BE READY
European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness

Joint Transnational Call 2026 for the BE READY Partnership:

Advancing knowledge of host and pathogens dynamics to better combat emerging diseases

Final Version

Funded by the European Union

Call launch:	**19 January 2026**
Submission platform	**https://ptoutline.eu/app/beready**
Webinar for applicants:	**28 January 2026, 11:00 CET (1,5h)**

Submission deadlines:

Pre-proposals:	13 April 2026, 13:00 CET
Full proposals:	20 August 2026, 13:00 CET

BE READY Partnership Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)

DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT) Germany

Dr. Theresa Köbe | Dr. Luise Richter | Dr. Friederike Maaßen

Phone: +49-228-3821-2712

E-Mail: beready@dlr.de

Further information:

Website: https://beready4pandemics.eu/

Table of Contents

1. Introduction and ambition of the European Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness

Infectious diseases can quickly escalate to health crises with global impact, exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and more recent outbreaks of avian influenza (H5N1) and the spread of Mpox. These events have highlighted the close link between environment, human and animal interactions in a One Health context while underscoring the importance of international cooperation in research and development. During these crises, it became evident across Europe that although research efforts were quickly launched, they were not coordinated leading to a fragmented research landscape.

The European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY Partnership[1]) aims to establish a European research and innovation ecosystem that is optimally prepared for future health crises caused by infectious diseases. This ecosystem will be capable of responding swiftly and efficiently to such crisis and will be fully integrated into the broader European institutional framework for health security.

To realise this vision, the BE READY Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on Pandemic Preparedness[2] defines the Partnership's research priorities and scientific objectives. The SRIA is organised around five thematic priorities, and adopts a comprehensive research approach, that encompasses fundamental, technical, epidemiological, and clinical domains, while also incorporating social sciences and humanities, in line with an integrated One Health approach.

To put the SRIA's research priorities into practice, the BE READY Partnership will launch annual Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs) that will fund transnational interdisciplinary research projects. These calls will foster collaboration between researchers and other stakeholders across Europe and beyond, with the aim to increase knowledge and strengthening readiness for emerging health threats through interdisciplinary cooperation.

In total, 21 funding organisations (see section 3) have agreed to launch the first JTC in the BE READY Partnership (JTC 2026). This call will support innovative, collaborative, interdisciplinary and transnational research projects aiming for a better understanding of the pandemic potential of emerging pathogens, elucidating the pathophysiology induced by these pathogens, and developing innovative medical countermeasures. The participating funding organisations expect to add value to their existing national and regional research activities by pooling their efforts in this JTC, which will be coordinated centrally by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) at DLR Projektträger, Germany.

2. Aim and scope of the Call

The aim of this call is to increase scientific understanding and evidence-based knowledge on emerging and re-emerging pathogens with pandemic potential as well as

[1] Note: The official partnership's name is BE READY NOW, hereafter referred as BE READY Partnership or only BE READY (short form).
[2] https://beready4pandemics.eu/in-actions/sria/

on the host responses triggered by infection in order to improve our capacity to anticipate, prevent and respond to infectious health threats through a multinational, collaborative and interdisciplinary approach that bridges research and development. The scope of the call is primarily addressing Priority 1 of the SRIA (*Accelerate knowledge in a coordinated and integrative manner*), focusing on the proposed Action 1.1 (*Increase knowledge on understanding, identifying and addressing therapeutic targets on pathogens*) and Action 1.2 (*Increase knowledge on pathophysiology*).

Therefore, proposals are expected to deliver results that are directed towards and contributing to at least one of the following expected outcomes:

- Identification of novel **pathogen-specific molecular targets and mutation hotspots** (i.e. discovery of critical proteins, enzymes or signalling molecules that play a central role in pathogen infectivity, survival and/or resistance);
- Improving the understanding of cross-species (zoonotic) aspects of **host–pathogen interactions** (in the context of the One Health approach);
- Application of the **"Pathogen X" approach** to generate transferable knowledge that can then be applied to other threatening viruses of the same family;
- Identification, development and optimisation **of (new) structures** with optimal therapeutic activity and low toxicity that can be potential lead compounds (particularly for vulnerable groups);
- Identification and validation of targets, alongside data integration, interoperability and modelling efforts to demonstrate the **potential** of these **targets,** including antigenic structures suitable for vaccine development, for subsequent therapeutic development (i.e. proof-of-concept studies);
- Improving data integration and modelling to **predict pathogen behaviour and therapeutic susceptibilities**;
- Understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying **host-pathogen interactions**, in humans including host predisposing factors, to guide future diagnostic, therapeutic and vaccine development;
- Development and improvement of advanced immunological assays, experimental models and preclinical studies that **link host genetics to disease outcomes**.

Proposals should focus **exclusively** one or multiple viruses belonging in the following families. Proposals addressing global approaches towards a whole family of these pathogens are also feasible:

i. *Arenaviridae*
ii. *Coronaviridae*
iii. *Filoviridae*
iv. *Flaviviridae*
v. *Hantaviridae*
vi. *Nairoviridae*
vii. *Orthomyxoviridae*
viii. *Paramyxoviridae*
ix. *Phenuiviridae*
x. *Poxviridae*
xi. *Togaviridae*
xii. *"Pathogen X"*

Beyond the listed research aspects, proposals must demonstrate the following aspects:

a) Proposals must be hypothesis-driven and should have a strong emphasis on reliable and rigorous methodology;
b) The composition of the consortium must be interdisciplinary, i.e. it is expected that consortia must include partners with expertise from different, relevant disciplines (e.g. basic/pre-clinical research, clinical research, computing science/bioinformatics, veterinary science, Public Health, social and environmental science) to create a broad, thematically diverse research approach in terms of pandemic prevention and response and pathogen spectra. Added value from working together (transnational and interdisciplinary) on the proposed research question(s) must be demonstrated;
c) Proposals must take into account sex and gender dimensions, and/or diversity aspects in their research plan/activities.

Furthermore, the following aspects for proposal submissions are explicitly encouraged:

d) Research questions related to specific populations or vulnerable groups;
e) The inclusion of highly innovative methodologies or state of the art technologies in order to advance the development of health innovations;
f) Collaboration with the private sector/private entities is encouraged (see Annex A for national/regional eligibility criteria for the funding of industry partners);
g) The use of existing cohorts and data sets.

Excluded are the following topics / aspects:

i. Antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens (resistant to antibiotics and antifungal agents). AMR pandemic will be addressed in detail in other networks/organisations such as the European partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (EUP OHAMR);
ii. Research addressing SRIA priority actions 1.3 (*Increase knowledge on environmental and social aspects driving pathogen emergence*) and 1.4 (*Increase knowledge on transmission dynamics and epidemiology*);
iii. Clinical studies[3].

Expected impact

The funded projects are expected to generate scientific knowledge and innovative tools that strengthen European and global pandemic preparedness, inform evidence-based policy-making, and/or contribute to the development of novel countermeasures (diagnostics, therapeutics and preventive strategies) with a potential for rapid deployment during future health emergencies.

[3] Clinical study covers clinical studies/trials/investigations/cohorts and means, for the purpose of this document, any systematic prospective or retrospective collection and analysis of health data obtained from individual patients or healthy persons in order to address scientific questions related to the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, monitoring or treatment of a disease, mental illness, or physical condition. It includes but it is not limited to clinical trials as defined by Regulation 536/2014 (on medicinal products), clinical investigation and clinical evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/745 (on medical devices), performance study and performance evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/746 (on in vitro diagnostic medical devices).

3. Participating Countries and Funding Organisations

	Country/Region	Funding Organisation
1	Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
2	Belgium (Flandern)	The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
3	Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation)	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)
4	Belgium (Wallonie)	Service Public de Wallonie
5	Czech Republic	Ministry of Health of Czech Republic (MZCR) /Czech Health Research Council (AZVCR)[4]
6	Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)
7	Estonia	Estonian Research Council) (ETAG)
8	France	ANRS MIE / Inserm
9	Germany	Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR) / Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR Projektträger, DLR-PT)[5]
10	Greece[6]	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI)
11	Hungary	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
12	Ireland	Research Ireland
13	Italy	Italian Ministry of Health (IT MoH)
14	Moldova	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)
15	New Zealand	New Zealand Institute For Public Health and Forensic Science Limited (PHF Science)
16	Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
17	Slovakia	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)
18	Spain	Instituto De Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)
19	Sweden	Swedish Research Council (SRC)
20	The Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)
21	Türkiye	The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Türkiye (TUBITAK)

[4] AZVCR: call administration/implementation at national level
[5] DLR-PT: call administration/implementation at national level
[6] Decision pending

4. Call timeline

December 2025	Call Pre-announcement
19 January 2026	Publication of the Call
28 January 2026	Information Webinar
13 April 2026	Submission deadline for pre-proposals
End of June 2026	Communication of results and invitation for full proposal
20 August 2026	Submission deadline for full proposals
Mid November 2026	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
Q1/Q2 2027	Start of the projects

5. Requirements for eligibility

General conditions for application

- The duration of the (transnational collaborative) projects is maximum **36 months**.
- Double funding of research projects is not permitted. The JCS and national/ regional funding organisations may perform cross-checks against other funding initiatives managed by the same organisations (both national/regional calls and Joint Transnational Calls). In addition, there can be no double funding for activities already receiving EU funding, e.g. through Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, staff directly involved in the call implementation are not eligible to apply to this call and must maintain strict confidentiality (Firewall measures) regarding any sensitive/confidential information related to the call.

Composition of the transnational consortium

- Each consortium partner must be eligible to be funded by the respective regional/national participating funding organisation. If a partner is found to be non-eligible at any stage of the process by one of the funding organisations, the entire proposal could be rejected without further review.
- The consortium must involve a minimum of three (3) consortium partners (including the coordinator), from at least three (3) different eligible countries (including at least two EU Member States or associated countries), whose funding organizations participate in the call (see section 3: list of participating countries).
- The consortium may not have more than six (6) consortium partners (including external partner (own/in-kind budget)).

- If the consortium includes an **under-represented country**[7] or a **company**[8], the maximum number of project partners can be increased to seven (7) including the coordinator.
- Per consortium, only one (1) partner can request funding from the same funding organisation. Exceptions may apply, see country- and region-specific guidelines in Annex A.
- The consortium coordinator cannot be changed between the first and second stage and can coordinate only one (1) submitted proposal. In addition, coordinators can be partner in max. one (1) other project proposal.
- Consortium partners cannot be involved in more than two (2) research proposals submitted to this call.
- It is permitted to include one (1) **external partner** from countries that are not participating in this call, but only if own funding is secured. A signed statement declaring that the external partner will run the project on own resources has to be enclosed in the proposal. The budget of non-funded partners must be included in the proposal (*own/ In-Kind*-budget) and shall not exceed 20% of the requested total transnational project budget. External partners cannot be coordinator of a proposal. They have the same responsibilities as funded partners, i.e. they must accept all BE READY Partnership rules and guidelines as set out in this Call Text.

Modification of the composition of the consortium - Widening Process (between pre- and full proposal stage)

- Composition of the consortium should not be modified between the pre- and the full-proposal except for the following cases:
  i. widening (see further information below),
  ii. in case of force majeure/unforeseen event (e.g. change of professional affiliation, lab relocation etc.), or
  iii. upon recommendation of the review process or request of the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

Any changes in the composition of the consortium must be approved by the CSC ahead of the submission of the full proposal (at least 15 calendar days before the full proposal submission deadline to confirm the eligibility of the proposed modifications).

- **Widening** the full proposal for inclusion of one partner from an **under-subscribed** funding organisation:
  An under-subscribed funding organisation is a funding organisation that may not allocate all the funds committed to the call. Consortium coordinators will be informed of these organizations in their invitation letter for submitting a full-proposal. The list of **under-subscribed** funding organisations will be included in the full-proposal template.

  The widening process promotes inclusiveness and ensures the use of the committed resources. Consortia will be able to increase their initial size by adding one (1) new partner eligible for funding by an under-subscribed funding

[7] Hungary, Czech Republic, Republic of Moldavia, Estonia
[8] possible funding of industrial partners depends on national/regional eligibility criteria (please check "Annex A" for individual national/regional funding rules

organisation, if the maximum number of partners of six (6) [seven (7) if an under-represented country or a company is included] is not exceeded.

Use of European Infrastructures

Proposals should advance research by leveraging already existing and emerging state-of-the-art European research infrastructures[9] such as those having contributed to the services developed under the ISIDORe project[10]. Data, tools and resources being generated within funded research projects should be made widely available, considering national and international legal and ethical requirements, in order to further optimize benefits. Access must be provided to other bona fide research groups. Consortia are strongly advised to reach agreements at the pre-proposal stage to regulate this issue across countries while preserving the integrity of study participants.

