

Belgium is a federal state where competences are divided amongst the different competence levels.

Research and Innovation is a competence at the regional level (Brussels Capital Region, Flanders and Wallonia) - with some exceptions, whereas the health responsibilities are divided between the federal level and (Dutch speaking, French speaking and German speaking) Communities. To ensure collaboration and coordination, regular inter-ministerial conferences are conducted. To manage the COVID-19 pandemic new committees were set up to coordinate the various governance levels. (see also State of Health in the EU Belgium Country Health Profile 2021

https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_be_english.pdf).

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health concern in the EU. In Belgium, antibiotic consumption rebounded partially in 2021 following a massive drop in 2020 (from also State of Health in the EU Belgium Country Health Profile 2023

https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-12/2023_chp_be_english.pdf).

In Belgium, research efforts are not at national level but are under the authority of the regions (with some exceptions at federal level). In the regions there are no dedicated research programmes related to pandemic preparedness and response. The research policy is always bottom-up with excellence or innovation as main criterium.

Different surveillance systems for infectious diseases are in place see <https://www.sciensano.be/en/data-collection> (these data are also available for secondary use). [FAIR.healthdata.be](https://fair.healthdata.be) is a FAIR portal that provides an overview of existing databases with health and health care related data. It aims to steadily make this data discoverable and available to the public to increase public health knowledge See also [National resources: Belgium | Infectious Diseases Toolkit \(infectious-diseases-toolkit.org\)](https://infectious-diseases-toolkit.org)

Concerning R&I for pandemic preparedness; the Leuven Institute for the Future and its partners have argued that the world needs Pandemic Preparedness Goals (PPGs) see <https://rega.kuleuven.be/if/pandemicpreparedness/introducing-pandemic-preparedness-goals>

To be better prepared for future pandemics, Belgium officially launched [Vaccinopolis](https://vaccinopolis.be) in Antwerp and the [European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology](https://europeanplotkininstitute.be) in Brussels to perform advanced research in vaccinology to better prevent and control infectious diseases; as well as the [Virusbank Platform](https://virusbankplatform.be) in Leuven to develop preventive and therapeutic strategies in case of future health threats.

The [Belgian SARS-CoV-2 sequencing consortium](https://belgian-sars-cov-2-sequencing-consortium.be) has been set up.

Belgium is official member of the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ([EDCTP](https://edctp.eu)) and the [new Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking](https://newglobalhealth-edctp3-joint-undertaking.eu), represented by the [Flemish Department of Work, Economy, Science Innovation and Social Economy \(WEWIS\)](https://flemishdepartmentofwork-economy-science-innovation-and-social-economy.be) and [Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp \(ITM\)](https://instituteoftropicalmedicineinantwerp.be). See <https://www.itg.be/en/health-stories/articles/belgian-and-sub-saharan-global-health-experts-join-forces-to-combat-infectious-diseases>

[ELIXIR Belgium](https://elixir-europe.org) is the national node of [ELIXIR](https://elixir-europe.org) (a European life sciences infrastructure, bringing together scientists from 23 countries and over 250 research institutes.) supporting life science research and its translation to medicine, environment, the bio-industries and society. The research infrastructure provides platforms and guidance for research data management and reproducible data analysis, and offers domain specific services for Plant and Biodiversity, Human health and COVID-19 research; like [BY-COVID](https://by-covid.eu) , [COVID-19 Data Portal](https://covid-19-data-portal.eu) and [SARS-CoV-2 Data Hubs](https://sars-cov-2-data-hubs.eu); [GenoPREDICT-GENOme based PREDICTION of Biological Features of Viruses in a OneHealth Approach](https://genopredict-genome-based-prediction-of-biological-features-of-viruses-in-a-onehealth-approach.eu) (The project aims at using data mining and Machine Learning (ML) approaches on dedicated genome-based databases in order to assist key research question strengthening the phylogenetic scale: is it possible to reliably predict the transmission mode, including candidate vectors, the host group and the tissue tropism from the genome sequence of newly discovered and uncharacterized viruses? Such improvement of the phylogenetic scale of risk analysis will complete and facilitate the evaluation of spatial, temporal and socioeconomic scales in order to identify, prevent or contain future damaging viral outbreaks for humans, other animals and plants.)

Recently, [CEPI](https://cepi.net), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, has entered into strategic partnerships with the Belgian Universities KU Leuven and the University of Antwerp (see https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-belgian-universities-to-partner-to-enhance-global-pandemic-preparedness)

The Hasselt University coordinates the Horizon Europe project ESCAPE (Efficient and rapidly SCALable EU-wide evidence-driven Pandemic response plans through dynamic Epidemic data assimilation see <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101095619>) and the H2020 project EpiPose (Epidemic intelligence to minimize 2019-nCoV's public health, economic and social impact in Europe see <https://www.uhasselt.be/en/aparte-sites-partner-en/epipose>)

The KULeuven coordinates the Horizon Europe project PCR-4-ALL project (Impact and viability of a novel mass PCR testing method as a pandemic-fighting strategy see <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101095606>).

The [Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp \(ITM\)](https://instituteoftropicalmedicineinantwerp.be) is an important player in the research of (re-)emerging infections and

outbreaks. The ITM coordinated the [unCoVer project](#), Unravelling Data for Rapid Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19 from 2020 till 2022 and is monitoring with partners Sciensano and the Barcoding Facility of Organisms and Tissues of Policy Concern (BopCo) the rise of exotic mosquitoes in Belgium in the [MEMO+ project](#). (see also above concerning EDCTP)

The University of Antwerp coordinated the FP7 project [PREPARE](#) (Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-) emerging Epidemics) an EU funded network for clinical research studies on infectious diseases.

