The FNR’s International Relations policy aligns with its mission to set up a sustainable world-class research system in Luxembourg and to increase its international visibility and recognition. A first pillar comprises funding possibilities for excellent joint research projects encouraging Luxembourg-based researchers to connect with their best peers abroad. An international competition enables for benchmarking with the most successful research consortia/teams. Furthermore, the collaboration allows for a transfer of knowledge between the involved groups. The latter is further fostered by funding of researchers’ mobility as well as by the FNR’s efforts in attracting established and recognised researchers to Luxembourg. The second pillar is FNR’s active participation in several international associations, for defining international quality standards in research funding as well as best practices in research. By implementing those in Luxembourg, FNR builds-up trust among the worldwide research community and has become a valued partner among its peer institutions.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The FNR maintains an increasing number of collaboration agreements that secure funding of all research partners after a single evaluation of the joint research proposal.

FNR Bilateral

Currently, the FNR has 18 bilateral collaboration agreements with 13 countries worldwide.

FNR Multilateral

The FNR is partner in more than 12 international research networks offering multilateral research opportunities with over 35 countries for researchers based in Luxembourg.

Key Figures

1166 researchers (private sector) 1968 researchers (public sector) in Luxembourg 80% of scientists are non-Luxembourgers (state 2016) 80% of research publications are co-authored with scientists abroad (2009 – 2015)
The effects of the quality standards set by international associations are not confined to the research system alone, but extend deep into society. Like its peer agencies, the FNR is fostering research with impact and is encouraging researchers to exchange with potential stakeholders (e.g., companies, citizens, ministries, politicians) and share their knowledge and findings for the benefit of society.

International networking among peer organisations is important to raise visibility for the country’s research system, but also to share experiences, develop, improve and align procedures, and by thus build up mutual trust among the partners.

The FNR is an active member of several international associations, bringing together research funding organisations (RFO) and research performing organisations (RPO) with the ultimate goal of joining forces to help shaping the future of (European) research. As a valued partner, the FNR is strongly involved in exchanging on and defining the best practices in research and quality standards in research funding.

Examples of quality standards set by international associations & important topics currently discussed

**Examples of international projects (2014 – 2018)**
- **Lead Agency Procedure**: 89.48 mio €, representing 28.67% of total FNR budget (2014 – 2018)
- **Cross-Border Collaboration**: 312 mio €, committed by FNR (2014 – 2018)
- **Merit Review**: 279 international projects (2014 – 2018), representing 24.22% of all the FNR funded projects (2014 – 2018)

Infographic: Daniela Leitner