Open science

Proposals are expected to fully embrace open science practices to enhance transparency, reproducibility, and accessibility of research outputs. This includes data sharing and adherence to FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), Open Access Publication and Open Methodologies to enable comparability and reuse of results across borders (see also Annex C, section 4). At the full proposal stage, all invited consortia must provide comprehensive information on how they plan to implement these open science practices throughout the project lifecycle, including plans for data management, sharing, and publication.

Responsible research and innovations (RRI)

Proposals should follow the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). In the full proposal stage, all invited consortia should demonstrate a commitment for investigating and addressing social, ethical, political, environmental or cultural dimensions of the proposed research, if appropriate. For more details on the RRI guidelines, please visit the ERA-LEARN website. The full proposal template will provide further instructions.

6. Financial modalities

Funding is initially granted for a maximum of 36 months in accordance with national/regional regulations and applicable legal provisions. Funded project partners will be funded by their relevant national/regional funding organisation. Therefore, eligible entities, eligible costs, funding rules and the type of studies allowed will vary between the

[9] The catalogue of European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) research infrastructures portfolio can be browsed on the ESFRI website: https://ri-portfolio.esfri.eu
[10] https://isidore-project.eu

respective funding organisations (see Annex A). Thus, each project partner must define its own budget in accordance with the funding rules of its own country/region. Please note that some funding organisations may limit the maximum budget applicants can request within a consortium.

For information on the specific funding rules and eligibility criteria of the national/regional funding organisation:

- read Annex A carefully
- in addition, applicants must contact their relevant funding organisation before applying; please note that for some countries/regions it might be mandatory.

7. Application procedures

There will be a two-stage procedure for the applications: pre-proposals in the first stage and full-proposals in the second stage (only upon invitation to selected pre-proposals). At both stages, one joint proposal document (in English) must be prepared by the consortium and submitted by the project coordinator exclusively through the dedicated submission electronic platform (PT-Outline). Pre-proposals or full-proposals that do not follow the template guidelines will be rejected without further review. Templates and further information on electronic submission are available on the BE READY website and in the pre-proposal template.

Applicants must take note of individual regional/national rules, and must contact their regional/national funding organisation if they have any questions in this regard. See "Annex A" for more details.

Indeed, applicants from some regions/countries may be required to submit additional information (in some cases before the deadline of this call) directly to their relevant regional/national funding organisations.

Pre-proposals:

Pre-proposals **must** be submitted by the coordinator in electronic format no later than **13:00h C.E.T. on 13 April 2026,** via the PT-Outline electronic submission system. **No other means of submission will be accepted.**

The decision on which applicants are invited to submit a full-proposal will be communicated to the consortiums' coordinators by the JCS end of June 2026 and the full-proposal application template will be provided. The list of proposals invited to submit a full-proposal will not be published online.

Full-proposals:

Full-proposals will be accepted only from those consortia explicitly invited by the JCS. They must be submitted by the coordinator in electronic format no later than **13:00h CET on 20 August 2026**, via the PT-Outline electronic submission system. **No other means of submission will be accepted.**

Recipients will be informed of call updates (if any) and the outcome of the call (list of selected projects, amounts and names of selected recipients).

8. Evaluation[11]

8.1 Eligibility check and evaluation procedure

Formal check and evaluation of pre-proposals

The JCS will check all proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria. In parallel, the JCS will forward the proposals to the national/regional funding organisations, which will perform a check for compliance with national/regional regulations. In case of non-compliance with national/regional regulations the coordinator will be informed by the JCS.

Each proposal passing both eligibility checks will be evaluated independently by three reviewers (see evaluation criteria below). Potential conflicts of interest of the evaluators will be taken into consideration during the allocation of the proposals. The reviewers complete a written evaluation form with scores and comments for each evaluation criterion, they will then meet to discuss their evaluations (international peer review expert group meeting, IPEG meeting) and produce a ranking list. Evaluators with a conflict related to a specific proposal will neither be present during nor participate in the discussion of that proposal.

The CSC will meet to decide which applicants will be invited to submit a full-proposal based on the reviewers' ranking list and recommendations and to ensure a reasonable balance of requested and available national/regional budgets. The coordinators of the consortia not selected for full proposal submission will receive a summary review report. The coordinators of the accepted pre-proposals will receive an evaluation summary report, which should be commented in the full proposal template. The list of consortia invited to submit a full-proposal will not be published online.

Formal check and evaluation of full-proposals

The JCS will check the full-proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals (e.g. composition

[11] The process will comply with the principles of Transparency, Non-discrimination and sound financial management.

of the consortium, the objectives of the project or the requested budget). In parallel, the JCS will forward the proposals to the national/regional funding organisations, which will perform a check for compliance with national/regional regulations. In case of non-compliance with national/regional regulations the coordinator will be informed by the JCS. Each full-proposal passing both checks will be allocated to three reviewers taking potential conflicts of interest into consideration. Coordinators of accepted pre-proposals are expected to respond to the comments of the pre-proposal reviews (evaluation summary report) in a dedicated section of the full proposal ("rebuttal"). The reviewers will perform an individual assessment of the full-proposal before the IPEG meeting and each proposal will be discussed at the meeting. During a second IPEG meeting, the reviewers will discuss all proposals and produce a ranking list of proposals recommended for funding. Evaluators with a conflict related to a specific proposal will neither be present during nor participate in the discussion of that proposal. The final summary review report prepared by the evaluators will be sent to the respective project coordinators.

Ethics and legal requirements

Applicants will be required to complete a self-assessment checklist for ethics at the full-proposal stage and will have to provide details i.e. on safety, animal studies, genetically modified organisms and microorganisms, environmental hazards and waste handling, data management, statistical methods, ethics and legal issues. Applicants should anticipate this requirement and ensure that they have consulted with relevant experts to verify the feasibility of the project, and that the project can be completed within the defined budget and within the prescribed time window.

Selected full-proposals will undergo an ethics assessment. Ethics experts will remotely check the selected proposal for their compliance with ethical norms and regulations. If necessary, a dedicated meeting may also be organised and the ethics experts may ask the consortium for clarifications. The ethics experts may highlight some vigilance points that need to be monitored during the implementation of the funded project. Only the proposals approved by the ethics assessment (complying with all central Horizon Europe and regional/national ethical requirements) will be recommended for funding.

Decision

The funders will take the final funding decision, based on the ranking lists established by the IPEG, the available funding and the ethics assessment. The JCS will send **by e-mail** the funding recommendation to the coordinator, who is then responsible to communicate this information to the respective consortium partners. After successful grant negotiation, the list of funded projects will be published online on the BE READY webpage.

The selection procedure is followed by an independent expert observer, who must make a report.

Redress Procedure

Redress request for national/regional eligibility

Requests for redress on **national/regional eligibility compliance decisions** will not be handled by the JCS and need to be addressed to the responsible funding organization (see Annex A).

Redress for procedural aspects

If applicants suspect a breach in the implementation of the evaluation and selection procedures, they can appeal against the **procedural aspects of the evaluation** (see below). A mere disagreement with peer reviewers or panel members' comments are not grounds for an appeal. The redress procedure will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.

The applicants shall submit their appeal to the JCS via E-mail (beready@dlr.de) up to **seven (7) calendar days** after the date of the notification of evaluation outcome sent by the JCS at the end of each stage (evaluation of the pre- or full-proposal).

For an appeal to be admissible the following conditions must be met:

- The appeal must be submitted by the consortium coordinator of the proposal to which the appeal relates.
- Only one appeal per proposal can be submitted after each stage.
- The appeal must contain the following minimum information: the name of the call for proposals, the proposal acronym, the title of the proposal, a description of the alleged shortcomings of the evaluation procedure.
- All consortium partners must formally approve the redress request with their electronic signature on the submitted appeal.

The appeal must demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual or manifest errors in the evaluation process, misuse of powers, or a conflict of interest. Appeals that do not meet the above conditions, or do not deal with the evaluation of a specific proposal or express mere disagreement with the result or the reasoning of the evaluation will be judged as not suitable for redress.

Upon receipt of an appeal, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by the JCS within maximum seven (7) calendar days. The acknowledgement shall report the redress process and the anticipated date by which a decision on the appeal will be communicated to the appellant. All appeals received by the seven (7) calendar days deadline will be processed together by a designated redress committee and the decision will be communicated to the appellant within 14 calendar days from the deadline for submitting the appeals by the JCS.

8.2 Evaluation criteria

The pre- and full-proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Excellence

- Significance of the research question and adequacy to the call scope and the BE READY Partnership vision;
- Quality of the interdisciplinary research approach and methodology, quality of the experimental design and data analysis;
- Novelty, potential of the proposed research to advance the field, timeliness, and innovation of the research concept/hypotheses, clarity of the objectives;
- Credibility and clarity of the proposed approach and methodology;
- Expected progress beyond the state-of-the-art;
- Competence and scientific experience of the consortium's partners (previous work in the field, specific technical expertise), international competitiveness of participants in their field(s), previous work and expertise of the participants.

2. Impact

- Impact of the proposal to achieve the objectives of the call topic;
- Potential impact of the expected results on clinical and/or other health-related applications in the short, medium and long-term;
- Potential impact of the expected results to benefit /for improvement of pandemic preparedness;
- Assessment of translational value and the societal relevance of the proposed research;
- Added-value of transnational collaboration: sharing of resources (data models, databases, etc.), harmonization of data, sharing of specific know-how etc.;

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- Feasibility of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks (considering the required expertise), coordination of the consortium, integration of tasks and activities, resources, time frame and related risk analysis;
- Quality and added value of the transnational (balanced geographical distribution of the tasks) and interdisciplinary collaboration within the consortium;
- Quality of the proposed Open Science practices, data management, Intellectual Property management, and Freedom to Operate where appropriate (full proposal only);
- Appropriateness of the management and governance structures and procedures, including risk, innovation management, RRI and ethical considerations (full proposal only);
- Potential exploitation (including strategy to identify and address potential barriers) and relevance of the outcomes of the findings beyond the current project (long term strategy) (full proposal only);
- Justification of the requested budget and cost-effectiveness of the project (appropriate distribution of resources in relation to project's activities, partner responsibilities and time frame) (full proposal only);
- Clear policy for valorization and dissemination of results, ensuring wide accessibility, impact, and responsible communication.

Proposals not relevant to the aim and scope of the call or addressing any of the excluded topics will not be funded, independently of their scientific quality. The decision,

if a project is in/out of scope, will be taken by the reviewers and evaluation panel in the pre-proposal stage.

8.3 Scoring system

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three main criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation), and not singularly for the different aspects listed below the criteria, although these different aspects will be taken into consideration in scoring the main criteria.

The weight of each of the three main criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) is equal.

0: Failure. The proposal fails to address the criterion in question or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor. The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.

2: Fair. The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.

3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion in question well, but few improvements are possible.

4: Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but minor improvements are possible.

5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question, there are no suggestions for improvement.

In order for an application to be considered fundable, the threshold score for individual criteria is set at three (3) (of a maximum of five (5)). The overall threshold for the score for all three criteria together is set at ten (10). The maximum score that can be reached from all three criteria together is fifteen (15) points.

9. Responsibilities of the Grantees

The consortium coordinators will be responsible for the scientific management of the project and will act as the interface between the JCS, the consortium and the BE READY Partnership. Although they bear the overall scientific responsibility for the project towards the BE READY Partnership, each funded project partner ("grantee") is fully responsible for the research outcome towards the respective funding organisation of the region/country from which they have applied for. The responsibilities of the grantees are described in **Annex C**. Applicants should ensure to keep in mind these obligations while drafting their budget and planning their workload.

10. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

By submitting an application, the applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their personal data in accordance with article 6.1 (e) and (c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679) and for the purposes of:

- processing and evaluating the pre- and full proposal where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
- administering any subsequent funding award;
- managing the relationship between the applicant and the Funding Partner Organisations;
- analysing and evaluating the call;
- providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects;
- complying with audits that may be initiated by the Funding Partner Organisations and the EC (or its agencies).

In addition, by submitting an application (pre- and full proposal) to this call, the applicants agree to share their personal data with Funding Partner Organizations based outside the European Economic Area and with third parties such as evaluators (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in relation to the above activities.

In the case of data processing involving countries not subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Parties shall adhere to their respective national data protection laws, provided that these ensure data protection standards equivalent to those required under the GDPR.

The following Funding organisations outside the European Economic Area will use their national data protection rules:

- Türkiye (TUBITAK)

Funding Organizations and third parties may link the data that applicants provide in the application with national, bibliographic or external research funding data which is available through public subscription-based databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, etc.) or other national/open datasets.

