

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

International Coordination of Research on Infectious Animal Diseases (ICRAD)

“Helminth infections and changing climate: tackling the challenges for animal health”

Deadline for submission of pre-proposals:

1 June 2023, 15:00 CEST (Berlin)

This document announces the third transnational call on infectious animal diseases within the framework of the International Coordination of Research on Infectious Animal Diseases (ICRAD) ERA-NET¹.

The overall objective of this research call is to increase understanding and preparedness for impending effects on animal health and livestock industry caused by spread of anthelmintic resistance and climate change.

Consortia must include a minimum of 3 partners from a minimum of 3 different countries, and a maximum of 8 partners. The consortium cannot include more than two partners from one country. Industry involvement is encouraged.

Applicants must respect eligibility rules of the call and the national/regional rules and regulations of their respective national/regional funding organisation as outlined in section 5 and Annex I of this document. In some cases, an additional application to the national/regional organisation is necessary. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their funding contact point.

ICRAD Call Secretariat
Project Management Juelich
ptj-icrad-calls@fz-juelich.de
D-52425 Jülich
Germany

ICRAD submission webpage: www.submission-icrad.eu

ICRAD webpage: www.ICRAD.eu

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Definitions

- The **Call Secretariat (CS)** is the central contact point for applicants and evaluators regarding all technical and general issues of this call.
- The **Funders Consortium (FC)** is the decision-making body of this call and consists of one representative of each participating Funding Organisation.
- The **Funding Contact Person (FCP)** is a person nominated by each participating Funding Organisation to provide information on national/regional funding rules and procedures for their institution.
- The **Evaluation Secretariat (ES)** is responsible for the management of the evaluation.
- The **International Scientific Evaluation Committee (ISEC)** is an independent expert group that will be assigned by the ES to the evaluation of the submitted pre-proposals and full proposals in the call.
- A **rapporteur** is a member of the ISEC who shall report on a proposal during the ISEC evaluation meetings.

Abbreviations

- APC: Article Processing Charges
- CS: Call Secretariat
- EC: European Commission
- ES: Evaluation Secretariat
- EU: European Union
- FC: Funders Consortium
- FCP: Funding Contact Person
- ICRAD: International Coordination of Research on Infectious Animal Diseases
- IPR: intellectual propriety rights
- ISEC: International Scientific Evaluation Committee
- OA: Open Access
- SCAR-CWG-AHW: Standing Committee on Agricultural Research – Collaborative Working Group on European Animal Health and Welfare Research
- SME: small and medium-sized enterprise
- STAR-IDAZ: Global Strategic Alliances for the Coordination of Research on the Major Infectious Diseases of Animals and Zoonoses.
- WOA: World Organisation for Animal Health

1. Background

The threats to animal and livestock health posed by anthelmintic resistance and climate change are serious and far-reaching. Each of these factors has potential to cause significant negative impacts to global food safety and security, public health, international trade, and animal welfare if left unchecked.

At present, resistant helminth populations are found in all grazing livestock species, and resistance has developed for all major classes of anthelmintic drug². Current estimates show that helminth infections cost the European livestock industry more than €1.8 billion per year, with drug-resistance costing at least €38 million per year in production losses and treatment costs³. This latest ICRAD call aims to slow and mitigate the spread of anthelmintic resistance through further investigation of its detection, as well as the mechanisms associated with natural, and vaccine induced helminth protection.

Climate change presents a web of potentially catastrophic impacts to animal and livestock health. Changes in climatic patterns can affect disease incidence and vector behaviour whilst higher than average temperatures can cause significant stress to livestock systems. Projected economic losses due to climatic impacts on livestock by the mid-21st century range from \$9.7 to \$12.6 billion⁴.

This ICRAD call presents a possibility for intervention through monitoring of changes to spatial and temporal distribution of animal disease resulting from climate change and modelling and forecasting of the impacts of climate change on the spread of infectious livestock disease.

The following Funding Organisations are participating in this call for multilateral research projects:

1. Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS Health), Belgium
2. Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM), Estonia
3. Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France
4. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Ireland
5. Latvian Council of Science (LZP), Latvia
6. Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju (NCBR), Poland
7. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Türkiye
8. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Türkiye
9. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom

² Kaplan, Ray M. Drug resistance in nematodes of veterinary importance: a status report. *Trends in parasitology* 20.10 (2004): 477-481. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pt.2004.08.001>

³ Charlier, Johannes, et al. Initial assessment of the economic burden of major parasitic helminth infections to the ruminant livestock industry in Europe. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 182 Suppl 1 (2020): 105103. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2020.105103>

⁴ Boone, Randall B., et al. Climate change impacts on selected global rangeland ecosystem services. *Global change biology* 24.3 (2018): 1382-1393. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.13995>

2. Scope of the Call

2.1 Call Summary

The ICRAD ERA-NET brings together animal health research funders, from 8 countries, to develop joint programmes of research and innovation to tackle major animal health priorities. The third transnational call will support cross-cutting research to improve animal health, and by consequence animal welfare. The call will focus on the impacts of helminth disease and climate change on livestock health, together with development of control strategies such as novel vaccine and diagnostic technologies.

Anthelmintic resistance is globally widespread and has become a major threat to the sustainability of modern livestock production, resulting in reduced productivity, compromised animal health and welfare, and increased greenhouse gas emissions through greater parasitic load and farm inputs⁵. The third ICRAD call will focus on related topics such as improving methods for diagnosis, monitoring and prevention of helminth infections, and tests for detecting anthelmintic resistance against all major anthelmintic classes in helminth species of importance.

Climate change is predicted to have significant impacts on animal health through changes in the distribution of animal infectious disease, leading to changes in exposure of wildlife and livestock to pathogens, and impacting the susceptibility of these animals to disease through factors such as heat stress⁶. As such, research which investigates animal health in relation to climate change, for example, by modelling changes in pathogen emergence, re-emergence and spread could be supported by this call.

Vaccines represent a highly cost-effective intervention for disease prevention and constitute a vital tool in the fight against infectious diseases. There is still, however, an urgent need to develop new or improved methods of generating vaccines, especially anthelmintic vaccines. In order to facilitate improved development of vaccines, a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms that drive long-lasting, protective immune responses is of crucial importance. Therefore, this ICRAD call will also focus on research towards safe and effective vaccines, and generic technology platforms for producing novel and/or improved vaccines. The call will give particular encouragement to projects which focus on the science and development of anthelmintic vaccines, however projects focused on vaccines for other forms of animal disease are not excluded.

Other priority research areas for the call include novel diagnostics for more efficient, accurate and earlier detection of disease onset and spread, in particular detection of infestation caused by helminth parasites prior to showing of signs of clinical disease. Such measures might utilise high throughput diagnostics and rapid, accurate and easy to use in-field diagnostics technology and/or real-time detection.

A collaborative approach between academic and industry sectors is encouraged for this call since it is advantageous for delivering research which can provide tangible impacts on farm and encourage uptake and development of disease controls for the sector.

⁵ Vineer Hanna R., et al. Increasing importance of anthelmintic resistance in European livestock: creation and meta-analysis of an open database. *Parasite* 27 (2020): 69.

<https://doi.org/10.1051/parasite/2020062>

⁶ Rojas-Downing Melissa M., et al. Climate change and livestock: Impacts, adaptation, and mitigation." *Climate Risk Management* 16 (2017): 145-163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2017.02.001>

Data sharing, integration and analysis play an important role in the development of new tools for reducing the spreading of diseases and to enlarge the window of detection and intervention. This should be done in coordination with existing data sharing systems. Data management should follow FAIR guidelines outlined by the European Commission⁷.

