

Information Webinar for the JTC2021 Questions & Answers

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TOPICS

Can a project focus on studies addressing a group of diseases including some diseases with prevalence < 5/10000 and some others with prevalence > 5/10000?

This call for projects is dedicated to Rare Diseases, if the project also includes non-rare diseases, the need should be justified in the proposal.

Are CHILDHOOD neuromuscular disorders excluded or eligible?

They are eligible.

Can we study multiple impacts of a specific rare disease rather than one type of impact like economics?

Yes, that is allowed.

Regarding the eligible topics: a "co-creation of an on-line information resource for patients, families and clinicians" would be considered eligible activity, as one of the work packages?

Only if it is limited to a part of the project, and clearly justified regarding the objectives of the project.

Question about the exclusion criteria: "Creation of new registers or establishment of new long-term cohorts." Does it mean that a proposition cannot make a registry (during the project) that would be used after the project ends?

This topic has been funded in a previous specific Joint Transnational Call, this is why it is excluded in this call. You have to rely on data from a previous registry.

Social work was not included in this call? Is it excluded?

Indeed, Social work is not mentioned in the call text but it is not excluded.

How can molecular biologists contribute to this call?

Difficult to answer but if this expertise can be precious in one project, register a profile in the [matchmaking tool](#) provided for the JTC2021.

What will be the topic of next year's call?

It is not defined yet.

CONSORTIUM MAKE-UP

Do international partners apply the project in their countries' integrated institutions, or is just one common application enough?

One common application is necessary to apply to the JTC2021. [National guidelines](#) has to be checked for each partner as some countries/region request eligibility pre-check at national/regional level.

Is it disadvantageous for underrepresented countries to be lead coordinator of the consortium for this call?

The country of the lead coordinator is not considered as advantageous nor disadvantageous. The evaluation criteria, as described in the call text, are solely based on scientific expertise.

Is a written confirmation about the eligibility of each partner needed?

No. It is highly recommended that partners contact their respective funding organisation to check their eligibility but no written confirmation is requested in the proposal. Please note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner in a proposal will lead to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review.

No Portuguese funding organisation is included in this call. Does this mean that a Portuguese researcher working at a Portuguese academic institute cannot apply as a partner?

Yes, partners have to be eligible for funding by one of the participating funding organisations. A Portuguese researcher may take part in a consortium as a collaborator not asking for budget.

Is it possible to have more than one principal investigator per country?

The maximum number of partners per country is 2.

Is it possible for several people from the same center to participate together as one partner?

This would need to be checked with national funding agency. In general, the answer would be yes if they are all working on the same activities. If their tasks are separated, then they should appear as 2 partners in the consortium.

If we have a consortium of 6 partners, should both additional 2 partners be from under-represented countries or early career scientists?

This depends on the needs of the consortium, but the 2 additional partners would have to be either from an under-represented country or an ECR.

How to choose the coordinator? Does he have to be an SSH expert?

The expertise of the coordinator is not defined in the call text. The coordinator has to have the expertise and capacity to represent the consortia and fulfil coordinator obligations as described in the [call text](#) (Section 5.4.4).

Can clinical expertise be represented in the consortium only through sub-contractors and no partner?

Yes, but it would have to be well justified in the proposal description.

It is stated in the call that “Consortia have to include both SSH and clinical expertise in their consortium”. Does this mean that clinicians don't have to be primary investigators, but they must be part of the consortium?

It is not mandatory to have a clinical partner in the consortium but the clinical expertise has to be present in the consortium.

Does PAO count in the limit of 2 partners from the same country?

The PAO can be partners, collaborators or sub-contractors (please see exact definition for each category in the [call text](#) – Section 5.4.3). If they are funded as full partner, they count in the limit of 2 partners per country. Otherwise, they do not count in the limit.

Do the partners have to include at least one patient association?

The PAO participation in a consortium is not mandatory but is highly recommended.

Can a European/International Federation of national association be considered as a PAO?

Yes, PAO can be umbrella organisations, European rare disease specific organisations or national rare disease specific organisations.

Would a ‘Declaration of Honour’ be needed if a PAO serves as a collaborator or subcontractor?

It is not mandatory for collaborators or sub-contractors.

May PO from non-funding country be included?

Yes, PAO from non-participating countries can be included in the consortium as collaborators or as sub-contractors.

For PAO's that are not eligible for funding from participating funding organisations, how to apply for funding from INSERM?

PAO that would like to request funding from INSERM should contact the INSERM contact point to check their eligibility.

If a PAO cannot receive funding for the project, may it anyway be a partner (and counted as a partner in the minimum of 3 partners)?

No, if a PAO cannot be funded by one of the participating funding organisations, it can participate in the consortia as collaborator or sub-contractor.

Do the PAOs, as collaborators or as subcontractors, have to describe their organisation in 1 page in the CV form of the project?

It is always helpful for evaluators to see interactions in the consortium.

Are PhD students considered as collaborators or they are considered as sub-contractors?

This is dependent on the national rules. Please refer to [national guidelines](#) and contact your national/regional funding organisation.

Are you considered an ECR if your PhD is not yet two years ago?

A definition of ECRs according to European Research Council criteria is provided in the "[Guidelines for Applicants](#)", section 4.1. Please note that national/regional definitions and time limits might differ. Therefore, please refer to [national guidelines](#) and contact your national/regional funding organisation.

Can ECR be the only partner(s) from a country?

Yes, unless it is not according to the national rules. Please refer to [national guidelines](#) and contact your national/regional funding organisation.

Can someone be PI if they have less than two years research experience post PhD?

This should be checked with the national/regional funding organisation.

The rules to be followed by consortia are those of the national funding organization of the main responsible of the project or those from all funding organizations of all partners in the consortium?

The consortia should fulfil both the general rules of the calls as described in [the Call text](#) and [Guidelines for Applicants](#) and each partner in the consortia should also fulfil the rules of their respective funding organisations.

What are the financial rules?

Each funding organisation has its own financial rules that are described in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).

Is it possible to have both French speaking Belgium and Flemish Belgium partners (with each separated funding)?

Yes.

Would clinicians from Zürich be eligible?

Switzerland is participating in the call; the Swiss funding organisations should be contacted directly to check the eligibility of the clinicians.

Can one team be included in 2 different projects as participant?

Yes, unless it is not according to the national rules. Please refer to [national guidelines](#) and contact your national/regional funding organisation.

If one of the partners appears not to be eligible, will all the project fail?

Yes, as stated in the [Call text](#) – Section 5.3.

CONTENT OF THE PRE-PROPOSAL

Do you list all the team members in the table of partners or only the PIs?

Only PI should be mentioned in the summary table of partners. The other team members should be described in the work description.

According to the Guidelines for Applicants, Ethical and legal issues + data management are to be developed only for full proposals: How much information on these issues should be included in the pre-proposal?

It is not necessary to go into details about these issues in the pre-proposal. Complete sections will be developed in the Full proposal.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How many proposals are expected to be funded in this call?

It is expected to fund 10-15 proposals, depending on the budget requested in the submitted proposals.

What is the average budget per proposal?

This depends on the composition of the consortium and on national rules of each partners.