

LUXEMBOURG

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research www.steps-ph.eu), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).

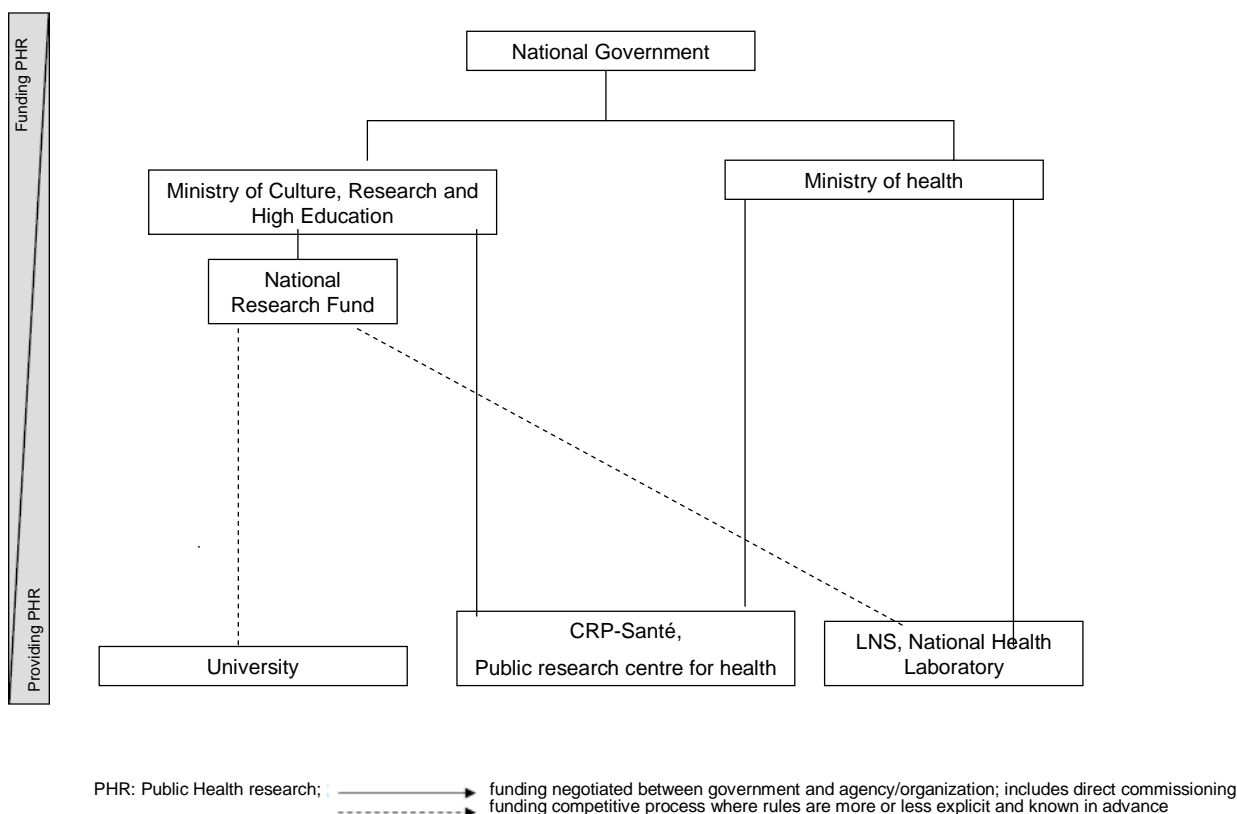


The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows.

The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

1. Organogram



2. Research Commissioners

2.1 Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health (<http://www.ms.public.lu/fr/index.html>) funds the National Health Laboratory and the Public research centre for health.

2.2. Ministry of Science

2.2.1. National Research Fund Luxembourg

With its current funding activities for research, the National Research Fund Luxembourg (Fonds National de la Recherche, <http://www.fnr.lu/>), pursues a three-fold strategic objective: supporting researchers to build up scientific quality and excellence; improving Luxembourg's research environment and institutional framework; promoting scientific culture, particularly among the young. The FNR funds thematic calls (see 4.1).

2.3. Other ministries

2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. The LNS, National Health Laboratory, (Laboratoire National de Santé, <http://www.lns.public.lu/index.html>) is an institution with functions of national laboratory of reference in some domains and with expert functions in public health matters. The activities performed are organized in several domains: cancer, infectious diseases, toxicology, medicines control, hereditary diseases, biological and environmental surveillance and food safety. The LNS collaborates with other public institutions to perform research in the area of medicines, microbiology, haematology and toxicology.