11. Confidentiality

The content of the pre-proposals and full proposals received under this Call is deemed to be confidential. Responding to a BE READY Partnership call for proposals, both as project coordinator or project partner, gives BE READY Partnership, the EC and the Funding Partner Organisations the right to use and store the information submitted for analysis of the call success rate, national response rate, etc.

The proposals will be handled confidentially by the JCS and by the national/regional funding organisations. In selecting the international experts for the IPEG, the JCS shall endeavour to avoid any possible conflicts of interest. Each expert will sign a declaration of confidentiality and confirm the absence of conflicts of interest. In case of a conflict of

interest the reviewer will be withdrawn from evaluating the respective proposal and its discussion. Conflicts of interest are managed and recorded throughout the evaluation process.

Accepting a BE READY Partnership grant award and associated grant contract from a national funding organisation gives BE READY Partnership, the EC and Funding Partner Organisations the right to store, share, and analyse information on beneficiaries and consortia (rules may differ between different countries). Composition of the awarded consortia (Principal investigators, Institution) as well as the title, acronym and abstract of funded projects will be published and openly accessible. No data will be shared with third parties or commercial entities without the formal consent of the project coordinators.

Annex A: Contact persons at national/regional level and country and region-specific guidelines

Important note to applicants: Applications to the BE READY Partnership JTCs can require the submission of additional information on national funding platforms. All applicants must have fulfilled **both joint and national requirements for an application to be eligible**.

This is only a summary. Refer to national websites and contact the respective contact person for full details.

Overview table of Contact persons at national/regional level:

Country/ Region	Name of participating Funding Organisation	Contact Details
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Austrian Science Fund Georg-Coch-Platz 2 1010 Wien Doris Lucyshyn Phone: +43 (1) 505 67 40-8502, E-mail: doris.lucyshyn@fwf.ac.at Vera Humer-Strunz Phone: +43 (1) 505 67 40-8207, E-mail: vera.humer-strunz@fwf.ac.at
Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – F.R.S.-FNRS	Maxime Bonsir Maxime.bonsir@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 92 36 Joël Groeneveld Joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 92 70 international@frs-fnrs.be
Belgium (Flandern)	Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)	Kristien Peeters +32 (0)2 550 15 95

		Toon Monbaliu +32 (0)2 550 15 70 europe@fwo.be
Belgium (Wallonie)	Service Public de Wallonie	Dr. Cedric Morana Cedric.morana@spw.wallonie.be Dr. Fleur Roland Fleur.roland@spw.wallonie.be
Czech Republic	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZ CR) / Czech Health Research Council (AZV CR)¬* *For clarification in this call MZ CR acts as funder in this call, while AZV CR acts as service agency to administer the call at national level.	Rachel Hengalova European Partnerships for Health Officer (AZV CR) Phone: + 420 778 880 697 Email: rachel.hengalova@azvcr.cz Monika Kocmanova Coordinator of the European Partnerships for Health (AZV CR) Phone: +420 778 973 186 Email: monika.kocmanova@azvcr.cz Olga Laaksonen Head of the Science, Research, and Subsidies for Education Unit (MZCR) Phone: +420 224 972 755 Email: olga.laaksonen@mzcr.gov.cz
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark	Stine Holm stine.holm@innofond.dk +4561905074 Katrine Boeriis katrine.boeriis@innofond.dk +4561905092 internationale@innofond.dk
Estonia	Estonian Research Council	Argo Soon argo.soon@etag.ee

		+372 515 3424 Margit Suuroja margit.suuroja@etag.ee +372 731 7360
France	ANRS MIE / Inserm	Inmaculada ORTEGA Iris SAADA (Director of financial affaires) Anne-Laure ANNIC Tel.: +33 1 82 53 33 34 inmaculada.ortega-perez@inserm.fr anne-laure.annic@inserm.fr iris.saada@anrs.fr
Germany	Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) – DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT)	Dr. Theresa Köbe Dr. Luise Richter Dr. Friederike Maaßen Tel.: +49-228-3821-2712 beready@dlr.de
Greece	GENIKI GRAMMATEIA EREVNAS KAI KAINOTOMIAS/General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI)	Foteini Karagkouni Tel :+30 213 1300062 f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr
Hungary	Nemzeti Kutatasi Fejlesztesi Es Innovacios Hivatal (National Research, Development and Innovation Office) (NKFIH)	Zsuzsanna Kürti +36 70 680 6421 ncp@nkfih.gov.hu
Ireland	Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland	Dr Erika Duriakova erika.duriakova@researchireland.ie Dr Emma McGrath Emma.mcgrath@researchireland.ie Dr Maria Nash Maria.nash@researchireland.ie

		General mailbox Eu-cofund@researchireland.ie
Italy	Italian Ministry of Health	Grazia Papagni g.papagni@sanita.it Simona Carmen Ursu sc.ursu@sanita.it tel +39 06 5994 2928
Moldavia	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD/ANCD)	Dr. Natalia Bolocan natalia.bolocan@ancd.gov.md +37369068281 Vladislav Branițchi vladislav.branitchi@ancd.gov.md +37322294861
New Zealand	New Zealand Institute For Public Health and Forensic Science Limited (PHF Science)	Dr Phil Carter Tel. No: +64 277 051948 E-mail: philip.carter@phfscience.nz
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Renate Marie McGowan Tel: +4741017592 E-mail: rms@rcn.no Sofia Anderholm Strand Tel.: +47-41394144 E-mail: sast@rcn.no
Slovakia	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)	Libuša Ďaďová, libusa.dadova@cvtisr.sk Erika Jankajová erika.jankajova@cvtisr.sk

		+421 904 859 228
Spain	Instituto De Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)	Mauricio Garcia Franco Cándida Sánchez Barco bereadycalls@isciii.es
Sweden	Swedish Research Council	Maria Starborg forskningsprogram.pandemi@vr.se +46 76-526 72 37 Frida Mowafi forskningsprogram.pandemi@vr.se +46 70-889 78 24
The Netherlands	ZonMw	Fábio Serafim Michelle Helinski E-mail: pandemicpreparedness@zonmw.nl Tel.: +31 70 349 5098
Türkiye	The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Türkiye (TUBITAK)	Dr. Recep Emrah Çevik E-mail: emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr Tel:+90 312 298 1214

Country- and region-specific guidelines

Austria **Austrian Science Fund (FWF)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Georg-Coch-Platz 2 1010 Wien Doris Lucyshyn Phone: +43 (1) 505 67 40-8502 E-mail: doris.lucyshyn@fwf.ac.at Vera Humer-Strunz Phone: +43 (1) 505 67 40-8207 E-mail: vera.humer-strunz@fwf.ac.at
Initial funding pre-commitment	900.000,- EUR Anticipated number of fundable projects: 2
Eligible institutions	Non-profit organisations, e.g. universities, university hospitals, non-university research institutes.
Additional eligibility criteria	For scientists funded by the FWF, funding is limited to project-specific costs (see below). Please note that exaggerated cost projections may be grounds for rejection, even if a proposal is otherwise excellent. In addition to the application at the BE READY call secretariat, administrative and financial data must be submitted online to FWF using the elane digital application portal. This is required already at the pre-registration stage via the programme category "PIK – International Projects preproposal", deadline 14. April 2026, 14:00 CET (local time). Associated research institutions must already be registered with the FWF for the concept phase. For the full proposal stage, applicants must choose the programme category "KIN – International Multilateral Initiatives" (deadline 21. August 2026, 14:00 CET local time). Both steps are mandatory. Please note that Austrian participants cannot participate in a consortium as part of the widening process at the full proposal stage. Project funding is administered through the research institutions (PROFI); this means the application must be approved for submission by both the applicant and the respective research institution (= lead research institution) before the deadline. All

	forms required for the application must be completed online; other required documents must be uploaded in full before the application can be approved for submission by the research institution. For additional information, please see the elane user manual for applicants and research institutions. Please also complete and upload the following documents as individual annexes to the national FWF application system: Budget justification for the project part to be financed by FWF (according to Appendix A (section 6.1) of the Guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects). CV of the applicant at FWF according to the Guidelines. PI_publication.pdf: Two publications written by the applicant must be named, documenting that the applicant fulfills the general requirements to apply (see Template PI-publication). The FWF will base the applicant's eligibility to apply on these publications.
Eligible costs	Only project-specific costs are eligible for funding. These include personnel and non-personnel costs that are needed to carry out the project (e.g. material, equipment, subcontracts, equipment, travel costs, other costs like animals or equipment usage time, documentation). Overheads are not eligible costs. The FWF does not finance the infrastructure or basic equipment of research institutions. For more information, please see section 2.3. of the Guidelines. Salaries may be requested as indicated in the FWF salary scale. FWF salary scale. For information on applying for personnel costs for the principal investigator's own salary, please see section 2.3.1.1 of the Guidelines. In addition, funding may be requested for project-specific work performed by 'associated research partners', who are working on a project-specific basis at other Austrian research institutions ('associated research institutions') and making a significant scientific/scholarly contribution to the project. If applicable, the Associated Research Partner form must be completed for these researchers, accessible during the submission procedure via elane (see below). Funds are disbursed from the lead research institution to the associated research institution(s). Associated research institutions report directly to the FWF to account for funds used at their institution.
Requirements at regional/national level	Principal Investigators of proposals selected for funding must adhere to national regulations.

Belgium **Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr. Maxime Bonsir Maxime.bonsir@frs-fnrs.be

	+32 2 504 92 36 Joël Groeneveld Joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 92 70 international@frs-fnrs.be
Initial funding pre-commitment	300.000 € Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 1 300 000 € for a total period of three years. If the project involves the recruitment of a PhD student, the project duration of the F.R.S.-FNRS sub-project could be up to four years (see PINT-MULTI Regulations for details)
Eligible institutions	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI Regulations
Additional eligibility criteria	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI Regulations
Eligible costs	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI Regulations For "overhead" costs: - Operating expenses: up to 1% within the granted budget. This percentage should be included in the requested operating budget. - Personnel: up to 2% outside of the granted budget. This percentage will be paid upon reimbursement of expenses to institutions by the F.R.S.-FNRS. Please check the Practical guide on costs for any other questions. Please note that personnel costs have an annual average cap of 80 000 € for this call.
Requirements at regional/national level	Applicants to F.R.S.-FNRS funding must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application on e-space **within 5 working days after the general deadline of BE READY to be eligible**. Please select the "PINT-MULTI" funding

	instrument when creating the administrative application. Proposals invited to the second stage will be able to complete the pre-proposal form and provide information for the full proposal upon validation by the F.R.S.-FNRS

Belgium (region: Flanders) **The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Toon Monbaliu (FO) europe@fwo.be +32 (0)2 550 15 70 Kristien Peeters (SBO) europe@fwo.be +32 (0)2 550 15 95 To avoid any potential eligibility issues, we encourage you to contact the FWO administration in advance.
Initial funding pre-commitment	700.000 Euro Anticipated number of fundable proposals: 2-3
Eligible institutions	FWO supports research and knowledge-dissemination organisations (not for profit) located in Flanders. In this call, FWO deploys two of its regular funding channels: Fundamental Research Projects (FO) and Strategic Basic Research Projects (SBO). Researchers should choose the appropriate channel based on their project type, with eligibility details available in the regulations on the FWO website.
Additional eligibility criteria	In this call, the PI can be a coordinator on one proposal or a partner on up to two proposals. Participating in this call does not affect FWO's national project submission limits. The PI must have an appointment covering the full project duration. PIs who become emeritus during the application year or project period are ineligible, i.e. art. 10 §7 of the regulations FO does not apply. Note that SBO projects aiming at the development of a spin-off company are not eligible in this context.
Eligible costs	Maximum 350.000 EUR per project (overhead included). If several FWO-funded partners are involved in one project, the funding must be shared between them.

	Different cost models and overhead calculations apply to each channel (FO vs. SBO). For overhead calculation, apply a structural rate to total costs: FO projects use 6% and SBO projects use 17%. For example, an SBO project costing 250,000 EUR amounts to 292,500 EUR with a 17% overhead, staying within the budget cap of 350,000 EUR. On FWO's e-portal, enter only the actual cost; FWO will add the overhead. The project has a duration of 36 months and all allocated funds must be spent within this timeframe. There are no automatic extensions granted, nor may any unused funds be carried forward after the project's end date, i.e. article 28 of the regulations FO and article 14 of the regulations SBO do not apply.
Requirements at regional/national level	Applicants for FWO funding must submit a mandatory administrative application through FWO's e-portal. Select "Research projects – European programme fundamental research" for FO projects or "Research projects – European programme strategic basic research" for SBO projects. If multiple Flemish partners request FWO funding, include all relevant partner details in a single e-portal submission. The national submission deadline matches the joint transnational call's preproposal stage. However, to confirm eligibility, it is recommended to consult the FWO administration at least one week prior. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in ineligibility.

