

Call for seed funding within and for EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium

FAQs

Who can participate in the call?

Research teams or **clusters** that include **at least three partners from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium** with at least **one researcher from a Widening institution, who will act as Cluster lead**.

While the call primarily targets Widening universities (receiving the funding), researchers from **non-Widening universities** of the consortium can participate as partners in the cluster, benefiting from non-financial collaboration.

Collaborations with the **EUTOPIA Global Partners** or **external research groups** (outside the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium) are encouraged, with the mention that Global Partners or external collaborators cannot receive funding from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project.

The EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium consists of: Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), University of Ljubljana (UL), NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Pompeu Fabra University-Barcelona (UPF), CY Cergy Paris University (CY), Ca'Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE), University of Gothenburg (GU), University of Warwick (UW).

The Widening universities of the consortium are: Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), University of Ljubljana (UL), NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA).

Are individual applications considered for the seed funding call?

No, **individual applications** are **not considered**. Researchers from Widening institutions must form a **cluster** with at least two researchers from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium, preferably from non-Widening institutions. The applicant must be from a Widening institution involved in the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project (Babeş-Bolyai University, University of Ljubljana, NOVA University Lisbon).

What are the requirements for the Cluster lead?

- Must have a **PhD degree** and at least **four years of post-PhD experience**.
- Must be from a Widening university within the consortium.
- Experience in collaborative research projects is valued, but not mandatory.
- Applicants are expected to demonstrate a **relevant track record** in their field.
- All **cluster members** must be **registered in the [EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map](#)**.
- Only one proposal can be submitted per Cluster lead.

Does the required four years of experience for the Cluster lead need to be in academia?

No, the cluster lead must have **at least 4 years of experience in health-related research**, which does not necessarily have to be in academia. However, the applicant must be **affiliated at one of the Widening universities of the consortium at the moment of the application**.

In case of a cluster including three Widening partners, do all partners receive funding?

No, **only the one researcher** from a **Widening institution** acting as the **Cluster lead receives the funding**, while the other two Widening partners will benefit from non-financial collaboration. In line with the objectives of the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project and considering that researchers from Widening institutions are likely to apply as Cluster lead, we recommend selecting the required minimum of **two EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium partners** from the **non-Widening institutions**.

Are there limitations on collaborations for the seed funding call with EUTOPIA Global Partners or external research groups?

There are **no limitations on the number** of **external partners**. However, **the budget cannot be used for researchers outside the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium**.

What are the eligible research areas?

Proposals must focus on **Health-related research domains** such as (but not limited to): Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies; Clinical or Health Psychology; Health Economics; Life Sciences related to Health; Physical Education for Health; Public Health, and other similar fields related to Health.

What is the available funding?

The budget for a seed funding project is **120,000 EUR** (including indirect costs). The call will fund six such transdisciplinary projects (**two per each Widening university**).

The budget will **exclusively** support **activities carried out by partners from Widening countries**.

The budget is expected to cover mostly **personnel costs, logistics, travel expenses and publication costs**.

Subcontracting is not allowed.

Can the budget for the seed funding cover the cost of researchers traveling to cluster partners?

Non-Widening universities do not receive funding from this type of grants. However, some costs, such as travel to widening partners, can be covered from the grant budget. EUTOPIA Global Partners and external partners cannot receive funding, including travel expenses.

Can costs for external partners be covered by the seed funding?

No, **costs** (including logistics, travel, staff, services) **for external partners** (not part of the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium) **cannot be covered**.

External partners can **collaborate** but **cannot receive any financial support**, either directly or indirectly.

Can funding from the seed grants be used for participant recruitment (e.g. in clinical trials)?

No, participant recruitment is not an eligible cost.

Does the budget for the seed funding cover equipment acquisition?

No, the budget does not allow equipment acquisition.

What are the evaluation criteria?

The proposal is divided into **two parts: Part A** (curriculum vitae and track record of the research cluster partners - **40%**) and **Part B** (scientific proposal - **60%**).

Part A: Evaluators will review the **expertise, key achievements, and ability to execute the project of the research cluster lead and partners**.

Part B: Includes **state of the art, project aim and objectives** (10%), **capacity of participants and of research cluster** (10%), **detailed research plan** (30%), and **impact of the project and dissemination** (10%).

