

Frequently asked questions 1

Call Topic

- Is disease xyz considered a rare disease?
 - Refer to definition „disease affecting not more than five in 10.000 persons in the European Community, EC associated states, and Canada“, consult Orphanet or scientific literature for prevalence data
- Do projects need to address a group of diseases or can they also focus on a single disease?
 - Applicants are strongly encouraged to work on groups of rare diseases with commonalities and assemble criteria of meaningful grouping of the rare diseases under study, based on state-of-the-art scientific discoveries and clinical practice, to achieve higher global impact, but single rare diseases are possible as well with specification why working on a group of rare diseases is not appropriate.
- Is research on rare cancers eligible for funding?
 - No, rare cancers are excluded from the call. Please check TRANSCAN and EC calls (e.g Cancer Mission etc.) for funding opportunities.
- Are gene or cell therapy approaches eligible for funding?
 - No, therapy approaches that fall in the ATMP category are not eligible. These might be subject of a future call.
- Are therapy approaches like ASOs, siRNA, suppressor tRNAs eligible?
 - Yes, if they fall under the definition of „small non-coding chemically synthesized nucleic acid-based therapies“.
- Do you fund validation or other forms of research involving intervention in human subjects?
 - No, only pre-clinical research is funded.
- *“Projects should focus on rare diseases or disease groups with high unmet medical need, high disease burden, and no currently approved therapeutic options in Europe (European marketing authorisation)” – can we also apply for therapies in diseases that do have approved therapeutic options?*
 - Yes, that is possible, but the high unmet medical need in comparison to already existing therapy options needs to be demonstrated.

Frequently asked questions 2

Call Topic

- Where can I find information on previously funded projects in similar calls?
 - Please visit the EJP RD Website: <https://www.ejprarediseases.org/our-actions-and-services/funding-opportunities/funded-projects/> and <https://funded-projects.ejprarediseases.org/>

Consortium

- Can research groups from countries not participating in the call (e.g. UK, USA, China etc.) receive funding?
 - No, they can only participate as collaborators with their own funding.
- Is there a partnering platform for this call?
 - Unfortunately, there is no partnering platform available for this call. It may be offered for future calls.
- Is there a restriction of how many proposals a research group can be part of?
 - There is no general restriction, however some national/regional restrictions may exist → please consult guidelines.
- What are the budget/eligibility criteria for the different national/regional funders/ PAO funding?
 - Please check guidelines and/or contact your local funder.
- Could an industry/company be eligible as partner/subcontractor?
 - Please check guidelines and/or contact your local funder.
- What is the maximum budget a consortium can apply for?
 - There is no maximal budget for the whole consortium but national/regional limitations may exist. Please check guidelines and/or contact your local funder.

Frequently asked questions 3

Patient Advocay Organisations (PAOs)

- Funding Opportunities for PAOs
 - Funding through the central funding mechanism:
 - The organisation should be formally established and registered as a not-for-profit organisation for more than 1 year in one of the following countries:
 - EU Member States and EU/EEA states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden
 - ERDERA partner countries next to EU Member States and EU/EEA states: Georgia, Israel, Morocco, Serbia, Türkiye
 - *If applicable*: Direct funding through national/regional funding agencies: please contact your national/regional funding agencies
 - *If applicable*: Funding as a subcontractor: please contact your national/regional funding agencies
 - Please also check the guidelines for ZonMw, Netherlands

Early Career Researcher (ECR)

- How many months can ECR candidates add to the cut off date of seven years for maternity/paternity leave?
 - As many as they actually took for the leave.
- What is the cut-off date for the ECR seven years qualification?
 - Submission deadline of pre-proposal, 13th February 2025.
- If the ECR is from an underrepresented country, could the number of partners be increased to 7?
 - Yes, as the mandatory ECR and an UR partner are included, it is possible to increase the number to 7.