The Walloon Region funded several projects like COVIMMUN: Coronavirus (SARS-Cov1, MERS-Cov, and SARS-Cov2), influenza virus and RSV antigen and genetic detection of based on Lateral Flow Assay (2021 – 2024) via [Win2Wal](#) or DEMASQUE: Differential Multiparametric and multiplex diagnosis of arboviruses (Yellow Fever, Zika and Dengue) using combined RPA and lateral flow device (2019 – 2022) via [WALInnov](#)

The Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) funded a couple of projects in the frame of the [POST-COVID programme](#), among others [BE-PIN The Belgian Pandemic Intelligence Network](#)

R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Country has a dedicated strategy for R&I related to pandemic threat?
bottom-up with excellence or innovation as main criterium.

No, The research policy is

[Belgium "One Health" national action plan](#) to fight against antimicrobial resistance & operational plan
Generic Preparedness Plan (GPP) Health <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/node/44962>

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? **Yes**
R&I portal (Flanders) <https://researchportal.be/en>

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; MPox; Antimicrobial resistance (AMR); Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
Antimicrobial resistance Institute of Tropical Medicine	https://www.itg.be/en/research/research-themes/antimicrobial-resistance	
BE-PIN - The Belgian Pandemic Intelligence Network	https://www.pandemicintelligence.be/	to support policymakers in developing evidence-based policies to tackle future pandemics and epidemics effectively
BY-COVID	https://by-covid.org	The BeYond-COVID project aims to make COVID-19 data accessible to scientists in laboratories but also to anyone who can use it, such as medical staff in hospitals or government officials.
CBRNE	https://crisiscenter.be/en/risks-belgium/security-risks/cbrne	
Clinical Trials db in Belgium	https://databankklinischeproeven.be/en	
Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Belgium	https://www.health.belgium.be/en/combating-antimicrobial-resistance-amr	
COVID 19 epidemiologic situation in Belgium, Sciensano projects	https://covid-19.sciensano.be/nl	
COVID-19 : An overview of R&I in Flanders	https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/nieuws/covid-19-een-overzicht-van-onderzoek-en-innovatie-	
COVID-19 data portal	https://www.covid19dataportal.org/	Elixir participates in and contribute to the EMBL/EC COVID-19 data platform meetings and as such help to shape the Belgian COVID-19 data efforts.
COVID 19 HDA DataHub	https://catalog.hda.belgium.be/domain/urn:li:domain:COVID-19/Entities?is_lineage_mode=false	
Elixir Belgium	https://www.elixir-belgium.org/covid-19	During the COVID-19 pandemic, ELIXIR Belgium developed tools for analysis and exposure of viral data, tools and guidance to facilitate submission of viral sequences to the ENA & maintenance a dedicated Galaxy instance and a container to assemble and submit SARS-CoV-2 genomes to the ENA.
Epistat – Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases Statistics	https://epistat.sciensano.be/	

Health and disease monitoring <https://www.sciensano.be/en/health-topics/health-and-disease-monitoring>

Infectious diseases toolkit Belgium <https://www.infectious-diseases-toolkit.org/national-resources/belgium>

MPox <https://www.sciensano.be/en/health-topics/monkeypox>

Overview of existing databases with health and health care related data <https://fair.healthdata.be/>

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? Yes CIS Health
Coordinating structures URL https://www.belspo.be/belspo/coordination/scienPol_FCC_nl.stm

R&I Infrastructures, Initiatives and Clinical Trials *The initiatives are listed in alphabetical order, are not exhaustive and should be updated regularly*

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction BSL 3; Clinical trial units; Emergency intervention units; Reference centres of excellence

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Max Capacity	Available for	Open to
BCCM Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms		https://bccm.belspo.be/			
Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination	Trial site for phase 1, 2 & 3 vaccine trials	https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/centre-for-evaluation-vaccination/		academia/industry/ international agencies	Yes
Caps-IT lab	fully automated BSL3	https://rega.kuleuven.be/cmt/capsit			
ELIXIR Belgium provides domain specific bioinformatic tools and resources for COVID-19 research		https://www.elixir-belgium.org/services/bio2byte-sars-cov-2			
Epilabo (a Belgian network of more than 50 sentinel clinical microbiology laboratories for 43 pathogens)		https://www.sciensano.be/en/network-sentinel-laboratories-epilabo			
European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology	BSL2, BSL3, biobank Reference centre of excellence	https://www.epiv.eu/			
Plug-and-play vaccine platform		https://rega.kuleuven.be/cmt/in/viruses/pllav-a-plasmid-based-live-attenuated-vaccine-technology			
UCL-CTMA is a joint academic-clinical-military R&D biotechnological	mixed military-clinical-academic technological platform	https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irec/ctma			
useGalaxy.be, instance of VIB Data Core and ELIXIR Belgium hosted at VSC (Flemish Supercomputer Centre)	open-source platform for FAIR data analysis	https://galaxyproject.org/belgium/			
Vaccinopolis	Vaccine trial site for CHIM studies	https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/centre-for-evaluation-vaccination/vaccinopolis/	30 beds	academia/industry/ international agencies	Yes
VirusBank Platform		https://virusbankplatform.be/			

