

HERCULES

Research Infrastructure Funding
AUHL
Information session
12 March 2015

Outline



1. 5 objectives of Hercules Funding
2. Definitions Medium Large-scale Research Infrastructure (RIs) and Large-scale Research Infrastructure (RIs)
3. Subsidizable costs
4. Call for Medium Large-scale RIs
 - Application
 - Selection procedure
 - Funding
5. Call for Large-scale Ris
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The five objectives of Hercules Funding



- Structural funding for RIs
- Fundamental and basic research
- All scientific fields - all types of RIs
- Preferably in a consortium with open access (if feasible)
- Limiting the overhead costs at all levels

The five objectives of Hercules Funding



Structural funding for research infrastructures (RIs)

- Each year the Flemish Budget provides an appropriation for the Hercules Foundation for funding RIs.
- Appropriation of two consecutive years are amalgamated to fund a call for RIs
- 5th call: 2015 -2016 (for 2015: 12,15 mio €)

Within the percentages laid down in the Decree, the Hercules Foundation's Board of Directors decides on the partition of the total amount available for a call between medium and large-scale research infrastructure. (probably September 2015)

The five objectives of Hercules Funding



All scientific fields - all types of RIs

- Calls are open for all scientific disciplines
- Definition of RI is very broad incl. collections, habitats, corpora, databases
- Different modes of acquisition: off the shelf but also construction (even with data collection)
- Not limited to one instrument – also platforms of integrated instruments

The five objectives of Hercules Funding



Broad definition of "infrastructure":

all facilities and sources designed to promote cross-border and strategic basic research in all scientific disciplines. Besides scientific infrastructure, this includes collections, natural habitats, corpora and databases (and opening them up digitally).

The five objectives of Hercules Funding



Databases

There are three ways in which a Hercules grant can be requested for databases:

- An applicant may apply for a subsidy to construct his own database.
- An applicant may apply for a subsidy to buy a database and upgrades.
- An applicant may apply for a licence or subscription to access and use a database.

The five objectives of Hercules Funding



Preferably in a consortium with open access

- Wherefore
 - RIs are expensive
 - RIs are often multipurpose
 - Exploitation costs are high
 - Skilled technicians are a rare 'commodity'
- Therefore
 - Consortia / networks 'economies of scale'
 - Optimal use: if possible 'open access'

Medium Large-Scale RI



Definition:

- Total subsidizable cost between 150.000 € and 1.000.000 €

Budget:

- The funding for medium Large-Scale RI is divided over the 5 University Associations by a set key based on the BOF and IOF key.
- UHasselt combines the funding of the fourth call, fifth call and BOF resources (approximately 1,7 mio euro)

Submission:

- Submit with the University Associations.

Remarks

- Incl. non recoverable fraction of the VAT
- Not only acquisition costs

Large-Scale RI



Definition:

- Total subsidizable cost: more than 1.000.000 €

Submission:

- Open competition within Flanders.
- Submit directly with the Hercules Foundation.

Remarks

- Incl. non recoverable fraction of the VAT
- Not only acquisition costs

Subsidizable costs



- Acquisition of (components of) the RI
- Wages and salaries of staff to develop and construct the RI
- Maintenance cost (incl. upgrades) during depreciation period
- **Up to 15% of the subsidies can be used for:**
 - Modification to building for housing the RI
 - Installation of the RI
 - Wages and salaries of staff for the maintenance and the operation of the RI (incl. cost of current staff)

Not subsidizable



- Operational cost / consumables (→ research projects)
- Housing cost (construction of a building etc.)

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI



- Call is launched by AUHL – 02.03.2015
- Who can apply for funding (promotor-spokesperson)?
 - Researchers belonging to a UHasselt research group
 - Researchers belonging to research groups from academic degrees programmes in Audiovisual and Expressive Art, in Music and Performing arts within the School of Arts, PXL

Researchers should appoint 1 of them as “promoter-spokesperson”, who will be spokesperson and budget holder for the application.

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI



- Who can be copromoter?
 - researchers belonging to the same institution as the promoter – spokesperson
 - researchers belonging to another Flemish university and/or academic degrees programme in the school of arts in the “Hogescholen” or at the Antwerp Marine Academy.

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI



- Third parties?
 - Flemish strategic research centres (Flanders Make, iMinds, IMEC, VIB and VITO)
 - Flemish institution for post-initial education (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Vlerick Business School, antwerp management School)
 - Other Belgian or foreign education and or research institutions
 - Belgian or foreign companies
 - **Academic hospitals that have a legal personality**
 - Public entities which depend on, or were set up by, or (partially) funded by the Flemish government, other Belgian authorities, foreign authorities and international or supranational organisations
- Third parties can have a limited right to use the infrastructure (not ownership) in exchange of a real, financially assessable contribution. They cannot receive Hercules subsidies in any shape or form, directly or indirectly.

