

**KU LEUVEN**



Nurturing & leveraging excellence  
*ERC (& MSCA) as a strategy*  
*Liège, 09.05.2017*

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Overview of the session

- Short intro
- Ambition
- Leverage
- Dynamic support
- Attractivity

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Introducing  
KU Leuven



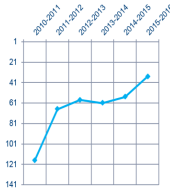

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Comprehensive university		
Human Health	Medical Technologies	Bio-sciences & Environment
Energy, Matter, Materials	Nature Unlimited	Manufacturing & ICT
Arts, Religion, Culture	Economy, Law, Society	Human Behaviour

2015/2016	# (% international)
Students	55,464 (16%)
Academic staff	1,946 (9%)
Research staff	6,138 (32%)
PhD degrees	798 (43%)

Global THE ranking

Total operating revenue 2016		1,006 M€
Research expenses 2016	466 M€	
Industry collaboration	23%	
International funds	9%	
FP7:	551 projects	264 M€
Horizon 2020:	>225 projects	>125 M€
License income 2016		118 M€

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[www.kuleuven.be/research](http://www.kuleuven.be/research)

## “Europe’s most innovative university”

1. KU Leuven
2. Imperial College
3. Cambridge
4. TU Munich
5. EPFL
6. Erlangen Nuremberg
7. UPMC – Paris 6
8. TU Delft
9. Zurich
10. Oxford



“Innovative universities”  
Reuters ranking, May 2017

**Parameters:**  
Patent volume & success  
Patent citations  
Collaborations with industry  
(publications, citations, share)

[www.reuters.com/innovative-universities-europe-2017](http://www.reuters.com/innovative-universities-europe-2017)

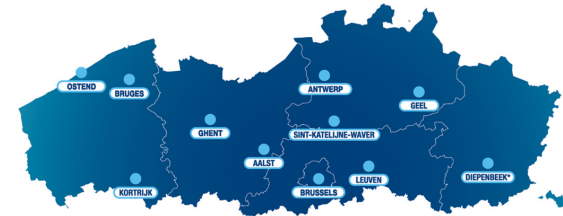
## Organisation

15 faculties, organised in 3 Groups

- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Science, Engineering and Technology
- Biomedical Sciences (incl. university hospitals)



Multi-campus university: 15 campuses in 11 cities in Flanders



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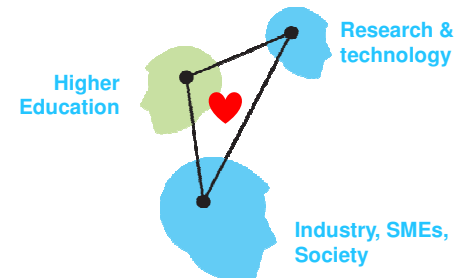
## Ambition



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## Generating impact in EU and society at large as higher education institution (HEI)

KU Leuven's aim: to be (at) the heart of the knowledge triangle



- Recruit the best scientists
- Perform the best science
- Educate the best scientists, students & entrepreneurs
- Create value & transfer knowledge
- Collaborate with society & industry

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## KU Leuven's ambition in EU R&I (embedding in our own strategy)