2.2 Objectives

The overall objective of this research call is to increase understanding and preparedness for impending effects on animal health and the livestock industry caused by climate change and spread of anthelmintic resistance. This includes basic research to better understand mechanisms behind these topics or applied development of detection, management, intervention and prevention strategies. The three main objectives of this call are therefore as follows:

Improve understanding of anthelmintic resistance and develop intervention tools to prevent it: research into mechanisms of anthelmintic resistance as well as resistance development in livestock, improved diagnosis, and management strategies to conserve the efficacy of current anthelmintics. Development of modern intervention strategies, such as anthelmintic vaccines is also an objective.

Better understand impacts of climate change on animal health: how could climate change lead to pathogen emergence, re-emergence and spread. What are potential impacts on transmission of disease, and how it can change stress-related susceptibility of livestock to disease.

Develop detection and prevention platforms: supporting the development of novel diagnostic and vaccine technology platforms which will ensure preparedness to the impacts of climate change, anthelmintic resistance, and livestock health in general.

2.3 Call Topics

This transnational call is open to international research proposals addressing one of the following research areas, considering mentioned exclusions (section 2.4).

Proposals may use priorities identified under WOA⁸, in EU animal health law⁹, or by the SCAR Collaborative Working Group on Animal Health and Welfare¹⁰, DISCONTTOOLS¹¹, or the STAR-IDAZ International Research Consortium on Animal Health¹².

Research Area 1: Research to improve understanding of anthelmintic resistance mechanisms, the impacts of anthelmintic resistance on livestock health, and development of tools to help diagnose, prevent, and manage it.

Potential areas of interest could be:

- Understanding the biological response of helminths to changing climatic conditions and potential impacts on anthelmintic usage/ requirements;
- Improving methods used for diagnosis and monitoring of helminth infections, including drug efficacy;
- Tests for detecting anthelmintic resistance;

⁷ [FAIR Principles - GO FAIR \(go-fair.org\)](https://www.go-fair.org/)

⁸ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/>

⁹ [Animal Health Law | Food Safety \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/health-law/)

¹⁰ [SCAR \(scar-europe.org\)](https://www.scar-europe.org/)

¹¹ [Discontools - Home](https://www.discontools.org/)

¹² [International Research Consortium on Animal Health \(STAR-IDAZ\)](https://www.star-idaz.org/)

- Pen-side tests and associated decision support tools that rapidly inform on levels of infestation and morbidity;
- Develop methods to quantify or map levels of anthelmintic resistance present in livestock;
- Improved knowledge of the immune mechanisms associated with natural and vaccine induced protection from helminths;
- Development of novel, and improvement of currently available helminth control strategies including development of anthelmintic vaccines.

Research Area 2: Research to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and vector borne diseases on animal health, including development of tools to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies triggered by climate change.

Potential areas of interest could be:

- Epidemiological monitoring of changes to spatial and temporal distribution of animal disease resulting from climate change– including development of novel digital tools to visualise, collate and report this information;
- Modelling and forecasting of the impacts of climate change on the spread of infectious livestock disease - including how animal movement and implementation of control zones could influence this;
- Understanding changes to transmission and pathogenicity of animal disease resulting from climate change;
- Understanding direct and indirect impacts of climate change, for example thermal stress, on susceptibility of livestock to disease.

Research Area 3: Research to support the development of novel and improved vaccine and diagnostic tools and platforms will be supported, as will research to assess the utility and efficacy of existing technology platforms. Proposals with a focus on anthelmintic vaccines, or which include an industrial partner are strongly encouraged in this research area.

a. Vaccine Technology Platforms Robust and flexible vaccine platform technologies, fit for multiple, and rapidly changeable vaccine targets, can reduce the technical and regulatory time for vaccines against emerging pathogens.

Potential research areas of interest may include:

- Target areas within the pipeline of platform technologies, from antigen discovery and delivery through to immunological testing and enabling systematic evaluation and comparative analysis of platforms e.g. dose/duration/vaccination regimen;
- Development of rapid response genetic protein sequence platforms (e.g. DNA and mRNA-based), particularly to utilise as ‘plug and play’ tools;
- Expand the range of antigen-delivery systems (adjuvants, vectors, etc).

b. Diagnostic Technology Platforms Novel and point of care diagnostic platforms are needed to accurately detect disease presence in animals. Although reagents are available to develop diagnostics in many animal species, these are not always practical in the field or effective at detecting the presence or exposure to pathogens. We are particularly interested in proposals that focus on the development of novel vaccines or diagnostic tools targeting helminths.

Potential areas of interest may include:

- Multiplex serology - Developing adequate testing to deal with pathogen and host diversity and coinfections and in field-based/on-site testing;

- Species independent testing - Develop serology tests that are non-species specific and can be used in a wide range of environments; and
- Pathogen specific testing - Development of tests to monitor and detect circulating strains, including bacterial strain typing.

2.4 Exclusions

The research funded through this call is to improve health of livestock. The focus of each research proposal should be on animal health / disease. Research that mainly focuses on the below **is not in scope of the call**:

- Improving human health
- Companion animals
- Food-borne pathogens
- Animal welfare
- Environmental / climatic modelling
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Ectoparasites

2.5 Added value of 3rd call topics in relation to existing and prior efforts at European and national level

ICRAD and the EU have supported research on animal health and welfare through successive ERA-NETS and programmes and this 3rd call aims to build on each project which has come before it. The 3rd call scope was developed using key research needs documents as highlighted in Section 3., We are aware that other initiatives have also used these documents and are working towards similar goals and research priorities. For example, the recently ended European Cooperation in Science and Technology Combatting Anthelmintic Resistance in Ruminants (COMBAR) has aimed to advance research on the prevention of anthelmintic resistance in helminth parasites of ruminants in Europe including development of improved diagnostics for helminth infections as well as anthelmintic vaccines.

We plan to review all pre-proposals submitted as part of the 3rd ICRAD call in light of ongoing and previous work to ensure that there is no duplication of effort or double funding, especially with regards to any COMBAR projects which may still be running. When taking this into account, the ICRAD 3rd call should provide added value through awareness of exactly what type of research has been recently funded and which areas where COMBAR made progress could be built-upon.

3. Timeline

Submission of research project proposals	
3 April 2023	Launch of the call – pre-proposal submission tool opens
20 April 2023, 10:00 CEST	Webinar for applicants
First step: submission of pre-proposals	
1 June 2023, 15:00 CEST	Deadline for pre-proposal submission
End of Sept 2023	Communication of eligibility check and evaluation outcomes to the research project coordinators
Second step: submission of full proposals	
2 October 2023	Full-proposal submission tool opens
4 December 2023, 15:00 CET	Deadline for full proposal submission
End of April 2024	Communication of the evaluation outcomes and the funding recommendation to the research project coordinators
National/Regional grant agreements	
2 nd Quarter 2024	Start of research projects
Funded research project monitoring (estimated)	
4 th quarter 2025	Mid-term report
2 nd quarter 2027	Final report

4. Overview on funding opportunities

Please note that this table is for guidance to national / regional guidelines. **Applicants are recommended to verify priorities and eligibility with the Funding Contact Points (ANNEX I).**

Country	Funding Organisation	National/regional call contribution		Research Area		
		Total (k€)	max. per project (k€)	1	2	3
Belgium	 Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (FPS Health)	300	150	x	x	
Estonia	 Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)	100	100	x	x	x
France	 French National Research Agency (ANR)	1000	350	x	x	x
Ireland	 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	600	300	x	x	x
Latvia	 Latvian Council of Science (LZP)	600	100 (per year and partner)	x	x	x
Poland	 The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	600	200 (per partner in project)	x	x	x
Türkiye	 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM)	200	50 (100, if coordinator)	x	x	x
Türkiye	 The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)	600	75 / 125 (See Annex I)	x	x	x
United Kingdom	 The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	1650	875	x	x	x
Total of national/ regional call contributions:		5650				

5. Application

5.1 Eligibility

All pre- and full-proposals must meet the general eligibility criteria included in this section and also the national/regional eligibility criteria provided in ANNEX I. Only proposals which meet all eligibility criteria will be considered for evaluation.

