



# Call 2025 for Transnational Research Proposals

supporting the topics of

# **Quantum Phenomena and Resources**

and

# **Applied Quantum Science**

Launch of the Call: 4 September 2025

Submission deadline: 5 December 2025, 17.00 CET

Documents and procedures: https://www.quantera.eu

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Call budget: ca. € 53 M





# **History of changes**

Date	Changes to the document					



# **KEY FACTS & FIGURES**

**Topics Quantum Phenomena and Resources** 

**Applied Quantum Science** 

Indicative Call budget | Approx. € 53 M

**Project consortium** The project consortia must be composed of at least 3 partners eligible

to receive funding from three or more different countries participating in

the Call

Standard consortium size: 3 to 6 partners

Participating countries

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom

Partner search tool | Applicants are offered a Partner search tool that can be used to look for

partners or to look for projects:

https://www2.ncn.gov.pl/partners/quantera2025/

**Project duration** 24-month or 36-month period

**Evaluation** Proposals are evaluated based on the criteria of *Excellence*, *Impact*, and

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Eligibility for funding The project consortium as a whole must be eligible with respect to

transnational rules. Each partner must fulfil the conditions of the

national/regional funding organisation, as described in the Annex 1.

# CALL CALENDAR

5 December 2025 17.00 CET **Deadline for the proposal submission** 

May 2026

Notification of accepted proposals

June-September 2026

Funded project start



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# **List of Abbreviations**

Abbreviation	Full name
AQS	Applied Quantum Science
Call	QuantERA Call 2025 for proposals
СО	Coordination Office
Col	Conflict of Interest
CS	Call Secretariat
CSC	Call Steering Committee
EC	European Commission
EP	Evaluation Panel
ESS	Electronic Submission System
EU	European Union
PI	<b>Principal Investigator</b> – Partner in the project consortium, the leader of the national/regional team
PC	<b>Project Coordinator</b> – Coordinator of the project consortium and the leader of the transnational team
QPR	Quantum Phenomena and Resources
QT	Quantum Technologies
RFO	Research Funding Organisation
SAB	<b>Strategic Advisory Board</b> - Advisory body for QuantERA consisting of prominent scientists and industry representatives of Quantum Technologies (QT)



# 1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

# **About QuantERA**

The QuantERA programme<sup>1</sup>, supported by the European Commission, forms a network of Research Funding Organisations across Europe and beyond dedicated to advancing high-quality research and innovation in the field of Quantum Technologies (QT). The programme brings together researchers, funding agencies, and policymakers to make sure that cutting-edge quantum projects get the support they need.

The funding organisations of QuantERA jointly finance multilateral projects with the potential to initiate or foster new lines of QT. The support is intended to advance multidisciplinary science and drive cutting-edge engineering.

#### Information about the Call

The QuantERA Call 2025 is a joint transnational Call for research proposals in QT cofunded by organisations gathered under QuantERA III Research & Innovation Action, with additional EC contribution.

Through this Call, the QuantERA III consortium aims at stimulating and intensifying research and innovation in the field of QT, contributing to the Strategic Research and Industry Agenda of the European Quantum Technology community<sup>2</sup>.

# **Targeted Research**

Projects funded in QuantERA III should contribute to the development of European research and innovation in QT. The transformative research funded within QuantERA III should explore collaborative advanced interdisciplinary science and/or cutting-edge engineering with the potential to initiate or foster new lines of QT and help Europe grasp leadership early on in promising future technology areas.

Projects are expected to start at 1-4 Technology Readiness Level<sup>3</sup> (TRL) and achieve TRL in the range 1-6 commensurate with the Call topic.

# **Call Topics**

The submitted proposals are expected to be aligned with one of the two QuantERA Call 2025 topics:

# **Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR)**

where the goal is to lay the foundations for the QT of the future. The focus is on basic quantum science and fundamental physics, and the projects should explore novel quantum phenomena, concepts, resources, protocols, algorithms, and/or address major challenges that prevent broad applications of some quantum technologies;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For definition of TRL check: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes</a> horizon-2023-2024 en.pdf



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See: https://quantera.eu/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Strategic Research and Industry Agenda of the European Quantum Technology community at <a href="https://qt.eu/media/pdf/Strategic-Reseach-and-Industry-Agenda-2030.pdf">https://qt.eu/media/pdf/Strategic-Reseach-and-Industry-Agenda-2030.pdf</a>



# **Applied Quantum Science (AQS)**

where the goal is to take known quantum effects and established concepts from quantum science, translate them into technological applications and develop new products. These could be novel devices that are based on known quantum effects and that will serve a novel application in QT, or devices and systems that translate known quantum applications into products and industrial applications.

Note: If the tasks of (a) partner(s) are not well in line with the consortium's chosen call topic (and closer to the other topic), the said partner(s) are strongly encouraged to contact their respective RFOs to check their eligibility. Each funding organisation participating in the Call decides to allocate its budget to the QPR topic, or the AQS topic, or both. The budget table is available in the section Funding: Overview.

# Research areas

# Funded projects in both topics are expected to address one or more of the following areas:

#### Quantum communication

Methods/tools/materials/strategies to deal with the issues of distance, reliability, efficiency, robustness and security in quantum communication; novel protocols for multipartite quantum communication and quantum cryptography; quantum memory and quantum repeater concepts.

Novel photonic sources for quantum information and quantum communication, coherent transduction of quantum states between different physical systems; integrated quantum photonics; quantum communication embedded in optical telecommunications systems; other communication protocols with functionality enhanced by quantum effects. Methods for quantum communications in space, between satellites and Earth.

#### Quantum simulation

Platforms and materials for quantum simulation; development of new measurement and control techniques and of strategies for the verification of quantum simulations.

Application of quantum simulations to condensed matter, chemistry, thermodynamics, biology, high-energy physics, quantum field theories, quantum gravity, cosmology and other fields.

#### **Quantum computation**

Development of noisy intermediate-scale quantum platforms; devices to realise multiqubit algorithms; demonstration and optimisation of error correction codes; progress towards fault-tolerance; interfaces between quantum computers and communication systems.

Development of novel quantum algorithms and software stacks; demonstration of quantum speed-up; new architectures and programming paradigms for quantum computation, including hybrid approaches.

#### Quantum sensing and metrology

Use of quantum properties for time and frequency standards (including precise frequency distribution), light-based calibration and measurement, gravimetry, magnetometry, accelerometry, and other applications. Development of detection schemes that are optimised with respect to extracting relevant information from physical systems; novel solutions for quantum imaging and ranging. Implementation of micro- and nano- quantum sensors, for instance for quantum limited sensitivity in the measurement of magnetic fields at the nanoscale. Extension of the reach of quantum sensing and metrology to other fields of science including e.g. the prospects of offering new medical diagnostic tools.

#### General quantum science

Novel sources of non-classical states and methods to engineer such states. Development of device-independent quantum information processing. Methods for the reconstruction and



estimation of complex quantum states or channels and certification of their properties. Development of resource theory for quantum information. Study of topological systems for quantum information purposes. Understanding and control of open quantum systems and quantum measurement processes; development of methods to confine dynamics in controllable decoherence-free subspaces. Study of quantum energetics and thermodynamic processes at the quantum scale.

Novel ideas and applications in quantum science and technologies, based on e.g., superposition, interference, and entanglement, as means to achieve new or radically enhanced functionalities.

# **Expected impacts**

Funded projects are expected to significantly advance the state-of-the-art of quantum sciences and technologies<sup>4</sup> by achieving one or more of the following targets:

- Develop a deeper fundamental and practical understanding of systems and protocols/algorithms for manipulating and exploiting quantum information,
- Enhance the robustness and scalability of quantum information technologies in the presence of environmental decoherence, hence facilitating their real-world deployment,
- Develop reliable technologies for the different components of quantum architectures,
- Identify new opportunities and applications fostered through quantum technologies, and the possible ways to transfer these technologies from laboratories to industries,
- Enhance interdisciplinarity in crossing traditional boundaries between disciplines in order to enlarge the community involved in tackling these new challenges,
- Move towards a gender diverse and inclusive quantum community, in particular targeting PhD students and early-career researchers,
- Spread excellence throughout Europe by involving partners from the Widening Countries,
- Build leading innovation capacity across Europe by involvement of key actors that can make a difference in the future, for example excellent young researchers, ambitious hightech SMEs or first-time participants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> QuantERA projects shall not duplicate research funded as part of the projects of the previous QuantERA Calls (see funded projects: <u>Call 2017</u>, <u>Call 2019</u>, <u>Call 2021</u>, <u>Call 2023</u>) and the projects of the EC Quantum Technologies Flagship Call (see <a href="here">here</a>)

# 2. FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country	Funding Organisat ion	QPR budget (M €)	AQS budget (M €)	Expected no of projects	Limits on amount which may be requested (M €)	Contact prior to submission	Additional forms required	Industrial partner eligible for funding	Contact
Austria	FFG	-	2.00	4-6	0.5 per project	Recommended	Yes	Yes	Fabienne.Nikowitz@ffg.at
Austria	FWF	1.5	-	3-5	-	Recommended	Yes	No	Sabine.Ertl@fwf.ac.at
Belgium	FNRS	0.30	-	1	0.30 per project	Recommended	Yes	No	international@frs-fnrs.be
Belgium	FWO	0.7	-	2-3	0.35 per project (overhead included)	Recommended	Yes	No	europe@fwo.be
Bulgaria	BNSF	0.46		2-3	0.15 per project (overhead included)	Mandatory	Yes	No	Aleksandrova@mon.bg
Croatia	HRZZ	C	).20	1	0.20	Recommended	Yes	Yes	international@hrzz.hr Milan@hrzz.hr
Czechia	MEYS	0.50	_5	-	-	Recommended	Yes	Yes	Michal.Vavra@msmt.gov.cz
Czechia	TA CR	-	1.00	3	-	Recommended	Yes	Yes	Magdalena.Pillasagua@tacr.cz
Estonia	ETAG	0.30			0.15 (partner) or 0.30 (coordinator)	Recommended	No	Yes	Margit.Suuroja@etag.ee
Finland	AKA	1.00		2-3	Up to 0.45 per partner	Recommended	No	See national annex	Katrine.Mahlamaki@aka.fi
France	ANR	2	2.50		Up to 0.45 per project and up to 0.30 per partner	Recommended	No	Yes	Maurice.Tia@agencerecherche.fr
Germany	DFG	4.00		-	-	-	Yes	No	Andreas.Deschner@dfg.de Michael.Moessle@dfg.de
Germany	BMFTR		4.50	-	-	Mandatory (see annex 1)	No	Yes	Krug@vdi.de
Hungary	NKFIH	C	).45	1-2	-	Not required	No	Yes	ncp@nkfih.gov.hu
Ireland	TÉ – RI	0.75		1-2	Up to 0.33 for project partner Up to 0.405 per project coordinator	Yes, notification required	No	No	Maria.nash@researchireland.ie EU-Cofund@researchireland.ie
Israel	IIA	0.75		3-4	According to national regulations Please check eligibility rules for Academia	National application to be submitted mandatorily	Yes	Yes	Dan@iserd.org.il Batzion.F@innovationisrael.org.il
Italy	MUR		0.5	5	Up to 0.15 per project	National application to be submitted mandatorily	Yes	Yes	Aldo.Covello@mur.gov.it Sonia.Angiolin@est.mur.gov.it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> In exceptional circumstances, the MEYS can finance also the projects from the AQS call. QuantERA Call 2023 Announcement

Country	Funding Organisat ion	QPR budget (M €)	AQS budget (M €)	Expected no of projects	Limits on amount which may be requested (M €)	Contact prior to submission	Additional forms required	Industrial partner eligible for funding	Contact
Latvia	LZP	0.60		2-3	Up to 0.10 per year per partner	Recommended	No	Yes	Maija.Bundule@lzp.gov.lv
Lithuania	LMT	0.3		-	Up to 0.15 per project (for project partner) or up to 0.20 EUR per project (for project coordinator)	Recommended	No	Yes	Saulius.Marcinkonis@lmt.lt
Luxembourg	FNR	0.35		1-2	-	Recommended	Yes	No	Christiane.Kaell@fnr.lu Helena.Burg@fnr.lu
Malta	MEYR	0.05		1	-	Mandatory	Yes	Yes, but only basic research, not pursuing direct commercial goals	David.D.Muscat@gov.mt
Netherlands	QDNL	1.50		-	0.35 per project	Recommended	Yes	No	Julia.Oesterling@quantumdelta.nl
Norway	RCN	0.434		-	-	Recommended	No	Yes	twa@rcn.no
Poland	NCBR	-	1.50	-	-	Recommended	No	Yes	Krystyna.Maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl
Poland	NCN	1.50	-	5-6	-	National application to be submitted mandatorily	Yes	Yes	quantera@ncn.gov.pl alicja.dylag@ncn.gov.pl
Romania	UEFISCDI	0.50		2-3	0.25 in case a Romanian institution is the coordinator (together with other Romanian partner(s) – if it is the case)     0.20 for one/all Romanian partner(s) participating in a proposal.	Recommended	No	Yes	Nicoleta.Dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro
Slovakia	SAS	0.12		1	0.12	Recommended	No	No	Mnovak@up.upsav.sk Panisova@up.upsav.sk
Slovenia	MVZI	0.90		3	max. 0.3 per project	Recommended	No	Yes	Anamarija.Meglic@gov.si
South Korea	NRF	1.6		2	-	Mandatory	Yes	Yes	rock@nrf.re.kr
Spain	AEI	1.00		4-6	0.175 per project with one AEI applicant 0.275 per project if AEI applicant is coordinator 0.325 per project if two AEI applicants with one as coordinator	National application to be submitted mandatorily	Yes	No	era-ict@aei.gob.es
	VR	1.00	_	_	See National Annex	Recommended	Yes	No	Tomas.Andersson@vr.se

Country	Funding Organisat ion	QPR budget (M €)	AQS budget (M €)	Expected no of projects	Limits on amount which may be requested (M €)	Contact prior to submission	Additional forms required	Industrial partner eligible for funding	Contact
Switzerland	SNSF	2.00		5-8	For a 3-years project: CHF 0.4 Mio. / partner  For a 2-years project: CHF 0.266 667 Mio. / partner	Recommended	Yes	Yes, but only basic research, not pursuing direct commercial goals	quantera@snf.ch
Türkiye	TÜBİTAK	0.20		2-3	See National Annex	Recommended	Yes	Yes	Kivilcim.Koseoglu@tubitak.gov.tr
United Kingdom	UKRI EPSRC		5.0	-	Up to £0.40M per partner, up to £0.75M per project	Recommended	No	No	QuantumTechnologies@epsrc.ukri. org

<sup>1.</sup> The budget is indicative and represents the committed funding available for all the proposals expected to be funded in this Call.

