

# 58th ESSC Plenary meeting

2 October 2019

**F.R.S.-FNRS**

**Nadège Ricaud**

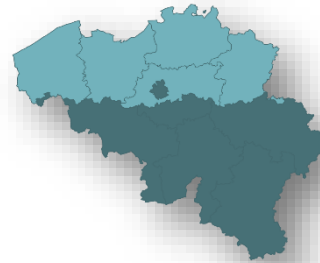
**Senior Policy Officer**



# 1. HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (1)

## Wallonia-Brussels (W-B) (French-speaking Community)

⇒ ~4.5 millions population



⇒ **6 research-based universities** (PhD training); basic and applied research



**LIÈGE**  
université

**UMONS**  
Université de Mons



⇒ 1 funding agency for **basic and strategic research**:  
**F.R.S.-FNRS**

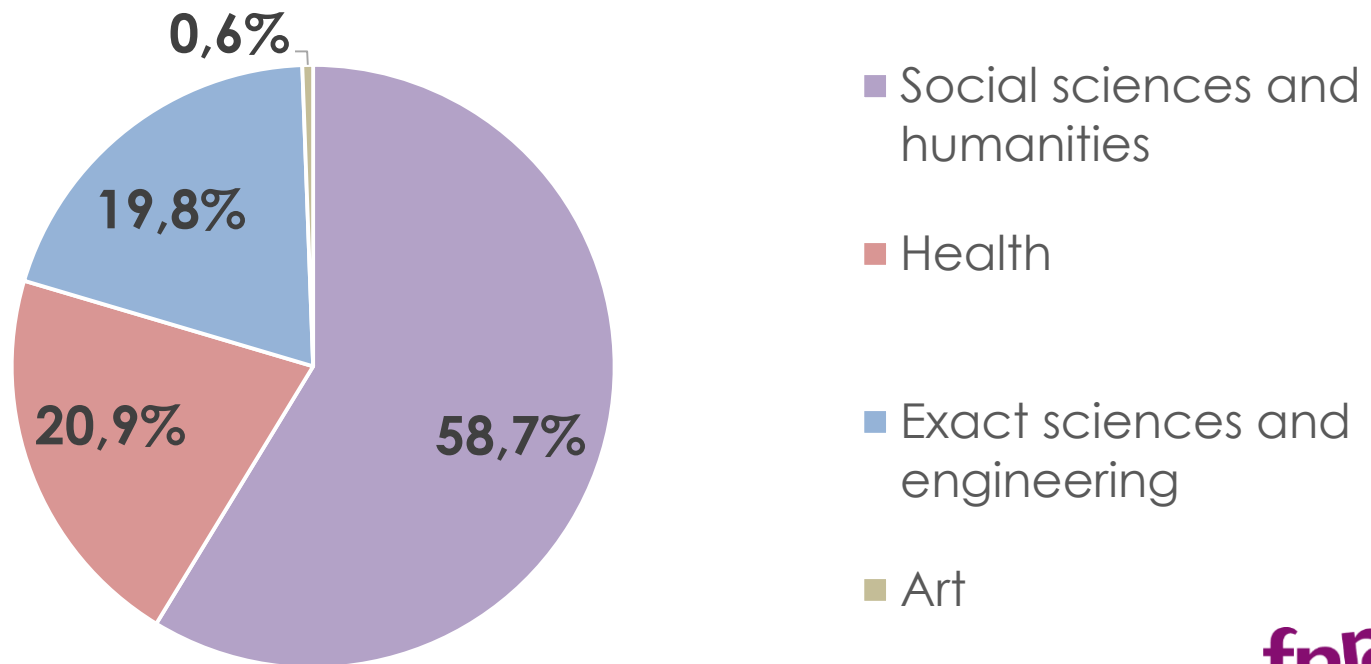


# 1. HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (2)

## KEY DATA UNIVERSITIES W-B (data 2016-2017)

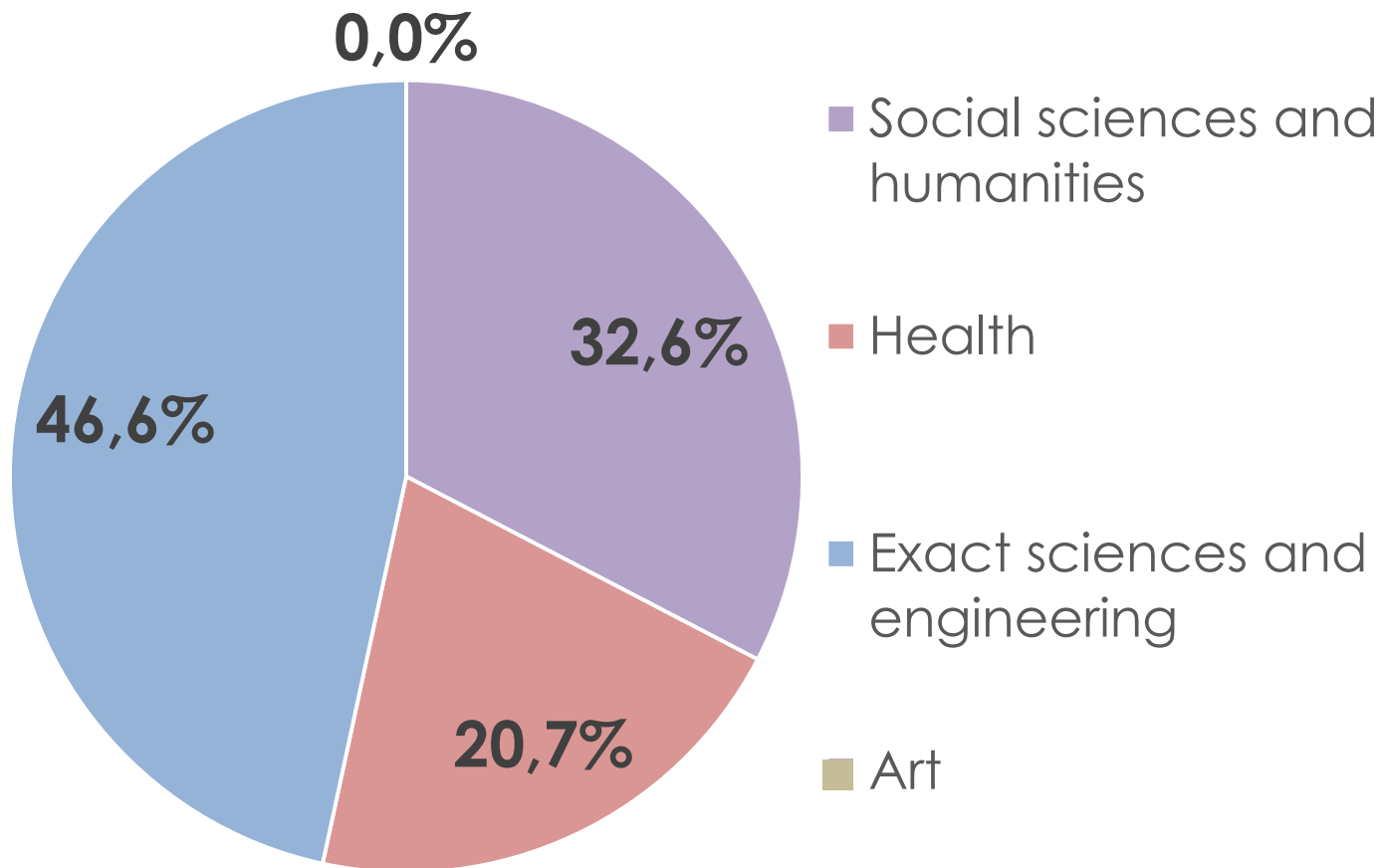
⇒ ~ 90.000 **students** (BA-MA)