Projects that actively promote **gender equality, inclusivity, and open science practices** will be prioritized.

What is the deadline for applications?

All applications must be **submitted by 30 April 2025**.

How should applications be submitted?

Depending on the Cluster lead's affiliation at one of the Widening universities, applications should be sent **via email** to health.eutopia@ubbcluj.ro, eutopia.health@uni-lj.si, or nova.research@unl.pt, with the subject line: "EUTOPIA_HEALTH Seed Funding Application – [Name of the Applicant]".

The application form must be attached as **one PDF document**.

What is the timeline of the call?

- Pre-launch of the call: **15 December 2024**
- Start of application submission: **1 January 2025**
- Deadline for submission of applications: **30 April 2025**
- Evaluation process: 1 May - **20 September 2025**
- Publication of final results: **30 September 2025**
- **Start of the project: December 1, 2025**

Note : To align with the project calendar, the Seed funding will begin on December 1, 2025.

Will there be another call next year, or is this the only call for seed funding within the EUTOPIA_HEALTH program?

No, this is the only call for seed funding within the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project.

How can interested applicants from Widening universities connect with relevant researchers from partner universities? Will you share any information about the specific expertise applicants are looking for?

Applicants can use the [EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map](#) to find and connect with relevant researchers. This is a tool designed to promote collaboration within EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium that goes beyond the purpose of these calls. While registration into EHRM prior to the application is mandatory for both calls, applicants may contact potential collaborators by other means as well (such as universities websites, email).

There is no general list of expertise being sought, applicants must identify collaborators whose expertise aligns with their research proposal, sustaining the succes of the proposed research project.

Is it possible to submit a proposal to the Seed Funding and Cross-University Mobility Programme calls, based on the same idea?

No, it is not possible within EUTOPIA_HEALTH for the same Principal investigator (PI) to receive funding for two projects based on the same idea.

Do all partners of the consortium need to be members of EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium

No, not all partners need to be from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium; however, at least three members must be. Please note that Global partners/external research groups cannot be funded from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH project (regardless of the call).

Can there be more than three partners (all from EUTOPIA) per call for Seed Funding?

Yes, there can be more than three members of the cluster from the EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium.

Is there a limit of proposals from each widening partner?

There is no limit of proposals coming from each Widening partner, but one Cluster Lead can only apply with one proposal. The budget allows for two proposals per Widening university to be financed.

Will the two partner universities also be financed from the 120.000 euro budget? If not, what motivates them to participate in this partnership?

No, the **funding is allocated only to the Widening university at which the cluster lead is affiliated**. The other members of the cluster will benefit from non-financial collaboration as they will have the chance to collaborate with talented researchers, develop new research ideas, and build partnerships that could evolve into future joint projects or funding opportunities. Costs for joint publications can be covered by the Widening university partner.

Is there a list of key people from the universities in the consortium that we can contact to establish partnerships?

No, there is no such list. Applicants can establish partnerships by directly contacting the researchers that best suit their research interest. They can use the EUTOPIA_HEALTH Research Map to find potential partners or they can use any other option to contact them (universities' websites, emails).

How should we include credentials for more than three cluster members in the proposal application?

In case of more than three cluster members, Part A of the Application form can be extended with 3 pages/Cluster member.

How can the budget be used? Will it be used to finance the salary of the researcher(s) working at the widening university?

The budget can be used to cover personnel costs (45-53%), logistics (15-22%), travel costs (2-4%) and indirect costs (25% of the value of direct costs).

Can a researcher from EUTOPIA_HEALTH consortium be partner of more proposals?

Yes, but only if the researcher is a project member, not a cluster lead.

What is the role of EUTOPIA Global Partners in the project? How can we get them onboard?

While it is not mandatory to include Global Partners in the Cluster, they can add value to the research project (e.g. by enhancing inter/transdisciplinarity) and promote collaboration on a global level. Global partners can benefit from non-financial collaboration as they will have the chance to collaborate with talented researchers, develop new research ideas, and build partnerships that could evolve into future joint projects or funding opportunities.

What is the overhead rate applied by Widening universities for this type of projects?

The overhead rate applied for this type of projects is **25% of direct costs**.