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases BBMRI; ECRIN;

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in
clinical research network for the coordination and conduct of COVID-19 vaccine trials

<https://vaccelerate.eu>

COMBACTE-COMBATting BACTERial resistance in Europe

<https://www.combacte.com/>

EDCTP - European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 1-2 and Global Health EDCTP3

<https://www.edctp.org/>

European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases

<https://www.ecraid.eu/>

European Research and Preparedness Network for Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases

<https://eu-response.eu/>

Rapid European COVID-19 Emergency Response response

<https://www.recover-europe.eu/>

Belgium is (or has been) part of the following initiatives (as country or via an organisation)

CORDIS ID	Acronym	Name	Url
115557	ADVANCE	Accelerated development of vaccine benefit-risk collaboration in Europe	https://www.ih.europa.eu/projects-results/project-factsheets/advance
	Aedes Invasive Mosquito (AIM) COST Action		https://www.aedescost.eu/
952491	AmReSu	Enhanced Networking on Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance with Next Generation Sequencing	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/952491
	BeNeLuxA	BeNeLuxA initiative on Pharmaceutical Policy	https://beneluxa.org/
101046203	BY COVID	BeYond-COVID	https://by-covid.org/
101005077	CARE	Corona Accelerated R&D in Europe	https://www.imi-care.eu/
	COMBACTE	COMBATting BACTERial resistance in Europe	https://www.combacte.com/
115620	COMBACTE-CARE	Combatting bacterial resistance in Europe – carbapenem-resistance maximizing capacity to provide a highly efficient resource for the conduct of clinical studies	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/115620
777362	COMBACTE-CDI	Combatting bacterial resistance in Europe - Clostridium difficile Infections	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/777362
115737	COMBACTE-MAGNET	Combatting bacterial resistance in Europe – Molecules against Gram-negative infections	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/115737
115523	COMBACTE-NET	Combatting bacterial resistance in Europe – Networks	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/115523
	COMBAR-COST	COMBATting helminthic Resistance in ruminants	https://www.combar-ca.eu/
101016247	COVINFORM	COronavirus Vulnerabilities and INFOrmation dynamics Research Modelling	https://www.covinform.eu/
	DURABLE	Delivering a Unified Research Alliance of Biomedical and public health Laboratories against Epidemics	https://durableproject.org/
965313	ECRAID-Base	European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases	https://www.ecraid.eu/projects/ecraid-base/ecraid-base
101046109	ECRAID-Prime	European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases: Primary care adaptive platform trial for pandemics and epidemics	https://www.ecraid.eu/projects/ecraid-prime/about-ecraid-prime
	EDCTP	European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership 1-2 and Global Health EDCTP3	https://www.edctp.org/
10284	EDEN	Emerging Diseases in a changing European Environment	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/10284/en
261504	EDENext	Biology and control of vector-borne infections in Europe	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/261504
101137157	e-Fabric	enhanced manufacturing of broadly potent equine polyclonal Fab with a Rational Immunization strategy against Coronaviruses	https://media.licdn.com/dms/document/media/D4D1FAQHKTLa67W43w/feedshare-document-pdf-analyzed/0/1706603217132?e=1707955200&v=beta&t=rsq7UvC3HIFVT8eLx8Z4S-UogNhJND6UjVd25RvSH0
	EGHRIN	European Global Health Research Institutes Network	https://www.eghrin.eu/
	ELIXIR		https://elixir-europe.org/

	EOHA	European One Health Association	https://www.onehealthassoc.eu/
101217154	EP OHAMR	European partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance - Tackling antimicrobial resistance with a One Health approach	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101217154
101136346	EPAHW	European Partnership on Animal Health & Welfare	https://www.eupahw.eu/
824061	ERINHA	European distributed Research Infrastructure on Highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging Agents	https://erinha.eu/
	ESAC-Net	European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption Network	https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/esac-net
101095619	ESCAPE	Efficient and rapidly SCALable EU-wide evidence-driven Pandemic response plans through dynamic Epidemic data assimilation	https://www.escapepandemics.com/
101156304	EU PRO-ACT	European PROactive Adaptive Clinical Trials network	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43108390/101156304/HORIZON
101046016	EuCARE	European Cohorts of patients and schools to Advance Response to Epidemics	https://eucareresearch.eu
	EU-HIP	EU Interoperability with HERA's IT Platform	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/43332642/101102774/EU4H
801495	EU-JAV	EU Joint Action on Vaccination	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/31061266/801495/3HP
101015736	EU-RESPONSE	European Research and Preparedness Network for Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases	https://eu-response.eu/
	0 EUVABECO		https://euvabeco.eu/
	EU-WISH	Wastewater Integrated Surveillance for Public Health	https://www.eu-wish.eu/
	EVD-LabNet	Emerging Viral Diseases-Expert Laboratory Network	https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/evd-labnet
	0 EVH	European Vaccines Hub for Pandemic Readiness	
	0 FILi-Vi-X	Preparing First Line health care workers in the Flemish health care system for 'virus X', by setting up and validating a training package, using viral hemorrhagic fever as a model	https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/pandemicpreparedness/projects/
	GARDP	Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership	https://gardp.org/
288975	GLOWORM	Innovative and Sustainable Strategies to Mitigate the Impact of Global Change on Helminth Infections in Ruminants	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/288975
221948	ICON	Integrated control of neglected zoonoses: improving human health and animal production through scientific innovation and public engagement	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/221948
101003673	I-MOVE-COVID	Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic	https://www.imoveflu.org/i-move-covid-19/
	InFACT	the International Forum for Acute Care Trialists	https://www.infactglobal.org/
321529	Infect-ERA		http://www.infect-era.eu/
731060	Infravec2		https://infravec2.eu/
101132215	INTERCEPTOR	INTERNational Cooperation of high containment research infrastructures: from Epidemic Preparedness TO Response	https://erinha.eu/newsroom/erinha-launches-the-interceptor-project/
	0 JA Stockpile	Joint Action on Comprehensive and Sustainable Strategic Stockpiles of Medical Countermeasures Used in Crisis	
	JAMRAI	EU Joint Action on Antimicrobial resistance and Health Care Associated Infections	https://eu-jamrai.eu/
	JPIAMR	Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance	https://www.ipiamr.eu/
101094685	LEAPS	Integrating Multi-Disciplinary Expertise in a Learning and Adaptive European Pandemic Preparedness System	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094685
	LiHRA	The Livestock Helminth Research Alliance	https://www.lihra.eu/