Belgium **Service public de Wallonie (SPW)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr. Cedric Morana cedric.morana@spw.wallonie.be Dr. Fleur Roland fleur.roland@spw.wallonie.be
Initial funding pre-commitment	1.000.000 € per call. Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 2-3
Eligible institutions	Following partners are eligible for funding: universities, research institutes, companies.

	The Walloon decree on RDI support (25/06/2008) is the Walloon legal basis to determine the funding of the participants. Participants must be based in Wallonia and the Walloon company(ies) must have a business unit in Wallonia. The companies have to present an innovative RDI project with a favourable impact on the Walloon economy and it should align with the priority of the regional Smart Specialization Strategy (S3 Wallonia). The participants have fulfilled their obligations in the context of previous support allocated by the Region. The companies in difficulty, in accordance with the European legislation, cannot be funded.
Additional eligibility criteria	• Applicants to SPW funding must submit their pre-proposal on the regional application platform ONTIME. Proposals invited to the second stage must also be submitted on the same platform. The submission deadlines are the same as the general deadline of the Be Ready call. • Participants must be companies, universities/higher education institutions, accredited or certified research centers, established in the Walloon Region and conduct R&D activities within the project. • Walloon partners in the consortium must include at least one company, and the research budget of the Walloon partner companies must account for at least 40% of the total research budget of all Walloon partners. • Participants must be based in Wallonia, and the Walloon companies must have an operational unit in Wallonia. • Participants cannot receive any other public funding for the same activities. • Participants must have fulfilled their obligations under any previous support granted by the Region. • At the time of submission, companies must not be in difficulty according to the European Union guidelines. • Projects must focus solely on civilian technologies, products, processes, and services. • Participants must present an innovative R&D project that has a positive impact on the Walloon economy and aligns with the priority of the regional Smart Specialization Strategy (S3 Wallonia). • Participants must demonstrate their ability to carry out the tasks assigned to them in the project, to exploit its results, and to have a positive socio-economic and sustainable development impact on Wallonia. • The project cannot start at a TRL (Technology Readiness Level) lower than 3.
Eligible costs	The eligibility of costs is in accordance with the guidelines issued the 8th October 2021 by the Service Public de Wallonie (SPW) available on Guide des dépenses éligibles (wallonie.be)
Requirements at regional/national level	Applicants to SPW funding must submit their pre-proposal on the regional application platform ONTIME. Proposals invited to the second stage must also be submitted on the same platform. The submission deadlines are the same as the general deadline of the Be Ready call. **Applicants who want to submit a proposal are requested to contact SPW at least 2 weeks before the submission deadline.**

Czech Republic **Czech Health Research Council on behalf of Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	**Rachel Hengalova** European Partnerships for Health Officer (AZV CR) Phone: + 420 778 880 697 Email: rachel.hengalova@azvcr.cz **Monika Kocmanova** Coordinator of the European Partnerships for Health (AZV CR) Phone: +420 778 973 186 Email: monika.kocmanova@azvcr.cz **Olga Laaksonen** Head of the Science, Research, and Subsidies for Education Unit (MZCR) Phone: +420 224 972 755 Email: olga.laaksonen@mzcr.gov.cz
Initial funding pre-commitment	500 000 EUR
Eligible institutions	**Research Organisations, Enterprises**. All eligibility rules and criteria can be found on the Czech Health Research website (Výzva 2026 BE READY NOW – AZV ČR). It is **recommended** to contact the responsible person at the Czech Health Research Council (prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria). Conditions for PO funding – Patient organisations can receive direct funding if they take an active role in the project's research activities. This means they must contribute to specific research objectives (for example, by being involved in one or more work packages) and these types of research activities must be clearly described in their **statutes**.
Additional eligibility criteria	**The maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner is 250,000 EUR.** The requested budget from pre-proposal stage to full proposal stage can be slightly modified. This change must be approved by MZCR/AZVCR and also communicated to the JCS. Final budget must not exceed the maximum allocated amount per project. Only one organisation will be granted, and this organisation will establish a collaboration with other co-applicant(s) via subcontracting or a collaboration agreement.
Eligible costs	Eligibility of all costs, types and their caps can be found on the Czech Health Research website (Výzva 2026 BE READY NOW – AZV ČR). It is **recommended** to contact the responsible person at the Czech Health Research Council prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria.

Requirements at regional/national level	Prior to submission of the pre-proposal to EP BE READY NOW, Czech researchers need to submit to the Czech Health Research Council the following documents: 1. **Sworn Statement of a Legal Entity /Natural Person (mandatory)** 2. **Sworn Statement of a Research Organisation (if relevant)** 3. **Sworn Statement of a consortium composition (only if SMEs or industry are involved in the project proposal from the Czech side)** 4. **Application form** Czech partners are required to complete **a national Application Form**, providing basic information about the applicant and any co-applicant(s), if applicable, including their respective budgets. It is necessary to list all national institutions involved in the project due to funding requirements. All these documents are available on the website at the Czech Health Research Council (Výzva 2026 BE READY NOW – AZV ČR). Prior to submission of the full proposal to EP BE READY NOW, Czech researchers need to submit to the Czech Health Research Council the following documents: 1. **Documents** related to **professional competence,** depending on the nature of the project, must be provided in the form of **a Sworn Statement,** which is available on the website of the Czech Health Research Council (Výzva 2026 BE READY NOW – AZV ČR) 2. **Updated Application Form** Czech partners are required to complete the **updated national Application Form**, providing basic information about the applicant and any co-applicant(s), if applicable, including their respective budgets. It is necessary to list all national institutions involved in the project due to funding requirements. According to Czech regulations, the main Czech applicant will sign a grant agreement with the national funding authority (MZCR) and, if there are any other Czech co-applicant(s), will subsequently enter into a cooperation agreement with them. At the international level (pre- or full proposal), it is preferable to list only one Czech partner – the main applicant. If needed, it is possible to list more than one partner (in accordance with the call rules); however, at the national level, there will be one main Czech applicant while the remaining national institutions will act as co-applicants. Together, they must share the allocated project budget among themselves. The total project budget must not exceed EUR 250,000. In case the projects of Czech participants are recommended for funding based on the results of the international evaluation and after the approval of the representatives of the funding authorities of the countries participating in JTC, the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic / the Czech Health Research Council may ask the successful Czech participants to submit additional

	documents in order to issue a decision on the provision of purpose-special support according to the rules established by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic/ the Czech Health Research Council.

Denmark **Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	**Stine Holm** stine.holm@innofond.dk +4561905074 **Katrine Boeriis** katrine.boeriis@innofond.dk +4561905092 internationale@innofond.dk
Initial funding pre-commitment	1.000.000 EUR
Eligible institutions	All Danish organisations directly involved in activities in the projects are eligible as applicants to the innovation Fund Denmark.
Additional eligibility criteria	The maximum funding amount from Innovation Fund Denmark per Danish partner in international projects is €300,000 (approx. DKK 2.25 million). If the project involves two or more Danish partners, the maximum funding amount per project for all Danish partners combined is €500,000 (approx. DKK 3.75 million). The minimum funding amount is €50,000 (approx. DKK 375,000) per partner. The maximum funding rates vary between 25-90% of the total project costs. All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the Guidelines for International Collaborations

Eligible costs	See Guidelines for International Collaborations
Requirements at regional/national level	Applicants do not need to submit documentation to IFD before the international application deadline. After the application deadline, applicants will be required to submit the international application, including annexes and budgets, to e-grant. Applicants will be invited to e-grant shortly after the application deadline. Please contact us if you do not receive this invitation (check your spam). All non-public organisations are required to upload additional declarations to their e-grant case: the 'No undertaking in difficulty declaration' and the 'Financial and legal declaration'. In addition, SMEs must submit an 'SME declaration'. If applying for support under de minimis, a 'de minimis aid compliance form' is also required.

Estonia **Estonian Research Council (ETAG)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Argo Soon argo.soon@etag.ee +372 515 3424 Margit Suuroja margit.suuroja@etag.ee +372 731 7360
Initial funding pre-commitment	€ 150 000 as a project partner € 300 000 as a project coordinator
Eligible institutions	Any legal entity that is registered, located and operated in Estonia, and has an Estonian bank account.

	The PI must be employed by the institution and the PI must comply with requirements set by National Eligibility Criteria for grant applications in calls for transnational research projects.
Additional eligibility criteria	
Eligible costs	Personnel costs Other direct costs like travel costs consumables, publication and dissemination of project results, participation fees, costs for organizing events, other costs related to the project. Overhead and Subcontracting is allowed to a limited extent. Detailed list of costs is given in National Eligibility Criteria.
Requirements at regional/national level	Project (if funded) data must be entered into a Estonian Research Information System ETIS All project-related costs must be incurred no later than 31.08.2029, i.e. the Estonian partner's activities must be com-pleted by that time.

France **ANRS Emerging infectious diseases (ANRS)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	ANRS Maladies infectieuses émergentes PariSanté Campus 2 rue d'Oradour-sur-Glane 75015 Paris Call for projects Inmaculada ORTEGA Anne-Laure ANNIC Financial affaires Iris SAADA

	Tel.: +33 1 82 53 33 34 E-mail: inmaculada.ortega-perez@inserm.fr anne-laure.annic@inserm.fr iris.saada@anrs.fr
Initial funding pre-commitment	1M Euros Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 4
Eligible institutions	The beneficiaries of the funding are French higher education and/or research institutions or groups of such institutions, as well as French private institutions contributing to the public service missions of higher education and research, in accordance with Article L. 732-1 of the Education Code. https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/la-qualification-d-etablissement-d-enseignement-superieur-prive-d-interet-general-eespig-46277.
Additional eligibility criteria	Within one consortium, no more than one French institution as defined before can apply to ANRS MIE funding. Maximum budget requested par the French team within a single project : 250k€ including a maximum of 8% of overheads included.
Eligible costs	The following costs are allowable for this Call (all direct line items must be auditable): - Personnel: Soft-funded posts for individuals working on the project (e.g. post-docs, PhD students up to one per associated team, students, technicians, project managers) will be funded, provided an accurate estimation of time allocation is provided and they are not already funded from other means. - Equipment: Partial or full support for the cost of equipment may, in some instances, be requested, provided that it is directly required for the project. A budget limitation of 10% of total budget may apply. - Supplies, consumables and other direct laboratory or research costs. - Sub-contracts: These may be to any local or international private organization or individual engaged as consultant providing a service or capability that is not available among the project partners but is essential for the completion of project deliverables. These should not exceed 20% of the total project budget. - Travel and accommodation that is directly related to the execution of the project.

	- Institutional overhead: An indirect cost rate up to 8% is allowed. Non-allowable costs include the following: - Salaries of permanent or fixed term staff, e.g. tenured staff, professors etc., that are fully covered by the host institutions or other grants. - Purchase or construction of a building. - Rental costs for space that is owned by the institutions participating in the project. - Recruitment or retrenchment costs for staff.
Requirements at regional/national level	Principals Investigators of proposals selected for funding must adhere to national regulations and ANRS MIE.

Germany **Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)** **managed by DLR-Projektträger**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT) Heinrich-Konen-Straße 1 53227 Bonn, Germany Dr. Theresa Köbe, Dr. Luise Richter and Dr. Friederike Maaßen +49228-3821 2712 beready@dlr.de
Initial funding pre-commitment	1.5 Mio Euro Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 5

Eligible institutions	Legal bodies: • Universities (incl. university hospitals) • Clinical and public health institutions • Non-university research institutions • Commercial enterprises and industry Note: Commercial enterprises and industry are funded according to article 25 AGVO for research and development projects
Additional eligibility criteria	Within one consortium, no more than one partner can apply for BMFTR funding. The maximum amount of budget that can be requested by each applicant applying for BMFTR funding is 300,000 € (including "Projektpauschale" or other Overheads, if applicable). Please note that country specific requirements might apply to this call. For further information follow the links below or contact the national representative. See also the German version of the call to be published on https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmftr.de/.
Eligible costs	Personnel, consumables, subcontracts, equipment, travel, other costs, overheads ("Gemeinkosten" - applicable e.g. for Helmholtz-Centres and Fraunhofer-Society - as well as "Projektpauschale" - applicable for universities and university hospitals.)
Requirements at regional/national level	Principals Investigators of proposals selected for funding must adhere to national regulations.