General eligibility criteria

- Pre-proposals and full-proposals must be written in English.
- Pre-proposals must be submitted by the deadline (section 3. Timeline) using the ERA-NET ICRAD submission website (<http://www.submission-icrad.eu>).
- The project duration for proposals must not exceed 3 years. Proposals should respect national/regional regulations rules related to minimum duration.
- Researchers can contribute to more than one research proposal submitted to this call, provided there is no double funding of the same work or cost item. In case researchers participate in two or more research proposals, they are obliged to respect the national/regional rules related to double funding. In the section “Partners” (via Partner Login) under “Tasks within the project” they must name the proposals, in which they are involved and explain clearly how their work within the respective proposals differs. Participation as project coordinator is only possible in one research proposal.
- Projects must follow the rules outlined under “consortium structure”.

Consortium structure

- Consortia must include a minimum of 3 partners from a minimum of 3 different countries being eligible and requesting funding from funding organisations participating in this call and a maximum of 8 partners requesting funding. The consortium cannot include more than two partners requesting funding from one country.
- **If a consortium does not meet the minimum number of partners or exceeds the maximum number of partners or if one or more of the partners requesting funding is not eligible in accordance with the national/regional funding criteria, the proposal may be rejected without being evaluated.**
- Applicants from countries not participating as funders in this call are welcome in research consortia, but cannot receive funding. Those associated partners (= non-funded partners) should be able to clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and secure their own resources. The coordinator should take steps to ensure that sufficient funds are secured from these associated partners, and evidence of the availability of funds must be provided prior to project submission (letter of support/commitment, template available at www.submission-icrad.eu). The same applies for partners who are not eligible or not applying for national/regional funding from the Funding Organisation participating in the call. **The associated partners will not count towards the maximum or minimum numbers of partners required.** An associated partner can only be partner in a proposal, not coordinator of a proposal. The budget of non-funded partners shall not exceed 30% of the requested total transnational project budget requested.
- Total funding per country must not exceed 60 % of the total funding budget of the proposal in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.
- Industry participation as a partner in a project is advantageous, but not mandatory.

- The participation of early career researchers in a project is encouraged, but not mandatory.

National and / or regional eligibility criteria

- It is **strongly recommended** that applicants contact their Funding Contact Point (FCP, ANNEX I) **before** submission.
- Each participating national/regional Funding Organisation funds their national/regional applicants within a particular project consortium. Funding is subject to the specific terms and conditions of each Funding Organisation and project partners should check their eligibility for funding prior to submission.
- If applicable, the requested funding budget of each partner/project must not exceed national or regional funding limits (for details, see the Table under the heading “Overview on funding opportunities” and “National or regional regulations and eligibility criteria”).
- If national/regional forms are required, these must be submitted directly to the national/regional Funding Organisation by the deadlines stated in ANNEX I.
- Projects must address one of the research areas as outlined in section 2.3. Call Topics. Additionally, applications should fit to the specific remit of the national/regional funding organisations.

The project coordinator

- Must be eligible for and requesting funding by one of the Funding Organisations participating in the call. An associated partner that plans to participate at their own expense without public funding provided via the ERA-NET ICRAD Funding Organisations cannot act as a coordinator;
- Is only allowed to coordinate one proposal; a coordinator of one proposal can be partner in another proposal;
- Will lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and will be responsible for the correct submission of the pre- and full-proposal;
- Will ensure that all partners:
 - fulfil the requirements stated in this call announcement and criteria as stated in the national/regional annexes and/or communicated by the national contact point,
 - provide all necessary information and comply with all formalities as required,
 - participate actively in the proposal preparation.
- Is fully responsible for the overall project coordination and will be the central contact point for the Call Secretariat during the full lifespan of the research project;
- Will ensure that all work is carried to a high standard and meets milestones and deliverables presented in the full proposal;
- Is responsible for sharing all information with consortium partners;
- Is responsible for monitoring data and timely delivery of project reports (mid-term report and final report) and should ensure that the research consortium is represented at ICRAD meetings, if applicable (section 3. Timeline).

5.2 Submission

The application process is two-step (pre- and full-proposal step). Throughout the whole process, the CS will be the central communication point for all applicants and the entire

application procedure will be carried out online using the ICRAD call management tool, templates and online forms (see also www.submission-icrad.eu).

In some cases, submission of additional documents to the national/regional Funding Organisations is necessary. Applicants are strongly advised to check the national/regional regulations provided in ANNEX I and contact their funding contact point (FCPs).

For any technical question regarding the submission, please contact the Call Secretariat (CS).

5.2.1 Pre-proposal submission

The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory and it will not be possible to enter the application procedure at a later step.

A pre-proposal must be submitted electronically via the ERA-NET ICRAD submission tool (www.submission-icrad.eu). No other methods or means of submission will be accepted. It will be possible to update and resubmit the pre-proposal as many times as required up to the submission deadline, but not after the deadline has expired. The old version will be replaced by the new version. Old versions will not be stored by the ICRAD submission tool.

The project coordinator has to create an account for the proposal on the ICRAD submission tool and provide the following **core data**:

- project title,
- project acronym,
- research area,
- keywords,
- duration, including expected project start and end date,
- project coordinator personal data (incl. curriculum vitae, list of relevant publications and projects),
- consortium composition, i.e. organisation name, type and country for each partner,
- total requested funding for each partner, funding organisation (where applicable),
- summary suitable for publication,
- background and state of the art
- a maximum of 3 experts (by name), who should not evaluate the proposal due to a specific Conflict of Interest.

A pre-proposal template (PDF) will be provided on the submission homepage www.submission-icrad.eu for information.

The project description may not exceed 10,000 characters including spaces (~ 2.5 pages DIN A4, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15) and should:

- a) specify the relevance to the call scope and research area, detailing also the impact of the research subject
- b) describe the scientific idea and formulate clear research objectives
- c) explain the composition of the consortium
- d) provide information on the project management and responsibilities of the project partners
- e) provide a short description of the research activities into work packages
- g) describe ethical issues raised and how they will be addressed
- f) provide information on involvement of private / non-academic partners

Implementation of up to three graphics/images is allowed and possible (allowed formats are jpg, png or gif, max. resolution 600x600 px, max. file size 2 MB).

Applicants should note that the online system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline and it is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the pre-proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical difficulties.

The information given in the pre-proposal is binding. Significant changes between pre- and full-proposals concerning the composition of the consortium, research objectives or requested budget are only possible upon request to the CS and with decision from the Funders Consortium.

All changes must be communicated to the CS with detailed justifications and will only be allowed by the Funders Consortium under exceptional circumstances.

