



Funding Mechanisms & Resources

WP6: Sustainability and capacity building

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1 Funding application process

The needs and demands for funding research projects are increasing at a local, regional, national, and global scale. The development of a research proposal entails various core moments wherein financial support assumes an important role¹, as depicted in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Funding application process

Although securing support has always been a constant concern in the scientific realm as long-term research progress is heavily dependent upon grant mechanisms to assure projects' sustainability over time, the resources, whether public or private, are almost always limited and must be sought after¹. Furthermore, different countries have distinct funding cultures that can suit specific project goals. In this context, it is important to consider where to submit the project while preparing the proposal since the decision will affect the type of writing given the distinct nature and scope of each funding source².

This guide provides an overview of strategies that can be used for identifying funding opportunities, as well as a list of existing funding mechanisms and resources at the global/international, European, and national levels. For each funding scheme, it is provided a brief description and relevant information aligned with human biomonitoring and the HBM4EU objectives. Finally, given the emphasis put on collaborations by most funding schemes, it is presented a set of platforms that can be used to find partners for applications.



2 Search strategies for the identification of funding sources and mechanisms

Several targeted strategies can be used for identifying funding mechanisms and resources.

Subscription of RSS/feeds and newsletters, defining specific keywords in the field of interest to delimit the search domain (e.g., call, scholarship, prize, grant, funding AND health, environmental health, public health, human biomonitoring, chemicals, environment, toxicology, environmental monitoring, surveillance, risk assessment, health risks, biomarkers, cohorts, health surveys, chemical mixtures).

Definition of automatic notifications, using online search engines for the identification of news regarding grants, calls and other funding related opportunities.

Identification of platforms and websites which, in an aggregated form, publicise project calls, prizes, scholarships.





3 Funding mechanisms and resources

3.1 Global funding mechanisms

Horizon Europe

General description

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion, for the 2021 to 2027 period. It aims to tackle climate change, help to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boost the EU's competitiveness and growth.

The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting, and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies.

Who can apply?

Legal entities from the EU and associated countries can participate.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>





Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

General description

The LIFE programme aims to facilitate the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and resilient economy to protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment, including the air, water and soil halt and reverse biodiversity loss tackle the degradation of ecosystems

Who can apply?

A public or private legal entities registered in the EU or an overseas country or territory linked to it, a third country associated to the LIFE programme; or a legal entity created under Union law or any international organisation.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/life2027>





Global Environment Facility (GEF)

General description

The GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues. The GEF provides funding to government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector companies, research institutions, among the broad diversity of potential partners, supporting projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.

Who can apply?

Developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://www.thegef.org/about/funding>





World Cancer Research Fund International

General description

World Cancer Research Fund International believes that funding research is crucial to keeping people healthy and helping them to prevent and survive disease. It funds vital projects into the effects of diet, nutrition (including body composition) and physical activity on cancer prevention and survival.

Who can apply?

Universities, medical schools, hospitals, research institutes and other academic centres. Research for commercial organizations is not eligible.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://www.wcrf.org/research-we-fund/grant-programmes>





Wellcome Trust

General description

Wellcome is a global charitable foundation established in 1936. Through their work they support science to solve the urgent health challenges facing everyone. It supports discovery research into life, health, and wellbeing, and are taking on three worldwide health challenges: mental health, infectious disease and climate and health.

Who can apply?

Depends on the call but can be open to host organizations from anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China).

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes>





The European Chemical Industry Council - Long Research Initiative Funding Programme (CEFIC-LRI)

General description

The CEFIC-LRI programme funds research that address the priority issues of the chemical industry regarding the health and environmental impact of chemicals. Grants for research are allocated to scientists who submit viable proposals for projects aimed at meeting the priority research objectives. Successful candidates must demonstrate capability for scientific excellence and for managing projects within the terms of a contract. Research is conducted openly by non-industry scientists and the results are publicly available.

Who can apply?

European or non-European, for-profit or non-profit organizations, public or private entities, such as universities, colleges, laboratories, and contract research organizations; units of national and local governments with the necessary laboratory facilities; and research cooperatives.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<http://cefic-lri.org/funding-opportunities/>





3.2 European funding mechanisms

EEA and Norway Grants

General description

The EEA and Norway Grants are funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

The Grants have two goals – to contribute to a more equal Europe, both socially and economically – and to strengthen the relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, and the 15 Beneficiary States in Europe.

A large variety of topics can be funded, ranging from climate change and energy to cultural cooperation and civil society support. In each country, funding is allocated to what is most relevant/priority. Each project idea needs to fit into one of the programmes in its country and contribute to its overall objective.

Who can apply?

Institutions from one of the 15 European countries which are Beneficiary States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia). In addition to this, the Fund for Youth Employment accepts projects with partners from Ireland, Italy, and Spain.