Greece **GENIKI GRAMMATEIA EREVNAS KAI KAINOTOMIAS/General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Foteini Karagkouni European Union and International Organisations Department Directorate of International Scientific and Technological Cooperation

	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation/GSRI Ministry of Development 14-18, Mesogeion Ave, 115 27 Athens Tel :+30 213 1300062 E-mail: f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr
Initial funding pre-commitment	1.000.000 €
Eligible institutions	GSRI potentially supports all private and public legal entities legally operating in Greece (not natural persons) namely: a) Research and knowledge-dissemination organizations (e.g. Higher-education Institutions or Research Centers/Institutes) b) Undertakings (a private and/or public sector unit, regardless of its legal status or size, engaged in economic activity) c) Other entities that will be considered as Research and knowledge-dissemination organizations, if respective requirements are met, or undertakings GSRI does not support individuals and individual enterprises.
Additional eligibility criteria	A. The following categories of undertakings are also **not eligible:** -An "undertaking in difficulty" (according to art.2 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, as amended by Reg.(EU) 2021/1237 & Reg.(EU) 2023/1315). -An undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market. B. Large enterprises are eligible for funding only if they cooperate with an SME. C. With regard to clinical organizations in particular, in order to be eligible, they have to carry out research as one of their main objectives, according to the law or their statutes D. GSRI potentially supports the following types of RTD, namely: industrial research, experimental development, according to the provisions of Art. 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty).

E. Aid intensity

Public research Institutes and Universities: the aid intensity can reach 100% for performing non-economic activities in accordance with point 19, article 2.1.1 of the «Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation» (2014/C 198/01).

Maximum aid intensity for undertakings is calculated according to paragraphs 5,6,7 of article 25 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, as amended by Reg.(EU) 2021/1237 & Reg.(EU) 2023/1315 (table 1) : (a) 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research; (b) 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development. The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum aid intensity of 70% of the eligible costs as follows:

(a) by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises;

(b) by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

(i) the project involves effective collaboration:

– between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or

– between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;

(ii) the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

Table 1: Funding rates-maximum funding percentages

	Industrial/ Applied Research	Experimental development/ innovation
Large Enterprises	50-65%	25-40%
Medium Enterprises	60-70%	35-50%
Small Enterprises	70%	45-60%

	Universities, public research organisations		100%	100%
	Public authorities with R&D activities		100%	100%
	Associations without economic activities, NGOs	Large	50-65%	25-40%
		Medium	60-70%	35-50%
		Small	70%	45-60%
Eligible costs	In compliance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 [in particular according to article 25 (c) and 25 (d)] declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021, the eligible costs of research and development projects shall be allocated to a specific category of research and development and shall be the following: (a) personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project. (b) costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible. (c) costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project. (d) additional general costs and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies, travel expenses, organization of meetings, dissemination/publicity costs, audit costs, incurred directly as a result of the project implementation. (e) indirect costs = flat rate of 25% of direct costs (except subcontracting costs). Indirect costs are eligible for all legal entities and include costs that do not incur directly as a result of the project implementation (e.g. administrative and management costs, utility costs)			
Requirements at regional/national level	A. Upper limit of the total public funding will be 200.000 € per project (including indirect costs). This amount can be increased to 250.000 € per project if the Greek partner assumes the European project coordination. The maximum state aid intensity will be calculated according to the provisions of the European state aid rules and regulations in force (type of research activity, size of the participating enterprise, collaborative research etc).			

	B. With regard to the evaluation of the projects, at national level only eligibility check is conducted and not a full peer review at pre-proposal and full proposal stages. We rely on the evaluation made by the independent reviewers and the Peer Review Panel (PRP). A national procedure will follow for the approved for funding at the transnational level proposals only. For more information, please contact the responsible contact person at national level. C. Duration of the projects: The duration of a funded project is 24- 36 months. A possible extension of the duration under conditions can be accepted maximum up to the 1/3 of the initial duration taking into account the starting date without modifying the scientific or increasing the financial part of the project and the prerequisites of the current Programme (e.g. 31/12/2029, closing date for financing the projects in national level).

Hungary[12] **Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal** **National Research, Development and Innovation Office**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Zsuzsanna Kürti ncp@nkfih.gov.hu
Initial funding pre-commitment	500.000 EUR
Eligible institutions	Institution of higher education, Other budgetary research institution, Other budgetary institution (outside education or research), Enterprise-based research organisation, Enterprise (non-research type), Non-profit research organisation, Other non-profit organisation (outside research), HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network For more details, please refer to the Guide for Applicants for the **2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG** national call : https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas

[12] Funding of Hungary partners in line of rules for EU funding, specifically, the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022D2506)

Additional eligibility criteria	Hungarian budget: 500 000 EUR per project, a maximum of 250 000 EUR per partner. Hungarian applicants recommended for funding need to submit an application to the national call: https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas . The requirements of the national call (ie. budgeting) have to be taken into consideration when preparing the international application. Application to the national call is required only if the project is recommended for funding after the full proposal evaluation phase
Eligible costs	For details, please refer to the Guide for Applicants for the 2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG national call : https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Requirements at regional/national level	For details, please refer to the Guide for Applicants for the 2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG national call : https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas

Ireland **Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr Erika Duriakova erika.duriakova@researchireland.ie Dr Emma McGrath Emma.mcgrath@researchireland.ie

	Dr Maria Nash Maria.nash@researchireland.ie General mailbox Eu-cofund@researchireland.ie
Initial funding pre-commitment	EUR 800,000
Eligible institutions	Irish Host Research bodies eligible for Research Ireland funding. Please refer to Research Ireland's Policies and Guidance for the list of eligible Research Performing Organisations: Eligibility Information
Additional eligibility criteria	**Only an academic partner or coordinator based in an eligible Irish Host Research body may apply for Research Ireland funding.** **The Irish-based applicant must:** • hold a PhD or equivalent qualification for at least 3 years by the pre-proposal deadline. The official date is defined as the day, month and year that the degree was conferred i.e., the month and year printed on the official PhD certificate. **AND** • be a member of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with an active contract that covers the period of the grant) **OR** • be a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the eligible Research Body as an independent investigator and will have an independent office and research space for which he/she will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the Research Ireland grant **OR** • be an individual who will be recognised by the eligible Research Body upon receipt of the grant as an academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. The applicant does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Body at the time of the application submission. **AND** • be an author on at least three international peer-reviewed articles. Only original research publications, and not review articles or other secondary research literature, are acceptable.

	Please refer to the Research Ireland call webpage for more information on eligibility criteria. Please note that Research Ireland may contact applicants directly to confirm eligibility post submission. **Clinical trials** Please note **clinical trials and investigations are not eligible for funding by Research Ireland for the Irish-based applicant.** In addition: • Research Ireland will only accept one application per applicant.
Eligible costs	**All requested costs must be comprehensively justified. Please include detailed descriptions and cost itemisation in the proposal.** Funding is provided for up to 100% of eligible costs. The following indicates the maximum levels of funding that may be requested: Up to €330,000 direct costs* per project for Irish-based researchers applying as a project partner Up to €405,000 direct costs* per project for Irish-based researchers applying as a project coordinator *The maximum total award per project, including 30% overhead contribution, will be €430,000, for a partner and €530,000 for applicants who take on the role of coordinator. Eligible costs 1. **Salary-related costs** for research personnel. Please use current Research Ireland Team Member Salary Scales. The Irish partner cannot request their own salary or buy-out. 2. **Small equipment costs** up to a maximum value of €10K 3. **Travel costs** with consideration for Research Ireland's Guidance for Sustainable Travel Policy 4. **Direct running costs** (materials and consumables) 5. **Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs** 6. **Subcontracting costs** are considered an eligible budget category however strong justification for subcontracting must be provided and pre-approved directly with Research Ireland in advance of proposal submission.

Requirements at regional/national level	If applying through Research Ireland, please give a brief notification of your intent to submit a pre-proposal by email **before the submission deadline** to eu-cofund@researchireland.ie. Within the notification, please include the following information: • List of project partners • Irish Host institution • Total budget request to Research Ireland • Whether you intend to apply as a coordinating or non-coordinating partner **Please note it is also the responsibility of the applicant to notify the Research Office of their Host Institution of their intention to submit a pre-proposal to the BE READY NOW Joint Call 2026** ***State Aid:*** *Applicants are advised that funding awarded by Research Ireland under the European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY) Programme will be subject to, and must comply with, State aid rules and the conditions of the EU Commission General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). Funding will be awarded to successful applicants under Article 25, in respect of aid for research and development projects. For further details please consult: **Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Research and Innovation Scheme 2021-2026***

Italy **Italian Ministry of Health – IT-MoH**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Grazia Papagni: g.papagni@sanita.it Simona Carmen Ursu: sc.ursu@sanita.it Int-dgric@sanita.it tel +39 06 5994 2928
Initial funding pre-commitment	1.000.000,00 euro. Anticipated number of fundable proposals: 2 Max 400.000 euro per project
Eligible institutions	Only IRCCS (Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) researchers are eligible to apply. Universities, other research Institutes, companies are excluded from funding.

Additional eligibility criteria	Simultaneous PI participation in different 2026 JTCs funded by the Italian Ministry of Health is not allowed. No more than two Italian PIs (Principal Investigators) are eligible to apply for the same project. The Principal Investigator must not already be the recipient of an active project funded by the Ministry of Health. Italian PAOs can be funded as a sub-contractor of an IRCCS if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the EC. The maximum amount eligible for a sub-contract is **< 10% of the total budget** (from the IRCCS Budget). Italian PAOs can still participate in Consortia as "Collaborators" with their own funds. In order to expedite the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance to the applicant prior to the submission of the proposals. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return to the IT-MoH a pre-submission eligibility check form through their IRCCS, using WFR System-> ER communication code, before submitting their proposal to the Joint Call Secretariat. It is strongly recommended that the form, duly completed, is returned at least 10 working days before the proposal submission deadline. Subcontracts are allowed only upon approval, by presenting via Workflow – code ER, a request together with the National pre-elegibility form, the latest 20 days before the deadline of the pre-proposal submission. Applicants will be sent written notification of their eligibility status. Changes in acronyms and budgets provided in the pre-submission eligibility check are not allowed. The pre-eligibility form can be downloaded here: https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_0_file.pdf
Eligible costs	Direct Costs: •Personnel (only temporary contracts or permanent contracts for the amount of hours dedicated to the project, < 60%); •Consumables/Supplies; •Animals/Model costs; •Equipment (only on leasing or rent); •Travel (< 30%); •Dissemination activities (< 1%); •Publication costs: < 2%; open access < 5%; •Patients recruitment costs; •IT Services and Data Bases; •Coordination costs Indirect Costs: • Overhead (< 10%, included in the total); Other indirect costs are not eligible.

	Transfer of eligible funds abroad is not allowed. Subcontracts are allowed only upon approval, by presenting via Workflow – code ER, a request together with the National pre-elegibility form, the latest 20 days before the deadline of the pre-proposal submission.
Requirements at regional/national level	Submission of annual scientific and financial reports at the national level will be required according to the rules of the Ministry of Health (Ricerca Finalizzata). Further information on the rules of the Ministry of Health can be requested to the national contact persons.

Moldova, Republic of National Agency for Research and Development (NARD/ANCD)	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr. Natalia Bolocan natalia.bolocan@ancd.gov.md, +37369068281 Vladislav Branițchi vladislav.branitchi@ancd.gov.md, +37322294861
Initial funding pre-commitment	100 000 € for a total period of three years. Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 1
Eligible institutions	Public research organizations legally established and operating in the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with national regulations, or consortia thereof with private research organizations, in accordance with national provisions.
Additional eligibility criteria	

	• The project coordinator must hold a PhD degree. • The project proposal must align with national R&I priorities and the partnership objectives. • The research team members must be affiliated with eligible public research organizations in Moldova.
Eligible costs	a) Remuneration of the staff who are part of the research team, in compliance with the limits provided by the legislation in the budgetary sector and the related normative framework - up to 70%, including the taxes paid by the employer; b) Procurement of raw materials, consumables, including reagents, laboratory inventory necessary for carrying out experiments for the purpose of realizing the project - as needed; c) Organization of scientific events (conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, etc.) during the duration of the project - up to 5%; d) Business trips abroad and in the country according to normative acts - up to 10%; e) Editing and publication of monographs, scientific articles, including the publication fee - up to 10%; f) Services related to the project (experimental and production works) - as needed; g) Acquisition of software necessary for the implementation of the project, including licenses for scientific software tools (e.g., statistical analysis, modeling, simulation, database access, etc.) – up to 5%; h) Purchase or access to intangible assets, including patent acquisition, licenses, intellectual property rights, and online access to scientific databases – as needed; i) Participation fees in scientific events, conferences or brokerage events relevant to the project – up to 5%.
Requirements at regional/national level	Applicants are required to comply with: • The Science and Innovation Code of the Republic of Moldova; • GD 382/2019 on the methodology for funding research and innovation projects; • GD 1234/2018 on salary conditions for staff in financially autonomous institutions; • GD 10/2012 on travel and delegation rules. Administrative applications must be submitted to NARD after the international pre-proposal submission. The project coordinator must ensure that all national eligibility conditions are met before the project can be funded.

