

## **Pre-announcement**

Call for Proposals for Multinational and Translational Research Projects in the European Partnership for Brain Health

**Biological, social and environmental factors that impact the trajectory of brain health across the lifespan – *in the field of neurological, mental and sensory disorders***

For further information,  
visit our website: <https://www.brainhealth-partnership.eu/>

or contact the EP BrainHealth Joint Call Secretariat:  
[BrainHealthCalls@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:BrainHealthCalls@agencerecherche.fr)



The European Partnership for Brain Health (EP BrainHealth) gathers 54 partners from 33 countries, with the common goal of improving brain health for all by developing scientific knowledge as a foundation to promote brain health throughout the lifetime, to prevent and to cure brain diseases as well as to improve wellbeing of people living with neurological and mental disorders in Europe and beyond.

In this frame, the EP BrainHealth funding organisations have agreed to launch 2 calls, co-funded by the European Union, one **in the field of neurological, mental and sensory disorders** (EP BrainHealth Call 1) and one in the field of neurodegenerative disorders (EP BrainHealth Call 2). The EP BrainHealth will fund through synchronised national/regional grants ambitious, innovative, interdisciplinary and transnational research consortia. The call will be conducted simultaneously by the respective national and regional funding organisations and coordinated centrally by the Joint Call Secretariat ([BrainHealthCalls@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:BrainHealthCalls@agencerecherche.fr)). Joint transnational research proposals can be funded for a period of up to three years.

## Aim and Scope of the Call (EP BrainHealth Call 1)

The aim of the call is to facilitate multinational, collaborative and interdisciplinary research that addresses critical translational questions. Applications for this call, should address how biological, social and environmental factors affect the trajectory of **neurological, mental and sensory disorders** across the lifespan.

Applications addressing predominantly neurodegenerative disorders should be submitted to the EP BrainHealth call 2, dedicated to these diseases<sup>1</sup>. Applications addressing risk factors that are shared between mental health, neurological, mental and sensory disorders on the one hand, and neurodegenerative disorders on the other are encouraged and should be submitted to the call that best suits their project. **Please note that applying with the same proposal to both EP BrainHealth calls is not allowed.**

Applications must be interdisciplinary and address **at least two of the three factors** below:

- 1) **Biological factors**, e.g. genetics, epigenetics, -omics, neuroplasticity, inflammation, infection, synaptogenesis, circuits, vascular factors, sensory impairment, co-morbidities;
- 2) **Lifestyle and social factors**, e.g. exercise/activity, nutrition, sleep, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, work (income, employment), socio-economic background/status, race/ethnicity, sex and gender, education, safety, social interactions (family/friends), access to healthcare, stress, trauma, migration.
- 3) **Environmental factors**, e.g. pollution/contaminants, urbanicity, disasters, pandemics, war/conflicts, climate change, microbiota, nature.

In addition, applications must investigate **at least two of the following aspects**:

- 1) **Mechanisms** of action of the identified factors;
- 2) **Early recognition, diagnosis and prognosis** linked to the identified factors;
- 3) **Prevention/treatments/interventions/technological development/care and support** linked to the identified factors.

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<sup>1</sup> **The EP BrainHealth call 2** focuses on Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative dementias, Parkinson's disease (PD) and PD-related disorders, prion disease, motor neuron diseases, Huntington's disease, spinocerebellar ataxia and spinal muscular atrophy.

## Eligibility

### Institutions

Proposals may be submitted by research groups working in universities or other higher education institutions, non-university public or private research organisations, hospitals, foundations and other health and social care settings, as well as commercial companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and organisations representing patients. Collaborations with companies from outside the traditional medical sector (e.g. computing, artificial intelligence) are welcome. With regard to the research setting and collaborations with companies, specific regulations of individual funding organisations, as well as the EU State aid regulations, must be considered when creating the consortium.