The Fund for Regional Cooperation accepts projects from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://eeagrants.org/topics-programmes>





European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

General description

The ERDF provides funding to public and private bodies in all EU regions to reduce economic, social, and territorial disparities. The Fund supports investments through dedicated national or regional programmes.

In 2021-2027, the fund will enable investments to make Europe and its regions:

- more competitive and smarter, through innovation and support to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), as well as digitisation and digital connectivity
- greener, low-carbon and resilient
- more connected by enhancing mobility
- more social, supporting effective and inclusive employment, education, skills, social inclusion, and equal access to healthcare, as well as enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism
- closer to citizens, supporting locally-led development and sustainable urban development across the EU

Who can apply?

Organisations that can benefit from regional funding include public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme can also apply, provided they meet European public procurement rules.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en#funding-opportunities





European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)

General description

In 2000, the European Association for the Study of Diabetes e.V. (EASD) increased its commitment to stimulate diabetes research in Europe by creating the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD). The Foundation is closely related to the EASD; it is governed exclusively by the Board of the EASD, which itself is under the close supervision of the General Assembly of the EASD.

EFSD operates on a strictly non-profit basis under the control of the relevant authorities for charity and taxation to support diabetes research.

EFSD offers support in all areas of diabetes research through a wide range of joint and stand-alone initiatives. Funding is available throughout the year.

Who can apply?

Unless specified otherwise, EFSD grant programmes are only open to applicants from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries and applicants must be paid-up members of European Association for Study of Diabetes.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/programmes.html>





SAF€RA

General description

SAF€RA is a partnership between 16 research funding organizations from 12 European countries who collaborate on research programming and launch joint calls in the field of industrial safety. It prolongs the work developed in the SAF€RA ERA-NET, which was funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development, and demonstration during the period April 2012 – March 2015. Industrial safety is an enabling success factor in the pursuit of beneficial and sustainable business activities.

Who can apply?

All EU member states plus the Republic of Serbia and the United Kingdom are eligible countries.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://call.safera.eu/>





“La Caixa” Foundation - Health Research

General description

“La Caixa” Foundation calls for proposals supports research in groundbreaking, original, and highly relevant (up to three years) projects that will lead to advance in knowledge and solutions related to some of the most important health problems of our century. Research projects should entail scientific excellence in their field, with potential value and high social impact.

Who can apply?

Projects submitted may be led by researchers from non-profit research organizations based in Spain or Portugal.

Where can I find information on how to apply?

<https://fundacionlacaixa.org/en/caixaresearch-calls-research-innovation>





3.3 National and regional funding opportunities

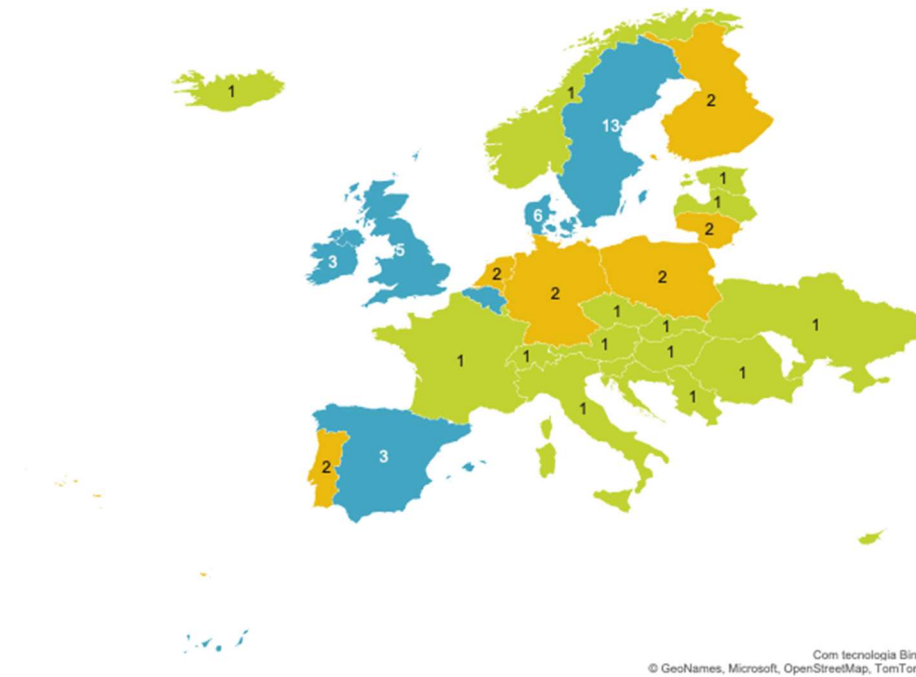


Figure 2. European map of national and regional funding opportunities presented

Austria	1	Hungary	1	Romania	1
Belgium	3	Iceland	1	Serbia	1
Croatia	1	Ireland	3	Slovakia	1
Cyprus	1	Italy	1	Slovenia	1
Czech Republic	1	Latvia	1	Spain	3
Denmark	6	Lithuania	2	Sweden	13
Estonia	1	Luxembourg	1	Switzerland	1
Finland	2	Norway	1	The Netherlands	2
France	1	Poland	2	UK	5
Germany	2	Portugal	2	Ukraine	1





