

PEARL

EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME FOR
RESEARCH IN LUXEMBOURG
MULTI-ANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME



Fonds National de la
Recherche Luxembourg

INVESTIGATING FUTURE CHALLENGES





PEARL

Luxembourg's Research Programme for Internationally Recognised Senior Researchers



ATTRACT

Luxembourg's Research Programme for Outstanding Young Researchers from All Over the World



INTER

Promotion of International Cooperation



AFR

Grant Scheme (Aides à la Formation-Recherche) Luxembourg's Grant and Postdocs



AM

Luxembourg's Accompanying Measures for the Support and Promotion of Research-Related Activities



CORE

Research Programme in Research to Meet Socio-Economic Challenges Luxembourg's Future



FNR - OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, POLICY

Since the year 1999, the National Research Fund (Fonds National de la Recherche, FNR) has fostered the creation of a pool of knowledge and expertise in Luxembourg. With its current funding activities for public research – **CORE, ATTRACT, PEARL, INTER, AFR** and **AM** – the FNR pursues its strategic objectives, such as

- **supporting researchers to build up scientific quality and excellence;**
- **improving Luxembourg's research environment and institutional framework;**
- **promoting scientific culture among a greater public and the young.**

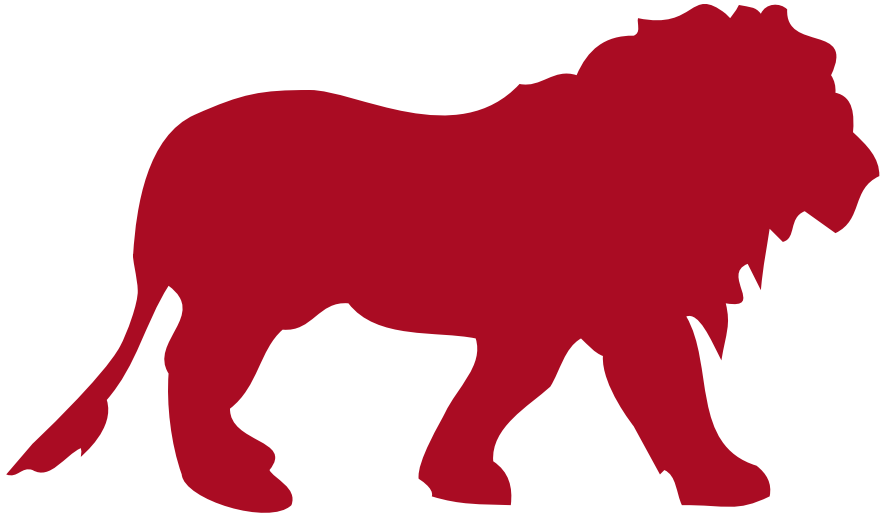
The FNR will continue its efforts to support research at the very highest standards of international R&D in order to achieve critical mass in certain fields of public research. Within all its activities, the FNR encourages research projects with a direct link to Luxembourg's socio-economic challenges and welcomes private-public partnerships of Luxembourg's key players in R&D.

The FNR launches regular calls for its funding programmes. The selection process follows strict rules and is based on peer review of the proposals. For further information, application deadlines and guidelines of each funding programme, go to www.fnr.lu or e-mail to info@fnr.lu



PEARL

RESEARCH = FLEXIBILITY + SYNERGIES
SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT





PEARL - WHAT'S BEHIND IT? **05**
PEARL RESEARCH AREAS **06**
WHO IS ELIGIBLE? **07**
PEARL BUSINESS CASE **08**
SELECTION CRITERIA **09**
HOW TO APPLY FOR PEARL FUNDING? **10**
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION **11**
SUPPORTIVE MEASURES **12**
CONTACT **13**
USEFUL LINKS **14**



PEARL

RESEARCH = FLEXIBILITY + SYNERGIES
SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT



PEARL WHAT'S BEHIND IT?

Heightening Luxembourg's competitiveness as a considerable research location is crucial to the FNR's funding policy. With the **PEARL Excellence Programme for Research in Luxembourg**, the FNR offers Luxembourg institutions a flexible and highly competitive programme to attract established and internationally acknowledged senior researchers in strategically important areas. The recruitment of excellent **PEARL** grantees contributes to the quality of Luxembourg's research environment through the creation of a kernel for building critical mass.