<sup>2.</sup> Partners are strongly discouraged from requesting greater budgets than are necessary for the activities being proposed.

<sup>3.</sup> Please check the RFOs requirements in Annex 1.

# 3. APPLICATION GUIDE

# **Project Consortia: Formation Principles**

When setting up project consortia, applicants are strongly encouraged to take into account the following aspects:

## Gender balance

To promote equal opportunity and gender balance, QuantERA encourages the participation of consortia with a fair representation of female researchers as PCs, PIs and in the research team.

# Geographical diversity

To spread research excellence throughout Europe, QuantERA projects are encouraged to include partners from the Widening countries<sup>6</sup> participating in the Call: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye and Outermost territories of France (defined in Art. 349 TFEU).

# Academic age balance

To ensure heterogeneity of the project teams allowing for inter-generation transfer of knowledge, skills, etc. QuantERA encourages involvement of researchers at various stages of their research careers, including post-doctoral and PhD students as participants in the project.

# Involving industry actors

To leverage innovation capacity across Europe and connect with industry, QuantERA projects are encouraged to involve industry actors (mostly for the AQS topic) that can contribute to development of QT domain in the future, e.g. ambitious high-tech SMEs, etc.

# **Project Costs**

The typical <u>total project cost</u>, including own contributions across all partners, is approximately 2,500,000.00 EUR. Proposals requesting other amounts are also welcome and will be considered. The average <u>requested funding</u> per project in previous QuantERA calls ranged between 750,000.00 EUR and 1,500,000.00 EUR, which has proven appropriate for effectively addressing the objectives of the QuantERA calls.

# Funding per entity

The grant for one legal entity being a partner organisation in one or more project consortia in the Call cannot exceed 1,000,000.00 EUR<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See the list of Wideninig countries in Horizon Europe at <a href="https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-widening-who-should-apply">https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-widening-who-should-apply</a> en

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This maximum amount, however, may be higher if the objective of the action would be impossible or overly difficult to achieve (and duly substantiated).

# **Partner Search Tool**

In order to facilitate the process of forming research consortia, we offer applicants a Partner Search Tool available here: <a href="https://www2.ncn.gov.pl/partners/quantera2025/">https://www2.ncn.gov.pl/partners/quantera2025/</a>. This tool can be used by projects looking for partners and partners looking for projects.

# **Eligibility**

# Consortium structure

- Each project must comprise at least three eligible partners, based in institutions eligible
  to Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) participating in the QuantERA Call from
  at least three countries.
- Each consortium partner is led by a Principal Investigator (PI), who liaises with the
  respective RFO. The project is coordinated by one of the PIs, the Project Coordinator, who
  acts as the single point of contact towards the QuantERA Call Secretariat. One PI may not
  coordinate more than one proposal.
- The consortium budget must be balanced:
  - at most 60% of the total requested funding may be requested by partners from one country,
  - at most 40% of the total requested funding may be requested by a single partner.
- The consortium should maintain a clear focus, that is, the proposed research must have a clearly defined goal.
- Each partner can choose only one funding organisation when submitting a proposal.

Note that partners who are not requesting funding may be part of a consortium if they are able to financially secure their participation. However, countries subject to sanction(s) by the European Union authorities are excluded from this Call. At the time of publication, these countries include the following: Belarus, Russia. Ukrainian territories out of control of the Ukrainian government are also concerned.

Additionally, Beneficiaries implementing FSTP schemes also have to respect sanction regimes (also called 'EU restrictive measures' (EURM)) against persons, entities or certain economic sectors, including notably Russia and Belarus and also restrictions to participation of entities registered outside Israel's 1967 borders ('occupied Palestinian territories') or Russian occupied territories of Ukraine<sup>8</sup>.

The list of sanctioned countries and territories<sup>9</sup> might evolve, and application measures will be taken accordingly.

# **Project duration**

In general, QuantERA projects have a duration of 36 months. Consortia may also propose 24 months, but each member of the consortium is strongly advised to read the national rules of their RFOs (Annex 1), to be aware of the durations authorised by respective RFO.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/other/guidance">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/other/guidance</a> fstp-good-practices\_en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See: https://data.europa.eu/apps/eusanctionstracker/

# **Eligibility of Partners**

- The consortium as a whole must be eligible with respect to transnational rules.
- Each consortium partner must be eligible with national rules as stated in Research Funding Organisation Information specified in Annex 1.
- If an eligibility issue is detected at the transnational or national level, the proposal's Coordinator will be contacted and asked to provide the solution to the Call Secretariat within one week.
- Submitted proposals cannot request funding to cover any work, that is part of a project benefitting from any other EU grant.
- In order not to jeopardise the whole consortium, partners should enquire about the eligibility at the national level regarding:
  - institution (university, academic institution, industry, end user, standard organisation etc.),
  - partners (permanent staff, position secured for the duration of the project, etc.),
  - eligible costs and budget balance,
  - any other conditions stipulated in the Annex 1 or in the applicable national regulations.

## **Submission**

Prior to the submission proposers are asked to check if:

- The research is in line with the scope of the Call,
- The consortium meets all transnational eligibility criteria,
- Each partner meets the national eligibility criteria.

It is the responsibility of the partners to ensure their eligibility (see the *Eligibility* section).

The Call follows a **one-stage submission and evaluation procedure**, with each proposal comprising a scientific document (a proposal form typically between 25 and 35 pages) and financial document (a table listing the detailed requested funding and lists of participants).

The Project Coordinator (PC) prepares a joint proposal for the whole consortium, using the templates available on the QuantERA website: <a href="http://www.quantera.eu/">http://www.quantera.eu/</a>. The two forms (proposal form and financial form) composing the proposal are submitted via the Electronic Submission System (ESS) for QPR and for AQS.

The ESS will require administrative and financial information to be filled in by the Project Coordinator (PC) when creating the submission on the platform. Once the email addresses of the other partners are filled in by the PC, they receive an automatic email from the platform inviting them to connect to the submission platform and adjust the administrative and financial information already filled in by the PC.

It is crucial that each person involved in a proposal (Project Coordinator, Principal Investigator, permanent staff, non-permanent staff such as postdocs and PhD students) has their first and last name specified in the financial template as well as in the table appearing on the first page of the proposal form.

Partners whose funding organisation requires submitting forms alongside the joint proposal submission must do so (see requirements of respective Research Funding Organisation in Annex 1).

We recommend submitting the proposal several days before the deadline in case that unforeseen issues occur. Submitted proposals can be modified until the Call deadline.

The Project Coordinator and all partners must be prepared to diligently answer email queries after the submission.

Note: The Electronic Submission System will be open within several weeks after the Call launch. Its opening will be announced on the QuantERA website: <a href="http://www.quantera.eu/">http://www.quantera.eu/</a>. Detailed step-by-step user instructions will be made available at the same time.

# 4. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

#### **Evaluation**

The evaluation relies on international Evaluation Panels of experts (EP), one for the Call topic of Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR) and one for Applied Quantum Science (AQS).

By default, each evaluation criterion is scored 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination (the definitions of scores are taken from Horizon Europe Evaluation Form<sup>10</sup>):

- **0.** The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information (unless the result of an 'obvious clerical error').
- **1.** Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2.** Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3.** Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4.** Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5.** Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The eligible proposals recommended by the EPs are those proposals that reach at least a score of 3 in each of the three criteria used for the evaluation and detailed below. While the "Quality" threshold is the same for each criterion and each topic, the weights of the other two criteria differ between the QPR and the AQS topics (see below).

**Excellence** (weight in QPR: 50%; weight in AQS: 25%)

- Clarity and novelty of long-term vision, and ambition and concreteness of the targeted breakthroughs towards that vision.
- Novelty, non-incrementality and plausibility of the proposed research for achieving the targeted breakthrough and its foundational character.
- Soundness of the research methodology and its suitability to address high scientific and technological risks in the context of potential benefits.

 $<sup>{\</sup>small \begin{tabular}{ll} \$ 

- Appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content and the quality of open science practices.
- Range and added value from interdisciplinarity, including measures for exchange, cross-fertilisation and synergy.

**Impact** (weight in QPR: 25%; weight in AQS: 50%)

Extent to which the outputs of the project contribute at the European or international level to:

- The expected impacts (see p.8).
- Positive transformative effects to the economy, environment and/or society.

Quality of the proposed measures to:

- Exploit and disseminate the project results (incl. management of intellectual property rights), and to manage research data where relevant.
- Communicate the project activities to different target audiences, especially considering the need to inspire STEM students and early-career researchers.
- Facilitate subsequent translation of research results into innovations and development of new products and/or services when applicable.

# Quality and efficiency of the implementation (weight in QPR: 25%; weight in AQS: 25%)

- Quality, coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables.
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk mitigation measures and innovation management.
- Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a clearly defined role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.

The Evaluation Panels will meet to discuss the proposals and each one of them will establish a ranking list of the proposals. The evaluation of each proposal will be summarised in a consensus report, which will be made available to the applicants at the end of the evaluation and selection process.

# Selection

Based on the two ranking lists (AQS, QPR) provided by the Evaluation Panels, a final list of projects selected for funding will be approved by the QuantERA CSC. The CSC will strive to fund as many excellent collaborative projects as possible. If at a given rank in the list not all ex aequo proposals can be selected, the criteria listed below will be applied in the following order:

- 1. The output of the Call, i.e. the overall funding, should be maximised.
- 2. The success rates (i.e. the overall number of funded projects relative to the overall number of proposals) of both topics should be as close as possible to each other.
- 3. If possible, each Research Funding Organisation should fund at least one project.
- 4. The distribution of genders among the PIs and co-PIs considering all funded proposals should be as balanced as possible. Note that this criterion should not be understood as a distribution of genders per funded proposal. As an example, a proposal with more female PIs and co-PIs than male PIs or co-PIs, will be prioritised if it results in a better overall balanced distribution of genders considering all the funded proposals.

5. Projects involving partners from the Widening countries and territories should be prioritised.

# 5. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDED PROJECTS

# **Establishing the Project Consortium**

The administrative and financial management of projects is overseen by the respective Research Funding Organisations, according to the respective national/regional rules and guidelines.

In order to ensure that the collaborative research can be conducted as planned, all partners of a consortium should strive to **start their part of the project at approximately the same date**.

The project must follow the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>11</sup>. The project should bear in mind gender balance, especially at the PhD level and early-career opportunities resulting from the funded projects, and promote equal opportunities between women and men at all levels in the implementation of the research activities.

A consortium agreement managing inter alia the ownership and access to key knowledge (including IPR, data management, GDPR etc.) has to be signed by all partners and sent to QuantERA Coordination Office no later than three months after the start of a project. Some funding organisations require that the consortium agreement be signed before the contract can be finalised or have other requirements regarding the consortium agreement (see Annex 1). Please see DESCA Model Consortium Agreement as an example: <a href="http://www.desca-agreement.eu">http://www.desca-agreement.eu</a>.

# Reporting and Publications

Consortia must present the status of their project at **three follow-up events** organised by QuantERA. The related costs are eligible and must be secured by the consortia as part of the project's budget.

Each Coordinator of a funded project has to submit to QuantERA a mid-term report and a final report.

Pls will have reporting duties to their respective national Research Funding Organisations regarding administrative and financial matters. This is specified in the individual contracts with respective national/regional funders.

Any publication resulting from this Call must **acknowledge QuantERA**, the European Commission and the relevant national funders involved according to the national requirements. The acknowledgement to be used is: *This work has been supported by QuantERA [insert project acronym]*, by [insert the funding organisation and the grant number for that funding organisation], [insert the next funding organisation and the grant number for that funding organisation] and co-funded by the European Commission ".

See: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/hrexcellenceaward/european-charter-researchers

# Open Access Publishing / Open Research Data

Project consortia are encouraged to adhere to the Horizon Europe regulation on Open Science<sup>12</sup> for all output of scholarly research as long as it is in line with the national/regional requirements of the partners in the project.

The project consortia should agree upon and lay out publishing strategies and data management plans in their consortium agreements at the beginning of the project and should always aim for Open Access research data and publications, as well as Open Science best practices. Journal articles should be archived in either institutional or subject-specific repositories. Applicants should check the national information about open access. Research artefacts (data, software, etc.) should be shared on repositories fulfilling the FAIR data principles<sup>13</sup>.

# **Compliance with EU obligations**

Due to the obligations imposed on the QuantERA Consortium by the European Commission, the funded project partners are subject to the obligations defined in the standard provisions of Horizon Europe grants:

- EU regulations under the following Model Grant Agreement (MGA)<sup>14</sup> Articles: 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping),
- The exercise of rights by the bodies listed in Article 25 of MGA (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Additionally, all funded projects need to follow anti-discrimination rules and principles commonly shared by the EU (notably concerning racism, incitement to violence, discrimination based on religion, gender or sexual orientation).

The specific obligations of the project consortia partners will, where applicable, be laid down in individual contracts with the respective national or regional funders.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE CALL

The Call is administered by the Call Secretariat (CS) and the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

**The Call Secretariat (CS)** is hosted by French Research Agency (ANR, FR), State Research Agency (AEI, ES) and supported by National Science Centre (NCN, PL). The CS assists the EPs and the CSC with the implementation of the evaluation and selection process.