New Zealand **New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science Limited (PHF Science)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr Phil Carter Principal Scientist PHF Science Kenepuru Science Centre 34 Kenepuru Drive, Keneperu, Porirua 5240, New Zealand Postal address: PO Box 50-348, Porirua 5240, New Zealand Tel. No: +64 277 051948 E-mail: philip.carter@phfscience.nz
Initial funding pre-commitment	500 000 Euro Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 1-2
Eligible institutions	Universities, Crown Research Institutes/Public Research Organisations, public and community research institutions, independent researchers.
Additional eligibility criteria	Funding is conditional on the Eligible Institution entering an agreement with PHF Science setting out what funding may be used for, reporting and performance management requirements, reviews and evaluations, IP management, data management, risk management, and management of human ethics approvals. Eligible Institutions may not be part of any other consortiums for the Call. IP: - Best endeavours must be used to maximise benefits to New Zealand through the Eligible Institution's management of intellectual property rights (IP).

	- Cultural, Treaty of Waitangi and Māori rights and interests must be properly understood and taken into consideration in management of IP. - The Eligible Institution should give preferential access to competent New Zealand-based firms to develop any project IP. Where the Eligible Institution believes that it is best to commercialise project IP outside of New Zealand, the Eligible Institution should seek to retain ongoing research, science, and technology in New Zealand and reinvest any net income derived from the commercialisation of the project IP in research, science, and technology in New Zealand.
Eligible costs	Funding may only be used for direct and reasonable costs relating to: - research, science technology and activities reasonably necessary to deliver the agreed research project; - delivering the science consistent with the Frascati Definition of Research and Experimental Development, (including any activities that are reasonably ancillary to purposes that are consistent with the Frascati Definition of Research and Experimental Development); - meeting all performance management and reporting requirements required by the agreement with PHF Science; - providing access, information, and reports to PHF Science if PHF Science undertakes an audit, review or evaluation on the research project or the Eligible Institution's performance; and - carrying out any other activities directly relating to the research as agreed between the Eligible Institution and PHF Science.
Requirements at regional/national level	Institutions selected for funding must adhere to national regulations. Information may be subject to requests under the Official Information Act Information 1982 and may be shared with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and any other Minister if required by PHF Science.

Norway **The Research Council of Norway (RCN)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	The Research Council of Norway Postboks 564 1327 Lysaker Renate Marie McGowan

	+4741017592 rms@rcn.no Sofia Anderholm Strand +4741394144 sast@rcn.no
Initial funding pre-commitment	850 000 Euro Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 2-3 Depending on the volume of submitted and eligible projects, up to 25 % additional funding may be allocated to the call to fund additional projects on the ranking list.
Eligible institutions	Norwegian universities, university hospitals, non-university research institutes, SME, industry/large enterprises, user organisations, NGOs, public sector. Organisations excluded from funding: The Research Council cannot award support to an enterprise that is defined as an "undertaking in difficulty" under the state aid rules at the time of submission (see the "Definition of 'undertaking in difficulty'" on our website). "Enkeltpersonforetak", that is Norwegian companies with sole proprietorship can only participate as subcontractor, and have the role as partner (beneficiary) in projects. SME or other industrial partner is funded with up to 50% of their eligible project costs (see details in the State Aid rules, Article 25). All applicants and partners must comply with the State Aid rules. All projects are to be carried out as effective collaboration between the partners. Undertakings (companies) that participate in the consortium must also not receive indirect state aid in the form of advantageous conditions for cooperation with the research institutions taking part in the consortium. Conditions for awarding state aid: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/state-aid/
Additional eligibility criteria	Within one consortium, no more than one partner can apply for RCN funding. The maximum funding for the Norwegian partner is 300 000 €. If the Norwegian participant has a coordinator role, the maximum funding is 400 000 €. The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects.
Eligible costs	Payroll expenses, procurement of R&D services, consumables, network measures. The overhead cost is included in the rates for personnel. Please follow the RCN research project budget rules in the following link: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/financing/how/budget/ PhD fellowships are not eligible within the RCN funding, and if a postdoc fellowship, it must be sought for 3 years.

	For funded projects, the contractual budget will be in Norwegian kroner (NOK) using the exchange rate from the pre-proposal deadline. The official exchange rate can be found on the websites of the European Central Bank (https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/policy_and_exchange_rates/euro_reference_exchange_rates/html/eurofxref-graph-nok.en.html).
Requirements at regional/national level	If the proposal is granted, information about national registration will be given. Data Management Plan and Consortium Agreement must be in place to sign the contract with RCN for funded projects The Research Council is a driving force in making research as open as possible. Participation must follow RCN´s policy for Open Science.

Slovakia **Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Libuša Ďaďová, libusa.dadova@cvtisr.sk, Erika Jankajová, erika.jankajova@cvtisr.sk, +421 904 859 228
Initial funding pre-commitment	330000 EUR The minimum funding amount is EUR 100,000 per Slovak project partner. The maximum funding amount per Slovak project partner in international projects is EUR 200,000. This amount may be increased to EUR 210,000 if the applicant submits a Trade Mark and Design Application as part of the project, or to EUR 215,000 if the applicant submits a Patent Application as part of the project.
Eligible institutions	Legal entities established in the Slovak Republic, such as public or private research and academic institutions, higher education institutions, SMEs, public sector entities, and other relevant organizations actively involved in research, development, and innovation. • Research institutions (e.g. the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes) • Academic sector (e.g. universities and higher education institutions) • Public administration bodies and organizations established by them, including local and regional government authorities • Non-governmental non-profit organizations • Cluster organizations

	• Private sector entities (entrepreneurial/business sector)
Additional eligibility criteria	The proposed research activities must be carried out in Slovakia, and their results must be applicable and utilized within the Slovak Republic's environment.
Eligible costs	• Personnel costs (salaries of researchers, technicians and other support staff employed by the beneficiary, to the extent that they are directly involved in the project, salaries of project management personnel and other essential positions necessary for the implementation and coordination of the project; • Costs of instruments and equipment; • Costs for contract research, technical knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under market conditions, as well as costs for consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project. General eligibility rule: All expenditures incurred by Slovak project participants must comply with: • Programme Slovakia, specifically Priority 1P1 Science, Research and Innovation, Specific objective RSO1.1: Development and enhancement of research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, Measure 1.1.3: Support for international cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation • The provisions of the State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia; • Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027.
Requirements at regional/national level	After having been informed about the international funding decision, CVTI SR will require also submission of separate application for national funding into the national submission platform. The final formal funding decision is made by CVTI SR and only after the project was recommended for funding by the Partnership. All Slovak applicants are strongly advised to contact the CVTI SR's contact points before submitting their proposals. The proposed project activities must be in line with the priorities defined in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), which serves as the strategic framework for research, development and innovation investments in Slovakia. All Slovak entities must have their contractual financial matters settled with CVTI SR by the end of 2029. Relevant national documents:

	Programme Slovakia, Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia. Useful links: Programme Slovakia SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027

Spain **National Health Institute Carlos III (ISCIII)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Mauricio García-Franco and Cándida Sánchez Barco bereadycalls@isciii.es
Initial funding pre-commitment	**1.000.000 €** (pending of approval of Spanish State Budget) Anticipated number of fundable proposals: ≈3-4 The Strategic Action in Health (Strategic Lines of Health Research 2024–2027, hereinafter **AES 2026**
Eligible institutions	• **Accredited Health Research Institutes** (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria acreditados, **IIS**). Accredited according to the RD 279/2016 (These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated according to the Spanish Act 50/ 2002, of December 26th). See the list of IIS in this link. • **Hospitals or public health administration** of the Spanish National Health System (SNS). These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated in accordance to the Spanish Act 50/2002, of December 26th (a copy of the foundation's statutes may be submitted). • **CIBER.** Team members applying to the call must be from at least two groups belonging to CIBER in two different home institutions and one of these two should be a Hospital, primary health care or public health administration of the SNS or IIS. Please contact CIBER (pai@ciberisciii.es) for more information related to CIBER's eligibility. • **Public Research Institutions (OPIs)** as defined in article 47 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 202/2021, of 30 March, **Private health entities and institutions, public Universities and private Universities** with proven R&D activity capacity, other public R&D centres. These entities can **only** participate if they apply together with hospitals,

	primary health care or public health administration of the SNS or IIS in the same proposal. It is not **allowed** for these entities to apply independently, thus there must be two beneficiary Spanish institutions requesting funding to ISCIII in the same proposal. • Applicants from ISCIII are eligible in the same conditions as Public Research Institution (OPI) above-mentioned. Eligibility criteria from the AESI 2026 apply.
Additional eligibility criteria	**NOT eligible institutions:** • Those declared by the AES 2026 as ineligible to receive funds by ISCIII. • Particularly for this call, it will not be eligible the National Technological Centres and National Centres for supporting technological innovation that are inscribed in the Register according by RD 2093/2008, of 19 December. **IMPORTANT** A maximum of two different partners requesting funding from ISCIII may participate in the same project proposal. Same beneficiary institution cannot participate with more than one partner in the same project proposal.
Eligible costs	**Personnel costs:** • Personnel costs will be eligible for contracts with the needed professional category (superior technician, BSc (grado), MSc (máster), PhD (doctor) for the project development accordingly to the published salary tables in ISCIII's webpage. **Personnel cost will precisely adhere to the salary tables**, no other amount will be considered, either upper nor lower. • Contracts for PhD students will be done in the framework of National Subprogramme for Training (scholarships are not eligible). • Personnel costs will NOT be eligible when they correspond to civil servants or the equivalent personnel (as specified in the AES 2026) either employed by the beneficiary entities or belonging to the research team. • The hiring of permanent personnel already belonging to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible expenses, unless that applies the exception stated in" the AES 2026 for eligible personnel costs, for contracts framed under the Law 17/2022, 5 September, article 23bis in the specified Entities of Public Sector". • Personnel costs will be eligible with a maximum of 36 PM in total for the personnel contracts altogether. • Duration of the contracts: during the whole or part of the duration of the project. **Other eligible costs**: Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, complementary expenses (use of central and general research support services of the beneficiary entity), publication and dissemination of results and other costs as included the AES 2026 that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. **Overheads**, according to the AES 2026 (25%)

	Double funding of the same concept is not allowed. Funding of public-private partnerships allowed. Yes, in the case of private partners, please be aware that ISCIII itself is only providing funds to private non for-profit research institutions in the terms described at "Eligible Institutions" section.
Requirements at regional/national level	• Principal Investigators (PI) **must have PhD degree**. • PI can only participate in one project proposal per call. • PIs belonging to an IIS could apply only from the IIS. • The PI and all members of the research group must belong to the eligible institutions in the call. • Only one PI per beneficiary institution may be funded within the same proposal. • For additional incompatibilities please review the AES 2026. **Excluded personnel as Principal Investigator (PI):** • Those undergoing a postgraduate training in Health Specialization (MIR, EIR, FIR, QIR, BIR, PIR, RFIR). • Those undergoing research training (e.g. PhD students, or "Río Hortega" contracts). • Those undergoing postdoctoral training (e.g. "Sara Borrell" or "Juan de la Cierva" contracts). • Researchers contracted by a RICORs and platforms funded by ISCIII. **Maximum funding from ISCIII per awarded Spanish project**: • If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII is NOT the Coordinator of the transnational project: - **220.000€** (overheads included), if there is only one Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. - **275.000€** (overheads included), if there are two Spanish Partners requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. • **If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII IS the Coordinator** of the transnational project: - **300.000€** (overheads included), if there is only one Spanish Partner in the proposal, acting as a coordinator. - **400.000€** (overheads included), if there is one Spanish Partner in addition to the Spanish Coordinator in the proposal, both requesting funding to the ISCIII.

Projects' duration: from 24 months to 36 months.

The level of funding will take into account the evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, and the financial resources available.

