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Joint Transnational Call for Proposals (2024) for

Identification and Validation of Targets for Personalised Medicine Approaches (PMTargets)

(EP PerMed Grant 101137129)

Announcement

Opening of online submission tool: **expected by 12 January, 2024**
Submission deadline for pre-proposals: **05 March, 2024 (17:00, CET)**
Submission deadline for invited full-proposals: **20 June, 2024 (17:00, CEST)**

For further information, please visit our website: www.eppermed.eu

or contact the EP PerMed Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)
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EP PerMed
European Partnership for Personalised Medicine

Announcement

The European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed), supported by the European Union under Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement N° 101137129), launches its first joint transnational call (JTC2024) for proposals on **"Identification or Validation of Targets for Personalised Medicine Approaches (PMTargets)"**. In total, 38 funding organisations participate in this call with an available budget of over **45 Mio€**.

Expected timeline of the call

02 January, 2024	**Publication** of the call
12 January, 2024	**Opening of the pre-proposals submission system**
15 January, 2024	**JTC2024 information day**
05 March, 2024 (17:00, CET)	**Deadline for pre-proposal submission**
Expected around 20 May, 2024	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment and invitation to the full-proposal stage
20 June, 2024 (17:00, CEST)	**Deadline for full-proposal submission**
Mid/end of August 2024	**Rebuttal stage**
Expected for October 2024	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
End of 2024, beginning of 2025	**Expected project start** (according to regional/national funding regulations)

Electronic submission website

Electronic proposal submission is mandatory on PT-Outline. Research project consortia who intend to submit a transnational proposal should register as soon as possible, by clicking on "**Sign up**" and follow further instructions.

Contact persons for the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)

The **EP PerMed JCS** is hosted by the **Agence Nationale de la Recherche** (ANR), France:

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AIMS OF THE CALL

With its first joint transnational call, EP PerMed aims to fund research that fosters the identification or validation of targets for personalised medicine (PM) approaches.

Applicants submitting a proposal to this call must combine the research on new and advanced targets with companion biomarker research (companion diagnostics). Consortia are required to be transnational, interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral as well as to clearly outline the PM perspective in the research proposed.

The overall objectives of the JTC2024 are to

- Support research projects in human health aiming at identifying or validating targets for personalised medicine approaches in combination with development of companion biomarkers or other markers to allow for monitoring of treatment outcomes and patient stratification;
- Encourage and enable interdisciplinary collaborations by combining pre-clinical and clinical research in translational projects, and multi-actor research by engaging a range of other relevant disciplines such as bioinformatics/health informatics/data research, ELSA research, implementation research or health economics research connected to the proposed research topic, including end-user perspective analysis to empower the implementation of PM; and
- Encourage cross-sectorial collaborations, by including the private sector (e.g. SMEs, small and medium-sized enterprises), industry, as well as regulatory/HTA agencies and patient organisations.

SCOPE OF THE CALL

The core of each application must be the identification or validation of a target for personalised medicine approaches in combination with companion biomarker research. In addition, the consortia can address accompanying research if this is necessary for the identification or validation of the target and if appropriate to the development status of the project. EP PerMed strongly encourages the active involvement of end-users in the proposed research projects.

Depending on the development phase of the research, projects can focus on the following stages (specific funding regulations might apply, see Annex 2 of the Call Text as well as Annex 2 of the "Guidelines for Applicants" document):

- **Stage 1**: Identification of novel targets for the development of a concrete and feasible PM approach, based on a clearly circumscribed biological/clinical hypothesis, in combination with companion biomarker research. Applicants are advised to use existing clinical data as a basis for target identification.
- **Stage 2**: Development or validation of already known but not yet established targets for a PM approach, in combination with accompanying biomarker research. This includes target validation *in vitro* and in animal models (proof-of-principle studies), early pharmacological and toxicity tests and, if feasible, exploratory clinical studies to demonstrate clinical applicability (proof-of-concept studies).

Exclusion: Research focussing only on new biomarker discovery. Projects submitted to the JTC2024 focussing on the identification of new biomarkers as the sole purpose of the research are out of the scope.

Stages are not mutually exclusive. They define the overall scope of the JTC2024 to which all proposals must comply.

Research projects in all disease areas are encouraged. Consortia are required to start from a relevant clinical (unmet) need and to include activities that support a comprehensive and efficient uptake of the developed PM approach in clinical practice, with the aim that "Today's research is tomorrow's healthcare".

Please refer to the Call Text of the JTC2024 for further information and definitions.

GENERAL (eligibility) CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to an entity according to the following categories (subject to regional/national funding regulations; see "Guidelines for Applicants"):

A. **Academia** (research teams working in universities, other higher education institutions) **or research institutes;**

B. **Clinical/public health sector** (research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other healthcare settings and health organisations). Participation of clinicians (e.g. medical doctors, nurses) in the research teams is encouraged;

C. **Private for-profit (industry) partners, e.g. SME** (small and medium-sized enterprises) **and private non-profit partners, e.g. foundations, associations or non-governmental organisations.**

Only transnational projects will be funded. **Each consortium must involve at least three partners from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries whose funding organisations participate in the call**. **Each of these partners must be eligible and request funding from the respective funding organisation**. All three legal entities must be independent of each other. The **project coordinator must be eligible to be funded** by his/her regional/national participating funding organisation.

Max. 2 project partners per consortium can request funding from the same funding organisation. For some funding organisations, the maximum number of eligible partners who can be funded in one project is limited to one (see also "Guidelines for Applicants" for individual funding rules).

Pre-proposal stage: Maximum number of partners is 6 (no more than 2 partners from the same country); Maximum number of partners can be 7 if the consortium includes a 3rd partner of the same country (**condition**: funding requested from at least 2 different funders of the respective country; applies to only one country per consortium).

Widening concept: Consortia are allowed to include in the **full-proposal phase** an additional project partner that is eligible to receive funding from a funding organisation that is underrepresented in the second stage of the call and that agrees to participate in the widening option (a list of underrepresented regions/countries will be provided to coordinators invited to submit full-proposals).

No more than one partner with their own funding is allowed in the consortia with at least three partners eligible for funding (more indications in the Call Text: "B. Funding recipients", section 7).

Exception: To facilitate the integration of patient organisations in consortia, they can be added to a consortium as additional partners at the pre-proposal stage or full-proposal stage. Patient organisations can be added as additional partner(s) either on own funds or by applying for funding, if eligible, from the respective funding organisations. The consortia must follow all of the above-mentioned rules regarding the consortia composition without counting the patient organisations,

except for the following rule: **within one consortium, no more than 2 partners can request funding from the same funding organisation, <u>including</u> patient organisations.** For some funding organisations, the maximum number of eligible partners who can be funded in one project is one.

Funding will be awarded for a maximum of three years.

Number of partners in the proposal*	**Pre-proposal**					**Full-proposal** (only by inclusion of one underrepresented region/country)
	3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**+1**
Maximum number of partners with own funding**	0	1	1	1	1	1
Maximum number of partners per country***	1	2	2	2	3	3 (for consortia with 8 partners)

* minimum of three partners eligible for funding from three different EU Member States countries, or two EU Member States and at least one Associated Country whose funders participate. Patient organisations are not included in this calculation.

** patient organisations are not included in this calculation and can be added as partners participating with own funding at the pre- and full-proposal stage.

*** patient organisations are not included in this calculation and can be added as additional partners in the pre-proposal or full-proposal stage. They can participate either on own funds or apply for funding, if eligible, from the regional/national funding organisation. Please note: **within one consortium, not more than 2 partners can request funding from the same funding organisation, <u>including</u> patient organisations.** For some funding agencies, the maximum number of eligible partners who can be funded in one project is one.

Each project partner has to be represented by **<u>one</u> principal investigator**. Within a joint proposal, each project partner's principal investigator will be the contact person for the JCS and the relevant regional/national funding organisation. Each consortium must nominate one **project coordinator** among the project's principal investigators. The nomination of a project co-coordinator is not allowed. The coordinator must be eligible to be funded by his/her regional/national participating funding organisation.

Although proposals will be submitted jointly by research teams from several regions/countries, research groups will be funded by the respective funding organisation of the region/country from which they have applied. Applicants are therefore subject to the eligibility criteria of the respective funding organisations (see also Annex II of the Call Text and Annex 2 of the "Guidelines for Applicants"). They should therefore read the funding rules and eligibility criteria of their funding organisations carefully. **Applicants are strongly advised to contact their relevant funding organisation (see also Annex I of the call text and list below) prior to submission; please note that this step might be mandatory for some regions/countries.**

If a **partner** is found to be ineligible by one of the funding organisations after the formal check, the entire proposal may be rejected without further review. For a definition of eligible partners, see the regional/national regulations in the "Guidelines for Applicants" document, and contact your regional/national funding organisation.

All eligibility criteria and submission requirements are detailed in the following two call documents: "Call text" and the "Guidelines for Applicants".

EP PerMed Partnering tool

The EP PerMed Partnering Tool for Personalised Medicine Research is now open.

Contact details of participating members

The following countries (23) are participating in the call: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and Turkiye (contact list is provided below and in Annex 1 of the Call Text as well as the "Guidelines for Applicants" document).

Besides national funders, the following regions are participating (10): Flanders (Belgium), Walloon Region (Belgium), Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium), Saxony (Germany), Lombardy (Italy), Tuscany (Italy), Azores (Portugal), Centro Region (Portugal), Catalonia (Spain) and Navarre (Spain).

Contact List

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