

ERA-NET on Cardiovascular Diseases

Joint Transnational Call for Proposals 2020 (JTC2020)

“Prevention of Vascular Cognitive Impairment through Early Detection of Cardiovascular Diseases”

Preliminary announcement

The ERA-NET on Cardiovascular Diseases (ERA-CVD) has been established under the ERA-NET scheme of the European Commission (<http://www.ERA-CVD.eu>). The aim of ERA-CVD is to foster new, but also extend existing transnational cooperation of European countries, and to coordinate research efforts and funding programmes of its partner countries.

Under the umbrella of ERA-CVD, the fifth joint transnational call JTC2020 is planned to be launched on **January 14th, 2020** to promote transnational research projects, focusing on **Prevention of Vascular Cognitive Impairment through Early Detection of Cardiovascular Diseases**.

The following funding organizations intend to fund the present joint call:

- Belgium, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
- Belgium, Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)
- Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Estonia, Estonian Research Council (ETAg)
- France, French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Israel: Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO/MOH)
- Italy, Italian Ministry of Health (MoH-IT)
- Latvia, State Education Development Agency (VIAA)
- Norway, The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Poland, National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- Portugal, Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) *
- Romania, Autoritatea Națională pentru Cercetare Științifică și Inovare (ANCSI) *

- Slovakia, Slovak Academy of Science (SAS)
- Spain, National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)
- Taiwan, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)
- Turkey, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) *

* To be confirmed

AIM OF THE CALL

The ERA-CVD funding organizations particularly wish to promote multi-disciplinary work and translational research proposals. The individual components of joint applications should be complementary and contain novel, ambitious ideas to answer key questions or lead to a step-wise change in understanding of cardiovascular diseases. There should be a clear added value in funding the collaboration over individual projects by sharing of resources (models, databases, diagnosis etc.), harmonisation of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies. The consortia should be based on complementarities and sharing of expertise in a field of CVD, with a clear translational research approach.

It is known that CVD can cause cognitive decline and that risk factors for CVD such as (but not limited to) age, gender, family history, smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, sleep deprivation, sedentary behaviour are also associated with vascular cognitive impairment. VCI refers to the contribution of vascular pathology to any severity of cognitive impairment, ranging from subjective cognitive decline and mild cognitive impairment to dementia. The social, human and economic burden associated with the incidence of CVD and associated cognitive decline is high.

Based on the current evidence, early interventions are needed in order to prevent vascular cognitive impairment. Research proposals submitted to this call should include:

- Interdisciplinary approaches e.g. integrating biomedicine, physics, chemistry, mathematics or systems biology to explore pathophysiological process (e.g. microcirculation), develop applications for diagnosis and of new therapeutic approaches.
- Research on sex or gender differences, protective factors in order to give further mechanistic insights into the development and progression of VCI, its progression and to identify difference in treatment responses.

No funding can be provided for already existing studies.

Multi-disciplinary work and translational research proposals that combine basic and clinical approaches are encouraged. Proposals must clearly demonstrate the potential scientific impact as well as the added-value of transnational collaboration: sharing of expertise and resources (models, databases, diagnosis etc.), harmonization of data, access to innovative technologies, etc.

Consortia are encouraged to demonstrate engagement with industry (especially Small and Medium Size Enterprises – SMEs) for its active participation including sharing of resources, capabilities and expertise for a transfer of pre-clinical results into clinical utility. Likewise, patient organizations are invited to participate where appropriate.

The following types of research projects are excluded from the call:

- Interventional clinical trials;
- Building up of new cohorts, registries and/or biomaterial banks;
- Conducting screenings.

MAIN ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (according to country/regional regulations^{**}):

- Academic research teams (from universities or other higher education or research institutions);
- Clinical/public health sector research teams (from hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations);
- Enterprise's research teams. Participation of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) or industry is encouraged if allowed by national/regional regulations.

Only applications from multinational research consortia will be considered. **Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) eligible partners.**

Additionally, eligible partners must come from at least three (3) different countries participating in the call (see list above). A consortium must not involve more than one partner from the same country or region participating in the call, unless the second partner is an associated partner who secures his own funding. As an exception, two (2) partners from Spain may be comprised in the same research consortium. In the Belgian case also two (2) partners per consortium are allowed, however participation is limited to one partner per region/community, which in practice comes down to one partner per participating Belgian funding agency, per consortium.

In order to strengthen the European Research area in the field of cardiovascular diseases, a wide inclusion of researchers from all the countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey. Research consortia including teams from these countries may increase the total number of eligible partners to six (6).