101195465	MBOTE-SK	Tackling and investigating the South-Kivu mpox outbreak	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101195465
	MediLabSecure	One-health network for the prevention of vector-borne diseases around the Mediterranean and in the Sahel	https://www.medilabsecure.com/
	Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe		https://missionvaccination.eu/
874850	MOOD	Monitoring Outbreaks for Disease surveillance in a data science context	https://mood-h2020.eu/
101115188	MPX-RESPONSE		https://mpx-response.eu/
	0 MUSICC	Mucosal Immunity in Human Coronavirus Challenge	https://www.musicc.org/
	NDC	Pan-European Network for Disease Control	https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/events/item/2024/04/22/default-calendar/inaugural-meeting-of-the-pan-european-network-for-disease-control
786670	NO-FEAR	Network Of practitioners For Emergency medical systems and cRitical care	https://no-fearproject.eu/
101195186	ODIN-Mpox	Implementing wastewater and environmental surveillance for Mpox in Sub-Saharan Africa	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101195186
	OH4Surveillance	Setting up a coordinated surveillance under the One Health approach	https://www.spkc.gov.lv/lv/projekts/eiropas-komisijas-ceturtais-veselibas-programmas-vienotas-ricibas-projekts-koordineta-dalibvalstu-parrobezu-patogenu-uzraudzibas-sistemas-izveidosana-saskana-ar-vienoto-veselibas-aizsardzibas-pieeju
773830	OHEJP	One Health European Joint Programme	https://onehealthejp.eu/
101095712	OneBAT		https://onebat.eu/
	0 OneHealthSecure	OneHealthSecure project	https://www.onehealthsecure.com/
101016167	ORCHESTRA	Connecting European Cohorts to Increase Common and Effective Response to SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic	https://orchestra-cohort.eu/
883285	PANDEM-2		https://pandem-2.eu/
	PANTHER	PANdemic preparedness plATform for Health and Emerging infectious Response	https://pantherhealth.org/
101095606	PCR-4-ALL		https://www.pcr4all.eu/
101016233	PERISCOPE	Pan-European Response to the Impacts of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics	https://periscopeproject.eu/
	0 PHA4GE	Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology	https://pha4ge.org
101018317	PHIRI	the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure	https://www.phiri.eu/
101155852	PIPELINE	Pregnancy and Infant PrEparedness pLatform IN Europe	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101155852
101195146	PREGMPOX	Impact of MPXV infection on pregnancy outcome and newborn health	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101195146
	PREPARE	Platform foR European Preparedness Against (Re-)emerging Epidemics	https://www.prepare-europe.eu/index.html
	PREZODE	Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence	https://prezode.org/
101003589	RECOVER	Rapid European COVID-19 Emergency Response research	https://www.recover-europe.eu/
101168024	RESILIENCE-R-2023	First research action for Medical counter measures performed in the frame of the RESILIENCE FPA consortium	https://researchportal.rma.ac.be/en/projects/first-research-action-for-medical-counter-measures-performed-in-t
101015990	RESISTIRE	Responding to Outbreaks through Co-creative Inclusive Equality Strategies social organisations	https://resistire-project.eu/
101016127	RESPOND	Preparedness of health systems to reduce mental health and psychosocial concerns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic	https://respond-project.eu/
101019707	RiskPACC	Integrating Risk Perception and Action to enhance Civil protection-Citizen interaction	https://www.riskpacc.eu/
	SHARP JA	Joint Action on Strengthened International Health Regulations and Preparedness in the EU	https://thl.fi/en/web/thl/research-and-development/research-and-projects/joint-action-on-strengthened-international-health-regulations-and-preparedness-in-the-eu-sharp-ja
883441	STAMINA	Smart support platform for pandemic prediction and management	https://stamina-project.eu/
	0 THOR	international high isolation exercise THOR	
	0 THRIVE	Taking stock to foster health and trust for an inclusive post-Covid society	https://www.thriveproject.be/

101057100	UNDINE	the human genetic and immunological determinants of the clinical manifestations of SARS-CoV-2 infection: Towards personalised medicine	https://biomed.au.dk/undine
	UNITED4Surveillance		https://united4surveillance.eu/
101037867	VACCELERATE	European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform	https://vaccelerate.eu/
	VCP	Vaccine Confidence Project	https://www.vaccineconfidence.org/
101045989	VERDI	SARS-coV2 variants Evaluation in pRegnancy and paeDiatrics cohorts	https://verdiproject.org/
613996	VMERG	Emerging viral vector-borne diseases	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/613996
	ZODIAC	Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (IAEA)	https://www.iaea.org/services/zodiac

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly.