### Research partners

Consortia may consist of research partners, who are eligible for research funding from the funding organisations participating in this joint call, cf. **organisations listed below** ("regular partners"), as well as non-funded external collaborators ("partner on own funds").

Regular partners are represented by a single leader of individual research groups (typically a principal investigator or an early career group leader) within research institutions. **No co-leads are possible.**

### Transnationality

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a **minimum of three research partners eligible for funding** by organisations listed below. The eligible research partners must be from **at least three different participating countries and including at least two EU Member or Associated States<sup>2</sup>**. The **total number of research partners in a consortium is limited to six**, including partners participating at their own expenses. For reasons of transnational balance, no more than two partners from the same country are allowed to join a proposal. Gender balance among the partners of a consortium is encouraged.

Involved patient organisations are not considered for minimal or maximal consortium size or transnational balance requirements.

The EP BrainHealth strives to strengthen a global Brain Research Ecosystem by including as many partner countries as possible in its funding scheme. Therefore, consortia including at least one research partner from countries that are to date underrepresented in this funding scheme (Croatia, Malta, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye) may increase the total number of partners to seven.

Each consortium should have the critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific goals and should **clearly demonstrate added value** from working together.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation-horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation-horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

## Timetable

The application process will be in two stages: pre-proposals and full-proposals. At both stages, one joint proposal document shall be prepared by the consortium (in English) and submitted by the coordinator to the EP BrainHealth Joint Call Secretariat

<b>8<sup>th</sup> of December 2025</b>	Pre-Announcement
<b>8<sup>th</sup> of January 2026</b>	Launch
<b>10<sup>th</sup> of March 2026</b>	Pre-proposal deadline 14:00 CET
<b>End of May 2026</b>	Formal invitation to submit a full proposal
<b>30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2026</b>	Submission deadline of full proposals 14:00 CEST
<b>September, 2026</b>	Peer Review Panel meeting to assess the full proposals
<b>November 2026</b>	Final funding decision by the CSC and start of national administrative procedures
<b>Early - Mid 2027</b>	Start of funding

## Eligible countries/regions and respective funding organisations with contact details

Eligibility criteria are the matter of individual partner funding organisations and additional national/regional regulations, requirements and processes may apply. Clarification must be obtained from the individual funding organisations (see contact details below).

It is highly recommended to contact the respective national contact person before submitting a proposal.

Country/Region	Funding Organisation	Contact details
Australia	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)	NHMRC's international team: international@nhmrc.gov.au
Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation)	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS)	Dr. Maxime Bonsir Maxime.bonsir@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 92 36 Dr. Florence Quist Florence.quist@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 93 51
Belgium/Flanders	The Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)	Kristien Peeters +32 (0)2 550 15 95 Toon Monbaliu +32 (0)2 550 15 70 europe@fwo.be
Croatia	Ministry of Science, Education and Youth (MSEY)	Mr. Mateo Ante Bosnić mateoante.bosnic@mzom.hr +38514594166
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)	Katrine Boeriis, Katrine.boeriis@innofond.dk +45 6190 5092 General contact: Internationale@innofond.dk