⇒ ~ 11.600 new **Master graduates**



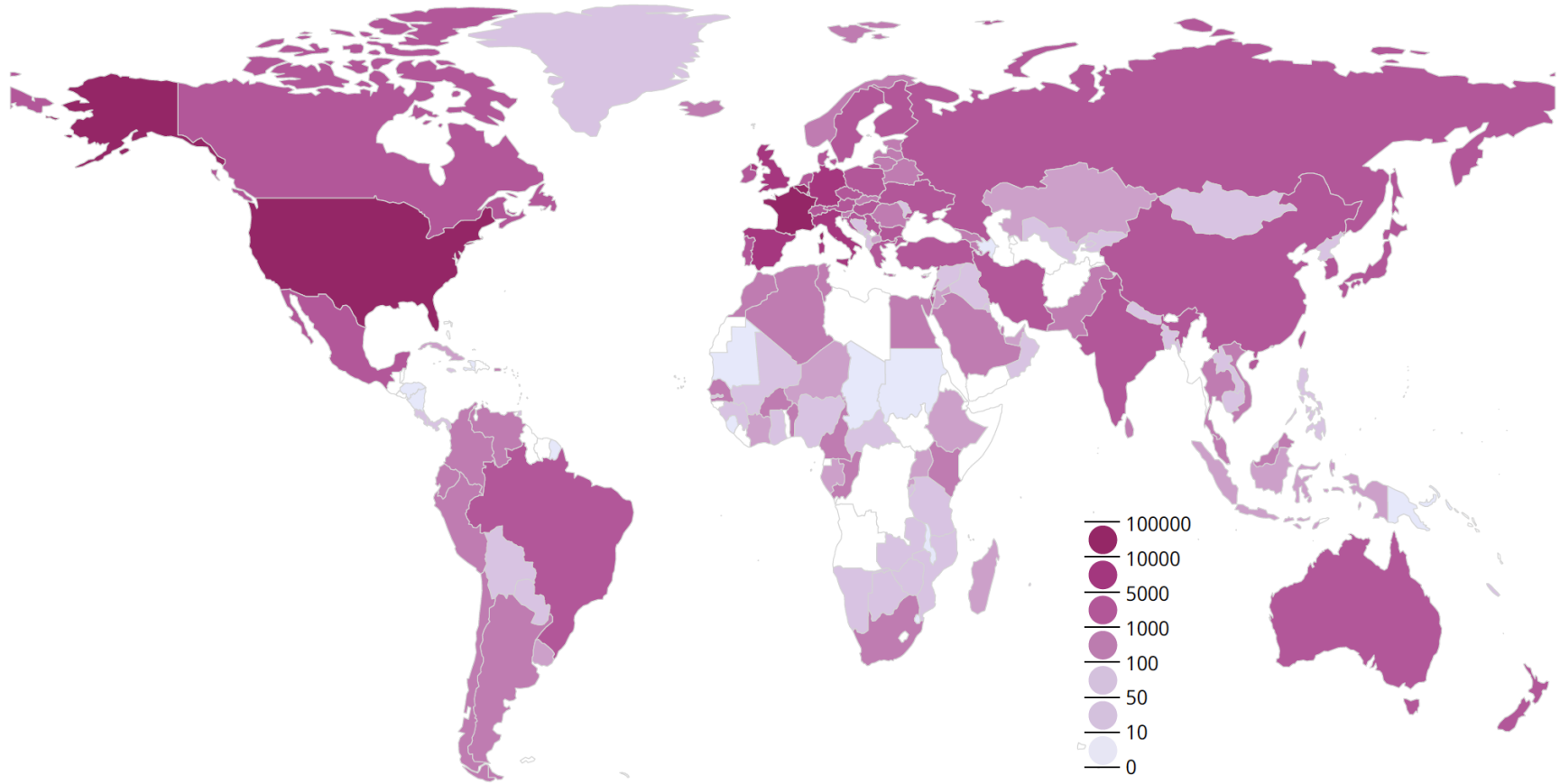
# 1. HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (3)