Basic Research

url Federal : Scientific research in federal fields of competence such as nuclear power, antarctic research, food safety & quality research, space research
R&I Tax credits & fiscal incentives. www.belspo.be
For Flanders <https://www.fwo.be/en/>
For French speaking Community : <https://ncp.frs-fnrs.be/erc/> & <https://ncp.frs-fnrs.be/msca/>
For Brussels : www.innoviris.be

funding for basic research accessible for industry? No
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

url For Flanders www.vlaio.be
For French speaking Community : <https://ncp.frs-fnrs.be/cluster-1-sante/> & <https://ncp.frs-fnrs.be/cluster-3-securite-civile-pour-la-societe/>
For Brussels : www.innoviris.be

funding for applied research accessible for industry? Yes
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

url For Flanders <https://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships-funding/research-projects/tbm-projects/>
<https://www.vlaio.be/en/subsidies?category=onderzoek--ontwikkeling>
For Brussels : www.innoviris.brussels (Research Platforms, R&D call, Proof of Concept and other programs)

funding accessible for industry? Yes
source of funding Public (research) agencies

Clinical Research (in general)

url <https://kce.fgov.be/nl/kce-trials/resources/useful-links-resources-for-investigators/public-funding-sources-for-trials>
For Brussels : www.innoviris.brussels (clinical research funding is exceptional and early stage Phase 1)

funding accessible for industry?
source of funding
phase funded? Phase 1; Phase 2; Phase 3

Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)

url For Brussels : www.innoviris.brussels (the call on covid-19 is not accessible online anymore, please contact us for further info)
accessible for industry?
source of funding
phase funded ?

Innovation Projects

url For Flanders : <https://www.vlaio.be/en/clusterorganisaties/het-clusterbeleid/het-vlaamse-clusterbeleid> <https://www.vlaio.be/en>
For Wallonia : <https://recherche.wallonie.be/home/je-suis-une-pme-et-jai-acces-a.html>
For Brussels : www.innoviris.brussels

funding for innovation projects accessible Yes
source Public (research) agencies

flexible funding possible in case of emergencies

R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat

The actors are listed in alphabetical order, the list is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

R&I actors, authorities

ministries involved in case of an outbreak; (existing) national or regional structures that advise governments on R&I during emergencies

Name	Description	url
Agence pour une Vie de Qualité – AViQ	The regional actor in Wallonia responsible for Welfare and Health prevention and promotion	https://www.aviq.be/fr/laviq-english
AstriVax Therapeutics	AstriVax Therapeutics is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company founded in 2022 and focused on developing DNA-based vaccines through a novel technology platform. Our technology aims to address the most challenging diseases, with a primary focus on treating Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma virus and other emerging viral infectious diseases.	https://astrivax.com/
Avia-GIS	<p>a Belgian SME founded in 2001 that specializes in spatial risk mapping and modelling as a basis for the development of tailored spatial decision support systems applied to public-, animal- and crop health and integrated pest management. The main objective of our research is to contribute to the state of the art as a means to bridge the gap between research and decision making.</p> <p>Avia-GIS is partner of MOOD - An epidemic intelligence toolbox to monitor disease outbreaks for disease surveillance</p> <p>The MOOD project (MONitoring Disease Outbreaks) is dedicated to enhancing epidemic intelligence by promoting the early detection, confirmation, evaluation, and exploration of potential public health threats through a comprehensive approach. This approach combines the use of structured data from standard surveillance mechanisms with unstructured data from a wide range of sources.</p> <p>The MOOD GeoNetwork holds detailed metadata for both disease and covariate data, with a select portion readily available on the MOOD Core platform.</p> <p>This setup guarantees open access to a variety of data sources via an easy-to-use interface, facilitating the platform's role in managing epidemic intelligence effectively.</p> <p>https://mood-platform.avia-gis.com/home/</p>	https://www.avia-gis.com/academic-research
Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre - KCE	KCE is an independent research centre that provides scientific advice on topics related to health care.	https://kce.fgov.be/en/kce-trials/funded-trials
Belgian Science Policy Office - Belspo	<p>Scientific research in federal fields of competence such as nuclear power, antarctic research, food safety & quality research, space research. The Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) funded for examples :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ALIEN-ALERT: Horizon scanning for new pests and invasive species in Belgium. o EPIDEMOIST: Improving epidemiological modelling using satellite derived soil moisture proxies. o Epi-STIS: Remote Sensing tools to study the epidemiology and Space/time dynamics of diseases. o MODIRISK: Mosquito vectors of disease: spatial biodiversity, drivers of change, and risk in Belgium. o RANGELAND: Remote sensing to evaluate the impact of grazing on the environment. o SATHELI: Identification of the spatial-temporal dynamics of vector habitat landscape features using UAV 	https://www.belspo.be/belspo/index_en.stm
CBRNe (Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear) expertise centre	Expertise Centre set up in case of a CBRNe incident (an emergency involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, possibly combined with explosives to spread these materials)	https://crisiscenter.be/en/what-does-national-crisis-center-do/contingency-planning/cbrne-expertise-centre
Dep. of welfare, public health and family (WVG Flanders)	The Department of welfare, public health and family (WVG Department Flanders) prepares the policy of the Flemish Minister of Welfare, Public Health and Family, evaluates it, and supports the minister in directing and following up policy implementation by the agencies. The Department also carries out policy implementation tasks, including subsidising welfare and health infrastructure	https://www.departementwvg.be/
Dep. of Work, Economy, Science, Innovation and Social Economy (WEWIS Flanders)	The Department of Work, Economy, Science, Innovation and Social Economy (WEWIS Department Flanders) prepares, monitors and evaluates policy in the Economy, Science and Innovation policy area in Flanders.	https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/en
eTheRNA immunotherapies	A clinical-stage company developing mRNA immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer and infectious diseases. State-of-the-art mRNA platforms	https://www.etherna.be/
European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology	The European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology, a partnership between Uantwerpen en ULB, connects scientists, research institutions, companies and funds to serve science and society	https://www.epiv.eu/
Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products - FAMHP	The FAMHP is the Belgian competent authority in charge of ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines and health products (medical devices and accessories, raw materials, blood and blood components of human origin, human tissue material), for human and veterinary use, in clinical development and on the market.	https://www.famhp.be/en/famhp

