HRB Budget Guidance for European Joint Transnational Calls (2026/2027).

IICS4all 2027: Multi-national Investigator-Initiated Clinical Studies in Cardiovascular, Autoimmune, Metabolic, and Non-Communicable Respiratory Diseases, including Underrepresented Populations

Additional guidance on Costs

NOTE: Only costs incurred in Ireland are eligible for HRB funding.

ECRIN can provide support for cross-cutting activities supported by additional funding of up to 15% of the total budget. Please refer to the Call Text for full details.

Funding awarded under this call is co-funded by the European Union. Applicants are responsible for complying with all applicable EU rules, regulations and guidance associated with this funding, in addition to HRB's terms and conditions. Detailed budgets must be provided at full-proposal stage and must comply with all applicable EU and HRB funding rules.

Note that the below categories are used by HRB for contracting and may not match the central application. Please include these in the most appropriate heading within the application and ensure that your budget submitted to HRB (at full proposal stage) aligns overall with the application. All costs should be in line with Host Institution policies.

Personnel costs	**Must be listed for each salaried personnel under each of the following subheadings (a-c):**
a) Salary	Gross Annual Salary (including 5% employee pension contribution) negotiated and agreed with Host Institution. Applicants should use the IUA website scales for the most up-to-date recommended salary scales for academic researchers. Please note employee pension contribution of 5% has already been incorporated into the IUA gross salary figure. **Applicants should include annual pay increments for staff and related costs (pension contribution and employer's PRSI contribution) in the budget.** In line with the proposed new pay agreement for State employees please apply a salary contingency of 3% per annum from 1st October 2026 onwards. Please note this contingency should be applied cumulatively year on year. **Note:** The HRB does not provide funding for the salary or benefits of academic staff within research institutions that are already in receipt of salary or benefits. The HRB does not provide salary or buy out time for collaborators.
b) Employer's PRSI	Employers' PRSI contributions are calculated at a % of gross salary. Please confirm the correct PRSI % rate with your institutional finance office.
c) Employer Pension Contribution	Pension provision up to a maximum of 20% of gross salary will be paid to the Host Institution to enable compliance with the Employment Control Framework (an additional 5% employee contribution is part of the salary). If applicable, state the amount of employer contribution based on the pro rata salary and note the % of pro rata salary used to calculate this for reference. Exceptions apply where Circular letter 6/2007 applies. Circular Letter 6/2007 states that the pensions contribution of all Public Health Service employees who, on or after 1 June 2007, are granted secondments or

	periods of special leave with pay to enable them take up appointments with other organisations, including other Public Health Sector organisations, will be increased to 25% of gross pensionable pay. The rate of 25% of gross pensionable pay referred to in this context is the pension contributions to be paid by the body to which the employee is seconded – it does not include any pension contributions which employees make themselves. Where no such arrangements are in place, the HRB will not be liable for costs.
Running Costs	For all costs required to carry out the study including materials and consumables, travel for participants, sponsor-related costs, transcription costs, data access costs etc. **Please consult with your Host Institution in relation to trial-related insurance costs.** Access to necessary special facilities or services which are not available in the host academic or clinical institutions. i.e., consultancy fees, methodological support, Clinical Research Facilities support, radiology facilities etc. will be considered under Running Costs as long as they are detailed in an accompanying 'Infrastructure Agreement Form' (this is provided at pre-contracting stage). **Travel, events and subsistence costs** that are associated with running the study or coordinating the consortium should be included here. Travel associated with dissemination – i.e., conferences – should be included under Dissemination Costs. **Sub-contracting** for the provision of a service from a Third Party can be covered up to a maximum of 20% of direct costs. Sub-contracting must conform to the Host Institution, National and EU procurement rules. These costs should be necessary, incurred in Ireland, be specific to the project and proportionate, and they should normally constitute only a limited part of the project. Overheads are not applied on sub-contracting costs. **Costs associated with PPI should be included in the PPI section below.** The following costs are ineligible and will not be funded: postgraduate stipends and fees, external training courses/workshops with the exception of GCP training and training in public and patient involvement in research, 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. **Note:** Please see a list of costs that fall within the overhead contribution below and which should not be listed under running costs.