⇒ ~ 900 **PhD** graduated/year



## 2. Research in Wallonia-Brussels – Key indicators

**64% of international co-authorship in Wallonia-Brussels publications**

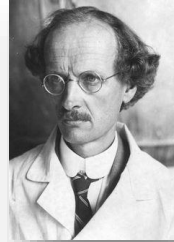


Average rate of citations/publication in the European top 5

# 3. SOME FNRS MILESTONES SINCE 1927



King Albert 1<sup>er</sup>  
1927



1931  
Upper atmosphere flight



2013  
Nobel Prize  
Physics



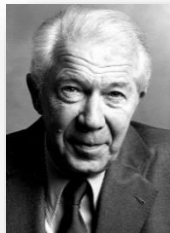
32 GRANTS

1928

Birth of the  
FNRS



1977  
Nobel Prize  
Chemistry



1974  
Nobel Prize  
Medicine & Physiology



2017  
Balzan Prize  
exoplanets

2019



## 4. F.R.S-FNRS : Facts and Figures 2 018

**200 millions €**

**90 % public funding**

**All fields of science**

**2.300 researchers at  
different stages of their  
career, hosted in the  
universities**

**Basic research (excellence)**

**Strategic research (excellence  
and industrial/societal impact)**

**Quality of evaluation  
procedures**

**Funding of international  
mobility, equipments,  
collaboratives projects, ...**

# 5. F.R.S-FNRS : Evaluation procedure (1)

## STEP 1: Submission and external evaluation

Application

English preferred



@SEMAPHORE

<https://applications.frs-fnrs.be/register/>

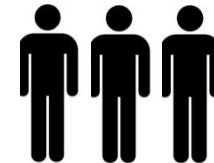
Peer review



Scientific officer



D@t@base



External reviewers



Criteria 1: the applicant (CV, track record, mobility, ...)