Federal Public Service (FPS) Economy, Finance, Defence etc	R&D tax credits and fiscal incentives to encourage the recruitment of researchers, scientific visas and intellectual property law. • Federal Public Service / Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS) funded for example o MosqInVBE: Guidelines for the surveillance of exotic mosquitoes in Belgium. o VENTOMO: Study of the aerial distribution of Culicoides in the lower troposphere to improve wind dispersion models.	https://www.belgium.be/en/about-belgium/government/federal_authorities/federal_and_planning_public_services
Federal Public Service Public Health (Belgium)	FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment organises health care in Belgium. Areas of expertise include hospital financing, health care policy and emergency medical aid coordination. DG Preparedness and Response is a new department in the Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	https://www.health.belgium.be/en
Finance & Invest Brussels	Loans and equity finance to enterprises Brussels.	https://www.finance.brussels
Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship - VLAIO	VLAIO, the regional innovation funding agency for Flanders, stimulates and supports innovation and entrepreneurship, VLAIO funded for example MOSQDYN: Optimised methods for precision pest surveillance and control of vectors of disease	https://www.vlaio.be/nl/andere-doelgroepen/flanders-innovation-entrepreneurship
FlandersVaccine	<p>Flanders Vaccine is a non-profit, strategy-driven platform for academic, industrial and public stakeholders with relevant expertise in human and animal immunotherapeutics and vaccines. Flanders Vaccine brings together universities, public and private hospitals, research centres, SMEs, pharma, competence providers, patient organisations, and government bodies to develop novel immunological health solutions and the vaccines of the future.</p> <p>Flanders Vaccine supports the development of immunotherapeutics and vaccines for both prophylactic and therapeutic targets in humans and animals by facilitating the exchange of know-how and complementary innovative technologies between academia and industry. The Flanders vaccine platform can be seen as an integrated tool that gives rise to more and better partnerships; that prepares us better for future calls for funding; that enables us to network at inspiring meetings and conferences; that generates visibility and attracts significant attention from national and international experts, stakeholders and organisations.</p>	https://flandersvaccine.be/
FNRS - Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.–FNRS), the regional funding agency for the French speaking part of Belgium, funds fundamental research conducted in the laboratories and facilities mostly located in the universities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation	https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/
Hospital & Transport Surge Capacity Committee	<p>The Hospital & Transport Surge Capacity Committee is an advisory body that has been meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis to ensure adequate and effective control measures for hospitals and patient transport capacity. The HTSC reports to the Risk Management Group.</p> <p>The HTSC is coordinated by the Directorate General for Health Care of the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment. The HTSC is made up of representatives of the various federal public health authorities, hospital federations, the Federal Hygiene Inspectorate as well as Defence and scientific experts. You can consult the composition of the committee via the following link. As part of the measures taken, the Committee has dealt with various federal working groups, ministries, experts, but also organisations that bring together health care providers, management and chief medical officers in order to obtain advice and additional information during crisis management. The committee focuses on inter-federal cooperation, on a streamlined approach and on communication in the field in order to achieve a coordinated, adequate and efficient national organisation of the management capacity in Belgian hospitals and of the transport of COVID-19 patients in the emergency aid chain.</p>	https://consultativebodies.health.belgium.be/en/hospital-transport-surge-capacity-committee-htsc
Idevax	company develops, produces, and commercializes innovative drug delivery medical devices used for prophylactic and therapeutic vaccination	https://idevax.com/
Innoviris	Innoviris is the regional funding agency (Brussels), a public organisation that funds and supports research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region that funds basic and applied research in regional fields of competence.	https://innoviris.brussels/
Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM)	<p>The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp (Belgium) strives for the advancement of science and health for all, through innovative research, advanced education, professional medical services and capacity sharing with partner institutions in Africa, Asia and Latin America.</p> <p>Research: innovative insights in the cellular, molecular and environmental biology of Trypanosoma, Leishmania, Plasmodium, helminths, mycobacteria, HIV, and tropical viruses.</p> <p>Development of innovative diagnostics, treatments and ways to combat these diseases.</p> <p>Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary capacity to study and understand infectious epidemics and drug resistance of tropical origin.</p> <p>ITM has internationally proven our expertise in the field of clinical trials.</p> <p>ITM produced innovative, impactful contributions for universal health care through empirical and policy-making research, theory building, and knowledge management.</p>	https://www.itg.be/en/research/research