Performing  
excellent  
science



Training the  
best young  
researchers



Collaborating  
with end-users,  
creating value

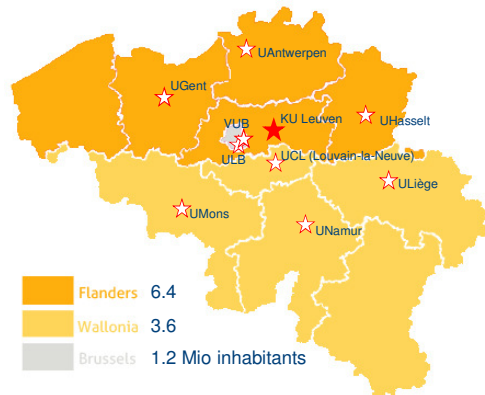


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## Leveraging excellence

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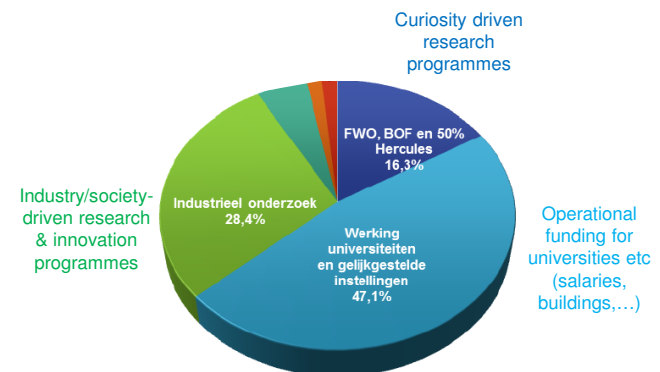
## Belgium: R&I policy = largely regionalised



Federal R&I: tax incentives + federal institutions

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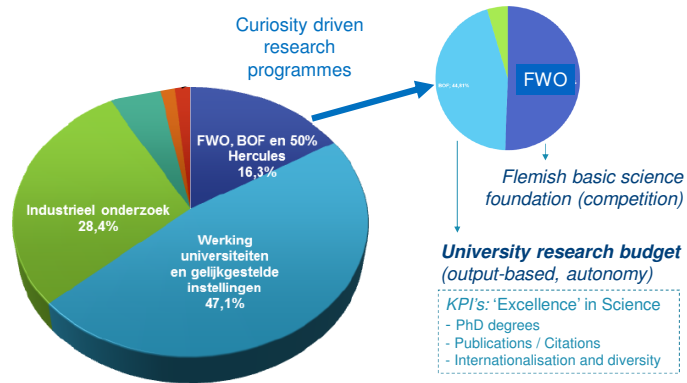
## R&I spending in Flanders (I)



Source: EWI speurgids (simplified)

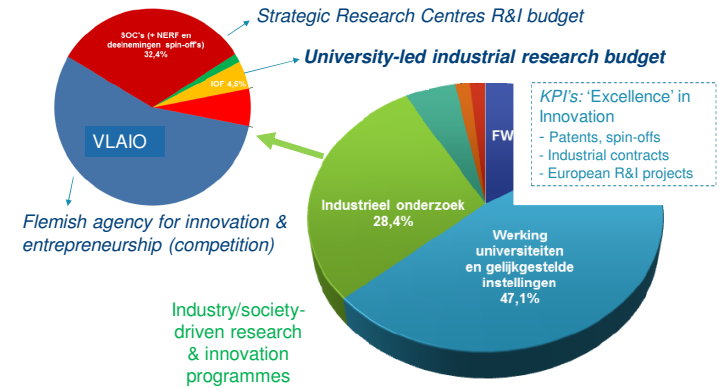
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## R&I spending in Flanders (II)



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## R&I spending in Flanders (III)



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## Internal research funds as leverage

KU Leuven research expenses in 2016: 466 M€

19% internal → leverage → 81% external

Bottom-up, no thematic allocation  
Competition, international peer-review

Categories of funding:

- C1: basic research
- C2: socio-econ impact on long-term
- C3: short-term socio-econ impact

+ Start grants for new academic staff

41% national

9% international (EU)