A+ to C

Criteria 2: the Project

A+ to C

Criteria 3: the proposed research environment

A+ to C



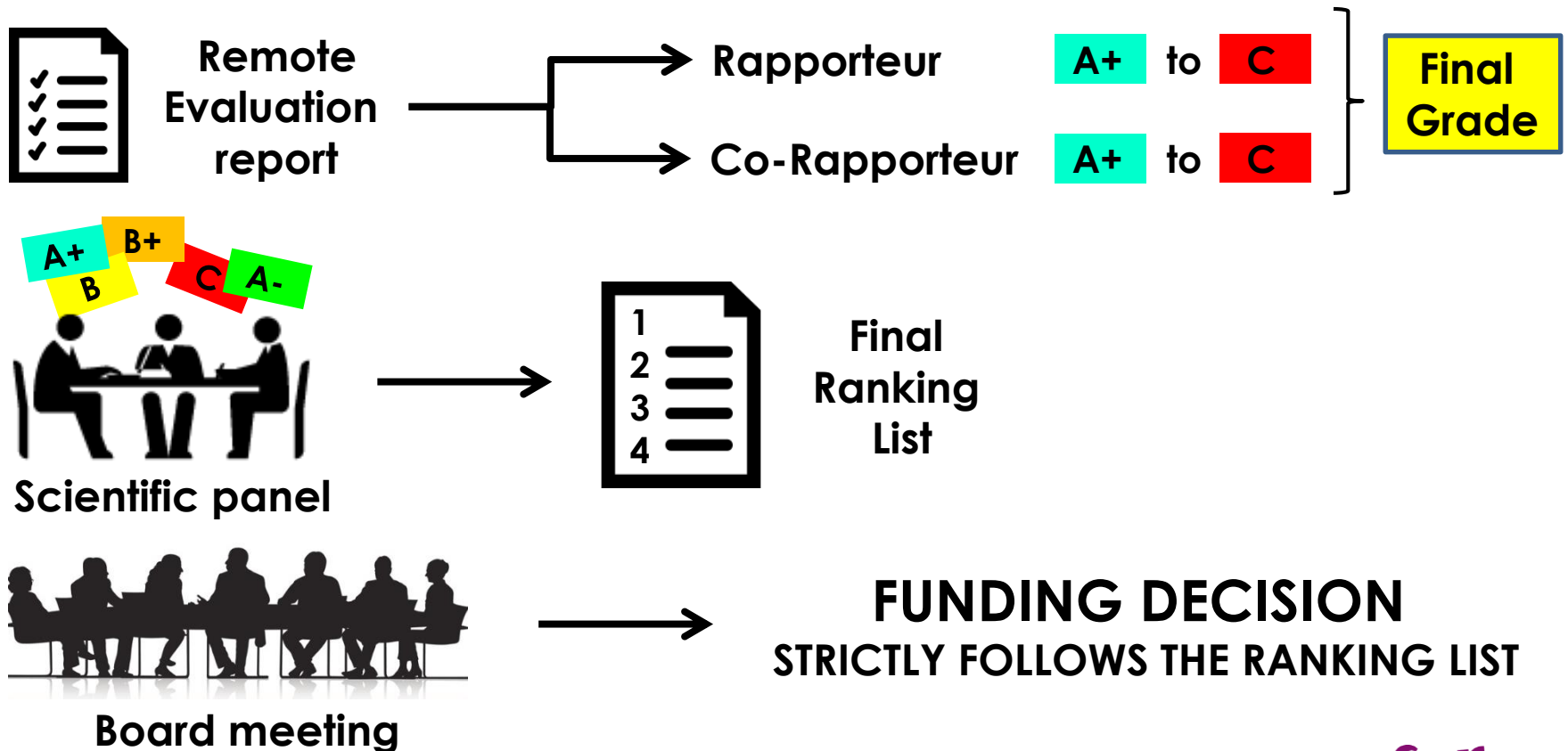