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI



- Collaboration between universities and/or universities and academic degrees programmes in the school of arts in 'hogescholen' (both within the association and beyond) and with third parties is encouraged

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI – timing AUHL



Launch 5th call	02.03.2015
Information session Hercules call	12.03.2015
Internal deadline (AUHL) declaration of intent	20.04.2015
Discussion declarations of intent in the research council UHasselt	07.05.2015
Submitting final version through E-Form	14.09.2015
Interassociation discussion and bi-en multilateral contact between associations	20.09.2015 – 14.10.2015
Assessment of the applications by the Association Hercules commission and AUHL Board of Directors	Oktober – december 2015
Submission indicative list per association with the Hercules Foundation	25.01.2016
Decision Board of directors Hercules Foundation	25.02.2016

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI – Procedure



- Launch call AUHL - 02.03.2015
 - Guidelines and application form available at www.uhasselt.be/onderzoek
- Submission declaration of intent **20.04.2015**, 17h00.
 - Electronically at bof@uhasselt.be

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI –Procedure



- May 2015: Applications are screened by BOZR and the UHasselt research council for:
 - Missing elements
 - Possible overlap or opportunities for collaboration
 - Possible financing through BOF (apparatuurfond) or other financing agencies
- 14 September 2015, **17h00**: Submit final version using the official e-form
- Submission in English

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI – Procedure



Interassociatie discussion: 21 September 2015 –
14 October 2014

- Bi- en multilateral discussion between the associations
- Detect potential synergy between applications
- Feedback to promoter-spokespersons mid October

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI – Procedure



- Between 14 October 2015 and 25 January 2016:
 - Evaluation of the applications in BOZR and research council U Hasselt based on the criteria in the 'AUHL onderzoeks- en samenwerkingsreglement'
 - Research Council U Hasselt (= Herculescommission AUHL) formulates a motivated advice to the Board of Directors of the AUHL.
 - Board of Directors AUHL draws up an indicative list for submission with Hercules Foundation
- 25.01.2016
 - AUHL submits an indicative list of applications to the Hercules Foundation

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI – Procedure



- 25 februari 2016
 - Decision Board of Directors Hercules foundation

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI –Funding



- 100% of the subsidizable costs
- Given the limited financial resources within the Hercules Foundation for the AUHL, cofinancing is important.
 - Should be included in the investment plan
 - Origin and guarantee should be listed

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI –Funding



- Important!
 - Thorough and correct financial planning is necessary
 - All amounts in the tables should be accounted for either by (1) price quote or (2) estimate of personnel cost
 - Composed amounts should be broken down with reference to the amount in the price quote or estimate.
 - Amounts should include 21% VAT

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI –Funding



- Duration and depreciation period
 - Duration of the agreement = period starting when the agreement is signed and ending 18 months after depreciation period
 - 18 months: administrative closure of the purchase and practicalities (price quotes, terms of delivery, modification of buildings, getting the infrastructure up and running)
 - 18 months can be longer in case of construction and/or upgrades
 - Depreciation period: 5 years (ICT: 3 years)
- Guidelines and application form
 - www.uhasselt.be/onderzoek

Call for Medium Large-Scale RI - information



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Call for Large-Scale RI



- Call launched by Hercules Foundation – 02.03.2015
- Who can apply for funding (promotor-spokesperson)?
 - Universities
 - Strategic research centers (SOCs)
 - Vlerick and Antwerp Management Schools
 - Institute for Tropical Medicine
 - ‘Hogescholen’

Call for Large-Scale RI



- Electronic application form: www.herculesstichting.be
→ *when applying for or participating in a Large-Scale RI application always consult with the Research Coordination Office UHasselt*
- Submission in English
caroline.volckaert@herculesstichting.be
- Deadline: 14.09.2015, **17.00u**

Call for Large-Scale RI – review



- At least 3 non-Belgian reviewers / proposal
 - Plus rebuttal by applicants
- Hercules Science Commission
 - Advice: ranking of the excellent proposals
 - Two step procedure
- Hercules Invest Commission
 - Investment and operational plan (incl. open access)
 - Recommendation to revise plan
- Decision by the Board HF
 - Only approval or rejection of the ranked list

Call for Large-Scale RI – timing



- issuing of call to submit applications: 02.03.2015
- end of call: 14.09.2015 at 12 am
- opportunity to respond to referee reports: December 2015 (in an indicative manner)
- hearings are set up in January 2016
- decision of the Board of Directors: 25.02.2016 (indicative).

Call for Large-Scale RI – funding



- 70%: standard rate (without collaboration)
- 90%: consortium with at least 2 for subsidies eligible entities
- For universities: 100% of the remaining costs if third party/ies provide +25% of the funding

Call for Large-Scale RI – financing agreement



- Signing of financing agreement (after consortium agreement is available) incl. funding scheme (advance, instalments, balance)
- Scientific reporting
 - Status report (incl. logbook)
 - Intermediate scientific report
 - Scientific report
- Financial reporting
 - First report: 1st instalment (incl. the advance)
 - Report at each instalment and at the balance

FUNDING SCHEME HAS TO BE RESPECTED (careful planning by the PI !!!)

Call for Large-Scale RI – Information



- Research Coordination Office U Hasselt
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- Hercules Foundation
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FWO+



The Flemish Government decided to create **FWO+**:

- FWO
- IWT – funding basic research
- Hercules Foundation
 - Funding RIs
 - ESFRI
 - HPC (incl. management for TIER1)

For the researchers: continuity is guaranteed in the procedures and in the funding

Maybe for the 6th call some changes will be made regarding e.g. participation of firms in consortia

EFRO TARGET 2 – PRIORITY 3



- Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy
In order to reach the Europe2020-objectives on climate and energy, we need to exert more effort. → 4 specific targets:
 1. Increasing the shift of energy intensive renovations of residential buildings to an almost-energy neutral level
 2. Improving sustainable urban mobility systems that fit into the urban climate plan
 3. Increasing the energy efficiency in SMEs (energy-efficient commercial buildings and production processes)
 4. Eliminating the bottlenecks in the development of “ecological warmth” (groene warmte) and heating infrastructures (warmtenetten)

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