PEARL funding will be applicable to exceptional research initiatives, the so-called **PEARL Business Cases**, with or without a specific candidate for the leading role in the project. The public research institution thus can use **PEARL** funding as a proactive means to shape and frame a visionary and highly inventive research setting that will have a pull effect on the overall scientific quality within a specific field.

With **PEARL** the FNR completes its funding schemes by offering public research institutions substantial additional funds to compete internationally for distinguished actors in R&D. The FNR foresees to grant up to two **PEARL candidates** per year.



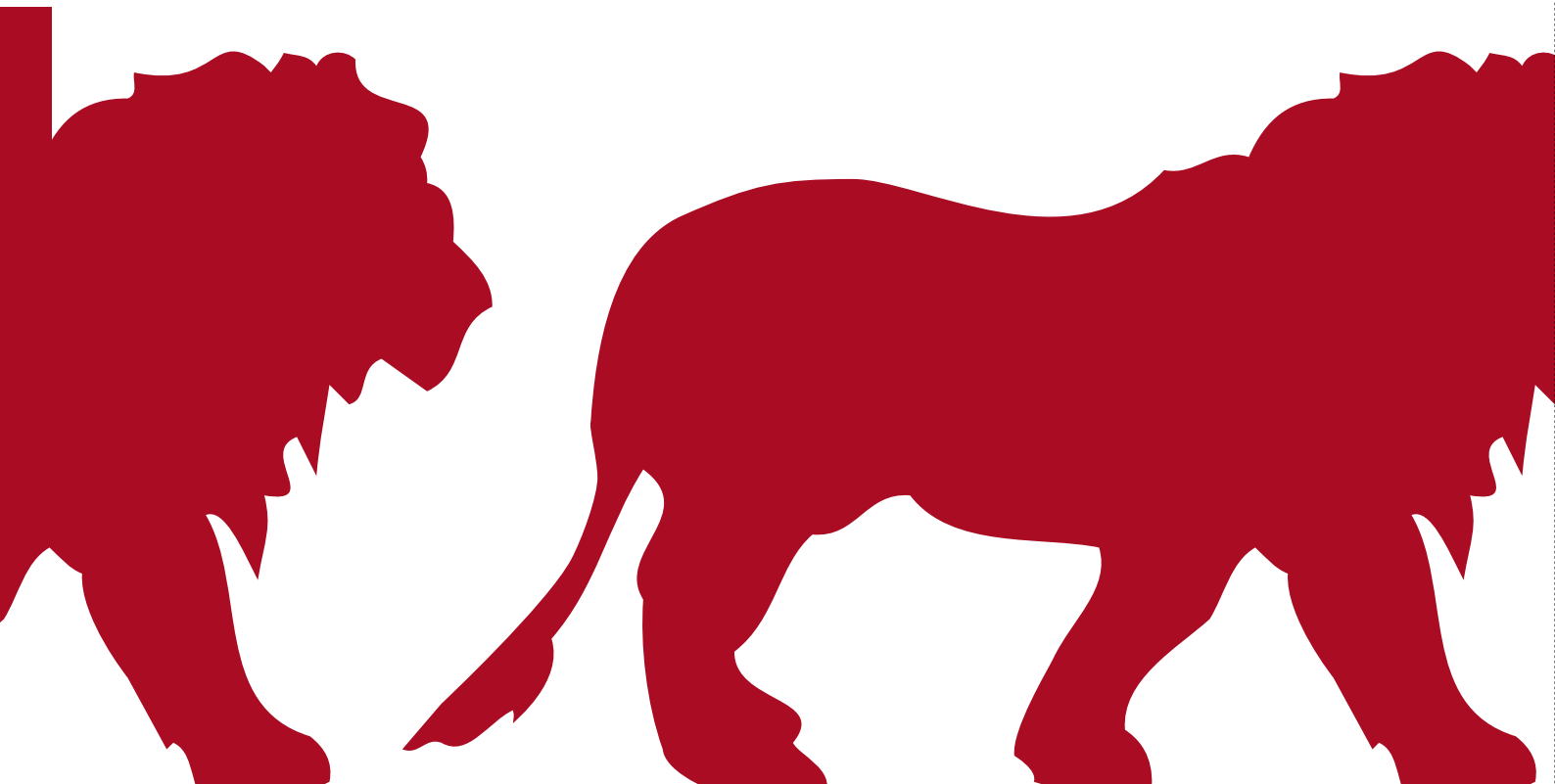
PEARL

RESEARCH = FLEXIBILITY + SYNERGIES
SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT



PEARL RESEARCH AREAS

The **PEARL** programme is not formally restricted to specific research fields. However, scope and themes are naturally limited to research domains covered by the research institutions in Luxembourg and should align with the national R&D strategy.





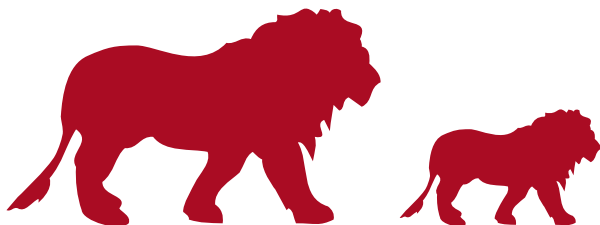
WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The **PEARL** funding programme is directed at public research institutions in Luxembourg in order to facilitate attracting outstanding research professionals not yet established in the Grand-Duchy.

The public research institution proposes a **PEARL Business Case** (BC) for a research position of strategic importance for both the institute and the research domain. At this stage of submission, the institutions may or may not already have a candidate for the leading role in the project.

If the candidate for the leading role in the **PEARL Business Case** is known, he or she must not have his or her main research base in Luxembourg at the time of submission of the application. His or her research activities should integrate into the programme of the institution. The candidates should be leaders in the field, innovative, creative and possess an outstanding track record that will strengthen Luxembourg's position in the international world of R&D.

If a **PEARL Business Case** without a candidate is granted, the institution may recruit an appropriate candidate in a transparent procedure in which the position is openly advertised. Again, only researchers who do not have their main research base in Luxembourg at the time of recruitment can be considered as candidates.



PEARL

RESEARCH = FLEXIBILITY + SYNERGIES
SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT



PEARL BUSINESS CASE

With a **PEARL Business Case** (BC), the institute formulates its ambition to develop a key strategic research direction and outlines a vision in the respective research domain. The description of the BC should provide essential information concerning the context and environment of the research position, the competitive international environment and the strategy of the institution.

If the candidate for the leading role in the BC is known, his or her scientific profile, motivation and research programme should be described. If the candidate is not known, a description of the key strategic position, including the research orientation is necessary. Furthermore, the BC should mention the means put at disposal and the expected added value for both the institution and the research environment. The proposal should close with an outlook on the mid-term development for the research initiative.

A detailed explanation of the expected information is available in the **PEARL Programme Description** on www.fnr.lu



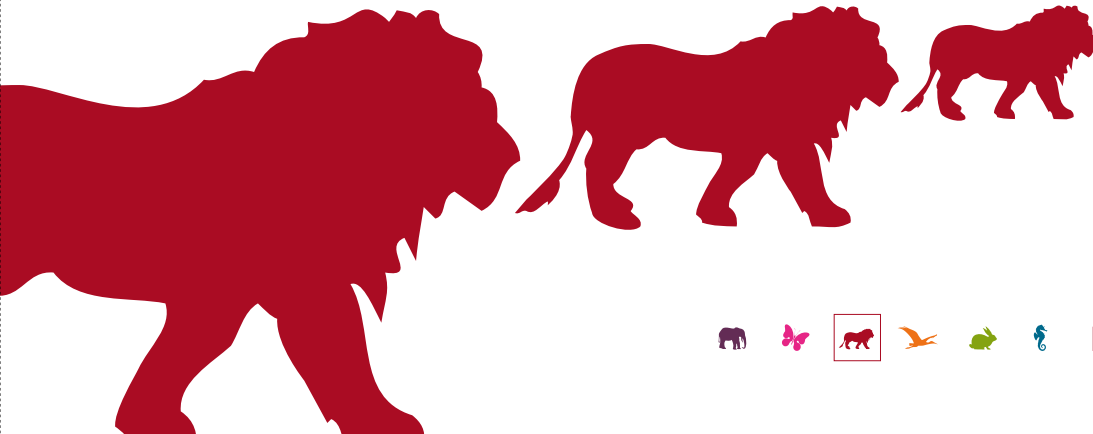
SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects must meet the **PEARL Business Case** selection criteria. The creative BC of outstanding scientific quality will be evaluated considering the following key criteria:

