirty days of receipt and approval of the written update. |
| Year 2 | 70% of the funding will be paid in August 2024. | The activity identified as taking place in Year 2 by the participating Welsh research group/s must be completed by 30 June 2025. Following completion of the activity, a short, written update must be submitted to Global Wales no later than 07 July 2025. The remaining 30% will be paid within thirty days of receipt and approval of the written update. |
| Year 3 | 70% of the funding will be paid in August 2025. | The activity identified as taking place in Year 3 by the participating Welsh research group/s must be completed by 30 June 2026. Following completion of the activity, a final written report shall be submitted to Global Wales no later than 07 July 2026. The remaining 30% will be paid within thirty days of receipt and approval of the written report |

Welsh university partners must produce a final report at the end of the Universities Wales funding agreement in June 2026. This should detail how they have worked with their Flemish partner universities and other partners involved to achieve the deliverables and objectives outlined in their project plans. We recognise the Network will continue to operate without Global Wales funding after June 2026.

Panel review and decision procedure

The [FWO Cross-Domain Panel \(CDP\)](#) will evaluate the new applications for Scientific Research Networks according to FWO regulations/procedures and will advise the board of trustees of FWO. The main selection criteria will be research excellence. For more information have a look at [the FWO-website](#).

FWO informs Universities Wales about the SRNs selected for funding that include Welsh research groups. Based on the available budget, Global Wales, in collaboration with the Wales Innovation Network will decide which Welsh research groups receive the top-up funding, respecting the evaluation ranking of the Cross Domain Panel.

General regulations

These general regulations are applicable for every funding request at FWO. The FWO website includes links to the criteria and templates needed for applicants.

More information on the SRN instrument at FWO can be found [here](#).