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) is the highest decision-making body of the QuantERA Call 2025 for proposals, being composed of representatives of QuantERA III Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) participating in the Call. The CSC steers all activities of the Call. In particular the CSC nominates the members of each Evaluation Panel (EP) and establishes the final list of projects recommended for funding to the RFOs, based on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> For more information see: <a href="https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science\_en">https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science\_en</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> For more information see: <a href="https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/">https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (MAG) available here: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga</a> horizon-euratom en.pdf

ranking lists provided by the EPs. All decisions concerning the Call implementation are taken by the CSC (e.g. management of confidentiality and conflicts of interest).

The Evaluation Panels (EP) are the assessment bodies. The two Evaluation Panels, one for the Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR) topic, and one for the Applied Quantum Science (AQS) topic, are the evaluation bodies of the QuantERA Call 2025, being composed of scientific and industry experts in QT. The EP evaluate each eligible proposal. Each panel establishes a ranking list of proposals which serves as a basis for the CSC funding recommendation.

With the aim of providing as much diversity as possible to the scientific evaluation, gender balance will be actively promoted in the panel formation.

# Annex 1: Requirements of Research Funding Organisations

**Austria** FFG

# Participating organisation

Austrian Research Promotion Agency

#### Contact

Fabienne Nikowitz Programme Leader

Telephone number: +43 5 7755 5081 Email: fabienne.nikowitz@ffg.at

# Funding criteria and regulations

Funding commitment: 2,000,000.00 EUR

#### **Funding regulations**

Maximum funding per proposal: 500,000.00 EUR

For Austrian proposers, the same regulations hold as for cooperation projects, see the application guidelines and regulations available at the FFG website (available mid-September 2025): https://www.ffg.at/quantentechnologien/quantera2025

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution:

Consortium requirement: at least one Austrian industry partner.

Eligible for funding are Austrian applicants from:

- Companies;
- Universities and research institutes/organisations only in cooperation with at least one Austrian company.

Eligible TRL range: 2-7

All Austrian applicants are encouraged to contact FFG prior to submission.

# Submission of the proposal at the national level

In addition to the QuantERA application, Austrian applicants are requested to submit a national application to FFG, through the eCall available at the following link: <a href="https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Cockpit.aspx">https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Cockpit.aspx</a>

#### Mandatory are:

- QuantERA proposal application form and financial form as requested by QuantERA;
- Costs and requested funding.

No application will be considered after the final submission date.

#### **Additional requirements**

Further information and requirements can be found at the FFG website (available mid-September 2025): https://www.ffg.at/quantentechnologien/quantera2025 **Austria** FWF

# Participating organisation

**FWF Austrian Science Fund** 

#### Contact

Sabine Ertl

Department Head - Department of Natural Sciences and Technology

Scientific Project Officer

Telephone number: +43 676 83487 8403

Email: sabine.ertl@fwf.ac.at

Natascha Dimovic

Operative project officer

Department of Natural Sciences and Technology

Telephone number: +43 676 83487 8402

Email: natascha.dimovic@fwf.ac.at

# Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

Total FWF funding commitment: 1,500,000.00 EUR

This commitment is solely to the Call topic "Quantum Phenomena and Resources"

# **Funding regulations**

The FWF is a funding agency that funds basic sciences only. Hence, only proposals in the research Call topic "Quantum Phenomena and Resources" will be accepted.

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

The same eligibility criteria apply as for regular Principal Investigator Projects. These criteria need to be fulfilled by the applicants.

Please find the application guidelines on the FWF Webpage: <u>Principal Investigator Projects</u> - FWF

Austrian applicants are encouraged to contact FWF prior to submission.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

The submission criteria follow the same as <u>Principal Investigator Projects - FWF</u>. This includes eligible costs as well.

In addition to the application submitted to the Call Secretariat, administrative and financial data as well as academic abstracts (in accordance with the <u>FWF guidelines for Principal Investigator Projects</u>) must also be submitted to the FWF using the online portal <u>elane</u>. The applicants must choose "**KIN – International Multilaterale Initiativen**".

The submission deadline, **December 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, 14:00 CET** must be strictly adhered to. Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

The FWF does not finance infrastructure or basic equipment at research institutions. Overheads may not be requested.

Austrian applicants are encouraged to contact FWF prior to submission.

# **Additional requirements**

The FWF only funds proposals in the Call topic "Quantum Phenomena and Resources".

The FWF generally does not have any minimum or maximum limits but, given the limited nature of the financial commitment of the FWF to this Call (see above), we do expect Austrian participants not to exceed the average range of an FWF stand-alone Project (typically 300,000.00 EUR to 450,000.00 EUR).

Please be aware that the FWF eligibility criteria apply. See <u>Principal Investigator Projects</u> - FWF.

In case one or more partners would be found not eligible this would lead to dismissal of the proposal.

Belgium F.R.S.- FNRS

# Participating organisation

Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS

#### Contact

Florence Quist Senior Scientific Officer

Telephone number: +32 2 504 9351 Email: Florence.quist@frs-fnrs.be

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

300,000.00 EUR / project

## **Funding regulations**

PINT-MULTI Regulations (FR / EN)

Project duration is set at max. 36 months. If the project involves the recruitment of a PhD student, the project duration of the F.R.S.-FNRS sub-project could be up to four years. Since this is a co-financed call, this extra year should not be included in the proposal see article III.6 of the PINT-MULTI Regulations (FR / EN).

# Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

All eligibility criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI Regulations (FR / EN)

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Applicants to F.R.S.-FNRS funding must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application on <u>e-space</u> within 5 working days after the general deadline of the QuantERA Call to be eligible. Please select the "PINT-MULTI" funding instrument when creating the administrative application. Proposals invited to the second stage will be able to complete the pre-proposal form and provide information for the full proposal upon validation by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

#### **Additional requirements**

N/A

# Participating organisation

The Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)

#### Contact

Toon Monbaliu (FO)
Advisor European Programmes

Telephone number: +32 (0)2 550 15 70

Email: <a href="mailto:europe@fwo.be">europe@fwo.be</a>

Kristien Peeters (SBO) Science Policy Advisor

Telephone number: +32 (0)2 550 15 95

Email: <a href="mailto:europe@fwo.be">europe@fwo.be</a>

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

Total FWO funding commitment: 700,000.00 EUR

Maximum funding per project/consortium: 350,000.00 EUR (overhead included)

Anticipated number of fundable projects with FWO partners: 2-3

#### **Funding regulations**

In essence, the FWO only intends to fund projects within the Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR) topic, focusing on basic quantum science and fundamental physics. If duly justified that the tasks performed by a researcher from Flanders (FWO) within an Applied Quantum Science (AQS) project/consortium fit the FWO funding channels that are integrated within this transnational Call (and as such include basic research), this might also be accepted.

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

The FWO integrates two of its national/regional funding channels within this multilateral framework. The choice of the FWO funding channel depends on the <u>type of project</u> the researchers from Flanders wish to undertake (i.e. more fundamental in nature (FO) vs. strong emphasis on valorisation potential (SBO)).

The scope and the eligibility of institutions and its researchers can be verified in the relevant chosen funding channel documents and regulations, which can be consulted on the FWO website:

- FWO Research Projects (FO)
- Strategic Basic Research (SBO)

Or by contacting the FWO contact points mentioned above.

#### Additional eligibility requirements for this framework

 Participation in this Call does not interfere with the 'national' FWO calls and is consequently not taken into account for calculating the max. available number of new applications and running projects combined. However, researchers can only participate within 2 different international consortia in this Call as partner, and only once as coordinator.

- Projects aiming at the development of a spin-off company are not eligible in this context.
   This potential 'route' should not be mentioned in the FWO pre-registration form, as such.
- The project duration is limited to 36 months, which implies the funding has to be budgeted and spent accordingly. An automatic prolongation and using positive (financial) balances after the end date is not applicable in this framework. As such article 28 of the <u>FWO Research Projects</u> and article 14 of the <u>Strategic Basic Research</u> (<u>SBO</u>) regulations do not apply here.
- The PI, for each of the participating institutions applying for FWO funds, must **hold an** appointment that fully covers the duration of the research project.
- Linked to the above, when it comes to the <u>FWO research project regulations (FO)</u>: article 10, §7 is not applicable in this Call. I.e. supervisors (-spokespersons), or coordinators/consortium partners in this context, who are granted **emeritus status** during the calendar year of submission of the project application or during the duration of the project execution, are **not eligible**.

#### **Eligibility of costs**

The FWO foresees a budget of 700,000.00 EUR in total, which guarantees at least two projects. The respective funding channel regulations apply (see links to national rules above: 'Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution' section), unless specified otherwise, and both are **capped at max. 350,000.00 EUR per project/consortium** (incl. overhead, for which the calculation method diverges per funding channel - see explanation below).

For the **overhead calculation**, even though the overhead rates differ, the fundamental (FO) and strategic research projects (SBO) use the same approach. More specifically, a structural overhead rate should be applied on the project costs, with an overhead rate of **6% for 'FO projects'**, and a **17% overhead rate for 'SBO projects'**. Some practical examples:

- <u>FO:</u> the sum of all costs (personnel, consumables, travel, subcontracting, etc.) amounts to 200.000 EUR, then the overhead will amount to 12,000.00 EUR (6% of 200,000.00 EUR) and the total requested cost is 212,000.00 EUR. This <u>total requested cost</u> may never exceed the max. available amount of 350,000.00 EUR.
- SBO: the sum of all costs (personnel, consumables, travel, subcontracting, etc.) amounts to 200,000.00 EUR, then the overhead will amount to 34,000.00 EUR (17% of 200,000.00 EUR) and the total requested cost is 234,000.00 EUR. This total requested cost may never exceed the max. available amount of 350,000.00 EUR.

The overhead cost <u>should</u> be mentioned in the Quantera budget tables, but it <u>should not</u> be inserted in the national/regional FWO pre-registration form on the <u>FWO E-loket</u> (see below under 'Submission of the proposal at the national level').

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

A **mandatory administrative application** via the personal <u>FWO e-loket</u> of the PI from Flanders is an essential part of the application process.

For fundamental research projects (FO) select the application type: 'Research projects

 European programme fundamental research'.

For strategic basis research projects (SBO) select the application type: 'Research projects – European programme strategic basic research'.

In case the consortium includes more than one partner requesting funding from FWO, a <u>single online form</u> should be submitted by the main PI (promotor(-spokesperson)) itself, containing all relevant information for the different FWO applicants.

The deadline to submit this administrative application to the FWO is identical to the deadline of the joint transnational Call (pre-proposal stage). To ensure the eligibility of the proposal, it is recommended to consult the FWO administration at least one week in advance. Failure to comply with these requirements can lead to ineligibility.

Again, it is strongly advised to approach the FWO contact points mentioned above, in order not to jeopardize any research projects/consortia.

Bulgaria BNSF

# Participating organisation

Bulgarian National Science Fund - BNSF

#### Contact

Milena Aleksandrova

**Expert** 

Telephone number: +359 884 171 363

Email: aleksandrova@mon.bg

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

Total BNSF funding commitment: 460,162.00 EUR

Maximum funding per project/consortium: 153,387.00 EUR (overhead included)

Anticipated number of fundable projects with BNSF partners: 2-3

#### **Funding regulations**

Type of research funded - Basic research, TRL 1-4

The budget contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project (direct costs) and indirect (overhead) costs. The direct costs must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable.

Eligible costs are specified in "National requirements and eligibility conditions" of Bulgarian National Science Fund available at:

Link (in Bulgarian)

<u>Link</u> (in English)

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

- 1) Accredited universities as defined in Art.85 para.1, p. 7 of the Higher Education Act,
- 2) Research organizations as defined in Art. 47, para 1 of the Higher Education Act: <a href="http://lll.mon.bg/uploaded">http://lll.mon.bg/uploaded</a> files/zkn visseto obr 01.03.2016 EN.pdf

# Submission of the proposal at the national level

Applicants have to submit an application form for national eligibility when submitting the porposals. The formulier should be filled and elecronically submitted in both Bulgarian and in English at: <a href="https://nims.egov.bg/login#/">https://nims.egov.bg/login#/</a>

BNSF requests the Bulgarian applicants to send the following documentation:

- 1. Proposal (in PDF format, sealed on the date of Call deadline),
- 2. Financial Plan for the Bulgarian research group, extracted from the Financial Form submitted by the project consortium,
- 3. Work plan for the Bulgarian research group.

# **Additional requirements**

The funded Bulgarian applicants will have to submit annual Narrative and Financial reports to BNSF, along with a Declaration on the prevention of double financing.

# Eligible costs are:

- Personnel costs (employment of postdoctoral researchers),
- Equipment purchases and equipment maintenance costs,
- Consumables,
- Travel costs,
- · Costs for open access publishing,
- Indirect costs maximum 7% of total funds requested,
- Audit maximum 1% of total funds requested.

Croatia HRZZ

# Participating organisation

Croatian Science Foundation

#### Contact

Dejan Košćak

Senior advisor, Department for International Cooperation

Telephone number: +385 1 2356 607

Email: dejan@hrzz.hr

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

Max. funding per project: 200.000,00 EUR (1 project can be funded)

Proposed projects may last from 24 to 36 months.

Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal within this Call.

# **Funding regulations**

Croatian applicants (Principal Investigators) are advised to consult the <u>Guidelines for Applicants to Calls of the Croatian Science Foundation</u> prior to submitting a proposal, in order to verify compliance with national funding terms and conditions.

The End Beneficiary, i.e. Principal Investigator may hold the role of Principal Investigator (PI) and/or team member on a maximum two HRZZ projects: either as the PI of one project and team member or co-PI on another, or as a team member or co-PI on two projects. Therefore, at the time of application, an eligible PI may hold only one active role on HRZZ projects. Active roles do not include the role of PI or collaborator on HRZZ projects scheduled to conclude by May 31, 2026. PIs of Croatian research groups on projects in bilateral programmes, Multilateral Academic Projects, and other ERA-NET projects are considered Co-PIs for the purpose of this Call.