1. **Value of strategic development**
2. **Scientific quality and innovativeness**
3. **Feasibility**
4. **Expected outcomes**
5. *In case the application is with a candidate:* **Excellence of the researcher**
6. *In case the application is without a candidate:*
Attractiveness of the BC to potential candidates

The BC will be evaluated in two stages. For detailed information on the evaluation procedure, please refer to the **PEARL Programme Description** available on www.fnr.lu

The proposed projects should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those that are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.





HOW TO APPLY FOR PEARL FUNDING?

PEARL Business Cases may be submitted all year long.

The **PEARL Business Case** has to be submitted by the highest responsible of the research institution. The institutions are encouraged to contact the FNR Secretariat as early as possible if they intend to put together a proposal. Proposals may be submitted in English only.

Further details on how to apply can be found in the **PEARL Application Guidelines** available on www.fnr.lu

It is strongly recommended to contact the FNR or the host institutions as soon as possible and to sufficiently explore in advance the conditions for implementation of the project in Luxembourg (including working conditions and possible regulatory obligations).

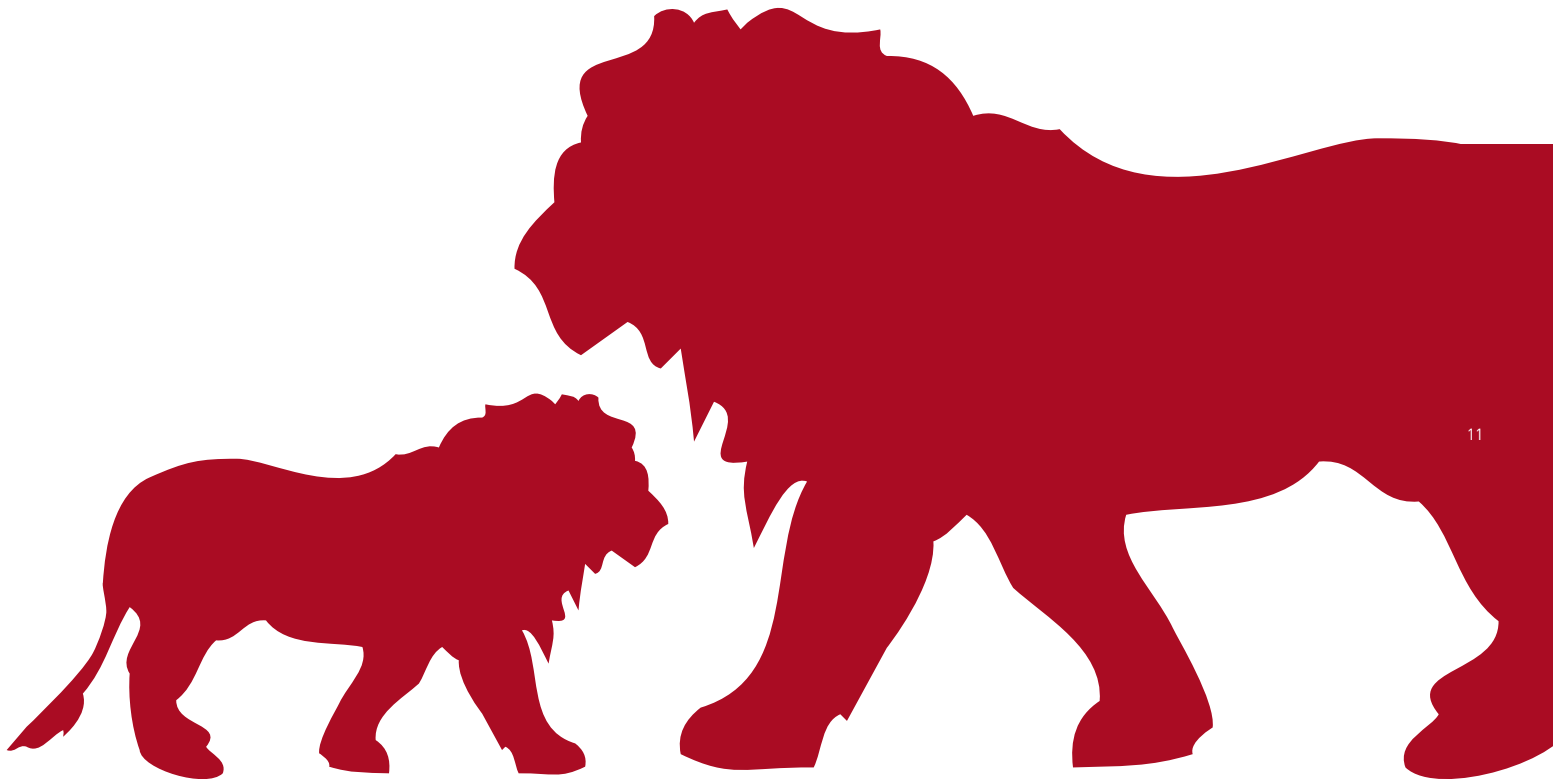
The **Euraxess Services Centre Luxembourg (www.euraxess.lu)** helps **PEARL** candidates (and their families) who are planning to come to Luxembourg with all matters related to transnational mobility such as visa applications and entry conditions for candidates from third countries, information on accommodation and many more.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Projects selected under the **PEARL** programme have a lifespan of five years with a financial contribution by the FNR between EUR 3-5 million.