As an exception to the above-mentioned conditions, the following change, referred to as “widening”, is allowed upon invitation of the funders consortium:

Adding an eligible partner to the consortium from undersubscribed countries that are participating in this call. Countries are considered as undersubscribed if their available budget is significantly higher than the requested budget by successful applicants in the pre-proposal step. The Funders Consortium will make the decision on which countries are considered as undersubscribed and the ES will communicate this to the applicants that are invited to the full proposal step. This change will only be allowed under recommendation by the FC and under the following conditions:

- 1) The project coordinator has to inform the CS in case the consortium would like to add an eligible partner from an undersubscribed country. Please notice that only **one** additional partner requesting funding is allowed.
- 2) The total number of partners including the newly added one from undersubscribed countries in the consortium must not exceed the maximum number defined under section 5.1. General eligibility criteria.
- 3) The applicants have to clearly explain the added value of this additional partner in the full-proposal.
- 4) The eligibility for funding of the new partner has to be confirmed by the national funding organisation. Therefore, it is mandatory to contact the respective national funding organisation of the new partner prior to submission of the full proposal and receive approval.

5.2.2 Full-proposal submission

Consortia explicitly invited by ES for full-proposal submission will regain access to the ICRAD online submission tool to submit a full-proposal for which a template will be provided via www.submission-icrad.eu. The core data provided in the pre-proposal will be automatically imported into the full-proposal and cannot be changed in the second step unless otherwise specified by the CS.

Full-proposal templates for applicants will be available in due time on the submission homepage (www.submission-icrad.eu).

5.3 Evaluation and selection

5.3.1 Pre-proposal evaluation

Pre-proposals that are submitted correctly and within the deadline will be checked for eligibility by the FC and CS. The eligibility check will focus on the general eligibility criteria (section 5.1.) and national/regional eligibility criteria (ANNEX I).

Non-eligible pre-proposals will be rejected. Eligible pre-proposals will be evaluated by at least 3 experts per pre-proposal. Conditionally eligible proposals will be evaluated. However, conditions must be met during full-proposal submission, otherwise the proposals will be considered as ineligible. The information provided in the pre-proposal will be used to find appropriate experts for its evaluation.

Conflict of Interest will be described in the Evaluation Guidelines prepared by the ES.

The eligible pre-proposals will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria:

Excellence

- a) Scientific quality of the proposal.
- b) Relevance of the project regarding the addressed research area and objectives of the call.

Impact

- a) Potential impact of the expected results for future animal and public health.
- b) Added value of transnational collaboration: gathering a critical mass of biological material, sharing of resources (models, databases, etc.), harmonization of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies, etc.
- c) Potential for fostering a longer-term international network of researchers.

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- a) Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan.
- b) Complementarity of the participants in the consortium.

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three main criteria, and not singularly for the different aspects listed below the criteria.

Pre-proposals will be evaluated according to the following scoring system. The scoring system uses a scale from 0 to 5 for all review criteria, only full scores are allowed.

- 5 = Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.
- 4 = Very good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.
- 3 = Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion in question well, but certain improvements are necessary
- 2 = Fair.** The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.
- 1 = Poor.** The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
- 0 = Failure.** The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

Scores for the different evaluation criteria will have equal weight.

Pre-proposal evaluation will be held remotely via the online evaluation tool. For each pre-proposal, one ISEC member will be assigned as rapporteur. The rapporteur will draft a summary report for each proposal which reflects the individual evaluation reports to be further sent to applicants. The draft summary reports shall be also submitted to the ES and shall include recommendation whether if the proposal should be invited for the full-proposal submission or not.

The FC will meet to decide which proposals will be invited for the full-proposal submission based on the ISEC recommendations.

The outcome of the invitation recommendation for full-proposal submission will be communicated by the ES to the project coordinators, who shall inform their respective partners.

5.3.2 Full-proposal evaluation and funding recommendation

A minimum of 3 experts will evaluate each full-proposal against the following criteria:

Excellence

- a) Scientific quality of the proposal:
 - Clarity of objectives
 - Credibility of the proposed approach and methodology
 - Expected progress beyond the state-of-the-art, innovation
 - Competence and experience of participating research partners in the field(s) of the proposal
- b) Relevance of the project regarding the addressed research area and objectives of the call.
- c) Novelty of proposed research.

Impact

- a) Potential impact of the expected results for future animal and public health.
- b) Added value of transnational collaboration: gathering a critical mass of biological material, sharing of resources (models, databases, etc.), harmonization of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies, etc.
- c) Potential for fostering a longer-term international network of researchers.
- d) Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant.
- e) Involvement of private partners (SME and/or industry, if available (when appropriate/applicable).
- f) Possible impact of age, gender, and socio-economic status (when appropriate/applicable).
- g) Education and training of young scientists (when appropriate/applicable).

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- a) Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan (for full proposals: including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, resources, and timeframe).
- b) Complementarity of the participants in the consortium.
- c) Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.
- d) Sustainability of research infrastructures initiated by the project.
- e) Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project (appropriate distribution of resources in relation to project activities, partners' responsibilities and timeframe).

Full-proposals will be evaluated using the same scoring system which is used at the pre-proposal step.

Scores for the different evaluation criteria will have equal weight.

Full-proposal evaluation will include a face-to-face, virtual meeting or hybrid system of all members of the ISEC. At the ISEC meeting, each full proposal will be jointly evaluated by the ISEC members on the basis of the written evaluation reports. One ISEC member will be assigned as a rapporteur for each full-proposal. The rapporteur will draft a summary report for each proposal which reflects the individual evaluation reports and will introduce the proposal during the ISEC meeting.

After proposal discussion, ISEC members should agree on a consensus scoring per criterium. The three consensus scores will be summed up, so that the overall score per project can range between 0 and 15. At the pre-proposal step there is no threshold for either one criterion or the sum of the three criteria. The mean value threshold for each criterion will be ≥ 3 out of 5. The threshold for the sum of the three criteria will be ≥ 10.0 out of 15.0

As a result of the ISEC discussions and as an outcome of the ISEC meeting, one ranking list of the full proposals recommended for funding will be established, containing proposals from the three independent Research Areas. Each rapporteur will include all discussed points in the evaluation report and finalize the report including the final score and individual scores for each criterion.

Based on the ranking list and the available funding, the FC will take the final decision for national/regional funding.

The outcome of the funding recommendation procedure will be communicated by the ES to the project coordinators, who shall inform their respective partners.

5.4 Ethical aspects

Ethics is an integral part of research activities funded by the European Union within the H2020 and ethical compliance is considered as pivotal to achieve research excellence. Therefore, all proposals must describe ethical issues raised and how they will be addressed to conform to National, European, and International regulations. If any ethical issues are expected to arise during the proposed project, these must be addressed in the pre- and full- proposal. Guidance on ethics within H2020 is provided in the [H2020 online manual](#) and the guideline for self-assessment (can be found [here](#)) must be filled and enclosed in the full-proposal. The self-assessment and the ethical issues described in the full proposal will be reviewed by an ethical panel selected by the ICRAD consortium. The members of the ethical panel will encompass 2-3 experts on ethical issues, e.g. on the use of animals, medical research and use of personal data. The members are not part of the ISEC and will be checked for Conflict of Interest before

reviewing the proposals. If the ethical panel finds issues to comment on, a written report will be forwarded to ICRAD coordinator, who will address and discuss the report with coordinator of the proposal to clarify questions and uncertainties.

Comments from the ethical panel will not have impact on the score and ranking of the scientific evaluation, however proposals may be rejected from funding on ethics grounds if they do not comply with the European and national/regional legislation.