Applicant can participate in only one project consortium in one ERA-NET Cofund Call.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Eligible applicants are:

- higher education institutions
- scientific institutes
- other research-oriented legal entities that employ at least five PhD holders who have been employed at the institution for at least one year

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

The HRZZ requests the Croatian applicants to send the following documentation (in English), not later than 3 working days after the submission of the proposal:

4. Proposal (in PDF format, sealed on the date of Call deadline),

- 5. Financial Plan for the Croatian research group (the part to be financed by the HRZZ), extracted from the Financial Form submitted by the project consortium,
- 6. Work plan for the Croatian research group,
- 7. Institutional Support Letter a written commitment from the Croatian applicant's institution accepting the proposed research and committing to its administration (signed and certified by the authorized representative of the institution),
- 8. Signed Letter of Commitment for participation in the project for all associates not employed at the applicant's institution.

The electronic version of the requested documentation shall be submitted via email to the following address: <a href="mailto:international@hrzz.hr">international@hrzz.hr</a>.

#### **Additional requirements**

The funded Croatian applicants will have to submit annual Narrative and Financial reports to HRZZ, along with a Declaration on VAT status and Declaration on the prevention of double financing for the year in question.

### Eligible costs are:

- Research costs,
- Personnel costs (employment of postdoctoral researchers),
- Equipment purchases and equipment maintenance costs,
- Dissemination, training, and cooperation costs,
- · Costs for open access publishing,
- Indirect costs maximum 15% of total funds requested, only if they are directly connected with project activities and they cannot be placed into any of the categories of eligible costs.

Czechia MEYS

# Participating organisation

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

#### Contact

Michal Vávra Policy Officer

Telephone number: +420 773 793 439 Email: <a href="michal.vavra@msmt.gov.cz">michal.vavra@msmt.gov.cz</a>

# Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

The overall funding commitment of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Czechia is 500,000.00 EUR for the Call Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR). Under exceptional circumstances, MEYS can finance also Czech participants in the AQS Call – e.g., when Czech partner is ineligible for funding by TA CR due to the fact that the basis of its activities in the project proposal is defined as fundamental research. In such a case, the applicant is obliged to contact the MEYS beforehand and consult the situation.

# **Funding regulations**

Eligible costs for a Czech participant involved in a project consortium are defined by the Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on Amendment to Some Related Acts. The maximum indirect costs set for the present Call are 25% (flat rate) of direct costs without the sub-contracting.

The aid intensity for activities carried out by a research organisation might be at the level of 100% provided that the research organisation complies entirely with requirements stipulated by the Article 2.1.1 "Public funding of non-economic activities" of the *Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/03)* and proves it by means of the *Statutory Declaration*.

Should the above-stated criteria not be fulfilled by the Czech participant, funding rates will be adjusted appropriately by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and will reach the level of 100% for fundamental / basic research activities, 50% for applied research activities and 25% for experimental development activities.

Each Czech participant in a project consortium is also requested to specify the costs related to the envisaged R&D activities in detail by using the Eligible Costs Specification template available on websites of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: <a href="http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj2/quantera">http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj2/quantera</a>.

# Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

The participants from Czechia in the projects' consortia must meet the criteria of *the research* and *knowledge-dissemination organization* (hereinafter referred to as "research organisation") in accordance with the *Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation* (2014/C 198/03). These might be public universities, public research institutes and/or other entities classified as research organizations.

It is obligatory that the Czech participants involved in the projects' consortia prove compliance with the eligibility criteria and fulfilment of the conditions set by § 18 of the Act No. 130/2002 Coll. on Support of Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on Amendment to Some Related Acts by means of a Statutory Declaration. The required procedure is described, and Statutory Declaration form will be available on website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: <a href="http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/quantera">http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/quantera</a>.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

The Full Project Proposal form and all the other requested documentation (Statutory Declaration and Eligible Costs Specification) shall be sent by each Czech participant in a project consortium to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports no later than **5th December 2025** via means specified at the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports: http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj2/guantera.

In the case that project with Czech participants is recommended for funding based on the international evaluation outcomes and is approved by the Call Steering Committee, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports may ask the successful Czech applicants to submit additional documents in order to issue the Grant Agreement needed for providing the national financial support according to the rules stipulated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

# **Additional requirements**

N/A

Czechia TA CR

# Participating organisation

TA CR – Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

#### Contact

Magdalena Pillasagua Ptakova Coordinator for International Cooperation Telephone number: +420 775 871 321 Email: magdalena.pillasagua@tacr.cz

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

Funding available: 1,000,000.00 EUR

Maximum permissible aid intensity for the Czech part of the project is 80% of the total eligible costs, based on the type of entity.

Czech applicants will be financed from the Programme to Support Applied Research and Innovation SIGMA (Sub-objective 4 – International collaboration).

# **Funding regulations**

## Type of research funded

Applied research, i.e. industrial research and experimental development.

#### Eligible costs:

- Personnel costs (including scholarships),
- Subcontracting costs (max. 20% of total eligible costs throughout the whole project period),
- Other direct costs (write-offs, protection of intellectual property, operating expenses, travel costs, consumables),
- Indirect costs (overheads) full cost/flat rate 25% (indirect costs in the respective year are calculated as 25% of the sum of the personnel costs and other direct costs in the same year).

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Eligible applicants:

- 1. Enterprises (according to Annex 1 of the Regulation),
- 2. Enterprises who act as natural persons according to Annex 1 of the Regulation engaged in an economic activity pursuant to Act no. 455/1991 coll. on Trades (Trade Act),
- 3. Research organizations (according to Article 2 paragraph 83 of the Regulation).

TA CR excludes the disbursement of individual aid to an enterprise:

- Against which a recovery order has been issued which is unpaid,
- Meeting the definition of an "undertaking in difficulty",
- Which has not met the obligation to publish the financial statements for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 in the respective register the so-called "Veřejný rejstřík"
- Which has not disclosed its ownership structure in the so-called "Evidence skutečných majitelů".

# Submission of the proposal at the national level

Mandatory forms to be submitted:

- A Sworn statement of the applicant.
- Completed "TACR Application Form" Excel file (submitted by the main Czech applicant only)\*
- If the applicant plans to achieve "Nmet" type of result, the mandatory form for Nmet result needs to be attached\*
- If the applicant plans to achieve the "Patent" type of result, patent search must be substantiated\*
- Sworn statement of the composition of the consortium (only if Czech enterprise is part of the project consortium; submitted by the main Czech applicant only).

All documents proving the eligibility of the Czech partner stated above shall be submitted via the TACR data box (TACR data box ID: afth9xp).

Submission deadline: 5 December 2025, 17.00 CET All mandatory documents to be found on TA CR website.

\*Applicants who will not submit this mandatory form (if relevant) via databox before the deadline will be considered as not eligible for TA CR funding.

# **Additional requirements**

# Supported results

Projects that achieve at least one of the following types of results can be supported in this Call. The type of the result has to be clearly described in the project proposal:

- P patent
- G technically realised results prototype, functional sample
- Z pilot plant, proven technology
- R software
- F results with legal protection utility model, industrial design
- N Certified methodologies and practices, treatment, conservation methods, procedures and specialised maps with professional expert content
- O Other

Results not to be recognized only in combination with at least one other result listed above, i.e. not as a single result of a given project:

• H - results reflected in non-legislative directives and regulations binding within the competence of the respective provider and results reflected in the approved strategic and conceptual documents of the state or public administration.

#### Project start and end

Please note that following the national legislation, Czech applicants shall start within 120 days from the funding decision being communicated by the Call Management (60-day period to make a contract + 60-day period to start the project).

Guide for Czech applicants and all mandatory forms are available on <u>TA CR website</u> (in Czech).

**Estonia ETAG** 

# Participating organisation

Estonian Research Council

#### Contact

Margit Suuroja Senior Adviser Telephone number +372 731 7360 Email: margit.suuroja@etag.ee

# Funding criteria and regulations

# **Funding commitment**

Total: 300,000.00 EUR

The maximum amount of requested funding per project is 150,000.00 EUR for a project partner and maximum 300,000.00 EUR for a project coordinator for a total period of up to three years.

# **Funding regulations**

The budget contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project (direct costs) and indirect (overhead) costs. The direct costs must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable.

#### **Direct costs:**

**Personnel costs** are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution.

## Other direct costs are:

- Travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance. If the project is funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources, travel costs are eligible only for travels abroad,
- · Consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project,
- Publication and dissemination of project results,
- Organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g., room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs),
- Fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project,
- · Patent costs,
- All other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g., translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, postage costs etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project.

**Indirect costs (overhead)** are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be

covered from the indirect costs. Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs of the Estonian sub-project.

**Subcontracting costs** are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g., analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs of the Estonian sub-project.

**Double funding** of activities is not acceptable (i.e. the same cost item may not be reimbursed twice).

If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the Call documents.

#### State Aid

If the Host Institution is an undertaking, EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding. An undertaking is any entity, be it a natural or a legal person, engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed.

# Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

**The Host Institution** may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. Restrictions to eligible institutions and applicants may however be stated in the general Call conditions which also apply to Estonian participants.

**The Principal Investigator** (PI) is a researcher who acts as the Estonian team leader in the project proposal. He/she will be responsible for how the grant is used and how the Estonian part in the project is executed. The PI must be clearly identified in the proposal.

The Principal Investigator:

- 1. Must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline).
- 2. Must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline) at the latest.
- 3. Must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, prior to the preproposal deadline).1 Patents are equalled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on maternity, paternity, or parental leave, in compulsory military service, or if there have been other exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness), they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time.

If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of

April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report2.

If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

No

## **Additional requirements**

Following the restrictions laid down in Article 7 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council No 2021/1058 of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund3 research and other activities related to fossil fuels and their use, as well as other activities not eligible as per Article 7 of the Regulation, cannot be funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources.

Finland

## Participating organisation

Research Council of Finland

#### Contact

Katrine Mahlamäki Science Adviser Telephone number: +358 29 533 5062

## Funding criteria and regulations

Email: katrine.mahlamaki@aka.fi

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 1,000,000.00 EUR

The Research Council of Finland plans to grant up to 450,000.00 EUR per partner (150,000.00 EUR per year).

## **Funding regulations**

In general, the conditions and restrictions on Academy Projects apply to the funding. The Research Council applies the full cost model in its funding, and the Research Council's funding contribution for a project can come to no more than 70% of the total project costs. Funding can be granted to research teams for the purposes of hiring scientific staff, for the acquisition of equipment and supplies, and for other expenses arising, for instance, from researcher mobility and networking activities. The costs of making publications open access are included in the overheads of the sites of research and thus form part of the costs of the basic facilities they provide. The Pl's salary costs must not be significant in relation to the project's total costs. For example, a three-year research project must not include more than 4.5 months of the Pl's effective working hours. This is equivalent to about 1.5 months a year.

Research Council funding cannot be used for economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market regardless of whether profits are pursued or generated. When an organisation is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities.

The Research Council of Finland advises that funding recipients as soon as possible after the funding decision has been made agree in writing between all project partners on the rights of ownership and use of the project's research results. At the launch of the project, the partners should also agree on the rights of ownership and use of the materials and data to be used by the project.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Finnish applicants are recommended to contact the Academy of Finland before proposal submission for the purpose of checking national funding terms and conditions (e.g. national eligibility criteria).

In addition to their doctorate, the PI must have other significant scientific merits. Usually, they are a professor or docent-level researcher. In addition, the applicant must have a close

connection with Finland to support the implementation of a multi-year project. A PI requesting funding from the Academy of Finland may not participate in more than two proposals.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Finnish partners of projects that have been selected for funding will be invited to submit national application forms through the Research Council's online system. The application must include an annex outlining the research security risk assessment and mitigation plan.

#### **Additional requirements**

#### **Open Access to Publications and Research Data Policy**

We require that the scientific publications on the results of research projects funded by the Research Council of Finland are open access, and that the research data produced by the projects are made widely available. The degrees of data openness may justifiably vary, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential. More information is provided here: https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/responsible-science/open-science/

France

## Participating organisation

French National Research Agency

#### Contact

Maurice Tia Scientific Project Officer

Telephone number: +33 1 72 73 06 90 Email: Maurice.TIA@agencerecherche.fr

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

The total ANR funding commitment is 2,500,000.00 EUR, the maximum funding per project is 450,000.00 EUR and 300,000.00 EUR per partner.

The document presenting the modalities of participation of the French applicants will be available in September 2025 at <a href="https://anr.fr/quantera-call-2025">https://anr.fr/quantera-call-2025</a>.

Please note that companies with economic difficulties cannot receive ANR subventions.

A DMP (Data management plan) must be transmitted to ANR and updated during the course of the project. Please refer to the ANR funding regulations for more details: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/

If applicable, Declarations of Due Diligence for the financed projects (Nagoya Protocol) must also be transmitted to ANR in due time.

## Participating organisation

German Research Foundation

#### Contact

Andreas Deschner
Programme Director

Telephone number: +49 228 885 2959

Email: andreas.deschner@dfg.de

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

4,000,000.00 EUR for the proposals of the topic QPR. No funds are allocated for the topic AQS.

## **Funding regulations**

- Funding is implemented as a Research Grant (Sachbeihilfe). Information about eligible
  cost categories (related to specific Programme Modules) and other specifics of the
  programme are available on the <u>DFG website</u>.
- The standard module that fits most needs is the *Basic Module* (form 52.01).
- The DFG grants 22% of the direct costs as overhead (*Programmpauschale*). Please choose 22% of the direct costs as the overhead for the submission to QuantERA.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

- The general DFG rules and conditions as defined in the current DFG <u>Guidelines</u> <u>Research Grants Programme</u> apply.
- The guidelines regarding the *Duty to Cooperate* do **not** apply.

#### Participation of commercial enterprises

If commercial companies are involved in the project, the cooperation agreement must meet the DFG requirements concerning exploitation rights granted to the cooperation. The <a href="model cooperation agreement provided by the DFG">model cooperation agreement provided by the DFG</a> or the DESCA model cooperation agreement can be used for this purpose.