## European Partnership for Brain Health Call for Proposals 1

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Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAG)	Mr. Argo Soon Mrs. Margit Suuroja
Finland	Research Council of Finland	Annika Raitala annika.raitala@aka.fi +358 295 33 5097 Marko Uutela marko.uutela@aka.fi +358 295 33 5113
France	Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR)	Gaëlle Dutour Provenzano +33 (0)175774941 Anthony Petit +33 (0)173548141 Catherine Marquer BrainHealthCalls@agencerecherche.fr
Germany	Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)	Dr. Vera Mönter-Telgen Dr. Sabrina Voß <a href="mailto:BrainHealth-Calls@dlr.de">BrainHealth-Calls@dlr.de</a> +49 228 3821 2555
Germany	German Research Foundation (DFG)	Dr. Anke Ley Anke.ley@dfg.de +49 (228) 885-3197
Greece	GENIKI GRAMMATEIA EREVNAS KAI KAINOTOMIAS/General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI)	Foteini KARAGKOUNI f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr +30 213 1300132
Hungary	NKFIH, National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)	Zsuzsanna Kürti +36 1 795 9500 ncp@nkfi.gov.hu
Ireland	Research Ireland	Dr Emma McGrath emma.mcgrath@researchireland.ie +353 86 1991351
Island	Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis)	Helga Snævarr Kristjansdottir Helga.s.kristjansdottir@rannis.is +354 515 5800
Israel	National Technological Innovation Authority (Innovation Israel) *	Sarah CHICHE sarah.c@innovationisrael.org.il +972 3 5118122 Nati BLOCH DAMTI nati.b@innovationisrael.org.il +972 54 3339792
Italy	Ministry of Health (IT MoH)	Grazia Papagni g.papagni@sanita.it +390659942928
Italy, Lombardy Region	Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research (FRRB)	Giulia Maria Rossignolo giuliamaria.rossignolo@frrb.it +39 02 6765 0159
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science (LCS)	Maija Bundule E-mail: Maija.Bundule@lzp.gov.lv Tel: +371- 26514481 Uldis Berkis

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		E-mail: Uldis.Berkis@lzp.gov.lv Tel.: +371-29472349
Lithuania	Research council of Lithuania (LMT)	Saulius Marcinkonis saulius.marcinkonis@lmt.lt
Malta	Xjenza Malta (XM)	kaylen.borg.1@gov.mt +356 2360 2134 cc'd: eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt
Netherlands	The Dutch Research Council (NWO)	Melanie Neijts 0031 70 349 40 33 Madelief Zwaan 0031 70 344 05 72 brainhealth@nwo.nl
New Zealand	University of Otago (UO)	Professor Rachael Taylor NZ Health NCP +64 21 479 556 Cluster1NCP@mbie.govt.nz
Norway	Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Jostein Holmgren +47 96646834 <a href="mailto:joho@rcn.no">joho@rcn.no</a>
Poland	National Centre for Research & Development (NCBR)	Jolanta Drożdż Jolanta.drozdz@ncbr.gov.pl Tel. +48 509 216 759
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)	Marta Abrantes Marta.abrantes@fct.pt [+351] 213911596 Alexandre Maurício Alexandre.mauricio@fct.pt [+351] 213917648
Republic of Moldova	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)	Mrs. Natalia Bolocan Email: natalia.bolocan@ancd.gov.md Phone number: +373 69068281 Ms. Iana Tihon Email: iana.tihon@ancd.gov.md Phone number: +373 60606760
Romania	Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare (ANC), through UEFISCDI	Mihaela Manole mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro Phone +40-21.302.38.63 Nicoleta Dumitrache nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro Phone +40-21.302.38.86
Slovakia	Centrum vedecko - technických informácií Slovenskej republiky (CVTI SR)	Magdaléna Švorcová, +421 917 733 493 magdalena.svorcova@cvtisr.sk Erika Jankajová, +421 904 859 228 Erika.jankajova@cvtisr.sk
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	Katarína Bibova katarina.bibova@urad.sav.sk 00421 2 57510136
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)	Silvia Llorio neuron@aei.gob.es

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Spain	Insituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)	Cándida Sánchez Barco, cbarco@isci.es Aiga Giangiacomo aiga.giangiacomo@forte.se +46856205180 Nadja Fagrell Trygg Nadja.fagrelltrygg@forte.se +46 (0)730243488
Sweden	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)	
Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	Clémence Le Cornec & Francis Parlange brainhealth@snf.ch +41 31 308 23 85
Taiwan	National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)	Dr. Ching-Mei Tang Email: cmtom@nstc.gov.tw Tel: +886-2-2737-7557
Türkiye	Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (TUBITAK)	Recep Emrah ÇEVİK emrah.cevik@tubitak.gov.tr +90 0312 298 1214

\*Confirmation on participation in the call still pending