Austria

Austrian Science Fund / Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung FWF @

Belgium

Fund for Scientific Research / Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique FNRS @

Research Foundation Flanders / Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek FWO @

Belgian Science Policy Belspo @

Croatia

Croatian Science Foundation / Hrvatska zaklada za znanost HRZZ @

Cyprus

Research and Innovation Foundation @

Czech Republic

Czech Science Foundation / Grantová agentura České republiky GAČR @

Denmark

Danish National Research Foundation / Danmarks Grundforskningsfond DG @

Independent Research Fund Denmark / Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond DFF @

The Velux Foundations / Villum Fonden x Velux Fonden @

Dagmar Marshall Foundation @

Danish Cancer Society @

Danish Working Environment Research Fund @





Estonia

Estonian Research Council / Eesti Teadusagentuur

ETAg @

Finland

Academy of Finland / Suomen Akatemia / Finlands Akademi
Sigrid Juselius Foundation

AKA @
@

France

French National Research Agency / Agence Nationale de la Recherche

ANR @

Germany

German Research Foundation / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Federal Environmental Foundation / Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

DFG @
DBU @@

Hungary

Eötvös Loránd Research Network / Eötvös Loránd Kutatási Hálózat

ELKH @

Iceland

The Icelandic Centre for Research / Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands

Rannís @





Ireland

Health Research Board / An Bord Taighde Sláinte	HRB	@
Irish Research Council / An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn	IRC	@
Science Foundation Ireland	SFI	@

Italy

Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro	AIRC	@
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Latvia

Latvian Council of Science / Latvijas Zinātnes padome	LZP	@
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Lithuania

Research Council of Lithuania / Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba	LMT	@
Agency for Science Innovation and Technology	MITA	@

Luxembourg

Luxembourg National Research Fund / Fonds National de la Recherche	FNR	@
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Norway

Research Council of Norway / Norges Forskningsråd	RCN	@
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Poland

Foundation for Polish Science / Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej

FNP @

National Science Centre / Narodowe Centrum Nauki

NCN @

Portugal

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation / Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

FCG @

Foundation for Science and Technology / Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

FCT @

Romania

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation UEFISCDI @

Funding of Romania / Unitatea Executivă pentru Finanțarea Învățământului
Superior, a Cercetării, Dezvoltării și Inovării

Serbia

Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia / Fond za nauku Republike Srbije

SFRS @

Slovakia

Slovak Research and Development Agency / Agentúra na podporu výskumu a
vývoja

APVV @





Slovenia

Slovenian Research Agency / Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost
Republike Slovenije

ARRS @

Spain

Institute of Health Carlos III / Instituto de Salud Carlos III

ISCIII @

Spanish State Research Agency / Agencia Estatal de Investigación

AEI @

Cajastur Liberbank Foundation / Fundación Cajastur Liberbank

@

Sweden

Swedish Research Council / Vetenskapsrådet

VR @

Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare /
Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd

FORTE @

Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development / Ett Forskningsråd för
Hållbar Utveckling

FORMAS @

ALF Västra Götaland

ALF @

Region Skåne

@

Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association / Astma- och Allergiförbundet

@

Swedish Cancer Foundation / Cancerfonden

@

Swedish Diabetes Association / Svenska Diabetesförbundet

@

Swedish Childhood Cancer Society / Barncancerfonden

@

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency / Naturvårdsverket

@

Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation / Hjärt-Lungfonden

@

Swedish Rheumatism Association / Reumatiker förbundet

@

Jerring Foundation / Jerringfonden

@





Switzerland

Swiss National Science Foundation / Schweizerischer Nationalfonds / Fonds National Suisse	SNSF	@
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The Netherlands

Dutch Research Council / Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek	NWO	@
The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development Health	ZonMw	@

United Kingdom

UK Research and Innovation	UKRI	@
National Institute for Health Research	NIHR	@
British Heart Foundation	BHF	@
Cancer Research UK		@
Colt Foundation		@

Ukraine

National Research Foundation of Ukraine / Національний фонд досліджень України	NRFU	@
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United States of America (applications open to foreign countries)

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	ATSDR	@
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC	@
National Institutes of Health	NIH	@@
United States Environmental Protection Agency	EPA	@





4 Finding the right partner

1. Use personal existing networks

2. Use search portals:

- [@](#) European Commission
- [@](#) Ideal-ist
- [@](#) NMP Team
- [@](#) Fit for Health 2.0
- [@](#) Innovative Health Initiative
- [@](#) Innovation Place

3. Search winning projects from the same grant or funding programme

4. Identify fellow researchers from scientific publications





5 References

1. Reid CP. Handbook for preparing and writing research proposals. IUFRO-SPDC; 2000.
2. Chapin PG. Research projects and research proposals. Cambridge; 2004.