When using the DESCA model cooperation agreement, the following must be observed with regard to the granting of rights of use to the commercial enterprises involved in the project regarding the work results achieved by the DFG grant recipients in the funded project: If these rights of use, granted by the DFG recipients, are to be utilised by the commercial enterprises for the purpose of exploiting the work results achieved by the commercial enterprises in the project, *fair and reasonable conditions* must be agreed to for the rights of use (see Section 9.4.1 Option 1 of the DESCA Horizon Europe 2.0 model cooperation agreement in conjunction with Annex 5 of the Model Grant Agreement (Specific Rules on IPR)). In principle, the market value of the work results achieved by the grant recipient must be taken into account.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

- Proposals have to be submitted at the latest on 5 December 2025 (same day as submission deadline of QuantERA).
- If you do not have an elan account, you must register on the <u>elan portal</u> before submitting your proposal. Confirmation is usually provided within three working days. It is not possible to submit a proposal without prior registration.
- For each project, one copy of the proposal, the financial form, necessary offers for scientific equipment and accompanying documentation (see below) has to be submitted via the DFG's <u>elan portal</u>. All documents should be submitted using the Portable Document Format (PDF).
- A CV for each applicant requesting funds from the DFG has to be submitted. Please use the current template on DFG's site with submission instructions.
- Regardless of the number of PIs requesting funding from the DFG, the proposal has to be submitted to the DFG only once. The person uploading the documents enters the relevant data for all PIs requesting funding from the DFG.
- First steps on elan: Log-In > Proposal Submission > New Project / Draft proposal >
   Individual Grants Programme > "Proposal for a Research Grant" > Start online form.
- Please select the Call "QuantERA 2025 (QPR)".
- Overheads (*Programmpauschale*) will be calculated automatically in elan during submission do the DFG.
- It is compulsory to submit the <u>project data form</u> (to be made available before October 2025).

#### **Equity and Diversity**

The DFG strongly welcomes proposals from researchers of all genders and sexual identities, from different ethnic, cultural, religious, ideological or social backgrounds, from different career stages, types of universities and research institutions, and with disabilities or chronic illness. With regard to the subject-specific focus of this Call, the DFG encourages female researchers in particular to submit proposals.

#### **Good Research Practice**

According to a resolution of the DFG General Assembly, DFG funding may only be awarded to research institutions that have implemented the guidelines laid down in the <a href="Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Good Research Practice">Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Good Research Practice</a> in their own regulations. The management of your institution is responsible for implementing the guidelines in a legally binding manner. In order to avoid delays in the disbursement of funding, please verify implementation within your institution in good time. For information regarding the implementation, please refer to the <a href="Research Integrity Portal">Research Integrity Portal</a>. If you have any questions on this subject, please contact the <a href="Research Integrity team">Research Integrity team</a> at the DFG Head Office.

## **Privacy Policy**

We, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation), take the protection of your personal data and its confidential treatment extremely seriously. Therefore, please refer to the DFG's <u>Privacy Policy</u>. If you intend to transmit personal data of third parties, please make sure to do so only if the necessary legitimation under data protection law exists. Before transmitting data of third parties to the DFG, please forward the DFG's Data Protection Notice to the individuals affected (data subjects). If there is a legitimate interest not to inform individuals beforehand (e.g. for reasons of secrecy or in case of a nomination or candidate proposal), these individuals should be informed no later than at the time of publication.

## Participating organisation

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

#### Contact

VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH (VDI TZ) – funding agency on behalf of the BMFTR

Sebastian Krug Dr. Bastian Hiltscher
Procedural contact person Scientific contact person

Telephone number: +49 211 6214 472 Telephone number: +49 211 6214 441

Email: <a href="mailto:krug@vdi.de">krug@vdi.de</a>
Email: <a href="mailto:hiltscher@vdi.de">hiltscher@vdi.de</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

BMFTR budget earmarked for the funding of German participants in projects under the AQS topic: max. 4,500,000.00 EUR.

## **Funding regulations**

Project proposals involving German participants requesting funding from the BMFTR must:

- 1. Clearly address and be in line with the Applied Quantum Science (AQS) topic,
- 2. Be in line with the BMBF Research Programme 'Quantum Systems' and the Federal Government's 'Quantum Technologies Conceptual Framework' which can be downloaded at https://www.quantentechnologien.de/service/publikationen.html.

Funding for German applicants under this Call will be granted based on §§ 23 and 44 BHO ('Bundeshaushaltsordnung') and the related administrative regulations and BMFTR/ BMBF guidelines. An entitlement to funding cannot be derived.

In particular, the national regulations *NABF*, *NKBF 2017* and *BNBest-mittelbarer Abruf-BMBF* apply. The documents can be found at: foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy index.php

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

BMFTR funding of German participants is available:

- For universities and research institutes/organisations (funding up to 100% of the total eligible costs/expenditures; while overhead is not eligible for universities, they will receive an additional lump sum ('Projektpauschale') equivalent to 20% of the eligible expenditures),
- For companies (funding up to 50% of the total eligible costs; in addition, bonuses may be granted to SMEs under GBER Article 25(6)(a) ('SME bonus') and to companies under Article 25(6)(b)(i) ('bonus for effective cooperation')).

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

No additional national forms need to be submitted during the QuantERA application process. However, previous registration with the funding agency (VDI TZ) is mandatory (see section additional requirements below).

Successful German participants must submit complete BMFTR application forms (AZA/AZK including annexes) within two months after the official notification of the project selection. Noncompliance may result in exclusion.

#### Additional requirements

Extending the stipulations of the Call announcement, the following requirements apply to German participants respectively to project proposals involving German participants:

- **Mandatory registration:** German applicants are required to contact and to register with the responsible BMFTR funding agency ('*Projektträger*' VDI TZ see section *contact* above) prior to the submission of a project proposal they are involved in.
- Compulsory industry involvement: Due to the application orientation of the AQS topic, the involvement of at least one company (from Germany or another EEA country) in the project is compulsory.
- **Obligatory exploitation plan:** In section 2.2 proposal must contain a concrete, appropriately detailed plan (who? what? when?) for the subsequent innovation steps, the technical application and the future commercial utilisation of the results in the EEA. Please note that in this context, the term *application* does not imply the utilisation of the results for merely scientific purposes.
- **Demonstrating additional benefit:** To be eligible for BMFTR funding, project proposals must demonstrate an additional benefit due to the transnational cooperation.
- **Funding limits:** The requested BMFTR funding must amount to at least 120 k€ per German partner over the entire duration of a project. Moreover, at least 50% of the total eligible costs/expenses on the part of the German participant(s) in a project must be personnel costs/expenses.

Hungary

## Participating organisation

NKFIH, Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Office

#### Contact

Flora Csesznok
National Contact Point
Email: <a href="mailto:ncp@nkfih.gov.hu">ncp@nkfih.gov.hu</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

The total indicative national funding for this Call is 450,000.00 EUR.

## **Funding regulations**

The conditions for the call for ERA-NET COFUNDs (2024-1.2.2-ERA\_NET) are applicable. For details see: <a href="https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/palyazat-era-net-cofund-ejp-cofund-egyeb-multilateralis-programok-2024-122-era-net/palyazati-felhivas">https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/palyazat-era-net-cofund-ejp-cofund-egyeb-multilateralis-programok-2024-122-era-net/palyazati-felhivas</a>

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

The conditions for the call for ERA-NET COFUNDs (2024-1.2.2-ERA\_NET) are applicable. For details see: <a href="https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/palyazat-era-net-cofund-ejp-cofund-egyeb-multilateralis-programok-2024-122-era-net/palyazati-felhivas">https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/palyazati-era-net-cofund-ejp-cofund-egyeb-multilateralis-programok-2024-122-era-net/palyazati-felhivas</a>

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Not required prior to the QuantERA Call submission.

Following the international selection of the projects to be funded, a proposal should be formally submitted to NKFIH.

Ireland TE-RI

## Participating organisation

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

#### Contact

Dr Maria Nash Senior EU affairs Executive

Maria.nash@researchireland.ie

Eu-cofund@researchireland.ie

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Maximum budget per project:

Up to €330,000 direct costs, €405,000 including overheads, for Irish-based researchers applying as a project partner.

Up to €405,000 direct costs, €530,000 including overheads, for Irish-based researchers applying as a project coordinator.

#### Eligible costs:

- Salary-related costs for research personnel. Please note the Irish-based partner cannot request their own salary.
- Equipment
- Travel
- Direct running costs (materials and consumables)
- Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs
- Subcontracting costs are considered an eligible budget category however strong justification for subcontracting must be provided and pre-approved directly with Research Ireland in advance of proposal submission.
- Overheads should be calculated as 30% of the direct costs, but excluding therefrom the cost of all equipment identified in the application.

Unless otherwise stated, all rules regarding eligible and ineligible costs apply as defined within Research Ireland's <u>Grant Budget Policy</u>.

#### **Funding regulations**

Please refer to the Research Ireland call webpage for funding regulations and applicant eligibility in full: <a href="https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/">https://www.researchireland.ie/funding/</a>

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Only an academic partner or coordinator based in an eligible Irish Host Research body may apply for Research Ireland funding. Please refer to Research Ireland's Policies and Guidance for the list of eligible Research Performing Organisations: Eligible Research Bodies Policy

## The Irish-based applicant must:

hold a PhD or <u>equivalent qualification</u> for at least 3 years by the proposal deadline.
 The official date is defined as the day, month and year that the degree was conferred i.e., the month and year printed on the official PhD certificate.

#### **AND**

• be a member of the academic staff of an eligible Research Body (permanent or with an active contract that covers the period of the grant)

#### OR

 be a contract researcher with a contract that covers the period of the grant, who is recognised by the eligible Research Body as an independent investigator and will have an independent office and research space for which he/she will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the Research Ireland grant

#### OR

 be an individual who will be recognised by the eligible Research Body upon receipt of the grant as an academic staff or as a contract researcher as defined above. The applicant does not necessarily need to be employed by the Research Body at the time of the application submission.

#### AND

 be an author on at least three international peer-reviewed articles. Only original research publications, and not review articles or other secondary research literature, are acceptable.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Please give a brief notification of your intent to submit a proposal through email before the submission deadline. Within the notification, please include the following information:

- List of project partners
- Irish Host institution
- Total budget request to Research Ireland
- Whether you intend to apply as a coordinating or non-coordinating partner

## **Additional requirements**

Applicants are advised that funding awarded by Research Ireland under the QuantERA Programme will be subject to, and must comply with, State aid rules and the conditions of the EU Commission General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). Funding will be awarded to successful applicants under Article 25, in respect of aid for research and development projects. For further details please consult: <u>Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Research and Innovation Scheme 2021-2026</u>

Israel

## Participating organisation

Israel Innovation Authority - ISERD

#### Contact

Mr. Danny Seker

Senior Director: Digital, Industry and Space; Civil Security for Society

Telephone number: +972 52 733 4127

Email: Dan@iserd.org.il

Bat Zion Fisch

NCP Cluster 4: Al, Digital and Industry Telephone number: +972 54 435 8285 Email: Batzion.F@innovationisrael.org.il

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 750,000.00 EUR

Anticipated number of fundable projects with IIA partners: 4-3

## **Funding regulations**

According to national regulations. Please refer to the following documents:

י יישומ מחקר מאגדי מסלול

המסגרת לתוכנית הקשורים בינלאומיים הסכמים יישום נוהל

The QuantERA III Call will appear at ISERD site in due course, please refer to ISERD site before submitting the national application.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Israeli company engaged in R&D

Israeli Academia Institute – subject to the following:

- 1. Commitment of an Israeli company (a partner in the consortium) to fund at least 10% of the Academia's approved budget.
- 2. Joint tasks/working package of the specific academia and company

Eligible cost and expenses – In line with national rules and regulation as detailed in:

The national call of QuantERA

The QuantERA III Call will appear at ISERD site in due course,

Please refer to ISERD site before submitting the national application.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

National application to be submitted mandatorily

Deadline for submission: 12.12.2025, at 12:00 PM (IST)

## **Additional requirements**

Further requirements will be published on ISERD and the Israel Innovation Authority's website in accordance with the call for proposals, which will be announced in due course.

**MUR** 

## Participating organisation

Ministero dell'università e della ricerca

#### Contact

Aldo Covello Programme manager

Telephone number: 375 510 2431 Email: aldo.covello@mur.gov.it

Sonia Angiolin Project officer

Email: <a href="mailto:sonia.angiolin@est.mur.gov.it">sonia.angiolin@est.mur.gov.it</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

Total: 500,000.00 EUR

#### Funding regulations:

Maximum funding per project: 100,000.00 EUR

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution:

• Eligible partners: Universities, Research institutes, Research organizations in accordance with EU Reg. n. 651/2014 of the European Commission - June 17, 2014, Enterprises, foundations and non-economic entities.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

- In addition to the project proposal, which shall be submitted at European level, the Italian participants are requested to submit a national application to MUR, through the national web platform, available at the following link: <a href="https://banditransnazionali.mur.gov.it">https://banditransnazionali.mur.gov.it</a>
- The national application must be submitted by the same deadline established by the international Call. Any participant who does not submit its national documents by this deadline will be considered not eligible for funding.

#### Additional requirements

- The complete list of criteria and provisions legally valid, which must be respected by all
  the Italian participants, is included in the "Avviso integrativo nazionale", to be published
  on the dedicated web page on MUR website:
  - http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/european-partnership-2021-27 and in the national web platform https://banditransnazionali.mur.gov.it

Latvia LZP

## Participating organisation

Latvian Council of Science

#### Contact

Maija Bundule

Head of Unit - International Research Programs Unit

Telephone number: +371 26514481 Email: maija.bundule@lzp.gov.lv

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 600,000.00 EUR

#### **Funding regulations**

For project coordinator or partner a maximum of 100,000.00 EUR can be requested per project year. The grant can be used to cover all project-related costs, which include as direct costs personnel costs (corresponding to the level of activity in the project), travel costs, subcontracts (up to 25% of total direct costs), other direct costs such as materials, consumables and publication costs, equipment (only depreciation costs), and etc. Indirect project costs can reach a maximum of 25% of total direct costs, excluding subcontracting costs.

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Following legal persons are eligible for funding:

- (1) R&D institutions research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, their institutes and research centers. R&D institution (research institute, university, higher education establishment, research center etc.) must be listed in the Registry of Research Institutions operated by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia.
- (2) Enterprises. Enterprise must be registered in the Registry of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia and most of its R&D&I activities must be carried out in the Republic of Latvia, be able to submit its financial statements for the last two closed financial years and has a Latvian bank account.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Not requested

## **Additional requirements**

No more than two partners from Latvia may participate in the project.