Eligible costs are defined in the **PEARL** *Application Guidelines* available on www.fnr.lu



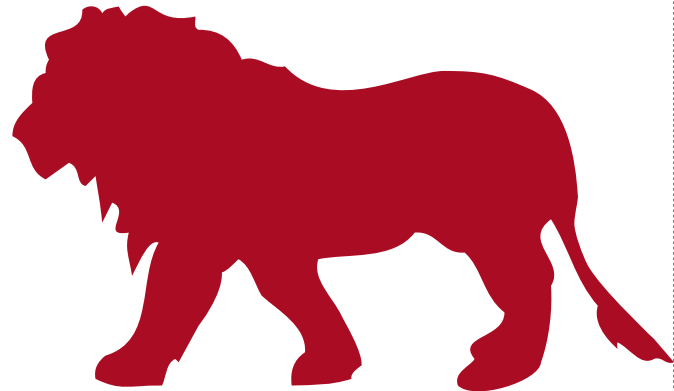


SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Relocation expenses for the candidate's family and team members may be covered by the FNR contribution in order to help grantees (and their families) and team members (and their families) settle in Luxembourg.

The host institutions will decide individually on other supportive measures, such as

- School fees for the candidate's children
- Retirement scheme
- Job seeker service for the partner
- Language training for team members





CONTACT

For further information, please go to www.fnr.lu or contact

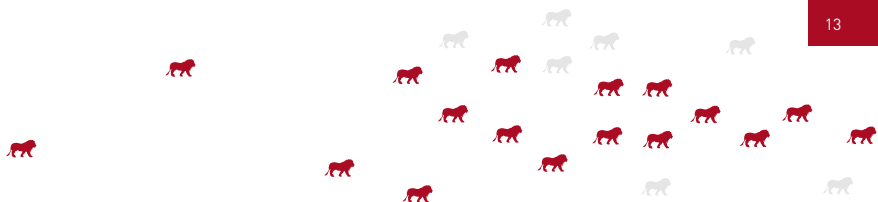
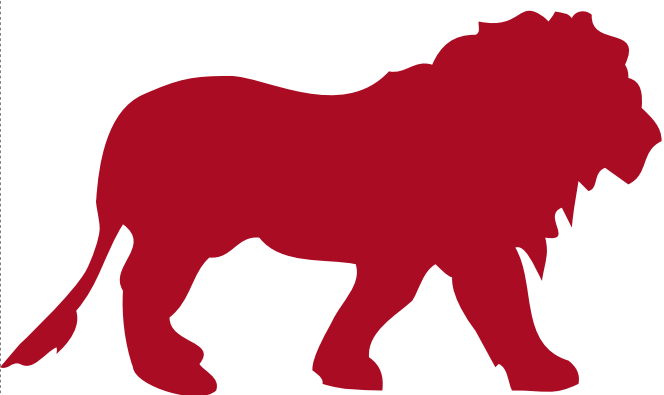
Frank Glod, PhD