5.5 Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest

In order to avoid any conflict of interest, Funding Organisations of ERA-NET ICRAD will as a rule not be involved in the evaluation procedure (incl. the appointment of the International Scientific Evaluation Committee), if the organisation or its affiliates plan to respond to this call themselves.

The pre- and full-proposals will be handled confidentially by the ICRAD CS, by the national/regional Funding Organisations and the mandated experts responsible for the evaluation of the pre- and full-proposals. In selecting the international experts for the ISEC and the ethical panel, the FC shall also endeavour to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. To this end, applicants may also name in the pre-proposal up to three experts who shall be excluded from evaluation of the relevant proposal. Each expert will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest. The online evaluation tool will include a feature which will prevent access to the proposal in case a conflict of interest is declared by the expert.

Only the project information as listed in section 6.1. Published information will be published.

5.6 General Data Protection Regulation

The following Data Privacy Notice applies:

By applying to the call, applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their personal data¹³, in accordance with article 6.1 (c) and (e) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679) and for the purposes of:

- processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
- administering any subsequent funding award;
- managing the Funding Organisations relationship with them;
- analysing and evaluating the call;
- reporting to the European Commission/ Research Executive Agency (REA) on the call;
- providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects;

¹³ Last name, first name of the researchers, professional contact information, degree(s), current position, fields of activity, place of work, organisation, professional address(es), curriculum vitae, name and reference of projects, pre-proposals, full-proposals (scientific document, administrative and financial appendix).

- complying with audits that may be initiated by the Funding Organisations and the European Commission (or its agencies).

Applicant's data may be shared with third parties (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) exclusively in relation to the above activities including evaluators, auditors, and the European Commission (or its agencies) according to applying national laws.

Data on Funding Organisations including contact details of FC members and FCP are kept for the purpose of the call communication. The information will be published with prior consent of the respective management bodies.

6. Obligations for Funded Projects

6.1 Published information

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the call selection process. Therefore applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals may be published by ERA-NET ICRAD:

- project title and project acronym
- duration of the project
- total funding of the project
- name of the project coordinator and the entity the coordinator is applying for (including contact information e.g. professional email)
- country and organisation name of each partner
- a short publishable summary of the project.

Data on each project participant and abstracts of the project proposal will be provided to the European Commission for monitoring and implementation purposes. Information on each funded project, including data on each participant and an overview on the results will be updated and sent to the EC at the end of ERA-NET ICRAD. Details on these data are given here:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/projectdatacollectiontemplaterevisedapril2018.xlsx>.

6.2 Open Access

Open access (OA) addresses the problem of limited access to peer-reviewed scholarly research. OA is the practice of providing online access to scientific information (e.g. *peer reviewed scientific* articles) that is free of charge to the reader, and licensed so that the information can be further used and exploited by researchers, by the industry and by citizens. The publication of research data, however, is not mandatory. Milestone definitions of Open Access include those of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and the Berlin Declaration (October 2003) on open access.

The following open access policy must be observed by all funded projects:

1. A copy of the accepted version (either author final manuscript, post-prints or publisher version) of all peer reviewed journal articles, supported, either in their entirety or in part by ICRAD research funding, is deposited in a suitable open access repository immediately upon acceptance for publication, with the metadata (Minimum set of metadata: title, abstract, keywords, name of author, affiliation of author, publication info (including journal title, volume, issue, publication date)) openly available from the time of deposit.
2. Similar actions as mentioned in 1 to provide open access to other types of publications (e.g., conference proceedings, theses, books, monographs) are strongly encouraged.

3. All publications mentioned in 1 shall be made openly available preferably immediately after the date of publication. Exact rules are subject to national regulations, please consult national contact points. Authors are advised to work with a licence to publish (preferably the Creative Commons CC-BY or CC-0 licences) instead of a copyright transfer agreement, when dealing with their publisher, in order to retain sufficient rights for providing open access to their publication.
4. In case the authors decide to publish in a gold open access journal, the eligibility of Article Processing Charges (APC) or similar fees to publish in peer reviewed open access journals and books is considered according to national/regional regulations. In the case that an APC is supported by the grant budget, the article must be openly available from the moment of publication. APC or similar fees are only considered to be eligible expenses if the publication was accepted before the end of the funding period. Limits to the per-article amount of APCs that can be requested comply by national or regional regulations of the funding agencies. Authors are required to avoid “double-dipping” journals and to avoid “predatory publishers”.
5. In all publications mentioned in points 1 to 4, funding recipients must acknowledge ICRAD and identify the funding in the following manner: “This research was made possible by funding from ICRAD, an ERA-NET supported by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>), under Grant Agreement n°862605.” Further national rules on acknowledgement may apply.
6. The publication of research data is not mandatory, however if research data and associated metadata resulting from funded projects is published it should be deposited in a suitable open data repository.
7. Institutions/grant holders agree that by receiving funding from ICRAD they have accepted the terms and conditions of this OA policy. The compliance with the present terms and conditions will be monitored.

This policy comes into force with the start of the funded research projects and applies to all subsequent publications resulting from grants awarded.

6.3 Negotiation of national/regional grant agreements

Formal funding decisions are made by the participating Funding Organisations. Each participating Funding Organisation will fund applicants of their country/region within the selected research projects. Funding will be provided by the participating Funding Organisations according to applicable national/regional funding rules.

The project coordinator is responsible for informing project partners about the selection result and for synchronising the project start with the project partners. The project partners should aim to start on the same date. After a positive funding recommendation, the project partners must directly contact their FCP in order to start the grant negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start.

In some countries/regions, a signed consortium agreement might be required for release of the national/regional funds (for support of the preparation of a consortium agreement, the DESCA 2020 model for consortium agreement can be used¹⁴). If a consortium agreement is necessary due to national/regional regulations it will be requested to at least address the following topics:

- internal organisation and management of the consortium
- intellectual property arrangements
- settlement of internal disputes

¹⁴ <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>

- any Funding Organisation has the right to request the consortium agreement to be presented to it in order to release the funding.

In some countries/regions, a data management plan might be required for release of the national/regional funds.

6.4 Project monitoring and networking

6.4.1 Reporting

In addition to the reporting required by the national/regional rules, project coordinators will be required to provide a mid-term report and a final report to the FC. All project partners will have to deliver input for these reports. The project coordinator is responsible for timely deliverable and content quality of these reports. Information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects.

The involved Funders will check the reports and, if any issues, will contact the respective project partners regarding improvements needed on a case-by-case basis.

6.4.2 Grant holders meetings

The coordinators of the funded projects could be obliged to present their projects at an initial grant holders meeting, where all funded projects will be represented by the Project Coordinators explaining objectives and expected outcomes. Additional mid- or end-term seminars outside the runtime of ICRAD are a possibility.

Participation will be obligatory for Project Coordinators of the funded projects to all ICRAD meetings. The travel expenses to attend these meeting(s) should be included in the project budget. Participation of other project partners is optional at their own expenses.

6.5 Dissemination and communication

Applicants to the call have to allocate sufficient resources in their budget for communication and dissemination of their project results. Funded projects are strongly encouraged to:

- contribute with project presentations and/or posters to the foreseen events of ERA-NET ICRAD.
- prepare (popular science) summaries of the project goals, planning and results for ERA-NET ICRAD activities and publications (e.g. for brochures, [digital] newsletters, the website etc.).