A person, acting as a project leader or partner's principal investigator can submit or take part only in one project proposal per Call.

Lithuania LMT

## Participating organisation

Lietuvos mokslo taryba (Research council of Lithuania)

#### Contact

Saulius Marcinkonis

Adviser

Telephone number: +370 676 17256 Email: saulius.marcinkonis@gmail.com

## Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

Total: 300,000.00 EUR

Up to 150,000.00 EUR per project (for project partner) or up to 200,000.00 EUR per project (for project coordinator).

## **Funding regulations**

The general funding rules of Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) apply:

The applicant is Lithuanian higher education and research institution (which is listed in the Register of Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Lithuania),

SME eligible to apply only in collaboration with Lithuanian higher education and research institution,

The applicant who intends to act as a project leader (PL) or principal investigator (PI) has to be a scientist (researcher holding at least a Ph.D. degree).

A person, acting as a PL, PI or a core group member can participate only in one proposal per Call.

The workload of the core members of project team (PL and PI) must be ≥20 hours multiplied by the duration of the project in months.

National funding will be provided according to the <u>General Rules</u> of the Research Council of Lithuania for the competitive funding of the Research and Dissemination Projects approved by the Order No V-176 of the Council Chairman on 4 April, 2019.

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Submission of the proposal at the national level

Applicants are not requested to submit any national forms during pre-proposal and full proposal submission stages.

#### Additional requirements

Requested to submit regular financial, mid-term and final reports at the national level.

Luxembourg FNR

## Participating organisation

Luxembourg National Research Fund

#### Contact

Christiane Kaell

Head of Research Programmes

Telephone number: +352 691 362 817

Email: <a href="mailto:christiane.kaell@fnr.lu">christiane.kaell@fnr.lu</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

350,000.00 EUR

#### **Funding regulations**

FNR's programme for international collaborations: INTER - FNR

The <u>FNR financial regulations</u> specify the different costs categories and expenses eligible for reimbursement by the FNR.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Public institutions performing research: <a href="https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/">https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/</a>

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Additional documentation must be submitted the FNR no later than 7 working days after the QUANTERA III deadlines. Submissions to the FNR must be done <a href="#">FNR Online Grant Management System</a>.

Applicants will need to provide basic information and attach the proposal (including all further relevant documents) based on the form provided by the lead agency/organising network.

#### Additional requirements

A principal investigator may act in one proposal only. A consortium leader from a Luxembourg-based public research institution should be a researcher with solid experience of managing collaborative research projects.

Malta MEY

## Participating organisation

Ministry of Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation - MEYR

#### Contact

David Muscat Snr Manager – Programme Implementation Telephone number: +356 2598 1074

Email: david.d.muscat@gov.mt

## Funding criteria and regulations

The following legal persons are eligible for funding:

- Research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, their institutes and research centres etc.
- Enterprises and companies.

Entities must be registered in Malta.

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 50,000.00 EUR

## **Funding regulations**

YES

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

YES

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Mandatory

## **Additional requirements**

N/A

Netherlands QDNL

## Participating organisation

Quantum Delta NL - QDNL

#### Contact

Dr. Julia Oesterling
Senior Advisor EU programs
Talanhamananahan 194, 6, 944

Telephone number: +31-6-81110955 Email: julia.oesterling@quantumdelta.nl

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 1,500,000.00 EUR

Maximum funding per the awarded project: 350,000.00 EUR

## **Funding regulations**

Maximum number of fundable research groups

3-5

Eligibility of project duration

3 years

Eligibility of costs, types and their caps

One Postdoctoral researcher and/or non-scientific personnel (up to a max of 3 years) and/or PhD student, material costs, traveling costs, network and consortium costs. With a maximum project duration for three years, only funding for 3 years can be granted. However, in case of a 4-year PhD employment contract, this may be indicated and included in the project budget.

For all eligible applicants standard tariffs for personal costs apply (see: <a href="https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables">https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables</a>).

A standard material budget can be requested up to a maximum of 15,000.00 EUR per year. This budget covers third party costs (related to external services such as consulting- provided by companies or freelancers, capped at a rate of 125.00 EUR per hour), costs for consumables, small instruments and aids, cost for travel and lodging, costs for buying the rights to patents necessary for the project, for the duration of the project, miscellaneous costs directly related to the project. Costs for cleanroom (access to NanoLabNL) can be claimed, additionally.

Eligibility and assessment criteria are accessible on the website of QDNL (http://quantumdelta.nl/quantera).

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Full, associate, and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at Dutch universities, or NWO institutes, or at other research organisations, that -at least in part- are funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science.

SMEs are eligible to join a project together with one of the eligible organisations mentioned above. SMEs cannot however request funding within this call.

Individuals who, in the framework of a tenure-track position, -do not yet have a permanent appointment can also be (co-) applicant. The employing institution, thus the dean or director of the institute, has to ensure a full 4-year PhD position employment contract.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Yes. Submission of financial and scientific reports at national level is required in accordance with the rules of QDNL.

## **Additional requirements**

Applicants must fit one of the themes of the NAQT (National Agenda of Quantum Technology), or the CAT (Catalyst) themes of QDNL. QDNL will host an information session in September 2025 for applicants from Dutch entities to brief them of the selection criteria and how to ensure compliance with scope and increase a successful application.

Norway

## Participating organisation

The Research Council of Norway

#### Contact

Torgeir Waaga Senior Advisor

Telephone number: +47 48234747

Email: twa@rcn.no

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 434,000.00 EUR

The project period can only be extended for the Norwegian project partner if the project period is extended for the project as a whole. The project period must not exceed the project period of the framework of the partnership.

The National Budget of the Call is 5 M NOK

## The official exchange rate can be found here:

https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/policy and exchange rates/euro reference exchange rate s/html/eurofxref-graph-nok.en.html

The exchange rate at the timepoint of the Call application submission deadline will be the valid exchange rate.

#### **Funding regulations**

The aided part of the research and development project is set by the State Aid Rules. The aid is assessed to fall within, and must only be used in accordance with, the EU's Block Exemption Regulation Article 25 (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014). Undertakings that fall under the state aid regulations' definition of "undertaking in difficulty" cannot receive support from the Research Council. For more information see:

https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/

Depending on the volume of submitted and eligible projects, up to 25% additional funding may be allocated to the Call to fund additional projects on the ranking list.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Only research organizations on the RCN's list of approved research organizations are eligible for funding.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Project partners of funded projects will have to submit national application forms to The Research Council of Norway after notification.

## **Additional requirements**

- The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects.
- Norwegian project partners will sign a separate contract with the RCN. The currency in the Norwegian contracts will be in NOK to avoid currency risk.
- The budget for the Norwegian partners shall follow RCN cost model and RCN regulations.

Poland

## Participating organisation

National Centre for Research and Development

#### Contact

Krystyna Maciejko Project Coordinator

Telephone number: +48 22 39 07 489 E-mail: <a href="mailto:krystyna.maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl">krystyna.maciejko@ncbr.gov.pl</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

Maximum funding for the Call 2025: 1,500,000.00 EUR

## **Funding regulations**

Detailed information (e.g. eligibility of the costs and funding rates) can be found at: https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/platforma-konkursowa

NCBR supports only applied research and experimental development.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

- Research organisations<sup>15</sup>,
- Enterprises<sup>16</sup> (micro, small, medium or large),
- Groups of entities (scientific consortia).

For research organisations an industrial partner is not required to establish a national scientific consortium.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

After international evaluation has been completed and the ranking list established, Polish participants from consortia recommended for funding will be invited to submit the National Application Form (NAF).

All eligible entities invited to submit NAF are obliged to use the rate of exchange of the European Central Bank dated on the day of opening of the Call.

NAFs will be then examined by the interdisciplinary panel of experts for international projects for the appropriateness of funding requested. Based on recommendations of the panel, the Director of NCBR issues a funding decision.

## Additional requirements

N/A

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> As defined in Article 2 (83) of General Block Exemption Regulation (Regulation No 651/2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> As defined in Article 1 of Annex 1 to the General Block Exemption Regulation (Regulation No 651/2014).

Poland

## Participating organisation

**National Science Centre** 

#### Contact

Alicja Dylag

International Cooperation Officer Email: alicia.dylag@ncn.gov.pl

Dr Anna Koteja

Coordinator for Physical Sciences and Engineering

Email: anna.koteja@ncn.gov.pl

National Science Centre: <a href="mailto:quantera@ncn.gov.pl">quantera@ncn.gov.pl</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

Total: 1,500,000.00 EUR

#### **Funding regulations**

Only proposals involving basic research (experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial use) may be submitted in response to the Call for proposals.

#### What are the eligible costs for Polish researchers?

We strongly encourage all applicants to read information on <u>eligible costs</u> included in the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO.

Applicants can apply for funding for all costs relevant, necessary and directly connected to the proposed research project including:

- 1. Personnel costs (salaries):
- **Full time remuneration:** funds for full-time employment of the principal investigator or post-doc(s); Please note, if the principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a joint proposal a full-time remuneration of PI can be increased.
- Additional remuneration for members of the research team. Please note: if the
  principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a
  joint proposal a budget for additional remuneration can be increased.
- Salaries and scholarships for students and PhD students. Please note: if the
  principal investigator is also the coordinator of an international consortium submitting a
  joint proposal the budget for salaries and scholarships for students and PhD students
  can be increased.
- 2. Purchase or manufacturing of research equipment, devices and software (the cost of an individual item of equipment must not exceed PLN 500,000.00).
- 3. Other costs such as:
- Purchase of material and small equipment,

- Outsourcing (costs of services rendered by third parties),
- Business trips (travel and subsistence costs),
- Visits and consultations,
- Compensation for collective investigators,
- Other costs crucial to the research project which comply with the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO.
- 4. **Indirect costs** must not exceed <u>a maximum of 20%</u> of the total eligible costs and may not be increased during the course of a research project.

Additionally, indirect costs of up to 2% of direct costs may be spent on Open Access to publications and research data. Administrative personnel costs and costs of organisation of conferences have to be covered from overheads.

#### EURO exchange rate: 1 EUR = 4,2858 PLN

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Proposals may be submitted by the entities specified in Article 27 (1) of the Act on the National Science Centre (NCN Act). For further details on eligibility of applicants, as well as terms of entry, please check the Annex to the NCN Council Resolution on funding granted within calls for proposals for international research projects (<u>UNISONO</u>).

## Who can act as Principal Investigator?

The Principal Investigator in the Polish research team must be at least a PhD holder when submitting a proposal. The Principal Investigator must be a person employed at the host institution for the project for the entire project duration period pursuant to at least a part-time employment contract. The Principal Investigator must reside in Poland for at least 50% of the project duration period.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Up to 7 days from the full proposal submission deadline Polish applicants <u>must submit their</u> <u>national applications in the OSF submission system</u>. The application will include a budget that should be calculated according to the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration (UNISONO).

If one international project includes partners from two or more different Polish institutions, these institutions apply as a group of entities. Each entity within the group has a separate budget, but the limit on the remuneration applies to the group as a whole (please see: <u>UNISONO</u>). Please note that groups of entities have higher limits on the remuneration.

#### Additional requirements

Applicants are obliged to adhere to the rules included in the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration: UNISONO.

The rules for awarding NCN scholarships are laid down in the Regulations on awarding scholarships.

- Personal Data Processing at the NCN
- Open Access Policy at the NCN
- Data Management Plan requirements

Romania UEFISCDI

## Participating organisation

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

#### Contact

Nicoleta Dumitrache
Expert international cooperation
Telephone number: +40 2 1302 3886
Email: nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 500,000.00 EUR

## **Funding regulations:**

- 250,000.00 EUR in case a Romanian institution is the Coordinator (together with other Romanian partner(s) if it is the case),
- 200,000.00 EUR for one/all Romanian partner(s) participating in a proposal.

#### Eligible costs:

- a. Staff costs,
- b. Logistics expenses:
  - Capital expenditures (cannot exceed 25% of the funding from the public budget),
  - Expenditure on stocks supplies and inventory items,
  - Expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25% of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work,
- c. Travel expenses,
- d. Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 25% of direct costs.

**Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution:** Universities, national institutes, SMEs, other institutions with R&D activity.

**Submission of the proposal at the national level** - the proposal will not be submitted at national level.

## Additional requirements:

Funding rates vary in accordance with state aid legislation.

A person, as project manager, regardless of whether the Romanian institution is a project coordinator or partner, at the level of a transnational competition, can participate in a single project proposal.

For more information: <a href="https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene">https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene</a>

Slovakia SAS

## Participating organisation

Slovak Academy of Sciences

#### Contact

Martin Novak, Program Officer

Telephone number: +421257510119

Email: mnovak@up.upsav.sk

Zuzana Panisova Program Officer

Telephone number: +421257510245

Email: panisova@up.upsav.sk

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment:**

Total: 120,000.00 EUR

## **Funding regulations**

<u>Personnel costs</u> up to 15 % of all direct costs or up to 30% of all direct costs, if the Slovak team is the consortium's coordinator.

Overheads up to 20% of all direct costs.

No capital expenditures are allowed.

#### Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Only research institutes and/or centres of the Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organisations for funding by SAS (up to 100%). The main applicant must have, at the time of submission, a contract(s) with one or several of the institutes/centres equivalent to more than 50% of the full-time employment valid for the whole duration of the project. Each member of the applicant's team must also have an employment contract or a fellowship with the same or another SAS institute/centre.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

No

#### **Additional requirements**

N/A

Slovenia MVZI

## Participating organisation

Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

#### Contact

Anamarija Meglič

Function: Science Policy Officer - Directorate for Science and Innovation

Telephone number: + 386 1 478 46 14,

Email: anamarija.meglic@gov.si

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Max. 900,000.00 EUR with the possibility of additional EC funding depending on the EC contribution (in the form of top-up funding).