3.1.2. CRP-Santé, Public research centre for health, (Centre de Recherche Public de la Santé, <http://www.crp-sante.lu/>)'s mission is to generate knowledge on the pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of diseases with large impact on public health (i.e. clinically orientated biomedical research), and to perform epidemiological surveillance of these diseases and research on related health determinants in the population. As a consequence, CRP-Santé positions itself strategically at the interface of laboratory, clinical and public health research. CRP-Santé's research activities are developed within the following research departments: Virology, Allergology and Immunity; Immunology; Oncology; Cardiovascular diseases; Public Health; Clinical and epidemiological investigations. The role of the Department of Public Health (<http://www.crp-sante.lu/en/department/public-health>) is to develop research in Public Health in order to contribute to increasing the knowledge-base in this field. It is composed of the following units : Centre for Health Studies (Epidemiology and Public Health Unit, Health web portal Unit, Systems analysis and health service Unit); European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug addiction; European Medicines Agency; The laboratory of Emotional disorders; Sports Medicine Research Laboratory).

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.3. Universities

3.4. Health Services

3.5. Independent organizations

4. Research Strategies

In a small country like Luxembourg, research needs to focus on a limited number of priority domains in which critical mass may be reached. At the beginning of 2006 the National Research Fund (FNR) conducted the Foresight study, aimed at identifying which research domains should be prioritised both short and long term within the public sector that were of socio-economic interest to Luxembourg society. From the results of the Foresight exercise the extensive new FNR programme 'CORE' was implemented (see below, 5.1.2.) whose prime objective is to foster scientific quality in the identified priority areas (see also below, 5.1.2).

(Adapted from <http://www.euraxess.lu/eng/R-D-in-Luxembourg/Policy-and-strategy>, assessed in August 2011)

5. Programmes and calls

5.1. The National Research Fund Luxembourg has annual and regular calls for several research programmes:

5.1.1. ATTRACT Programme - Opportunities for Outstanding Young Researchers in Luxembourg. The programme is designed for researchers not yet established in Luxembourg; it offers them the opportunity to set up an independent research team within a public-sector research institution in Luxembourg that is willing to host them. Research proposals should be submitted jointly by the candidate and the host institution. Projects selected under the ATTRACT programme have a lifespan of five years and the financial contribution by the FNR will be up to EUR 1,500,000. Duration: 2006-2012; Total Budget: EUR 6,000,000

(Adapted from: <http://www.fnr.lu/en/Grants-Activities/Research-Programmes/ATTRACT-Programme>, assessed in March 2010)

5.1.2. CORE Programme - Thematic Programme. The FNR implemented a single framework programme in 2008, the so-called CORE Thematic Programme. The FNR has processed two CORE calls so far (2008 and 2009). The FNR decision bodies have decided – based on the scientific quality of the proposals – to fund 71 out of 194 projects submitted. In total, EUR 28.8 million out of the EUR 50 million available have been allocated. CORE Thematic Domains: Innovation in Services; Sustainable Resource Management in Luxembourg; New Functional and Intelligent Materials and Surfaces and New Sensing Applications; Biomedical Sciences / Regulation of Chronic, Degenerative and Infectious Diseases (includes Regenerative Medicine in Age-related Diseases, Translational Biomedical Research and Public Health); Labour Market, Educational Requirements and Social Protection; Identities, Diversity and Integration

(Adapted from: <http://www.fnr.lu/en/Grants-Activities/Research-Programmes/CORE-Programme>, assessed in March 2010)

5.1.3. BIOSAN-PROVIE Programme. The "Biotechnology and Health Programme" is structured around three main axes: cancer, cardio- and cerebrovascular diseases and immunology intervention. The programme presents six priority areas: cancer; cardio- and cerebrovascular diseases; new strategies for immunology intervention; development of

expression libraries for the functional and topographical targeting of complex biological systems; epidemiology; intelligent data-processing environments in the field of health. Duration: 2000 – 2011. Total Budget: EUR 10,500,000.

(Adapted from: <http://www.fnr.lu/en/Grants-Activities/Research-Programmes/BIOSAN-PROVIE-Programme>, assessed in March 2010)

5.1.4. SECAL Programme. The aim of this programme is to develop a body of scientific expertise and resources in Luxembourg in matters of food safety, serving all the actors involved, such that the base of scientific knowledge can be widened and new methods of surveillance and risk avoidance can be developed. Priority will be given to the following areas of research, ranging from risk assessment to the study of prevention strategies: traceability of foods (including genetically modified organisms - GMOs); chemical and microbiological quality of foods (including drinking water); impact on human health and consumer protection. Duration: 2003 – 2010; Total Budget: EUR 7,500,000.

(Adapted from: <http://www.fnr.lu/en/Grants-Activities/Research-Programmes/SECAL-Programme>, assessed in March 2010)

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)¹

6.1.1. Stéphanie De Geeter (LUXINNOVATION EIG - National Agency for Innovation and Research), <http://www.luxinnovation.lu>

6.1.2. Céline Tarraube (LUXINNOVATION EIG - National Agency for Innovation and Research), <http://www.luxinnovation.lu>

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point²

6.2.1. Guy Weber, Direction Santé, guy.weber@ms.etat.lu

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010

² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm assessed in February 2010