PPI costs	All PPI-related costs for the project (except salaried personnel), such as but not limited to: • Compensating PPI contributors for their time (for example for time spent reviewing material/ participation in advisory groups). This can be as: – a cost for their expertise, e.g. as hourly rate, under PPI costs or – as salaries under personnel which should be labelled PPI contributors under salaries. • Travel expenses for PPI contributors • Training in PPI in research • Costs associated with PPI contributors attending conferences, workshops or training • PPI facilitator costs • Compensation of public or patient organisations for their time. • Room hire for PPI events/meetings. • Hospitality for PPI events/meetings • Companionship or childcare costs for PPI contributors while attending events, meetings, etc. • Training in PPI in research. Note: • **PPI participants supported by salaries as research staff or co-applicants, where applicable in a scheme, should be listed and justified under the personnel heading.** • All costs should be in line with Host Institution policies and practices and HRB Terms and Conditions.
Equipment	Funding for suitably justified equipment can be included in this section. **Equipment costs cannot exceed €10,000 (including VAT)**. All costs must be inclusive of VAT, where applicable. The HRB will not fund stand-alone **computer and laptop related accessories, such as docking stations, monitors and keyboard** as these are considered standard pieces of office equipment that should be available at the Host Institution and supported by overheads. Dedicated laptops that are required specifically for the project because of the mobile nature of the research, will be considered where appropriately justified. The maximum amount allowed for a laptop is €1,200, including VAT if applicable. Individuals requesting a high-spec computer at a higher cost will be required to submit a quotation to the HRB at contracting stage. Clear justification and rationale for the type of computer and costs requested must be provided in all cases.
Open Access costs	Costs associated with peer-reviewed scientific publications. HRB grant holders are required to ensure that open access to all peer-reviewed

	scientific publications relating to the output of their project are in line with the HRB Policy on Open Access. The HRB support OA publications by • Providing HRB Open Research (http://www.hrbopenresearch.org/ which is a rapid, open peer-reviewed and open access publishing platform for all research outputs, with all publication charges covered centrally by the HRB at no expense to the grantee. And/or • Providing a contribution towards Open Access publication costs capped at **€2,200 per publication**. The HRB will contribute up to **three** open access publications for a grant with a duration of 4 years.
Dissemination Costs	**Note:** costs related to peer reviewed scientific publications should be included under 'Open Access Costs'. **Events, travel and subsistence costs that are associated with running the project and/or coordinating the consortium should** be **listed in Running Costs (or PPI Costs if relevant) and costed as appropriate (the below limits do not apply).** Please list dissemination costs under the following categories: publications (excluding peer-reviewed scientific publications), conferences, other activities (expanded as necessary). Publications: This excludes peer-reviewed scientific publications, which should be included under "Open Access Costs". Conferences/Other events: **Attendance at conference and other events**: Contribution to costs associated with attending seminars, workshops, conference and/or any other means of communication, which have a direct benefit to the research funded, as detailed in the dissemination plan of the application. These activities should be specific to the greatest extent possible, and attendance justified at application stage. The HRB will provide a contribution to costs to attend these types of events for the PI and staff members, and the costs are calculated on a lump sum basis **of €1,500 per person and year (Grant holder and/or research personnel employed in the Grant) for a period of one year less than the overall term of a Grant.**
FAIR Data Management Costs	Costs related to the delivery of the data management and sharing plan in line with the HRB policy on Management and Sharing of Research Data[1]

[1] https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HRB-Policy-on-Management-and-Sharing-of-Research-Data-1.pdf

	and the FAIR principles.[2] This support is aimed to maximise the availability of research data, and the software and materials that underpin it, with few restrictions as possible. These costs must be aligned with the data management plan (DMP), which is a requirement for all successful research grant applications, and which will detail how the data from the project will be collected, organised, stored, backed up, preserved, shared, archived and disposed of. Please see the table below for further guidance.
Overhead Contribution	In accordance with the HRB Policy on Overhead Usage,[3] the HRB will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of 30% of Total Direct Modified Costs (**TDMC; TDMC excludes equipment, sub-contracting and capital building costs**) for clinical research. **This should be calculated and included in your application (note the maximum budget, including overheads, is €650,000 for Partners).** **The final Overhead contribution will be finalised by HRB staff at pre-contracting stage for successful grants.** The following items are included in the overhead contribution: recruitment costs, bench fees, office space, software, contribution to gases, bacteriological media preparation fees, waste fees, bioinformatics access. Therefore, these should not be included in the budget as direct costs.

Additional guidance on FAIR Data Management Costs

People	Staff time per hour for data collection, data anonymisation, etc
	Staff time per hour for data management/stewardship support, training, etc
	Please note that staff time support may be budgeted also as salary and should be included under personnel and not under research data management and sharing with clear statement under justifications.
Storage and computation	Cloud storage, domain hosting charge
Data sharing	Costs for preparing data for sharing (e.g., anonymisation)
Deposition and reuse	Costs for depositing research data and metadata in an open access data repository
	Defining semantic models, making data linkable, choosing the licence, defining metadata for dataset, deploying/publishing
Others	Please further explain
Notes	*The HRB is currently not covering the cost of long-term preservation of data but the cost for the preparation for archiving is eligible*
	This list is not exhaustive and aims to provide examples only of eligible costs

[2] https://www.force11.org/fairprinciples

[3] https://www.hrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/HRB-Policy-on-Use-of-Overheads-V1.0-2015.pdf