KULeuven	<p>one of the 5 universities in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium among others research at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATM - Access-To-Medicines Research Centre see https://research.kuleuven.be/portal/en/unit/57352464 • One Health Institute see https://research.kuleuven.be/en/onehealth • Rega-Institute see https://rega.kuleuven.be/ • Virology, Antiviral Drug & Vaccine Research Group see https://research.kuleuven.be/portal/en/unit/58082921 • Virus-Host Interactions & Therapeutic Approaches (VITA) Research Group see https://research.kuleuven.be/portal/en/unit/58082922 <p>Link with Universitair Ziekenhuis Leuven- UZ Leuven https://www.uzleuven.be/</p>	-
National Crisis Centre (NCCN)	The National Crisis Center makes a national risk assessment, is the (inter)national contact point for critical infrastructures and develops procedures and tools to ensure smooth communication before and during an emergency.	https://crisiscenter.be/en/risks-belgium/health-risks/epidemic
National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance	INAMI-RIZIV is a keyplayer in the social security in Belgium	https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr
OstBelgiën	The German-speaking Community in Belgium responsible for Personal matters like family and family allowances; Health; social affairs	https://ostbelgienlive.be/desktopdefault.aspx
pharma industry	Belgium is a leader in pharma R&D, in producing of vaccines and a large exporter of biopharmaceuticals in Europe. More than 29 of the world's top 30 pharmaceutical companies are represented in Belgium, including Janssen Pharmaceuticals (J&J), GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, UCB,....pharma.be counts 120+ members See also https://pharmchoices.com/list-of-pharmaceutical-companies-in-belgium-2 & https://pharma.be/sites/default/files/2023-11/pharma_figures_eu_en.pdf	www.pharma.be
Quantoom Biosciences (Univercells)	pioneering RNA manufacturing solutions and innovative mRNA technologies for global healthcare advancement	https://quantoom.com/
Research Foundation Flanders-FWO	FWO is the regional funding agency that funds basic research in Flanders	https://www.fwo.be/
Sciensano	<p>Sciensano, the National Public Health Institute, the federal research centre linked to the FPS carries out research into policy-supporting matters or issues advisory reports. Their monitoring work covers infectious diseases (AIDS, influenza, tuberculosis, salmonella, bronchitis, etc.), which are still widespread today. In this area, Sciensano's activities are focused, firstly, on infectious diseases transmissible from one person to another (such as influenza) and, secondly, on infectious diseases related to food (such as salmonella), body secretions (such as HIV/AIDS and STI), the environment (such as allergies or animal diseases) and health care (hospital-acquired infections, MRSA, CPE, etc.). Sciensano coordinates a network of labs and reference centres.</p> <p>Sciensano coordinates a vast network of laboratories, centres and platforms that monitor the infectious diseases in circulation. This network provides clear and reliable information about diseases, their causes, their incidence in the population, as well as on emerging pathogens (bacteria, germs, viruses) that cause these diseases. Sciensano gave only adhoc pandemic funding</p>	https://www.sciensano.be/en/health-topics/health-and-disease-monitoring
Service Public de Wallonie Economie, Emploi, Recherche	<p>Within the SPW Economy, Employment, Research, which implements the policy of the Walloon Government in the fields of Economy, Employment and Research, the Research Programmes Directorate coordinates, develops and manages regional, federal and international research programmes. It evaluates, finances and monitors research projects submitted by Walloon universities, colleges, accredited research centres or companies, and issues opinions on the appropriateness and impact of these projects. See also https://recherche.wallonie.be/win2wal</p> <p>It coordinates the approval and funding of research centres and represents the Walloon Region in a series of European bodies and platforms in the field of Research and Development (R&D). It also supports the integration of regional economic actors in European networks.</p> <p>Finally, it evaluates and manages projects co-financed by the European Structural Funds, grants "Horizon 2020" bonuses to SMEs in the context of the preparation, submission and negotiation of a project introduced to a European Union action in the field of R&D, and manages the NCP-Walloon convention.</p> <p>The Research Programmes Directorate coordinates, develops and manages regional, federal and international research programmes. It evaluates, finances and monitors research projects submitted by Walloon universities, colleges, accredited research centres or companies, and issues opinions on the appropriateness and impact of these projects</p>	https://www.wallonie.be/fr/acteurs-et-institutions/wallonie/departement-de-la-recherche-et-du-developpement-technologique/direction-des-programmes-de-recherche