ANNEX I: National/ Regional regulations

Belgium



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Programmes:

Contractual Research

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Valérie Van Merris	valerie.vanmerris@health.fgov.be	+32 2 524 90 94
Ria Nouwen	ria.nouwen@health.fgov.be	+32 2 524 90 92

Terms and Conditions:

Belgian applicants invited to submit a full proposal (phase 2) shall introduce at the latest on 4 December 2023, 15:00 CET the national information sheet and their budgetary tables to FPS Health. Templates are available on the [Contractual Research's website](#).

The allocation of the grant for successful proposal(s) will be ratified by the competent minister and published in the Belgian Official Gazette. Subsequently a contract will be concluded between the FPS Health and the authorized representative(s) of the Belgian consortium partner(s) involved.

Eligibility:

The eligibility of the ICRAD proposals requesting funding from FPS Health is assessed by the Contractual Research unit. In addition to the ICRAD 3rd Research Call criteria, proposals must also meet the following national criteria:

- 1) only Belgian research institutions may apply for funding from the FPS Health;
- 2) at least one of the research areas related to the call scope and funded by the FPS Health is addressed (*see topic priorities*);
- 3) the Belgian part of the research must fit within the competences of Contractual Research.

Please refer to the [national guidelines](#) for Belgian applicants for further details.

Applications that do not adhere to these criteria will be deemed ineligible and in such cases the application will not proceed for expert review.

Funding:

The total funding budget foreseen for Belgian research institutions is € 300,000.

The maximum allocated grant for the Belgian partner(s) per project shall not be greater than € 150,000.

Admitted costs:

- Staffing costs, excluding the staffing costs for the coordinator (and promotor) participating in the Belgian consortium
- Operational costs
 - Standard operational costs are flat-rate costs and include normal expenses related to the research activities (e.g. ordinary supplies, consumables, office supplies, documentation, travel expenses, use of computers and software),
 - Specific operational costs are directly related to the research activities (e.g. usage costs for equipment, maintenance costs, costs for analyses, subcontracted work).
- General costs include costs for administration, phone, postage, the maintenance of the premises, heating, lighting, electricity, rent or insurance).

Please refer to the [national guidelines](#) for Belgian applicants for further details.

Topic Priorities:

Belgian applicants requesting a grant from FPS Health can apply for funding for projects falling within one of the following scientific research areas under this ICRAD 3rd Research Call:

1 – Research to improve understanding of anthelmintic resistance mechanisms, the impacts of anthelmintic resistance on livestock health, and development of tools to help diagnose, prevent and manage it

2 – Research to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and vector borne diseases on animal health, including development of tools to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies triggered by climate change are eligible

The research must support or help preparing the policy in the field of animal health. More specifically this means that the research must provide knowledge that supports the Government, in particular the FPS Health and the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC). The Government has a general and free right (no-cost) of use on the results for the support of its policy.

The research topic may not fall within the competence of the regional authorities unless the aspects that fall within the regional competence are covered by own contributions.

More details in the national call announcement.

Please read carefully the “national guidelines for Belgian applicants” located on the [Contractual Research’s website](#). These guidelines provide in more detail the rules for Belgian applicants requesting funding from the FPS Health and must be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in ICRAD Call announcement.

Estonia



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)

Funding Programme:

<https://etag.ee/valiskoostoo/euroopa-horisont/partnerlused/era-net-projektid/>

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Gret-Kristel Mällo, Chief Specialist of the Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs	gret-kristel.mallo@agri.ee	+372 625 6553
Maarja Malm, Chief Specialist of the Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs	maarja.malm@agri.ee	+372 625 6250

Terms and Conditions:

It is not necessary to submit any additional national application forms to the Ministry; a transnational application to the central call secretariat is sufficient. The national assessment of pre-proposals will correspond to the rules provided in the call. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended to contact the Funding Contact Point before submission.

The following eligibility criteria address Estonian applicants in European partnership calls for transnational research projects. Each project is carried out by a consortium that consist of research institutions (partners) from different countries. Each partner in a funded project will be funded by their national Funding Organisation. It is mandatory for all Estonian applicants to follow the national eligibility criteria. Please note that if one of the partners is not eligible, the entire proposal might be considered ineligible.

In case of a positive funding decision the Host Institution and the Funding Organisation will enter into a bilateral agreement.

In case of a positive funding decision the Host Institution and the Funding Organisation will enter into a bilateral agreement.

Eligibility:

1. Project Participants

1.1. The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account.

The Host Institution (the final recipient) is the institution to which the grant will be allocated.

After the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, after the preproposal deadline) and upon the notice from the Funding Organisation, the Host Institution must confirm to the Funding Organisation in the written form that the project can be carried out on their premises in Estonia and that they will employ the Principal Investigator during the proposed project, should the project receive funding.

If the Host Institution is a for-profit institution, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account.

1.2 The Principal Investigator 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 Principal Investigator:

1.2.1 must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline;

1.2.2 must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline of the grant application at the latest;

1.2.3 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.¹⁵ International 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 pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or performed compulsory service in the Defence Forces, or has another good reason, 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 Center 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.

¹⁵ ETIS classification: **1.1.** *Scholarly articles indexed by Web of Science, Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, Emerging Sources Citation Index and/or indexed by Scopus (excluding chapters in books);* **1.2.** *Peer-reviewed articles in other international research journals with an ISSN code and international editorial board, which are circulated internationally and open to international contributions;* **2.1.** *Scholarly monographs;* **3.1.** *Articles/chapters in books published by the publishers listed in Annex (including collections indexed by the Web of Science Book Citation Index, Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index, Scopus)*

² The required documents and procedure, including the application form can be found on the web page <https://www.harno.ee/en/enicnaric>. The evaluation period can take up to 30 days.

2. Budget

2.1 Research expenses consist of **direct costs** (personnel costs, travel costs and other direct costs) and **subcontracting costs**. The research expenses must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable.

2.2 Direct costs

2.2.1 Personnel costs are monthly salaries with social security charges and all other statutory costs of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution.

2.2.2 Other direct costs are:

- travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance only for travels abroad;
- consumables and minor equipment related to the project;
- publication and dissemination of project results;
- organising meetings, seminars or conferences (room rent, catering);
- fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events 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, etc.) and comply with the eligible costs.

2.2.3 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.

2.3 Indirect costs (overhead) may not exceed 15% of **the personnel costs** and should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution. Costs for equipment and services intended for public use (e.g. a copy machine or a printer that is publicly used, phone bills, copy service, etc.) should be covered from the overhead.

2.4 Double funding of activities is not acceptable.

2.5 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.

3. State Aid

EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding.

If the State aid or de minimis aid regulations apply, the funding will not be granted to a Host Institution who has been subject to a funding withdrawal decision pursuant to a previous European Commission decision that deemed the aid illegal and incompatible with the common market, if that decision has not been complied with.

The funding is not considered State aid for research and development, if the project has ties to the non-economic activities of the Research (or Host) Institution, if the research and development activities and the related costs, funding and revenue can be clearly separated, thus avoiding the cross subsidisation of economic activity.

The criteria defined in Clauses 17–22 of Communication from the European Commission – Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) forms the basis for determining whether the activities carried out are economic activities and whether the Host Institution is a company that is considered to be a State aid recipient when it receives funding.

If the institution applies for State aid or de minimis aid, it must fill in the **State aid form**. No tax arrears are allowed on the proposal submission date.

If State aid or de minimis aid is given, the documents related to the funding must be kept for 10 years as of the date when the agreement was entered into.

State aid pursuant to the Block Exemption Regulation

If the funding is considered to be State aid, then it is given on the basis of Article 25 or 25c of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 that declares certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, pp. 1–78) (hereinafter the Block Exemption Regulation), and the provisions of the Commission Regulation and Section 34² of the Estonian Competition Act apply.