Remote Evaluation report





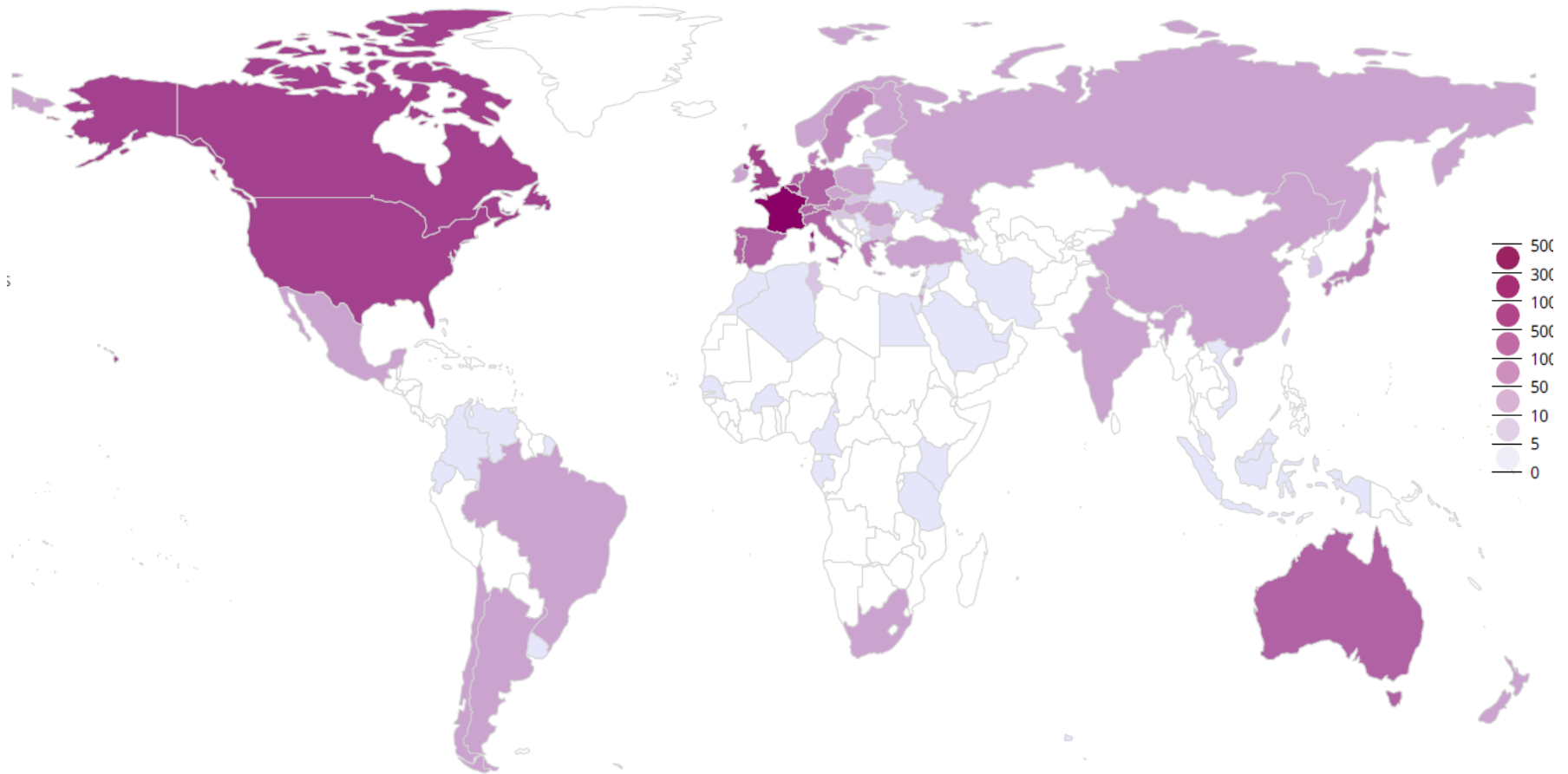
# 5. F.R.S-FNRS : Evaluation procedure (2)