23% private sector

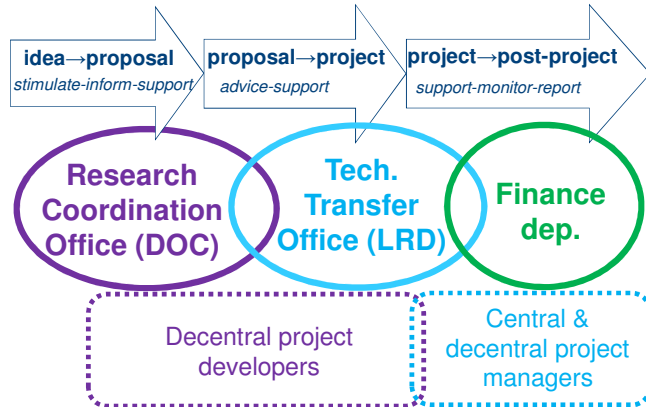
8% other

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Research support

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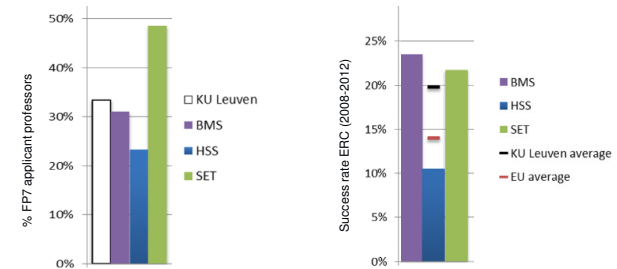
## EU research support team



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## Dynamic support – adapt or perish...

e.g. SSH: lower participation & success rate  $\Rightarrow$  optimise support



BMS: biomedical sciences; HSS: humanities & social sciences; SET: science, engineering & technology (KU Leuven Science Groups)

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## Communicate, also about impact !!

KU Leuven economic contribution (2014)

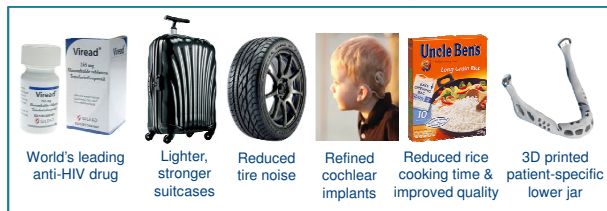
€6.2 billion  
GVA

59,335 jobs  
(9,407 direct)

Investments in 117 spin-offs

€25 million 'internal'  $\Rightarrow$   
€760 million external

KU Leuven innovation (examples)



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**CELSA**  
Central Europe Leuven Strategic Alliance

<http://celsalliance.eu>

- Charles University Prague
- Czech Technical University
- Eötvös Loránd University
- Semmelweis University
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- University of Ljubljana
- KU Leuven



CELSA Cooperation Agreement signed  
Prague, May 2016

### "CELSA Research Fund"

Aim: establish new or consolidate  
existing research collaborations within  
CELSA + leverage to EU funds (H2020)  
First call for proposals closes May 2017

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# Attracting excellent scientists

With EU programmes

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## Early stage researchers (training)



- 53 Marie S. Curie Innovative Training Networks (>2014)

### Requirements:

- Credible host (*research capacity, societal impact*)
- Training through research (*dedicated supervisors*)
- Complementary skills training (*doctoral schools*)
- Network-wide training } (*collaboration with non-academic partners*)
- Exposure to labour market }
- OTM-R, RRI,...

⇒ Training courses for applicants

⇒ Flemish funding for training & career development (OJO)

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## Experienced researchers (career)



- 40 Marie S. Curie Individual Fellowships (>2014)
- 29 Pegasus fellowships (Flemish MSCA COFUND)

### Requirements:

- Credible host (top in field, good for fellow's CV)
- Training through research (dedicated supervisors)
- Complementary skills training (postdoc career centre)
- OTM-R, RRI,...

⇒ Master class & travel grant for applicants and supervisors

⇒ Flemish funding for training & career development (OJO)

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## Top scientists (academic position)



- 99 ERC grantees working at KU Leuven so far (>2008)
- 37 Odysseus fellows (Flemish gov'tment brain gain scheme)

### Requirements:

- Credible host (quality, capacity, support structures,...)
- Academic position (enabling focus on research)
- Competitive 'surroundings' (incl. salary)

⇒ Offer for grantees with KU Leuven as host institution:

- Professor position (tenure track > tenured)
- Attractive salary (bonus system)

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# Questions?



More KU Leuven

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