

JPND Joint Transnational Expert Working Groups Call “Use of digital technologies in neurodegenerative disease research and clinical practice” (2023)

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://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/initiatives/annual-calls-for-proposals/2023-working-groups-call-on-use-of-digital-technologies-in-neurodegenerative-disease-research-and-clinical-practice/>

Working Group make-up

Q: How will the funding be allocated?

A: Each selected Working Group receives financial support from just one of the funding organisations participating to this call. The award is typically provided to the coordinator – *i.e.*, in the case of Irish coordinators, HRB will typically fund the Working Group – and must be used to compensate for the expenses of the entire group. Transfer of funds between partners is not possible.

Q: What is the Scientific Coordinator of a Working Group and who can take on this role?

A: The scientific coordinator assembles the Working Group, acts as first point of contact and is responsible for the internal management (such as monitoring, reporting, intellectual property rights issues and sharing of data).

Experts may join multiple Working Groups; however, they must not act as the coordinator of more than one Working Group.

The coordinator must be from an institution being eligible for one of the participating funding organisations (Ireland (HRB), Australia (NHMRC), France (ANR), Germany (BMBF), Italy (IT-MOH), Netherlands (ZonMW) and UK (MRC, UKRI)).

Q: May participant institutions of a Working Group proposal be included in other applications?

A: Yes, Participant institutions/partners in one Working Group are permitted to be partners in another Working Group proposal. However, they cannot act as coordinators of more than one Working Group.

Eligibility

Q: Do Irish Coordinators have to be permanent staff members?

A: No, contracted researchers can apply but the award will not support the salary of the lead applicant/Principal Investigator. All contracted researchers must have a contract with a Host Institution for the duration of the grant award or assure the funders that they will be offered a contract for the period of the award if successful, and their application must be endorsed accordingly at application stage by the Host Institution. See the HRB guidance (Section 6) for further details on these aspects.

Budget preparation

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

A: Overheads are not payable for this call.

Q: Does the maximum contribution from HRB of €50,000 include pension costs?

A: Yes, the maximum amount of €50,000 must include any pension costs. However, note that staffing is limited to administrative and technical support. No research salaries or stipends will be supported.

Q: Where there are two partners applying for HRB funds, is a separate budget required for each partner?

A: A single, combined budget is required as only one participant can receive funding.

Q: How should salaries be calculated?

A: Note that salaries of investigators, scientific staff and student stipends are not eligible but salaries dedicated to administrative or technical staff supporting – for example, analysis or data handling – is allowed. The relevant administrative scales, including PRSI and pension, should be used.

Q: Are there any ineligible costs?

A: The following are examples of ineligible costs: costs for direct research activities, salaries/stipends of research staff and students, external training courses/workshops, inflationary increases, cost of electronic journals or journal subscriptions, maintenance contracts on equipment, hospitality and entertainment costs, technology transfer or patent costs, conference costs, 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 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 submission of full proposals.

Assessment and Decision-making

Q: Since prioritisation will be assessed internationally, is it possible that projects requesting HRB funding will not be funded if they do not rank sufficiently high in the international assessment, even where sufficient Irish funds are available?

A: Yes. The maximum €50,000 Irish funding will only be spent if a proposal requesting HRB funding is shortlisted for funding based on international peer review. It may also be the case that a proposal requesting HRB funding is supported by another funding agency participating in the call, if all HRB funds are exhausted and other funders have surplus budget. In this case, the working group will be asked to nominate a new Coordinator eligible for funding by the relevant funder.

Post-award

Q: What reporting arrangements are required?

A: In addition to consortium reporting requirements (as stated in the central call text), the HRB will request reports (e.g., annual reports) from Lead Applicants based in Ireland.