## STEP 2: Panel meeting and Projects Ranking



## 5. F.R.S.-FNRS: Evaluation procedure (3)

FNRS growing database of ~**12.000** international experts



~ 4.500 remote evaluations per year

## 6. F.R.S.-FNRS: international activities

“Our data add to a growing body of work about the changing science system, indicating that **science policymakers who seek to enhance impact should prioritize international exchange**” (Nature 550, 32-33 – Oct 2017)

**nature**  
REVIEWS

### Mobility Bilateral Agreements

Japan; China; Brasil; Argentina; South Africa; Czech Republic, Poland  
France

### In & Out Mobility

#### ERA-Net and JPI's

37 participations

#### Projects Bilateral Agreements

Quebec/Switzerland/Luxembourg

#### Supports/partnerships

CERN; Science Europe; CECAM; OECD GSF; ESSC;...

**fnrs**  
FREEDOM TO RESEARCH

## 7. F.R.S.-FNRS and Space domain

- Based on descriptor **Physics and Engineering, PE9 : Universe Sciences** → Astro-physics/chemistry/biology; solar system; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy, planetary systems, cosmology, space science, instrumentation
- Period of time: **2014-2018**
- **337 applications** to F.R.S.-FNRS instruments (2,9% of total)
- **3,1% of total funding**
- 4,7% of total budget for project funding
- **74 mandates** (35 PhD students ; 19 post-doc positions ; 6 new permanent researchers ; 13 promoted permanent researchers, 1 incentive grant for mobility)
- **5,6% of permanent researchers** (22/393, January 2019)

## 8. F.R.S.-FNRS and ESSC domains : success stories

- **Astronomy and fundamental physics**

**Michaël Gillon** (ULiège), Exoplanets, Balzan Prize 2017

**Yaël Nazé** (ULiège), Jean-Perrin Prize 2017, Fr. Society of Physics

- **Solar system and exploration**

**EOS project : ET-Home - Evolution and Tracers of the Habitability Of Mars and Earth**

**Vinciane Debaille** (ULB), coordinator

**Emmanuelle Javaux** (ULiège), partner

**Véronique Dehant** (UCLouvain), partner

- **Earth science**

**Eric Lambin** (UCLouvain), 2009 Francqui Prize,

2014 Volvo Environment Prize, 2019 Blue Planet Prize

***Thanks for your attention!***

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