State aid is not given in cases specified under Articles 1(2) to (5) of the Block Exemption Regulation.

In case of State aid, the eligible costs of the project activities must comply with the requirements specified under Article 25(3) of the Block Exemption Regulation (except clause (c)), and the maximum aid intensity must comply with Articles 25(5) and (6).

If applicable the State aid is given according to the rules specified in Article 25c – aid involved in co-funded research and development projects.

If the funding can be considered to be State aid, the application must include the information specified in Article 6(2) of the Block Exemption Regulation, and the application has to be submitted before the start of the activities.

If State aid is given, then the costs of the activities carried out before application submission will not be eligible for aid.

De minimis aid

If the funding is considered de minimis aid, then it is subject to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid (OJ L 352, 24.12.2013, pp. 1–8) (hereinafter the De Minimis Aid Regulation), and the provisions of the Regulation and Section 33 of the Estonian Competition Act apply.

De minimis aid is not given in cases specified under Article 1(1) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

In case of de minimis aid, the maximum aid intensity must comply with Article 3 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

De minimis aid given to the Host Institution together with de minimis aid applied for must not exceed 200,000 euros during the current financial year and the two previous financial years.

Article 5 of the De Minimis Aid Regulation applies to cumulating de minimis aid.

A single undertaking is an undertaking specified in Article 2(1) of the De Minimis Aid Regulation.

4. Grant Agreement

If a positive funding decision is made, the Funding Organisation enters into a grant agreement with the Host Institution. Information on the transnational project must be entered into ETIS once the agreement has been signed.

The Consortium Agreement should be signed six months after the grant agreement has been signed at the latest. If one year has elapsed and the CA has not been signed, the next instalment of funding will not be paid out.

5. Research Involving Human Subjects or Animal Testing

If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities.

6. Nagoya Protocol

By applying for funding by the Funding Organisation, the applicants commit to consider the relevance of the Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration, if applicable.

Funding:

The total requested funding for all Estonian partners within one consortium may not exceed 100 000 € (VAT is included).

Topic Priorities:

Research Area 1: Research to improve understanding of anthelmintic resistance mechanisms, the impacts of anthelmintic resistance on livestock health, and development of tools to help diagnose, prevent and manage it.

Research Area 2: Research to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change and vector borne diseases on animal health, including development of tools to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies triggered by climate change.

Research Area 3: Research to support the development of novel and improved vaccine and diagnostic tools and platforms will be supported, as will research to assess the utility and efficacy of existing technology platforms. Proposals with a focus on anthelmintic vaccines, or which include an industrial partner are strongly encouraged in this research area.

France



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed rules and regulations please refer to the national call announcement ([ANR website](#)) and contact the Funding Contact Point. In case of a conflict of interpretation between the terms and conditions stated in this annex and the “*Modalités de participation*” and “*Règlement financier*”, the terms of the latter shall prevail.

Funding Organisation: Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)

Funding Programme: ANR’s Work Programme 2019 - Component 3 “Building the European Research Area (ERA) and France’s International Attractiveness” - Research Area “Life Sciences” and “Environmental Sciences”

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Florence Guillot	ICRADCalls@agencerecherche.fr	+33 (0)1 78 09 80 01

Terms and Conditions:

No additional documents should be submitted to ANR during the submission phase. In case a project is selected for funding, French partners will have to fill administrative and financial data on the ANR platform.

Eligibility of applicants:

ANR’s funding regulations apply. Please refer to to <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/> for more details.

ANR may fund research organisations and undertakings, as defined by the EC regulation on State aid for research, development and innovation (see the ANR Funding regulations for further reference).

As for research organisations, only those that have their primary establishment in France may be funded. As for undertakings, those that have their real head office in an EU member State and having an establishment (primary or secondary) in France may be funded.

Within this framework, research institutions such as EPST, EPIC, Universities, Hospitals, most foundations, as well as companies and « NGOs (associations) » can apply. This list is not comprehensive and funding rates vary. Please fill the form related to economical activities to identify your funding rate and consult the “*règlement financier*” <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/> for more details.

Enterprises may also apply. Funding rates vary based on types of research and sizes of enterprises. For fundamental research, the maximum rates of funding are: 45% of the full project cost for SMEs, 30% for larger companies.

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

Please refer to <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/> for more details.

Funding:

The funding commitment of ANR is at 1 m€

Maximum amount per project: 350 000 €

Maximum funding per partner: 200 000 € (Increased to 250 000 € for coordinators)

Minimum amount per partner: 15 000 €

Eligible costs:

Eligible costs and rates of funding depend on the type of partners. Among others, eligible costs may include the following: personnel costs; equipment costs; consumables and animal costs; travel and subsistence costs; sub-contracting costs. Please refer to ANR's financial regulations ("*Règlement financier*" ANR) for full details. Please note that expenses related to permanent staff are not eligible for the beneficiaries "à coût marginal".

Overheads:

The "frais d'environnement" for beneficiaries "à coût marginal" are 13.5%.

Topic Priorities:

All Research Areas

More details in the Annex for the participation of French partners ("*Modalités de participation*") at <https://anr.fr/fr/appels/> for further guidance on ANR's conditions and funding rules.

Ireland



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Funding Programme: Research Stimulus Fund

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Philip Kennedy	Philipm.kennedy@agriculture.ie	(353) 87 225 4208

Terms and Conditions:

As the ICRAD Call invites proposals for three-year projects, the scientific work should be completed within the first three years in collaboration with the European partners to comply with ICRAD requirements as the overall project will have to present a final report to ICRAD after three years.

Eligibility:

In addition to the ICRAD 3rd Research Call criteria in the Call documentation, proposals must also meet the following national criteria:

1. **Grant applications will only be accepted from DAFM approved Irish RPOs (see Guidelines for Irish Applicants)**
2. **The grant request by Irish RPOs must not exceed the maximum funding per project as set out in the central Call announcement/documents**
3. **Address at least one of the scientific areas related to the call scope (as set out in the central Call announcement/documents)**
4. **Avoid duplication of recent research work already undertaken or ongoing that incorporates the scope of the scientific research areas in this Call**
5. **Closely align with Sustainable Healthy Agri-Food Research Plan (SHARP) – the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda covering the ‘Sustainable Food Production and Processing’ and ‘Food for Health’ priority areas of the National Research Prioritisation Exercise**
6. **Align with relevant national policy and foresight documents including but not restricted to Food Vision 2030, Food Wise 2025, the Government’s Action Plan for Jobs, Innovation 2020, the National Farmed Animal Biosecurity Strategy 2021-2015 and Teagasc Technology Foresight 2035.**

Please refer to the Guidelines for Irish Applicants for further details.

Applications that do not adhere to these criteria will be deemed ineligible and in such cases the application will not proceed for expert review.

Funding:

The total funding provided by DAFM for Irish applicants in respect of this Call shall not exceed €600,000.

The maximum funding available per project shall not be greater than €300,000 per proposal.

No funding distribution has been assigned by DAFM in respect of the supported Research Areas of this Call.

Admitted costs:

Eligible costs will be allowed in the categories of:

- (a) Staff Costs
- (b) Equipment
- (c) Travel and Subsistence (T&S)
- (d) Consumables
- (e) Overheads
- (f) Other agreed costs e.g. Sub-Contracting

Please refer to the Guidelines for Irish Applicants for further details.

