



## Call for proposals 2023

### Research targeting development of innovative therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular disease (CARDINNOV)

#### Preliminary Announcement

The Partnership “Fostering a European Research Area for Health” (ERA4Health) aims at establishing a flexible and effective coordination between funding organisations in the European Research Area (ERA) for Health and Well-being. This Partnership brings the opportunity to increase European transnational collaborative research funding by creating a funding body for joint programming in priority areas addressing European Public Health Needs. Under this umbrella, the call for proposals “Research targeting development of innovative therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular disease” (CARDINNOV) will be launched.

#### 1. Aim of the call

Proposals must present research that addresses one or both of the following topics:

##### 1) Repair and/or regeneration of the heart and/or the blood vessels

The proposals should focus on:

- The identification of integrative approach, clinically relevant, based on molecular and cellular levels and/or the link between these two levels. Poorly known mechanisms should be the focus of the proposal e.g. (but not limited to) the inflammatory reaction, the amyloid accumulation, endogenous mechanisms of repair, linked to thromboembolism and/or related to macrovascular compartment and autonomous nervous system.
- And/or the development of cell and non-cell-based approaches in combination with bioactive biomaterials/ bioengineered patches or grafts.

##### 2) Chronic heart failure and atrial fibrillation

The proposals should focus on the development of treatment strategies that can reverse the pathophysiology responsible for chronic heart failure (especially with preserved ejection fraction), atrial fibrillation and/or the both diseases. The therapeutic strategies should take into account patient comorbidities and their potential treatment.

## Exclusion:

For both topics, research on cell therapy is strictly restricted to novel and innovative approaches.

Beyond the research topics the following points should be taken into account, including approaches to responsible research and innovation:

- Proposals must clearly demonstrate the potential health impact and/or economic impact as well as the added-value of transnational collaboration: sharing of expertise and resources (models, databases...), harmonization of data, access to innovative technologies, etc.
- Proposals should clearly promote translational research and demonstrate the benefit of working together and the unique contribution of each partner.
- Studies on human material and/or intervention studies are mandatory as research should be oriented to clinical research to ensure an efficient transfer from bench to bedside. In addition to studies on human material and/or intervention studies, animal and in vitro studies (e.g. small and large animals, human cells) can be included in a same proposal if they have a clear relevance to human health. Proposals are strongly encouraged to engage end-users (e.g. patients, industry, clinicians) in the research process from conception of the study to dissemination and implementation. End-users can participate as partners (when eligible for funding by a national/regional funding organisation), as collaborator (participation with own budget) or as part of an advisory board.
- Proposals should consider potential moderators of effects such as age, sex, gender and ethnic or other demographic features/differences in the respective research approaches.
- The use of approaches from precision medicine, personalized medicine and nanomedicine are encouraged.
- Proposals should make use of existing biobanks and existing cohorts, if applicable. Otherwise, it should be explained why existing biobanks/ cohorts are not used.
- The consortia are encouraged to consider the gender balance in the composition of the consortia and to balance the responsibilities between them.
- Early Career Scientists (Master, PhD and post-docs) are encouraged to participate in the consortium.

## **2. General conditions for application**

The duration of the projects will be 36 months.

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (eligibility of project partners may vary according to national/regional regulations):

- **A. Academia** – research teams working in universities, other higher education institutions or research institutes;
- **B. Clinical/public health sector** – research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations;
- **C. Enterprises** – private companies of all sizes;

- and **D. Operational stakeholders** – e.g. patient advocacy organisations, municipalities and local governments, local/national NGO's. In line with the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), operational stakeholders should be in a position to provide useful knowledge to the consortium, ensure the consortium's research is useful and translatable to their (or other) organizational contexts, and/or influence decision making or create change within their organisations. Operational stakeholders should be engaged in the research process from conception of the study to dissemination.

The number of participants and their research contribution should be appropriate for the aims of the transnational research project and be reasonably balanced in terms of international participation. Each transnational collaborative project should represent the critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific goals and should clearly demonstrate an added value from working together.

Only transnational projects will be funded. The following conditions apply to the composition of consortia:

- Minimum of three eligible and a maximum of five eligible partners from at least three different countries participating in the call.
- The maximum number of eligible partners can be increased up to six or seven if they include one or two partners, respectively, from an underrepresented country.
- No more than two eligible partners from the same country participating in the call will be accepted within one consortium.
- Maximum of two collaborators per consortium. Collaborators are self-funded partners: i.e. partners that are not requesting funds in this Joint Transnational Call provided by one of the participating funding organisations (e.g. partners from non-funding countries or partners which are not fundable according to national/regional regulations of the participating funding organisations).

Project partners will be funded by their relevant national/regional funding organisation. Eligible costs and funding rules vary between the respective funding organisations.

### 3. Time schedule

There will be a two-step submission and evaluation procedure for joint applications, i.e. pre-proposals and full proposals, and the full proposal review process will be complemented by a rebuttal stage. For both submission steps, one joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational proposal and must be submitted on the electronic submission system by the project coordinator. The two-step application process will have the following timetable:

<b>7 December, 2022</b>	<b>Publication of ERA4Health Call for proposals</b>
9 December, 2022	Opening of the submission system for pre-proposals
<b>7 February, 2023</b>	<b>Deadline for pre-proposal submission</b>
28 April, 2023	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)
<b>15 June, 2023</b>	<b>Deadline for full proposal submission</b>

<b>29 August – 6 September, 2023</b>	<b>Rebuttal stage</b>
End of October	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
<b>December 2023 – May 2024</b>	<b>Expected project start</b> (subject to national procedures)

#### 4. Participating countries/regions and respective funding organisations

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Funding organisations</b>	<b>Acronym</b>
Austrian	Austrian Science Fund	FWF
Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS	F.R.S.-FNRS
Belgium	The Research Foundation - Flanders	FWO
France	French Research Funding Agency	ANR
Israel	Ministry of Health	CSO-MOH
Italy	Ministero della Salute	IT MOH
Italy	Italian Ministry of Universities and Research	MUR
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science	LCS
Lithuania	Research Council of Lithuania	RCL
Poland	National Centre for Research and Development	NCBR
Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT
Romania	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	UEFISCDI
Slovak republic	Slovak Academy of Sciences	SAS
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI
Spain	Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía	CSCJA
Spain	Institute of Health Carlos III	ISCIII
Taiwan	National Science and Technology Council	NSTC
The Netherlands*		
Turkey	The scientific and technological research council of Turkey	TUBITAK

\*Decision on joining this call is pending

**More information will soon be available online:**

<https://era4health.eu/>

***Please note:** The content of the call described in this pre-announcement is indicative and may be subject to changes and is not legally binding.*

*Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications.*