Requirements on data and repositories

- Researchers funded by ISCIII must make public the human genomic data, as well as relevant data (phenotype and exposition data) generated inside the funded project and will use open access repositories. Researchers must also make public all the necessary information for the interpretation of these genomic data, including lab protocols, and data instruments survey tools. Genomic data is understood as: association of complete genomes (GWAS), matrixes of de polymorphism of a single nucleotide (SNP) and sequence of genome, and transcriptomic, metagenomic, epigenomic and gene expression data. The researchers whose projects are funded by ISCIII are recommended to store their scientific data at the "ELIXIR Core Data Resources", or if non-European repositories or databases are to be used, they must be certified by ELIXIR or the US National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).
- ISCIII may not fund any project that may require a repository and/or a data base without a plan ensuring sustainability and decommissioning after the end of funding.

Requirements for clinical studies

Spanish groups that are involved on the performance of a clinical trial in the proposal, **are recommended** to include in their team a member from their scientific node of the EU Clinical Trials Network (SCReN or ECRIN-ERIC) or if it does not exist, a member from the personnel of their Clinical Research Supporting Platform of their institutions (UIC).

Acknowledgements

Any publication, database, product or event protected with IPR or not, resulting from the granted project must acknowledge "Award No. XX by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through "La Acción Estratégica en Salud (Líneas Estratégicas de Investigación en Salud 2024-2027)" 2026 and within the Be Ready Partnership" even after the end of the project, including other specific acknowledgments that could be requested by ISCIII to the granted project. For more information, please see ISCIII's ROR here.

National phase: Due to administrative and legal regulations, the ISCIII establishes the **end of October 2026** (tentative date) as the national deadline for the decision on fundable project consortia which includes Spanish partners to be funded by ISCIII. National applications will be required by ISCIII to the full proposal applicants according to the timeline established in the **AES 2026** (01st to 29th October 2026). Any applicant concerned with a proposal for which no final decision has been made before the end of October 2026 could be declared not fundable by ISCIII.

	In order to expedite the **eligibility check process**, it is mandatory that all the applicants submit the CVA-ISCIII of the PI. This document shall be submitted by the PI by electronic email before the proposal submission deadline to: bereadycalls@isciii.es

Sweden Swedish Research Council (SRC)	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Maria Starborg forskningsprogram.pandemi@vr.se +46 76-526 72 37 Frida Mowafi forskningsprogram.pandemi@vr.se +46 70-889 78 24
Initial funding pre-commitment	15 000 000 SEK (approx. 1 350 000 Euro) Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant Awarded to a project partner: Minimum 1 200 000 SEK (approx. 108 000 Euro) in total per Swedish partner in a project. Maximum 3 000 000 SEK (approx. 270 000 Euro) per project with one Swedish partner. Maximum of 4 500 000 SEK (approx. 405 000 Euros) per project for Swedish participation with a maximum of 2 Swedish partners. Maximum of 500,000 SEK (approx. 45 000Euros) extra for Swedish participation in a consortium with a Swedish coordinator.
Eligible institutions	Higher education institutions (academic), regions, public agencies, research institutes and other organisations performing research. Note that Commercial enterprises and industry can not be funded.
Additional eligibility criteria	The applicant must be an individual researcher holding a PhD. Only researchers at an administrating organisation approved by the Swedish Research Council may apply. Please refer to general applicant eligibility requirements found here: https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/applying-for-a-grant/who-can-apply-for-a-grant.html • The applicant may not have an ongoing project grant concerning the same project idea funded by the Swedish Research Council at the start of the grant period. • All Swedish applicants are encouraged to communicate with the BE READY NOW national contact person regarding their intention to participate in the Call, before submission of the consortium application. • You can only take part in one consortium within this call, either as coordinator or partner. • The number of Swedish partners in one consortium could not be more than two (2). • No funding of industrial partners.

	• All Swedish project leaders participating in the Call for support from the Swedish Research Council shall also submit a parallel application using the Swedish Research Council's application system Prisma. The application form in Prisma can be reached from the national call text at the Swedish Research Council's website
Eligible costs	The project grant may be used to fund all types of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, however no more than corresponding to the person's activity level in the project), running costs (such as consumables, travel including stays at research facilities, publication costs and minor equipment), premises and depreciation costs. Grants may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student participates, project funds may not be paid out as salary during teaching or other departmental duties.
Requirements at regional/national level	A parallel application must be submitted in the Swedish Research Council's application system Prisma. See above for more information. For further guidance see national call texts in Swedish and English for all national requirements.

The Netherlands **The Netherlands organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Fábio Serafim Michelle Helinski PandemicPreparedness@ZonMw.nl +31 70 349 5098 Completion and submission of the form *Intention to Submit a Grant Application* is mandatory before contacting ZonMw's National Contact Point to check eligibility and prior to the submission of a pre-proposal.
Initial funding pre-commitment	1 Mio Euro Anticipated number of fundable research groups: 4 Max 250.000 euro per project
Eligible institutions	The following Dutch organisations are eligible for funding:

	• Research organisations, that meet the definition of a research organisation as referred to in EU state aid legislation may receive the research grant (Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01). • Non research organisations (e.g. non-academic hospitals (e.g. top clinical or peripheral), healthcare institutions, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)). **Please note**: a concrete application may require a state aid analysis. This depends on the nature of the parties that apply.
Additional eligibility criteria	**State Aid:** No funding will be awarded by ZonMw if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid[13]. Funding awarded to research organisations[14] for the execution of non-economic research activities does not constitute state aid. By contrast, where funding for research activities is awarded to non-research organisations, such funding qualifies as state aid. Consequently, the following state aid measure is applicable to BE READY JTC 2026: *General Block Exemption Regulation* The General Block Exemption Regulation (hereinafter GBER) will be used in this funding round, by which grants allocated under this call for grant applications are designated as a permissible form of state aid. This means that there are conditions for funding and rules for budgets. In addition, applicants are required to make declarations about certain data. If collaborative projects are involved in which multiple undertakings[15] could benefit from state aid, then all undertakings eligible to claim a grant must meet the conditions of the GBER. This means that all the conditions and requirements arising from the GBER apply equally to the full extent to all undertakings in the collaborative project eligible to claim a grant. ZonMw informs the European Commission of this grant call by means of a notification as referred to in Section 11 of the GBER. To qualify for a grant under the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), in addition to the substantive criteria of this call for grant applications, applicants must meet a number of specific requirements under the GBER. You can find these below.

[13] Section 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).
[14] As defined in EU state aid legislation: Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I Framework) (2014/C 198/01), Section 15(ee).
[15] An undertaking as defined under EU state aid legislation means any entity that performs economic activities, regardless of its legal form or means of financing.

	– ZonMw will not award a grant if it is not sufficiently plausible that your application meets all the definitions and conditions of the GBER, or if – in the opinion of ZonMw – awarding the grant would lead to awarding state aid unlawfully within the meaning of Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) [16]. – ZonMw will not award a grant if the date of commencement of the work on the project or the date of commencement of the activities is earlier than the date of submission of the grant application[17]. – ZonMw will not award a grant to undertakings against which a recovery order has been issued as a result of a previous decision by the European Commission declaring aid granted by the Netherlands to be unlawful and incompatible with the single market[18]. When submitting your grant application, please attach a completed and signed Declaration order for recovery of state aid (in Dutch). – ZonMw will not award a grant to undertakings in difficulty[19]. When presenting your grant application, please attach a completed and signed Declaration undertaking not in difficulty. – Accumulation of grants or other types of state aid for the same eligible costs (entirely the same or partly overlapping) may not result in exceeding the maximum aid intensity. If an administrative body or the European Commission has awarded a grant for the same eligible costs (entirely the same or partly overlapping), ZonMw will only award an amount such that the total amount of the grant does not exceed the amount that may be allocated based on the GBER[20]. When submitting your grant application, please attach a completed and signed Declaration on the accumulation of state aid. Based on article 25 of the GBER, ZonMw is allowed to provide state aid in the form of a grant for research activities for the following activities: Activity falls under 'fundamental research'[21]: - non-research organizations: economic activity, the provision of funding constitutes state aid. Permitted funding can be granted using article 25, paragraph 2(a), of the GBER. The aid intensity is 100%. Activity falls under 'industrial research'[22]:

[16] Section 1(5) GBER.
[17] Section 6 GBER.
[18] Section 1(4)(a) GBER.
[19] Section 1(4)(c) GBER. Financial difficulty as referred to in Section 2(18) of the GBER.
[20] Section 8 GBER.
[21] Section 2(84) GBER.
[22] Section 2(85) GBER.

Funded by the European Union

<table>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>
- non-research organizations: economic activity, the provision of funding constitutes state aid. Permitted funding can be granted using article 25, paragraph 2(b), of the GBER. The aid intensity is 50%, which can be increased to 80% if certain conditions are met (see table below).
<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Big enterprise</th><th>Medium-sized enterprise</th><th>Small enterprise</th></tr>
<tr><td>Aid intensity (basic)</td><td>50%</td><td>50%</td><td>50%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Increased aid intensity: type of enterprise</td><td>-</td><td>10%</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Increased aid intensity: results of the project are widely disseminated</td><td>15%</td><td>15%</td><td>10-15% (by maximum of 80%)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Co-financing</td><td>35%</td><td>25%</td><td>20%</td></tr>
</table>

Please use the ZonMw budget format for GBER as basis for the budget calculations.

Co-financing refers to the percentage of costs that are not eligible for grant. The budget must include the full costs incurred by the Dutch organisation, clearly indicating which costs are financed by the grant and which costs, where applicable, are covered through co-financing, either in cash or in kind.

When applying for the grant, it must be determined whether the enterprise is a small or medium-sized enterprise. Therefore, the EU SME Self-Assessment Wizard must be completed when submitting the subsidy application. The form must be generated no more than 14 days before submitting the application.
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible costs</td>
<td>
Costs:
Eligible costs of projects include:

Personnel costs
Bench fee
Costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and as long as they are used for the project
Other operational expenses: materials, travel costs for consortium meetings, costs for dissemination of results (implementation) of the project, open access costs with a maximum of 5000 € per project if the publication takes place according to the full golden route.

</td>
</tr>
</table>

	Non-eligible costs of projects include: • In most cases (e.g. university or University Medical Center) overhead is not allowed. Personnel costs are funded in accordance with VSNU/NFU salary tables. Budget formats and salary tables can be downloaded from the ZonMw website. It is necessary to use these formats and salary tables in the preparation of the budget for the Dutch partners, both in the preproposal and full proposal stage. In case of an assignment with a third party, consult the ZonMw page Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties "Assignment" ("Opdracht") for more information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract.
Requirements at regional/national level	Dutch applications selected for funding must comply with the General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw, including all applicable rights, conditions, and obligations. Eligibility and application rules • An applicant (i.e. Principal Investigator) from the Netherlands may request ZonMw funding for only one project proposal within this call, as part of an international consortium. • Each application (i.e. the Dutch component of an international consortium) must have only one main applicant (i.e. the Dutch partner or coordinator), who is responsible for both the scientific and financial management to ZonMw. National submission Dutch partner(s) in funded projects must submit the following items to ZonMw: • A signed Statement of Agreement before the deadline for submission of the full proposal to DLR. • The full proposal (including the ZonMw budget format for GBER and the abovementioned documents required for the State Aid analyses, where applicable) to the *MijnZonMw* digital desk only after international evaluation and approval of the ranking list by the Call Steering Committee. Selected applicants will be invited by ZonMw to submit. Obligations for funded projects: • Compliance with ZonMw procedures, including submission via *MijnZonMw*, use of the ZonMw budget format, and periodic reporting. • Personnel must be appointed at the Dutch applicant organisation. • A Consortium Agreement, including intellectual property provisions, and a Data Management Plan are required. A signed copy of the Consortium Agreement must be submitted to ZonMw within six months after project starts.

Türkiye **The Scientific And Technological Research Council Of Türkiye (TUBITAK)**	
Regional/national Contact person(s)	Dr. Recep Emrah Çevik E-mail: emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr Tel:+90 312 298 1214
Initial funding pre-commitment	800.000 EUR
Eligible institutions	• Universities • Training and research hospitals • Public organizations and institutions Private Organizations
Additional eligibility criteria	• Max. funding per partner**: 100.000 € (Excluding overhead and incentive cost) • Max. funding per private organization partner***: 200.000 € • Max. funding per two partners in the same consortium: 200.000 € (Excluding overhead and incentive cost) ** Universities, Training and Research Hospitals, Public Organizations and Institutions will be supported with a 100% support rate based on their accepted budgets. *** Large-scale private organizations will be supported with a support rate of 60% based on their accepted budgets, and SMEs will be supported with a support rate of 75% based on their accepted budgets.
Eligible costs	TÜBİTAK 1071 Program* rules are eligible *https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/256_sayili_bk_islenmis_hali-1071-1_0.pdf

Requirements at regional/national level	For the international pre-proposal stage, National application procedure is applied as well.

