

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 neurodegeneration*

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

or contact the EP BrainHealth Joint Call Secretariat:
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). Joint transnational research proposals can be funded for a period of up to three years.

Aim and Scope of the Call (EP BrainHealth Call 2)

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 **neurodegenerative disorders**¹ across the lifespan.

Applications addressing predominantly neurological, mental and sensory disorders should be submitted to the EP BrainHealth call 1, dedicated to these diseases. 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.

¹ E.g. 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 States²**. 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.

² 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

8th of December 2025	Pre-Announcement
8th of January 2026	Launch
10th of March 2026	Pre-proposal deadline 14:00 CET
End of May 2026	Formal invitation to submit a full proposal
30th of June, 2026	Submission deadline of full proposals 14:00 CEST
September, 2026	Peer Review Panel meeting to assess the full proposals
November 2026	Final funding decision by the CSC and start of national administrative procedures
Early - Mid 2027	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 Herbert Mayer +43 676 83487 8212
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	herbert.mayer@fwf.ac.at Heike Höller +43 676 83487 8220 heike.hoeller@fwf.ac.at
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
Canada	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Canadian Institutes of Health Research CIHR Contact Centre Telephone: 613-954-1968

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