Programme Manager

T +352 26 19 25-33

F +352 26 19 25-35

E frank.glod@fnr.lu





USEFUL LINKS

LUXEMBOURG

www.fnr.lu	National Research Fund Luxembourg
www.afr.lu	AFR Grant Scheme/Aides à la Formation-Recherche
www.innovation.public.lu	Portail luxembourgeois de l'innovation et de la recherche
www.recherche.lu	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR)
www.euraxess.lu	EURAXESS Services Centre Luxembourg
www.luxinnovation.lu	Luxinnovation
www.uni.lu	University of Luxembourg
www.crp-sante.lu	Centre de Recherche Public – Santé (CRP-Santé)
www.lippmann.lu	Centre de Recherche Public – Gabriel Lippmann (CRP-GL)
www.tudor.lu	Centre de Recherche Public – Henri Tudor (CRP-HT)
www.ceps.lu	Centre d'Études de Population, de Pauvreté et de Politiques socio-économiques (CEPS/INSTEAD)
www.ibbl.lu	Integrated Biobank of Luxembourg
www.lns.lu	Laboratoire National de Santé (LNS)
www.mnhn.lu	Musée national d'histoire naturelle
www.mnha.lu	Musée national d'histoire et d'art
www.cherchonschercheurs.lu	Researchers Wanted! All about Research for Young People
www.proscience.lu	Groupement luxembourgeois pour la promotion de la culture scientifique

non-exhaustive selection



INTERNATIONAL

www.cc.europa.eu/euraxess	Euraxess - Researchers in Motion
www.cordis.europa.eu	Community Research & Development Information Service (CORDIS)
www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc	Joint Research Centre (JRC)
www.euroscience.org	European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology
www.cost.esf.org	European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
www.ercim.org	European Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM)
www.esf.org	European Science Foundation (ESF)
www.esa.int	European Space Agency (ESA)
www.embl-heidelberg.de	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
www.embo.org	European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)
www.eurohorcs.org	European Union Research Organisations Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCS)
www.icsu.org	International Council for Science

non-exhaustive selection



PEARL

RESEARCH = FLEXIBILITY + SYNERGIES
SEE WHAT'S BEHIND IT



EDITORIAL

The FNR is constantly reviewing and monitoring its programmes and wants to stay flexible and strong in its reactions to possible demands and critical remarks. The FNR Annual Report, available on www.fnr.lu, offers detailed information on all FNR activities and funded projects. Information about ongoing calls and deadlines is also available on www.fnr.lu. More details concerning the FNR Foresight Exercise are provided on www.fnrforesight.lu.

Further brochures about the FNR and its funding programmes are available upon request or on www.fnr.lu.

Fonds National de la Recherche

6, rue Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
B.P. 1777
L-1017 Luxembourg
T +352 26 19 25-1
F +352 26 19 25-35

For further information, please visit our website www.fnr.lu or send an e-mail to info@fnr.lu

PRESS CONTACTS

Michèle Jentges-Glesener Communication Manager

Contact for Corporate Communications and Public Relations

michele.jentges@fnr.lu

T +352 26 19 25-43

F +352 26 19 25-35

Anne Schroeder-Van den Bulcke

Communication Manager

Contact for Promotion of Scientific Culture, General Public and Media Projects, ProScience

anne.schroeder@fnr.lu

T +352 26 19 25-47

F +352 26 19 25-35

Author: www.writeandread.lu

Layout: www.lola.lu

Print: www.faber.lu

© Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg / Status December 2009





CORE

research = excellence + priority



ATTRACT

research = opportunity + challenge



PEARL

research = flexibility + synergies



INTER

research = mobility + collaboration



AFR

research = training + perspective



AM

research = support + promotion



PSC

research = communication + promotion

www.fnr.lu