#### **Funding regulations**

**Estimated number of research partners that can be cofunded:** 3 research projects with Slovenian applicants.

**Maximum co-funding or grant awarded to a partner:** max. 300,000.00 EUR per project (the actual amount and dynamics of co-funding shall be defined in the national co-funding contract).

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

## Type of research eligible for co-funding on the TRL scale:

Basic or industrial research TRL 1-6 (foreseen activities of the Slovenian partner).

The type of research to be carried out by Slovenian researchers must be identified and explained in the project proposal.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

#### **Programme title:**

Programmes of International Scientific Cooperation

#### Geographical coverage of the programme (national/regional):

National programme

#### Programme website:

https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/

#### Legal basis:

- State Administration Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 113/05 official consolidated version, 89/07 Constitutional Court Decision, 126/07 ZUP-E, 48/09, 8/10 ZUP-G, 8/12 ZVRS-F, 21/12, 47/13, 12/14, 90/14, 51/16, 36/21, 82/21, 189/21, 153/22 and 18/23; hereinafter: ZDU-1);
- Public Finance Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 11/11 official consolidated text, 14/13 corr., 101/13, 55/15 ZFisP, 96/15 ZIPRS1617, 13/18, 195/20 Constitutional Court Decision, 18/23 ZDU-10, 76/23

- and 24/25, hereinafter: ZJF);
- Scientific Research and Innovation Activity Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], Nos 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 102/24, hereinafter: ZZrID);
- Rules on co-funding scientific research activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 69/23);
- Rules determining special projects of national importance and the regulatory framework for the determination of salaries for researchers (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 126/23 and 106/24);
- Act Regulating the Implementation of the Budgets of the Republic of Slovenia for 2025 and 2026, ZIPRS2526 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 104/24 in 17/25 – ZFO-1E);
- Budget of the Republic of Slovenia for 2025 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 123/23 and 104/24), Budget of the Republic of Slovenia for 2026 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 104/24);
- Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 69/11 official consolidated text, 158/20, 3/22 ZDeb and 16/23-ZZPri);
- Personal Data Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 163/22; hereinafter: ZVOP-2);
- Trade Secrets Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 22/19, hereinafter: ZPosS);
- Public Procurement Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 91/15, 14/18, 121/21, 10/22, 74/22 – Constitutional Court Decision, 100/22 – ZNUZSZS, 28/23 and 88/23 – ZOPNN-F, hereinafter: ZJN-3);
- Resolution on the Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 49/22);
- Decree on scientific research public funding from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 35/22, 144/22 and 79/23);
- The criteria for determining the achievement of internationally comparable research results and the period covering internationally comparable research achievements for research project or programme leaders, effective from 22 May 2024 (available at <a href="https://www.arrs.si/sl/akti/kriteriji-vodja-maj24.asp">https://www.arrs.si/sl/akti/kriteriji-vodja-maj24.asp</a>) and Amendment of the Criteria for determining the achievement of internationally comparable research results and the period covering internationally comparable research achievements for research project or programme leaders, effective from 24 May 2024 (available at <a href="https://www.aris-rs.si/sl/akti/kriteriji-vodja-dop-maj24.asp">https://www.aris-rs.si/sl/akti/kriteriji-vodja-dop-maj24.asp</a>)
- Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01);
- Programme of Collaborative Research and Development Projects and Other Projects Subject to State Aid of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation 2022–2030, Minister, Version 2.0 (Consolidated Text), No. 440-4/2022/1 of 26 September 2022, as amended and supplemented (Version 2.0) on 20 July 2023, available at: https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MVZI/Znanost/Strategije-predpisi-in-drugi-dokumenti/Program-sodelovalnih-raziskovalno-razvojnih-projektov-in-drugih-projektov-ki-so-predmet-drzavnih-pomoci-MVZI-2022-2030.pdf);
- Decree on the implementation of scientific research work in accordance with the principles of open science (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 59/23 and 39/25);

- Open Science Action Plan for the implementation of Action 6.2: Open science to improve the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of research in the framework of the Resolution on the Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia 2030 of 31 May 2023, No 63100-1/2023/5 (available at:
- <a href="https://www.arrs.si/sl/dostop/inc/24/Akcijski">https://www.arrs.si/sl/dostop/inc/24/Akcijski</a> nacrt odprta%20znanost.pdf).

## Co-funding rate:

- 100% for research organisations (such as universities, public and private research institutes) whose funded activity is non-commercial in accordance with the provisions of the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation. Wide dissemination of all research results on a non-exclusive and nondiscriminatory basis is required.
- For research organisations whose funded activity is **commercial** in accordance with the provisions of the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation, the provisions of the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (OJ EU C 198, 27.6.2014) and the national scheme for State aid for research and development (the Programme of collaborative research and development and other projects subject to State aid from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport 2022-2030, as amended, published at: https://www.gov.si/podrocja/izobrazevanje-znanost-in-sport/znanost/), the maximum co-funding rates shall be as follows:

Type of research	Large enterprises	Medium-sized enterprises	Small enterprises
Basic research	100%	100%	100%
Industrial research	65%	75%	80%
Experimental development	40%	50%	60%

## Main eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organisations, thematic restrictions, types of costs, level of co-funding, etc.)

"Research organisations", as defined in the ZZrID, are eligible for co-funding. All participating organisations must be registered in the register of research organisations of the Public Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenian Current Research Information System, hereinafter: the SICRIS).

The eligibility of the research leader and other members of the research team: The project activities of **each** Slovenian partner must be supervised by a research leader who fulfils the conditions for a project leader as defined in paragraph one of Article 63 of the ZzrID. Regarding the definition of internationally comparable research outputs, the criteria for determining the achievement of internationally comparable research results and the period covering internationally comparable research achievements for the management of a research project or programme of 22 May 2024 are available at https://www.arrs.si/sl/akti/kriteriji-vodjamaj24.asp

All participating researchers must be registered in the SICRIS and have available research hours.

The total funding requested per project for all Slovenian partners within a consortium may not exceed EUR 300,000.00 for the entire duration of the project.

## **Eligible costs**

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation will finance all eligible costs of Slovenian applicants in selected transnational projects, in accordance with the Decree on scientific research public funding from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia. Eligible costs must be directly related to the research carried out and must include all of the following categories of direct costs:

- Personnel (including social, health, pension and other contributions in accordance with national legislation),
- Materials (travel and meeting expenses, consumables, dissemination and knowledge exchange costs and other costs),
- Depreciation costs.

Indirect costs are eligible for up to 25% of direct costs.

This Call is suitable for implementing Article 64 of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activity Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 186/21, 40/23, 102/24 and 40/25 (ZZrID)).

For more detailed explanations, please refer to the *Navodila za prijavitelje in upravičence* (Instructions for Applicants and Eligible Persons) (available at:

https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/

In the event of the application of the Rules determining special projects of national importance and the regulatory framework for the determination of salaries for researchers, costs will be planned in accordance with the provisions of this Annex.

**Public expenditure eligibility period:** from the financial year 2027, until the end of the financial year 2029.

**Project expenditure eligibility period:** From the start date of the transnational project, as specified in the National Documentation for the duration of the project, with the prescribed additional 30-day deadline for the payment of invoices related to the project costs. The project expenditure eligibility period starts after the entry into force of the consortium agreement between the selected consortium partners from the date on which the national co-funding contract enters into force.

The co-funding contract enters into force on the date of the fulfilment of the suspensive condition, i.e. on the date of the conclusion/signing of the consortium agreement. The consortium agreement shall be deemed to be signed when the last signatory party signs it. If the consortium agreement is not signed at the latest within one year from the date of the start of the project (as specified in the national documentation), the contract between the parties shall not enter into force and therefore no rights and obligations shall arise between them In this case, the contracting party cannot demand performance from the counterparty as agreed in the above-mentioned contract. As from the date of the entry into force of the contract, the eligible person shall be entitled to the payment of eligible costs and expenses incurred by it as a result of the implementation of the project from the date of the start of the project.

Applicants must submit the transnational application in accordance with the instructions and deadlines set out in the joint transnational Call for tender.

Submission of the project proposal at the national/regional level (method, content, deadlines, etc.)

The submission of an application at the national level is not foreseen.

All information necessary to establish the eligibility for the co-funding of Slovenian applicants must be evident from the duly submitted transnational project application.

The national contracting procedure will start once the projects are proposed for co-funding at the level of the transnational Call for tenders. The national documentation submitted, including evidence of the start date of the transnational project, will be a prerequisite for the signature of the contract at the national level (a draft contract is annexed to the *Navodila za prijavitelje in upravičence* (Instructions for Applicants and Eligible Persons), available at: <a href="https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/">https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/</a>

## The submission of financial and substantive reports at the national/regional level

In accordance with the co-funding contract and the National Annex.

## **Additional requirements**

All Slovenian applicants are recommended to contact the Slovenian national contact person.

All Slovenian applicants should refer to the information published on the Call for tenders at the following website:

https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-visoko-solstvo-znanost-in-inovacije/javne-objave/

For more detailed explanations, please refer to the *Navodila za prijavitelje in upravičence* (Instructions for Applicants and Eligible Persons) (available at: <a href="https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/">https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/partnerstva/</a>).

South Korea NRF Korea

## Participating organisation

National Research Foundation of Korea

#### Contact

Seok-Ho Kim
Program Officer

Telephone number: +82-42-869-7831

Email: rock@nrf.re.kr

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Budget**

Maximum funding committed: 1,600,000.00 EUR

Maximum number of fundable research groups: 2

Eligibility of project duration: 3 years

## **Funding regulations**

National funding will be provided according to the

## NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION ACT.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Full, associate, and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at Korean universities, or national research institutes, or at other research organisations, that -at least in part- are funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT.

SME eligible to apply only in collaboration with Korean higher education and research institution.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Additional documentation must be submitted the NRF no later than 7 working days after the QUANTERA III deadlines.

## Additional requirements

A principal investigator may act in one proposal only. A consortium leader from a Republic of Korea-based public research institution should be a researcher with solid experience of managing collaborative research projects.

Spain AEI

## Participating organisation

Agencia Estatal de Investigación

Subdivisión de Programas Científico - Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia c/Torrelaguna, 58 bis – planta 6ª

20827 Madrid

+34 916037990

#### Contact

Administrative and technical issues:

Watse Castelein

Telephone number: +34 9160 38876

Email: era-ict@aei.gob.es

Representative:

Beatriz Goméz Miguel

Telephone number: +34 916 038 707 Email: <a href="mailto:beatriz.gomez@aei.gob.es">beatriz.gomez@aei.gob.es</a>

## **Funding Criteria and Regulations**

#### **Funding commitment**

Maximum funding for the QuantERA Call 2025: 1,000,000.00 EUR.

#### **Funding Programme**

Funding Programme: The framework for this funding action is the <u>Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Técnica e Innovación 2024-2027</u>. On a national level, the Call will be managed by the <u>Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia (STRAN)</u> of the AEI.

## **Instrument for funding the Spanish groups**

The instrument for funding the Spanish groups is "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" (Projects of International Collaboration).

The applicants are strongly advised to read the call text of the <u>PCI 2025-1 ("Resolución de 5 de marzo de 2025")</u> for reference and especially the <u>PCI Requirements</u> document.

#### **Data Protection**

By submitting a grant application to the AEI, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

## Eligibility criteria

Eligible entities for the AEI funding are:

Non-profit research organizations (such as universities, public research institutions, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain), which must comply with the requirements established by this transnational Call and with the rules on eligibility defined in the corresponding Spanish national funding instrument "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" (PCI) and the PCI Requirements document. The entities must have been previously beneficiaries of any of the AEI calls. They have to ensure contractual relationship with the Principal Investigator (PI) during all the implementation of the project.

Although private enterprises are not funded by the AEI, the Spanish industrial sector is welcome to participate in the transnational consortia using their own funds or obtaining funds from the CDTI or other innovation and technological development funding agencies.

#### Additional eligibility criteria

Principal Investigators (PIs) requesting funding to the AEI must:

- Be eligible to the corresponding PCI call (see <u>PCI2025-1</u> as an example) and the <u>PCI</u> Requirements document
- Demonstrate experience as investigators in projects funded by the different Plan Estatal I+D+i: 2013-2016, 2017-2020, 2021-2023, 2024-2027, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national or international programmes.

Incompatibilities: These must be taken into account when participating in different ERA-Nets, European Co-funded Partnerships or other international initiatives.

- Pls are not allowed to apply for funding in (i) more than one proposal of this transnational Call, (ii) in more than one proposal in the same PCI call and (iii) in PCI calls in consecutive years.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals in this transnational Call, they will all be declared ineligible, except one, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- Pls must remain unchanged between the proposal to this transnational Call and the corresponding PCI call should the proposal be recommended for funding.
- A PI that has been granted a PCI the previous year will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.

#### **Important**

- Submission of proposals at the AEI. Within one week after the QuantERA short proposal submission (until 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 <u>at the latest), the Spanish PI must submit a copy of the international joint proposal</u>, and the "<u>Declaración responsable del investigador principal</u> (templates in <u>PDF</u> and <u>WORD</u> available on AEI website). You can find below the link to the AEI application system to upload these documents: <a href="https://aplicaciones.ciencia.gob.es/proyectostransnacionales/">https://aplicaciones.ciencia.gob.es/proyectostransnacionales/</a>
- 2. The applicants should include the PI's full name and the full name of their institution as it is stated in the Sistema de Entidades (SISEN).

#### Eligible costs

- Research and innovation activities are eligible. Mere dissemination, communication or other similar activities will not be eligible
- Only Personnel costs for new temporary employment dedicated to the project are eligible. This must be clearly stated in the contract. The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs.
- Direct costs such as current costs, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Overheads (25% of all direct costs, including the subcontracting costs).

The AEI will avoid double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding) and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded.

## Funding rates

The following funding limits (including direct + 25% indirect costs) are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.

Maximum funding per project	CD (EUR)	CI (25%) (EUR)	TOTAL (EUR)
One AEI applicant	140.000	35.000	175.000
One AEI applicant - coordinator	220.000	55.000	275.000
Two AEI applicants- one coordinator	260.000	65.000	325.000

Additional 30,000 EUR (direct costs) can be granted for the entire proposal if the work plan includes substantial experimental tasks.