Topic Priorities:

RPOs seeking grant-aid from DAFM can apply for funding under any of the three ICRAD scientific research areas of this Call.

Research Area 1:

Improved understanding of anthelmintic resistance mechanisms, the impacts of anthelmintic resistance on livestock health, and development of tools to help diagnose, prevent, and manage it.

Research Area 2:

Research to increase understanding of the impacts of climate change on animal health and vector borne diseases, including development of tools to prevent, prepare and respond to animal health emergencies triggered by climate change.

Research Area 3:

Research to support the development of novel and improved vaccine and diagnostic tools and platforms will be supported, as will well as research to assess the utility and efficacy of existing technology platforms. Proposals with a focus on anthelmintic vaccines, or which include an industrial partner are strongly encouraged in this research area.

More details in the national call announcement.

Please see the 'Guidelines for Irish Applicants' located on the DAFM website from the launch of the ICRAD Call on 03rd April 2023. The guidelines set out in more detail the rules for Irish applicants seeking grant-aid from the ICRAD 3rd Research Call and must be read in conjunction with the requirements set out in this National Annex and the ICRAD Call documentation.

Latvia



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: Latvian Council of Science (LZP)

Funding Programme:

Participation in European Union's Research and Technology Development Programs.

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Maija Bundule	majja.bundule@lzp.gov.lv	+371 26514481
Dace Tirzite	dace.tirzite@lzp.gov.lv	+371 29644426

Terms and Conditions:

Eligibility of the organization as a project partner and criteria for project funding are applied in line with the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No 259 on the procedure for providing support for participation in international cooperation programs for research and technology (approved on 26 May 2015) and provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

Eligibility:

Universities, research institutes and RTD centres to be eligible for funding should be listed in the Register of Research Institutions operated by the Ministry of Education and Science. SMEs are eligible for funding if registered in the Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia and provide most of its activities in the Republic of Latvia.

Funding:

Admitted costs:

Direct costs:

- Personnel costs,
- Other direct costs such as consumables, equipment (only depreciation costs), materials and etc.,
- Subcontracts (up to 25% of total direct costs),
- Travels costs,
- Project management costs,

Indirect costs (can reach a maximum of 25% of the total direct costs excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting).

Topic Priorities: All Research Areas.

Poland



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: The National Centre for Research and Development (Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju) (NCBR)

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr>

Funding Programme:

Funding programme ERA-NET ICRAD III konkurs

Programme website: <https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/platforma-konkursowa>

Regional Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Kinga Szymańska-Rzeźnik	kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl	+48 519 684 066

Eligibility:

Following entities are eligible to apply:

- Research organizations (research and knowledge-dissemination organisations);
- Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises;
- Group of entities (within the meaning of art. 37 section 1 point 1a of The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development.

Additional eligibility criteria

- Organization must be registered in Poland.
- For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the Pre-proposal application form in table for Project coordinator/Project partner, in the row “Other information”: the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large).
- A condition for the participation of a group of entities as the Applicant in the competition is its formal existence on the date of submission of the pre-proposal, confirmed by its members concluding, at least conditionally, agreement on the creation of a group of entities.
- Please note that group of entities counts as two project partners from Poland (it meets the limit on the number of participants from the same country, please see call text for details).

Funding:

Budget: 600 000 €.

In relation to the budget limit it is recommended that one project partner can require up to 200 000 €.

Admitted costs

The eligible costs shall be the following:

1. **personnel costs** (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project);
2. **cost of contractual research**, costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity; this cost type cannot account for more than 70% of all eligible costs of a project; the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel;
3. **operating costs** including:
 - **costs of instruments and equipment, technical knowledge and patents** to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
 - **costs for buildings and land**, to the extent and for the duration used for the research project; with regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice shall be considered eligible; for land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs shall be eligible;
 - **other operating costs** including costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity;
4. **additional overheads** incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; that costs should account 25% of all eligible project costs; It means $4=(1+3)*25\%$.

Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organizations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation, under Section 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Research and Knowledge - dissemination organisations
Fundamental/Basic Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

Applicant whose proposal will be included in the international list of projects recommended for funding will be asked to prepare a national proposal for funding, within the time limit and in the form available on the NCBR's website. The proposal will be assessed in terms of the legitimacy of the requested grant amount (the proposal will not be assessed in terms of content). Based on the assessment, the Director of the NCBR will decide on the amount of funding for Polish units.

In any case only Industrial Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) cannot be included into separated task.

All eligible entities, invited to submit Polish proposal are obliged to use the rate of exchange of The European Central Bank dated on the day of opening the call.

If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national proposal for funding is submitted by a consortium of all Polish entities.

Topic Priorities:

All research Areas

More details in the national call announcement.

Türkiye



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM)

Funding Programme:

Project to Support Research Capacity in Animal Production and Animal Diseases

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Dr. Erkan Taçbaşı	erkan.tacbas@tarimorman.gov.tr	+90 312-307 60 09

Terms and Conditions:

Eligibility:

General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM) is connected to the “Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry” and has 48 research institutes, 8 veterinary control institutes and Foot and Mouth Disease Research Institute, throughout the country. Only these institutes are eligible to benefit from our fund.

Funding:

Funding is only available for the research institutions affiliated to TAGEM.

Total amount allocated for this call is 200.000€.

For each consortium, maximum indicated budget per each TAGEM affiliated partner cannot exceed 50.000 €.

Where an affiliated institute has the coordinator role in the consortium, the maximum grant can be up to 100.000 € for each proposal.

Admitted costs:

Topic Priorities:

All research areas

More details in the national call announcement.

Turkey



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed rules and regulations please refer to the national call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

Funding Programme:

1071- Support Programme for Increasing Capacity to Benefit from International Research Funds and Participation in International R&D Cooperation

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Dr H. Mahur Turan	mahur.turan@tubitak.gov.tr	+903122989339

Terms and Conditions:

Eligibility:

Pre-Proposal application form in Turkish should be uploaded TUBİTAK PBS.

Banned coordinators/partners' projects will be ineligible.

Projects from the institutions of TAGEM will not be funded by TUBITAK since will be ineligible.

Funding:

Total amount of funding: 600.000 €

Max. R&D funding per project: \approx 75.000 € (1.500.000 Turkish Liras) for universities and public sector/ \approx 125.000 € (2.500.000 Turkish Liras) for private sector without overhead and personel costs

Max. duration: 36 months

Admitted costs:

Topic Priorities:

All Research Areas

More details in the national call announcement.

United Kingdom



Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed information on priorities, rules and regulations please refer to the regional call announcement and contact the Funding Contact Point.

Funding Organisation: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Funding Contact Point:

contact person:	email:	telephone:
Thom Erritt	thomas.erritt@defra.gov.uk	+447901 237 163

Terms and Conditions:

Defra encourage applications in respect of the ICRAD call and anticipate a contribution up to €1.65M.

Proposals are encouraged within a maximum UK budget of €0.825m per proposal.

A funding agreement with Defra for successful proposal/s will be based on a standard Defra research contract, working within requirements set out in the ERAnet call.

Further information on research in Defra is available via this [link](#).

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant contact person to ensure their proposal is within the remit of the call.

Eligibility:

All enquiries about eligibility should be directed to the Defra contact point.

Funding:

EUR 1,650,000 total budget.

If total UK costs for a proposal are above €0.825m please discuss with the national contact point.

Admitted costs:

Defra support research grants at full economic cost, including in respect of the ERAnet call.

Topic Priorities:

Defra will support all three research areas outlined in the call.

More details in the national call announcement.