Annex B: Schematic illustration of the JTC process

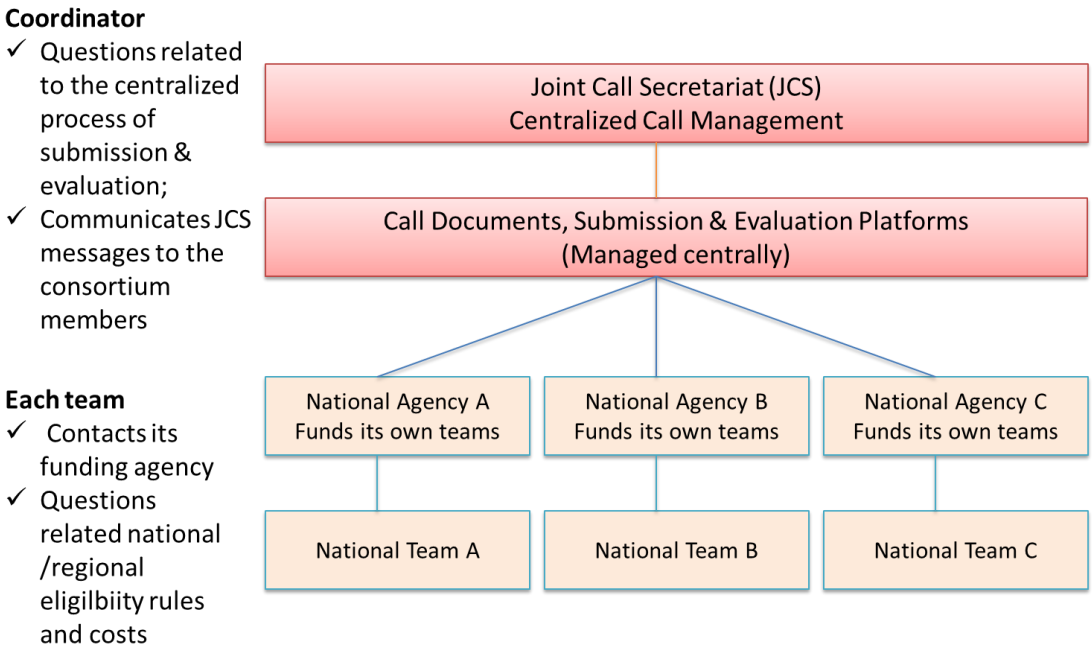

Diagram 1: The JTC is coordinated at two complementary levels:

1. **Centralized Process (Joint Call Secretariat – JCS, coordinated by DLR)**
   - The JCS is responsible for launching and managing the call.
   - It serves as the **single point of contact** for questions related to the submission process, evaluation, and call documents.
   - Applicants, mainly the coordinators, interact with the JCS for all **formal, centralized procedures.**
   - The JCS will be responsible for the monitoring phase until the funded research projects have ended (see also Annex C).
2. **Responsibilities at national/regional level**
   - Each research team must **contact its regional/national funding agency** to verify eligibility (both for the team and the budget) before submission (see Annex A).
   - **Funding remains decentralized**: each national agency finances its own national research teams according to local rules and budgets see Annex A).

Annex C: Responsibilities of the Grantees

1. Granting Arrangements

Partners from the projects approved for funding will subsequently enter into granting arrangements with the relevant funding organisations, according to their applicable grant awarding process and will be funded directly by the respective funding organisations. Partners from the projects approved for funding must fix **a common scientific project start date, which will be the reference date for the progress reports**. Projects are expected to start **between December 2026 and April 2027**.

2. Intellectual Property

The goal of the BE READY Partnership is to bring together national research efforts in order to make better use of public Research and Development (R&D) resources and to translate the SRIA on pandemic preparedness into action.

For the BE READY Partnership activities to contribute effectively to socioeconomic progress, the results of the research activities must be exploited. This requires appropriate identification and protection of the intellectual property being generated and effective knowledge transfer. Any particular protection and exploitation strategy should be agreed before the research activities start. The ten principles of Socially Responsible Licensing should be part of this strategy.

Depending on the nature of the research and on the interests of the different parties, if there are opportunities for exploitation, it is recommended that parties decide in advance on either adopting a common exploitation strategy or leaving exploitation of results to the party best placed to commercialise it, with appropriate compensation mechanisms for the contributing parties. National rules and regulations may apply, please consult Annex A.

3. Consortium agreement

The partners of each funded project **are required to set up and sign a Project Consortium Agreement** (PCA) in order to deal with issues related to the role, tasks and responsibilities within the consortium, the protection of intellectual property, and where applicable how the consortium will address the ten principles of Socially Responsible Licensing. The coordinator is responsible for providing the PCA signed by all partners to the JCS (beready@dlr.de) when requested during the mid-term progress reporting. Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations. The project consortium is strongly encouraged to sign the PCA before the official project start date and, in any case, the PCA should be signed **no later than six months after the scientific project start date**. The PCA needs to be in accordance with the national funding rules of the respective funding partner organisations - see Annex A. Please note that certain funding organisations may need the signed PCA to release the funds.

The PCA must address (as a minimum), the following points:

- common start date and duration of the research project and the duration of the PCA;
- organisation and management of the project;
- role, tasks, and responsibilities of each partner;
- the resources and funding;
- confidentiality and publishing;
- Intellectual Property Rights (if applicable);
- how the ten principles of Socially Responsible Licensing will be addressed (if applicable);
- decision making within the consortium;
- handling of internal disputes;
- the liabilities of the research partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

Any issues regarding funding are a bilateral matter between each project partner and the relevant funding organisation and should be excluded from the PCA.

Please see the DESCA website for further information and templates of a simplified consortium agreement under the Horizon Europe Framework.

4. Open Science

The BE READY Partnership requires grant holders to make data and research findings resulting from their project available following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary". To this end, BE READY supports research consortia in implementing Open Science practices, focusing on data management according to FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable), and sharing research findings via open access publications. The open science requirements for BE READY funded projects are in line with the guidelines for research data management of Horizon Europe.

Data Management

Data management is mandatory for BE READY funded projects. It involves first that applicants are strongly encouraged to look for options for re-using existing data, standards, tools, and infrastructures, particularly those familiar to the pandemic preparedness research community, to enhance interoperability.

Secondly, applicants must ensure that they plan the appropriate activities for their project, enabling them to make data available as soon as possible and re-usable for verifying results, and future research and innovation. Their plan must include the necessary expertise on data stewardship[23] and sufficient budget to be able to manage research data, in line with the FAIR principles. Grant holders will receive more details on the requirements later in the process.

Note that all requirements and guidelines referring to 'data', also apply to other resources that are used to perform the research, and are needed to re-use or validate the data and published research findings. These resources include for instance physical research

[23] Data stewardship is the responsible planning and executing of all actions on digital data before, during and after a research project, with the aim of optimising the usability, reusability and reproducibility of the resulting data.

outputs (such as biological samples, molecular derivatives), research software, (meta)data standards and tools.

What needs to be done in the application phase?

Applicants must check the requirements for data management and data sharing of the relevant national funder. BE READY Partnership specific requirements will be provided later in the process, when grants are awarded.

Applicants do not need to deliver a data management plan (DMP) yet. However, already in this phase, they must plan carefully what is needed for re-using existing data (including the permission required therefore), and for managing data (and other resources) to become findable and re-usable for future users. The application must particularly include:

- A plan to involve experts on data stewardship, who are facilitated to dedicate their expertise to the project to realise data re-usability. The data-experts must also be able to participate in workshops aimed at building FAIR data-expertise and community engagement.
- Sufficient budget to enable the data-experts to be involved in the project.
- Sufficient budget to make use of tools, services and infrastructures to realise planned and required data re-usability. Be aware of the requirement to provide access to research data in trusted repositories.

What needs to be done once the project is funded?

Once the project is funded, a DMP must be developed. The Coordinator must prepare a DMP **no later than six months** after the scientific project start date. The coordinator is responsible for sending an updated DMP with the midterm and the final term progress reports of the project to the BE READY JCS (beready@dlr.de). The Horizon Europe template for DMP should be used. Grant holders will receive further information, when grants are awarded.

Finalising data management: At the end of the project, research data and other outputs, software and other tools or instruments necessary to validate the publications' conclusions must be made available by depositing in a trusted repository. The final DMP must be completed and delivered, including information on how resources can be found, where they are stored, and access conditions.

Open Access Publications

Beneficiaries must disseminate results, including scientific publications, to the public as soon as possible. Peer-reviewed scientific publications must be made available in open access. Guidelines and options to comply to the requirements are available on How to comply with Horizon Europe mandate for publications.

Peer-reviewed publications issued from BE READY funded projects must be open access by depositing the final version or peer-reviewed manuscripts in a trusted repository. For journal articles, a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) or equivalent open license should be requested to the editor. For publishing long-texts, Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial/Non-Derivatives licenses are also allowed. In addition, the research outputs, tools, or instruments necessary to validate the publications' conclusions should be deposited in a trusted repository.

Each participant may also be required to comply with the Open Access policy of its funding organisation (See country-specific information in Annex A). To find out if a scientific journal complies with open access, check on the Directory of Open Access Journals or the Journal Checker tool. All research projects funded by the BE READY Partnership are eligible to publish on Open Research Europe (ORE), the Platform of the EC at no cost.

Open Methodologies

Detailed protocols, software, and workflows must be provided to enable reproducibility of research.

5. Project Monitoring and reporting

Overall project monitoring will be the responsibility of the BE READY JCS (beready@dlr.de). On behalf of the consortium, the coordinator is required to submit progress reports (mid-term and final-term) as to be outlined in the monitoring policy of the transnational projects supported under the BE READY Partnership.

The monitoring outputs and outcomes from the reports will be collected and made accessible to all funding organisations. In addition, the monitoring of each funded project will also be done **through follow-up meetings with expert panel to assess the outcomes and impact of projects**. The BE READY JCS will contact the coordinator requesting the reports as per required timeline and will provide detailed information on the reporting needs.

Other than the progress reports, grantees have an obligation to provide the BE READY with updated information of the consortium and its results, if requested, even beyond the tenure of the projects.

6. Ethics

Each funded consortium must have all necessary ethics approvals for research on animals, and/or research involving human subjects or data/samples obtained from human subjects according to national/regional law and regulation and in compliance with EU Horizon Europe rules before initiation of such research. Applications for ethics approval and ethics approvals should be made available immediately to the BE READY JCS upon request. The BE READY Partnership may perform an ethics review of the research at any time (evaluation and/or follow-up of the funded projects).

Project coordinators must inform the BE READY JCS as well as the funders supporting the project if ethics approvals are denied. The notification should be communicated no more than 14 calendar days after the rejection and the proposed rescue plan (new request for ethics approval, modification of the workplan/ project scope) must be approved by the funders supporting the project.

Any partner of a consortium in breach of research ethics regulations will subject the whole project for re-evaluation by all funding organisations of the project resulting in potential inhibition of all activities, withdrawal of funds, cancelling of contracts, and /or legal action or other sanctions according to national law.

7. Changes to on-going grants

The funded projects may need to request changes in the project consortium (for e.g. change of organisation, change of coordinator/partner) or in the project workplan due to circumstances beyond their control that might prevent them from conducting research and thereby hinder implementation of their project during its tenure. These changes should be **exceptional and supported by reasonings due to scientific or administrative constraints**. Substantial changes must be approved by the different funding organisations involved in the project. The project coordinator should inform the BE READY JCS (beready@dlr.de) as soon as possible via email. The BE READY JCS will inform the relevant funding organizations, who will decide upon the proper action to be taken.

8. Communication

Coordinators of the funded projects are required to deliver, upon request, an abstract or a short video presenting their project or a summary of their project results suitable for communication and dissemination purposes.

The project coordinators should be available to participate in meetings/workshops/podcast with the aim of:

- disseminating project results;
- developing a joint strategy to coordinate and facilitate integration of the planned activities of the BE READY Partnership;
- supporting the uptake of the research results by stakeholders;
- communicating results across the BE READYPartnership.

Importantly, all funding recipients must ensure that all research outcomes (i.e. publications, tools, software, databases) of transnational BE READY funded projects include proper acknowledgement of the BE READY Partnership and the respective funding partner organizations using the text below:

"This project received funding from [name of funding organisations, or an acknowledgment as requested by your regional/national funding organisation] under the frame of the European Partnership BE READY, (GA N° 101226682 of the EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme)".

For any oral presentation, the BE READY logo, the logo of the national/regional funders as well as the EU emblem "Co-funded by the European Union" should be displayed (with the same size for each logo).