## **IMPORTANT**

- Only ONE applicant asking funding for AEI is allowed per proposal as partner,
- Two AEI applicants are allowed in the same proposal if one of them is acting as coordinator.
- These amounts refer to 3 years projects. In case of shorter projects, the amount will be adjusted accordingly.

#### Other Funding Criteria

- Centres formed by different Spanish legal entities will be considered as a unique entity, and thus the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established above (for example mixed centres).
- Two centres or institutions belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) will be treated as two separate partners one from another when one of them is acting as Coordinator of the proposal and their tasks and identity in the project are sufficiently separated and justified.

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of the industrial sector, and the financial resources available.

Mandatory acknowledgement

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación: "Project (reference nº XX) funded by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación through the PCI (year) call (or its equivalent)".

## **Open Access and Open Data policy**

Applicants should comply with Open Access/Open Data specified in the respective PCI call or equivalent. The results of the funded research actions, including both the results disseminated through scientific publications and the data generated in the research, must be available in open access, with the exceptions indicated in the PCI call or equivalent.

Sweden

## Participating organisation

Swedish Research Council

#### Contact

Tomas Andersson Senior Research Officer

Telephone number: +46 8-546 44 173

Email: Tomas.Andersson@vr.se

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 1,000,000.00 EUR (approx. 10 M SEK)

## **Funding regulations**

1. SRC funds Swedish partners within the sub-call **Quantum phenomena and resources**.

- 2. SRC funds basic research of the highest scientific quality, and promotes research collaboration and the exchange of experience.
- 3. Awarded grant: Maximum 1.5 M SEK per year for three years for the Swedish partner (Total 4.5 M SEK). Exchange rate by the deadline of the Call will be used.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

- 1. The investigators need to hold a PhD at the time of application.
- 2. The grants distributed by the SRC must be administrated by a Swedish university, higher education institution (HEI) or other public organisation that fulfils the Swedish Research Councils criteria for an administrating organisation: https://vr.se/english/calls-and-decisions/apply-for-a-grant/who-can-apply.html
- 3. A researcher may only apply for funds from the SRC in **one** application in the QuantERA III Call2025.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Swedish applicants are encouraged to communicate with the national contact person regarding their intention to participate in the Call, before submission of the consortium application.

All Swedish project leaders participating in the Call for support from the Swedish Research Council shall also submit a parallel application using the Swedish Research Council's application system Prisma. The application form in Prisma can be reached from the Call text at the Council's website.

Parallel application is a mandatory eligibility criterion. Failure to submit the parallel application to the Swedish Research Council before the deadline of the Prisma call will result in the Swedish partner being declared ineligible.

#### Additional requirements

The project grant may be used to fund all types of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, however no more than corresponding to the person's activity level in the project), running costs (such as consumables, travel including stays at research facilities,

publication costs and minor equipment), premises and depreciation costs. Grants may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student participates, project funds may not be paid out as salary during teaching or other departmental duties. The minimum amount for which you may apply is SEK 400 000 per year, including indirect costs.

See national call texts in <u>Swedish</u> ( <u>https://www.vr.se/5.69a4b979196f6304be29df8.html</u> ) and <u>English</u> ( <u>https://www.vr.se/5.69a4b979196f6304be29e81.html</u>) for all national requirements.

Switzerland SNSF

## Participating organisation

Swiss National Science Foundation Wildhainweg 3 P.O. Box 8232 CH-3001 Berne http://www.snf.ch

#### Contact

Dr. Ahmad Zein Assi Scientific Officer

Telephone number: +41 31 308 21 83

Email: <a href="mailto:quantera@snf.ch">quantera@snf.ch</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

#### **Funding commitment**

2,000,000.00 EUR for both topics

Maximum awarded grant:

For a 3-years project: 400'000 CHF / partner
For a 2-years project: 266'667 CHF / partner

## **Funding regulations**

There are no restrictions on the participation of researchers in Switzerland in this QuantERA Call. They can coordinate consortia and are even encouraged to do so.

Projects must comply with the SNSF Project Funding regulations and practices.

In particular, all Swiss applicants and co-applicants must be eligible for Project Funding, see also the <u>Regulations on project funding</u>. Applicants in Switzerland who have not previously obtained a Project Funding grant of the SNSF are encouraged to contact the national contact point.

Partners of an international project consortium located in a country of the QuantERA transnational consortium cannot be declared as project partners in the sense of article 11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations. They should be declared as consortium partner instead and apply for their funding at their respective research funding organisation. In case a consortium includes industrial or commercial partners (in or outside Switzerland), a confirmation of non-commercial goals must be provided in case the project is approved as a condition for the release of funds.

Article 17, cl. a, of the SNSF Funding Regulations only applies in the sense that proposals with overlapping funding periods are only approved if the research projects pursue different goals in the context of this European programme than any ongoing projects by the same applicant. Article 6.3 of the Regulations on project funding applies. Swiss applicants may participate in at most one QuantERA proposal.

Article 13 of the Regulations on project funding applies. In particular, Swiss applicants may receive a maximum of three grants from the SNSF for the same funding period, except for the instruments highlighted <a href="here">here</a>.

Overhead costs cannot be requested since those are settled at the institutional level and do not count towards the overall budget.

Grants will be managed according to <u>standard SNSF rules</u>; reporting requirements duplicating those of QuantERA will not be enforced.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Applicants must provide basic administrative data by submitting administrative applications via the online submission system <a href="mySNF">mySNF</a> for the same deadlines as the consortium applications. Please select the instrument "Programmes/ERA-NET + EJP".

## **Additional requirements**

#### **Open Access to Publications and Research Data**

Since October 2018, any publication based on research funded by the SNSF must be published in Open Access, with the possibility of adopting the Green Road (maximum embargo of 6 months for articles and 12 months for books/book chapters). The SNSF covers the costs for publishing in Open Access through a dedicated platform. Further details can be found at <a href="https://www.snf.ch/en/VyUvGzptStOEpUoC/topic/research-policies">https://www.snf.ch/en/VyUvGzptStOEpUoC/topic/research-policies</a>.

Since 2017 all funded proposals need to submit a DMP before the start of the project. In particular, research data is expected to be archived on FAIR data repositories. No funds will be transferred without submitting a consistent DMP. Further details can be found at https://www.snf.ch/en/dMILj9t4LNk8NwyR/topic/research-policies.

Türkiye TÜBİTAK

## Participating organisation

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye

#### Contact

Dr. Kıvılcım KÖSEOĞLU Scientific Expert

Telephone number: 0090 312 298 1185 Email: <a href="mailto:kivilcim.koseoglu@tubitak.gov.tr">kivilcim.koseoglu@tubitak.gov.tr</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

200,000.00 EUR

#### **Funding regulations**

https://tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/2024-08/1071 arge ve yenilik projeleri surec dokumani.pdf

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Higher education institutions within the scope of the Higher Education Law, training and research hospitals, public institutions and organizations, and capital companies that are based in Türkiye, hold a trade registry certificate, and generate added value at the firm level regardless of their sector or size are eligible for support under the TÜBİTAK 1071 Support Program. Foundations, associations and their economic enterprises, cooperatives, unions, sole proprietorships, and ordinary partnerships are not eligible to apply. For further details, the national call text should be reviewed carefully.

## Submission of the proposal at the national level

Yes. To be announced on TÜBİTAK website.

#### **Additional requirements**

Successful projects will be funded under TÜBİTAK 1071 Programme - Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation.

## Participating organisation

UK Research and Innovation, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

#### Contact

Liam Behbehani Boyle Quantum Technologies Senior Manager Telephone number: +447874795747

Email: <a href="mailto:quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org">quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org</a>

## Funding criteria and regulations

## **Funding commitment**

Total: 5,000,000.00 EUR

Up to 5 M EUR is available to support projects within the *Applied Quantum Science* Call only involving researchers based in UK Higher Education Institutions or eligible research organisations.

## **Funding regulations**

Funding is available for a maximum of £750,000 per consortium, £400,000 per partner at 80% full economic costs (fEC). All research grant proposals submitted must be costed on the basis fEC. If a grant is awarded, research councils will provide funding at 80% of the fEC. The applying organisation must agree to find the balance of fEC for the project from other resources.

## Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution

Before preparing a proposal, prospective applicants should familiarise themselves with:

- The eligibility of investigators for EPSRC funding: <a href="https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/">https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/</a>
- 2. The eligibility of organisations for EPSRC funding: <a href="https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-organisation/#contents-list">https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/eligibility-as-an-organisation/#contents-list</a>
- 3. The eligibility requirements relating to resources: https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/costs-you-can-apply-for/

All consortium 'partners' (research groups) that request funding from EPSRC must be represented by a Project Lead. The Project Lead must fulfil EPSRC's standard eligibility requirements (see above). Eligible Investigators can only request EPSRC funding on one proposal submitted to this Call.

#### Submission of the proposal at the national level

Project Leads of UK partners are strongly advised to register their intention to submit by emailing EPSRC at: <a href="mailto:quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org">quantumtechnologies@epsrc.ukri.org</a> before the submission deadline.

Project Leads of successful UK partners will be invited to make a submission through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Funding Service following the notification of successful proposals.

## **Additional requirements**

All of the outlined Target Research areas are open for UK funding as described in the QuantERA call document. We are expecting this research to align with the research priorities of the UKRI EPSRC Quantum Technology theme. Only proposals in the Call topic "Applied Quantum Science" will be accepted.

## Annex 2: QuantERA Gender Equality Statement

## TOWARDS MORE GENDER-BALANCED RESEARCH IN QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

Since its inception, the QuantERA Consortium has been committed to addressing the gender imbalance in Quantum Technologies (QT) research and spreading the research excellence across the European Research Area (ERA). QuantERA III continues its strive to improve the gender equality measures at both the consortium as well as the project level, thus becoming an active agent of the changes encouraged and promoted by the European Commission, i.e. through its *Gender Equality Strategy*, 2020–2025<sup>17</sup>, research performing institutions and Research Funding Organisations.

In 2022, female scientists and engineers in the EU accounted for 41 per cent of total employment in science and engineering with even lower figures in the quantum community <sup>18</sup>.

#### However:

- Women's representation is considerably lower among all tertiary education levels and academic staff in STEM, compared to all fields. Among grade A staff<sup>19</sup> in Engineering and Technology women constitute 19 %<sup>20</sup>.
- Women represent around 12% of quantum science positions across Europe, with minority groups facing additional barriers to entry and advancement<sup>21</sup>.

The promotion of STEM vocations free from gender stereotypes should start at the level of schools, since this is a societal issue and constitutes a long-term objective.

Aware of the impact that QuantERA Research Funding Organisations can have in the quantum field, we encourage physics institutes and departments as well as researchers in physics and in Quantum Technologies:

- To create a gender-sensitive environment and organisational culture in the physics field that promotes equal opportunities between women and men at all levels.
- To create an equality standard regarding the management structure of their organisations.
- To acknowledge that diversity is beneficial for science and strengthens the quality of science.
- To encourage all women PhDs in physics and in Quantum Technologies and provide them with the adequate career support services and fair chances in promotion process.
- To acquaint STEM students with role models of women researchers in Quantum Technologies.

And thus, help us to have a more gender-balanced research in Quantum Technologies in the coming years. The QuantERA III evaluation process will consider gender balance in the evaluation panels as much as possible and will provide gender-sensitive peer review guidelines for evaluators. The success rates of this Call will be monitored by the QuantERA consortium.

Please visit our Call for proposals <u>site</u> and join us in our desire to reinforce the participation of fairly composed consortia of researchers.

The QuantERA Call 2025 Call Steering Committee

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/67d5a207-4da1-11ec-91ac-01aa75ed71a1

See: <a href="https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy-en">https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy-en</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240212-1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> the highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted

European Commission, She Figures 2024 (Gender Equality in Research & Innovation).
 <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7646222f-e82b-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1">https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7646222f-e82b-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1</a>
 European Commission, She Figures 2021 (Gender Equality in Research & Innovation).

# Annex 3: QuantERA Guidelines for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

The QuantERA consortium encourages incorporating Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) into proposals submitted to QuantERA.

#### What is RRI?

Responsible Research and Innovation is an approach that anticipates and assesses potential implications and societal expectations regarding research and innovation, with the aim to foster the design of inclusive and sustainable research and innovation.

Responsible Research and Innovation implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

**RRI** is a cross-cutting issue that is generally articulated around 5 main dimensions:

- · Public engagement,
- · Open science,
- Gender,
- Ethics.
- Science education.

#### QuantERA and RRI

Provided below is a non-exhaustive list of possible actions that can be put in place to make RRI and integral part of your research. You may choose those that are relevant to your project.

- Involve all partners and participants in ongoing considerations of RRI throughout the project life.
- Draft and regularly update your data management plan outlining the procedures for data collection, storage, sharing, and archiving in alignment with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).
- Deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peerreviewed manuscript in a trusted repository at the time of publication.
- Disseminate results/outcomes of your research on open access platforms and repositories (e.g. <u>arXiv</u>, <u>Software Heritage</u>, <u>ORE</u>, Zenodo, etc.).
- Consider licensing publications under the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) to maximise accessibility and reuse. For monographs and other long-text formats, CC BY-NC or CC BY-ND licenses may be used to exclude commercial uses and derivative works where appropriate.
- Make metadata for all deposited publications openly available under a Creative Commons
  Public Domain Dedication (CC0) and including comprehensive information, i.e. author
  details, publication venue, date, and Horizon Europe funding details.
- Provide persistent identifiers (e.g. DOI) for publications, authors, institutions, and all related research outputs.
- Disseminate your research results/outcomes towards the general public (scientific outreach).
- Reflect on your research with regards to ethical issues, in particular with regards to privacy and data protection issues, IP protection, etc.
- Encourage the implication of early career researchers in your research projects.

- Provide equal opportunities for researchers of all genders (see Annex 2).
- Involve relevant stakeholders in your project at the earliest possible stage and consider the involvement of RRI experts in your project implementation.