UAntwerpen	<p>one of the 5 universities in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium among others research at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Health Institute (GHI) https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/global-health-institute/about-ghi/ and • the Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute - VAXINFECTIO, part of the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences see https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/vaxinfectio/ ; with the different research groups : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), o Health Economics & Modelling Infectious Diseases (CHERMID) o Laboratory of Experimental Hematology (LEH) and o Laboratory of Medical Microbiology (LMM). o Additionally, a new collaboration between VAXINFECTIO and the Evolutionary Ecology Group at the department of Biology, Faculty of Science, was recognised as new Centre of Excellence called ASCID (Antwerp Study Centre for Infectious Diseases). <p>Link with Universitair Ziekenhuis Antwerpen- UZA https://www.uza.be/</p>	https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research/
UCLouvain	<p>one of the 5 universities in the French speaking part of Belgium research at among others :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • de Duve Institute carries out fundamental research in the biomedical field, studying the underlying mechanisms of human health and disease at the level of molecules, cells and the organism. https://www.deduveinstitute.be/ • Louvain Institute of Biomolecular Science and Technology https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/libst • another faculty among others Faculty of Public Health https://uclouvain.be/en/faculties/fsp with its research institute Institute of Health and Society https://uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irss <p>Link with University Hospital Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc https://www.saintluc.be/</p>	https://uclouvain.be/en/research
UGent	<p>one of the 5 universities in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium among others research at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences https://www.ugent.be/ge/en • CEVAC see https://www.uzgent.be/centrum-voor-vaccinologie <p>Link with Universitair Ziekenhuis Gent- UZ Gent https://www.uzgent.be/</p>	https://www.ugent.be/en/research
Uliège	<p>one of the 5 universities in the French speaking part of Belgium research at among others :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health, Epidemiology and Health Economics (URSAPES) https://www.facmed.uliege.be/cms/c_8740245/en/facmed-public-health-epidemiology-and-health-economics-ursapes • Department of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine • GIGA - interdisciplinary research institute in the biomedical sciences https://www.giga.uliege.be/cms/c_4334872/en/giga-le-giga with GIGA Viral Vectors Platform and BSL3 lab https://www.gigaviralvectors.uliege.be/cms/c_4215539/en/gigaviral <p>Link with CHU de Liège (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Liège) https://www.chuliege.be/</p>	https://www.recherche.uliege.be/cms/c_9307308/en/research-domains
UMons	<p>one of the 5 universities in the French speaking part of Belgium research at among others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UMONS Research Institute for Biosciences (IBS) https://web.umons.ac.be/biosciences/en/ -UMONS Research Institute for Health Sciences and Technology https://web.umons.ac.be/sante/en/ 	https://web.umons.ac.be/en/missions/research/
UNamur	<p>one of the 5 universities in the French speaking part of Belgium research at among others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Namur Research Pole in Infectiology (NaRePI) — NARILIS (Namur Research Institute for Life Sciences, partnership between the UNamur and the CHU UCL Namur) 	https://www.unamur.be/en/research
Université Libre de Bruxelles	<p>one of the 5 universities in the French speaking part of Belgium research at among others :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • École de Santé Publique Public health School https://esp.ulb.be/fr/l-ecole/presentation • Laboratoire d'Épidémiologie Spatiale - Spatial Epidemiology Lab, École de Bioingénierie de Bruxelles, Faculté des Sciences https://spell.ulb.be/ <p>Link with Cliniques universitaires de Bruxelles - Hôpital Erasme https://www.erasme.be/en</p>	https://www.ulb.be/en/ulb-homepage

Universiteit Hasselt	<p>one of the 5 universities in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium among others research at :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomedical Research Institute (BIOMED) see https://www.uhasselt.be/en/instituten-en/biomed-en • The Data Science Institute (DSI) see https://www.uhasselt.be/en/instituten-en/dsi • Immunology & Infection see https://www.uhasselt.be/en/research/research-organisation/detail?id=12766 • The Centre for Statistics (CenStat) within the Faculty of Science https://www.uhasselt.be/censtat • Limburg Clinical Research Centre (LCRC) is a unique collaboration between Hasselt University, Jessa Hospital and the Ziekenhuis Oost-Limburg (ZOL) see https://www.uhasselt.be/en/instituten-en/limburg-clinical-research-center 	https://www.uhasselt.be/en/research
Vaccinopolis	Innovative vaccine research centre	https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/centre-for-evaluation-vaccination/vaccinopolis/
Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB)	VIB performs research in life sciences with an eye on technology transfer. Within the context of the Grand challenges program, a dedicated COVID-19 call was launched during the COVID-19 crisis, which resulted in co-funding of 3 COVID-specific projects (Contagious, SARPAC, COV-AID). Unique to VIB's approach, researchers are integrated into existing departments across six Flemish universities and research centre IMEC fostering collaboration and innovation. Researchers at VIB-UGent showed that llama antibodies can protect against COVID-19 in the lab. To further develop these antibodies into a drug, the start-up Exevir Bio was founded.	https://vib.be/en
Virusbank Platform	A research organisation fully equipped to perform all of research on viruses of high epidemic or pandemic concern. The proposed platform combines and centralises relevant dedicated viral expertise with a highly-secured research infrastructure	https://virusbankplatform.be/
VIVALIS	The regional actor in Brussels-Capital region responsible for Welfare and Health prevention and promotion	https://www.vivalis.brussels/fr
VUB - Vrije Universiteit Brussel	<p>one of the 5 universities in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium among others research at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brussels Center for Immunology (BCIM) see https://bcim.research.vub.be/ <p>Link with Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel – UZBrussel https://www.uzbrussel.be/web/international</p>	http://www.vub.ac.be/en/

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BE READY is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-06 "Building a European partnership for pandemic preparedness" under grant agreement 101057795. Starting date: 01.06.2022. | End Date 31.05.2025

BE READY PLUS is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-17 "Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining and enhancing the preparatory work for a co-funded European partnership for pandemic" under grant agreement 101195079. Starting date: 01.01.2025. | End Date 31.12.2025

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