A consortium may include one (1) partner not eligible to the national/regional funding organisations participating in this call or from countries not involved in this call only if this group provides a demonstrable added value to the consortium. Such a partner is not considered within the minimum number of three (3) eligible partners mentioned above. Upon submission, this partner must confirm that funding for its activities in the project is already secured.

Overall, a research consortium can comprise a maximum of seven (7) partners, if including at least one (1) partner from the above indicated countries (Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey) and one (1) partner with own funding.

Each research consortium must nominate a project coordinator, from the consortium partners eligible to receive funding. The project coordinator will represent the consortium and will be responsible for the scientific management of the project. Each project will be represented by a single Principal investigator, who will be the contact person for the respective national/regional funding organisation.

The duration of the projects can be up to three years. Nevertheless, a partner can receive funding for less than 3 years according to eligibility criteria and regulations of the funding organizations participating in the ERA-CVD JTC 2020.

**Please note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner in a proposal may lead to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review. The individual research groups in the successful applicant consortia will be funded by the funding organisation of their country/region that is participating in the ERA-CVD JTC 2020. The applications are therefore subjected to the eligibility criteria of national/regional funding organisations.

SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROPOSALS

ERA-CVD will be implemented through a one-stage submission procedure. The proposals must be submitted to the electronic submission system no later than **April 2nd 2020, 17:00 (CET)**.

The final decision will be communicated to all the (successful and unsuccessful) coordinators in October 2020.

Further information on ERA-CVD, the ERA-CVD JTC 2020 and its planned schedule will be available on the ERA-CVD website: www.ERA-CVD.eu. Before submitting a proposal, applicants are strongly advised to contact their national/regional funding organisations for national/regional specific regulations (see contact details in Annex I). The adherence to the national/regional regulations is mandatory. Each Principal Investigator (PI) - in an applicant consortium cannot participate either as a PI or a participant in more than one proposal.

A link to access to submission system as well as the proposal templates will be published together with the call text.

Please note

The information provided in this pre-announcement is indicative, may be subject to changes and is not legally binding to the funding organisations.

Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications. It is strongly recommended that all applicants register in the partnering tool <http://partnering.pt-dlr.de/ERA-CVD>

ANNEX I. National/regional contact details

Country/ Region	Participating organisation	National/Regional contact point
Belgium	Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)	Alain Deleener Phone: +32 2 550 15 95 Toon Monbaliu Phone:+32 2 550 15 70 Email: eranet@fwo.be
Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)	Joël Groeneveld Phone: +32 2504 9270 Email: joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be
Canada	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Bryan Lemire Phone: 1-613-952-5728 Email: Bryan.Lemire@cihr-irsc.gc.ca Ryan Perry Phone:1- 780-492-5748 Email: rjperry@ualberta.ca
Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAg)	Katrin Kello Phone: +372 731 7361 Email: katrin.kello@etagee.ee
France	French National Research Agency (ANR)	Deborah Zyss Phone: +33 1 73 54 81 74 Email: Deborah.ZYSS@agencerecherche.fr
Israel	Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO/MOH)	Irit Allon Phone: +972 (0)2 5082167 Email: irit.allon@moh.health.gov.il
Italy	Italian Ministry of Health (MoH-IT)	Maria Grazia Mancini Phone: +39.06.5994.3215 Email: mg.mancini-esterno@sanita.it research.EU.dgri@sanita.it
Latvia	State Education Development Agency (VIAA)	Uldis Berkis Phone: +371-29472349 Email: Uldis.Berkis@viaa.gov.lv Maija Bundule Phone: +371 - 67785423 Email: Maija.Bundule@viaa.gov.lv
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Henrietta Blankson Phone: +47 922 33 762 Email: hbl@rcn.no
Poland	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Dominika Mickiewicz Phone:+48 22 39 07 139 Email: dominika.mickiewicz@ncbr.gov.pl

Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)	Rita Cavaleiro Phone: +351 21 391 1541 Email: rita.cavaleiro@fct.pt Anabela Isidro Phone: +351 21 391 1541 Email: rita.cavaleiro@fct.pt
Romania	Autoritatea Națională pentru Cercetare Științifică și Inovare (ANCSI)	Ioana Ispas Phone: +40 21 2127791 Email: ioana.ispas@research.gov.ro
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Science (SAS)	Martin Novak Phone: +421 5751 0119 Email: mnovak@up.upsav.sk
Spain	National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)	Clara Martín Phone: + 9182 22567 Email: c.martin@isciii.es
Taiwan	Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)	Ching-Mei Tang Phone: +886 2 2737 7557 Email: cmtom@most.gov.tw
Turkey	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)	Recep Emrah ÇEVİK Phone: +90 312 298 1214 Email: emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr