EP PerMed Joint Transnational Call (2024)

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

HRB Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is specific to applicants based in Ireland and should be read in addition to the full call information: https://www.eppermed.eu/jtc2024/

Eligibility

Q: HRB and SFI are both participating in this call. Who should I apply to?

A: Applicants are permitted to apply to either the **HRB or SFI**, once they meet the eligibility criteria of the relevant funding agency.

Please refer to the relevant SFI and HRB webpages for details.

Q: Do HRB and SFI have different eligibility criteria?

A: HRB and SFI are broadly aligned but there are some differences. For example, HRB can fund Adjunct Professors within eligible Host Institutions as Lead Applicants.

Please refer to the relevant SFI and HRB webpages for details.

Q: Can consortia apply for funding from both HRB and SFI for the same research proposal?

A: No, consortia can either apply for funding under HRB or SFI for a given proposal.

Q: Can multiple Lead Applicants from Ireland be included in one application?

A: Yes. More than one applicant from Ireland can apply once the consortium eligibility criteria are met. If the applicants are at separate Institutions, they must apply as separate partners. Funding for two partners on the same project must fall within the funding limit (€430,000 including indirect costs per award for Irish applicants as Partner(s) or €530,000 including indirect costs per award for Irish applicants as Coordinator). Individual partners cannot apply separately to the HRB and SFI to seek funds on the same project.

Q: Can project participants be included in more than one application to this call?

A: Each applicant can submit only one application as coordinator but can apply to the HRB, not SFI, on more than one proposals as partner. It is permitted that an applicant can apply to HRB and SFI with different project proposals (i.e., they can submit one application to SFI and one to HRB).

Q: Will HRB fund all research areas under this call?

A: Yes but note that Irish Partners are also not eligible for HRB funding for:

- Proposals involving basic biomedical research.

- Research intended to create human embryos solely for the purposes of research or for the purposes of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

See the EP PerMed call text for full information on scope.

Q: Do HRB Lead Applicants have to be permanent staff members?

A: No, contracted researchers and Adjunct Professors can apply.[1] To be eligible, these applicants must provide a letter from the Host Institution (HI) as follows:

- **Contracted researchers:** letter to endorse their application, confirming they have the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their particular status for the duration of the award. All **contracted researchers** must also have a contract with a HI for the duration of the grant award or assure the HRB that they will be offered a contract for the period of the award if successful and this must be stated in their letter of support

- **Adjunct Professors:** letter to confirm that the applicant has the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their Adjunct status for at least the duration of the award.

This should be provided to eujointprogrammes@hrb.ie at time of submission.

Q: Can Early Career Researchers be Lead Applicants?

A: Yes, if they meet the above eligibility criteria. However, note that this call does not have a separate applicant category for Early Career Researchers.

Q: Are Host Institutions in Northern Ireland able to participate?

A: This call is not open for HRB Host Institutions in Northern Ireland. As there are no UK funders participating in this call, participants based in these institutions must be self-funded partners. A maximum of one self-funded partner (self-funded patient organisations are excluded from this limitation).

Q: What types of organisations can participate?

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[1] Note that Adjunct Professors are not eligible for funding from SFI.

A: HRB can only fund approved Host Institutions (with the exception of Host Institutions based in Northern Ireland as noted above).

Other organisations in Ireland can apply via SFI (once eligibility criteria are met) or can be included as self-funded partners, not being able to receive any HRB funding.

HRB budget preparation

Q: Does the contribution from HRB include pension costs and overheads?

A: The maximum HRB funding of €430,000, or €530,000 for coordinators, must include pension costs and overheads. Note that there is a maximum of €330,000 and €405,000 direct costs (excludes overheads) respectively.

Q: What is the HRB overhead rate on an award successfully funded through this scheme?

A: The overhead payment is 25% of Total Direct Modified Costs (TDMC) for desk-based research and 30% for lab-based research. TDMC excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs. The rate (25% or 30%) should be selected based on the primary activity of the project and applied at a flat rate across the project. Please see HRB Policy Usage of Research Overheads.

Q: What does the additional HRB funding for coordinators cover?

A: Consortium coordinators may request this funding. It will cover activities specifically incurred due to consortium coordination activity. This will not cover research-related costs (excludes equipment and consumables) but could cover costs such as salaries, travel and administration related to coordination, as well as associated overheads.

These costs should be clearly marked or explained in the budget submitted to HRB so that HRB staff can confirm that the additional funds are being attributed to coordination activities.

Q: Where two partners from different institutions in a single consortium are applying for HRB funds, is a separate budget required for each partner?

A: Yes, for the central application each partner must provide a budget. At stage 2, as HRB will contract with only one partner, a combined budget will be requested from that partner that clearly delineates each partner's associated costs (see Submission FAQs below). These must be reviewed and approved by the relevant Host Institution. The combined budget total must be within the maximum amount (including overheads) of €430,000 or €530,000 where one of the partners is the coordinator.

Q: Can equipment be funded in this call?

A: Small items of equipment, not exceeding €10,000, can be included in the budget. Only equipment purchases that are directly required for the research and are deemed not to be easily accessible elsewhere in Ireland are appropriate. All costs must be inclusive of VAT, where applicable.

Q: Are there any ineligible costs?

A: The following are examples of ineligible costs: PhD stipends and fees, external training courses/workshops, inflationary increases, cost of electronic journals, maintenance contracts on equipment, hospitality and entertainment costs, technology transfer or patent costs, conference costs, journal subscriptions, relocation expenses.

Submission

Q: Is additional documentation required by the HRB at application stage?

A: There are three cases where additional documentation is required:

- All Lead Applicants must complete the Lead Applicant eligibility form.

- For researchers in Adjunct or contract positions, a letter must be provided from the HI which endorses the application. For details, please see the corresponding question relating to the Lead Applicant in the Eligibility section above.

- At full proposal submission participants from institutions in Ireland will be asked to submit supplementary budgetary information to the HRB, which will justify the HRB funds requested. In addition applicants will be requested to clarify the specific deliverables for the partner from Ireland, including their role in the development of a Data Management Plan.

  This will expedite contract negotiations with the HRB and monitoring of the award in the case of successful consortia with applicants from Ireland.

  A template requesting this further information will be provided by the HRB after invitation for submission of full proposals.

Assessment and Decision-making

Q: Since prioritisation will be assessed internationally and multiple funders are involved in each project, how are decisions made?

A: Projects will be funded if:

- The project is considered of sufficient quality to be funded by the peer review panel. Availability of funds is not considered in making this decision.

- All relevant funders have sufficient budget remaining to cover all consortium partners. For this call, there is also some additional gap-filling funding which will help to fund projects where funders have run out of budget.

  Projects are ranked by the peer review panel and higher ranked projects are prioritised for funding first. This means that when funds are depleted, no further projects can be funded, irrespective of whether they have been deemed of sufficient quality to be funded.

Post-award

Q: Where will intellectual property generated by the project reside?

A: The management of Intellectual Property (IP) is the responsibility of the host institution in line with the National IP protocol. If more than one research body is involved, a joint IP agreement should be in place between the relevant institutions. In the absence of a joint agreement, the management of any IP remains the responsibility of the host institution.

Q: Do I have to submit a Data Management Plan to the HRB if I am not the coordinator?

A: As per the HRB policy on [Management and Sharing of Research Data](#), the HRB requests a Data Management Plan (DMP) for all HRB awards. The DMP developed by the consortium can be used, once there is sufficient detail on how the data will be shared/managed etc. for the partner based in Ireland.

Q: What reports are required by HRB?

A: In addition to consortium reporting requirements (as stated in the main call text)**,** the HRB will request reports (e.g., annual reports) from Principle Investigators funded through HRB.