

**JPIAMR 16th Joint Call: Development of innovative strategies, tools, technologies,
and methods for diagnostics and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance**

Q&A Online Webinar for applicants January 24, 2023

This is a selection of questions and answers from the global webinar that invited researchers to learn more about the call and to ask questions to representatives from funders participating in the call.

For more information, please visit the call webpage:

<https://www.jpiamr.eu/calls/diagnostics-surveillance-call-2023/>

General questions

Q1: Will the recording be sent to the participants?

A: Yes, the recording will be sent to all registered participants and will be available on JPIAMR webpage: <https://www.jpiamr.eu/calls/diagnostics-surveillance-call-2023/>

Q2: Is there a list of partners looking for other partners?

A: Yes, please refer to the Partner Search Tool at <https://www2.ncn.gov.pl/partners/amr2023/>

Q3: Are we able to reach out directly to the national funder contacts listed?

A: Yes, please refer to page 17-18 of the Call text published at <https://www.jpiamr.eu/calls/diagnostics-surveillance-call-2023/>.

Q4: Is the pre-proposal application form available to look at before completion?

A: Yes, you can download it from https://www.jpiamr.eu/app/uploads/2023/01/Pre-proposal-form_AMR-diagnostics-and-surveillance-2023.docx

Q5: Are the proposals only to be submitted by the lead organization? Or does each organization have to do a separate one?

A: The proposal is submitted to the JPIAMR electronic submission system by the consortium coordinator. Some national funders require applicants to submit proposals or documents in parallel at the national level. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text for details.

Q6: Who should sign the Letters of Intent - principal investigator of each partner site or institution representative (e.g. university president or someone similar)

A: . At the pre-proposal stage, only the PI's signature is required. At the full-proposal stage two signatures will be necessary – of the PI and of the authorized representative of each partner institution. A template for Lol is integrated in the proposal template and clearly says who must sign at the given stage. Please note that all participating partners (coordinator, partners and non-funded partners) must provide signed Letters of Intent (Lol).

Q7: If approved for funding, when do the projects start? Can the engagement and financing of one partner be postponed to 2024?

A: All projects are expected to start no later than 1 June 2024. Section 8 of the Call text advises a common start date and duration of the research project.

Eligibility and consortium composition

Q8: Can I apply from Bangladesh for the call? Is Guatemala an eligible country? Is a team from Norway or Thailand eligible for submission? Is Portugal eligible to apply for funding? (as a partner?)

A: If your research team is affiliated in Bangladesh, Guatemala, Norway, Thailand or Portugal, you can apply in this call, but only as a non-funded partner – you will have to contribute your own funds to the project. Rules for non-funded partners are described in Section 3.1 of the Call text.

Q9: Can you tell me which countries in Central America can apply?

A: All countries from Central American can apply, but only as non-funded partners.

Q10: Is Switzerland eligible?

A: Yes, Switzerland is eligible and is and Horizon 2020 Associated Country. For details please consult the national rules and regulations in Annex B of the Call text.

Q11: Is the UK considered Associated Country?

A: Yes, for the purpose of the DISTOMOS call, UK is considered an EU Associated Country

Q12: Is Gambia eligible with possible collaboration with a UK/EU institution?

A: Research teams from Gambia are eligible to apply for funding from Sida. Collaboration must involve at least 3 funded partners from 3 different countries.

Q13: Is Hungary after all funded, but somehow left out from the list, or it is a non-funded country?

A: Yes, Hungary participates in the call. The national rules have been added to the update Call text on January 31, 2023.

Q14: I am working in the Flemish part of Belgium, so we cannot get funding from our National funding agency (FNRS) to participate in the call. If I do apply, non-funded, do I then count as a partner from an eligible country (and EU member)?

A: Since you can only apply as a non-funded partner, you do not count towards the minimum of 3 funded partners. Rules for non-funded partners are described in Section 3.1 of the Call text.

Q15: Do we need to partner with certain institutions or can it be a blanket call?

A: To apply in this call you need to form a consortium with other institutions – the minimum requirement for a consortium is three partners requesting funding from three different eligible countries (including at least two amongst EU Member States or Associated Countries).

Q16: Regarding eligibility, applicants must come from one of the funding countries or LDCs to be able to apply?

A: Applicants who would like to receive funding must be eligible by the funding organizations participating in the call. LDCs from Africa can be funded by Sida – please see the exact list of countries in the Annex B to the Call text. If your country does not participate in the call or if your national funder does not support your type of institution, you may apply as a non-funded partner.

Q17: If the lead applicant is from the UK, including two other international partners, do we need or is it recommended to include an European partner?

A: In order to meet the criterion for a minimum-sized consortium, all three partners must be fundable and at least two must be affiliated in EU member countries or EU Associated Countries. So your consortium is eligible if one of these international countries is a EU member or EU Associated country. If not – you need to invite one more partner who meets this criterion.

Q18: Could a non-funded partner be from a non-eligible country?

A: Yes. Project partners not eligible for funding (e.g. from countries not participating in the call or not fundable according to national/regional regulations of the funding partner organizations) may be involved in projects if they bring their own funding. The budget of non-funded partners must be included in the proposal and shall not exceed 30% of the requested total transnational project budget.

Q19: Is there a limit of the number of institutions of the same country once the minimum country requirement is satisfied?

A: The call text doesn't specify a maximum number of partners by country. However, please check your national annexes! Your funder may have included national limitations.

Q20: Can for example the same partner be a part of two different projects?

A: The call text doesn't specify that. However, please check your national annexes! Your funder may have included national limitations.

Q21: Can multiple partners in the same consortium apply to the same national funding partner? And if so, can their applications mirror one another (aside from the differences in organizational capacity/ PI etc.)?

A: The call text doesn't specify that. However, please check your national annexes! Your funder may have included national limitations.

Q22: Is it possible have both funded and non-funded from the same countries? For example, funded partners from: UK, Italy & Israel

A: The call text doesn't specify that. However, please check your national annexes! Your funder may have included national limitations.

Applicants from African countries

Q23: Where can I find the list of eligible Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa which can be funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)?

A: Please check the regulations for Sida on page 39 of the Call text (Annex B).

Q24: Does a participating LDC in Africa have to be supported by SIDA only? Does it mean that if not supported by SIDA, that participant will not have access for any funds to carry out work?

A: Under the DISTOMOS call Sida funds Least Developed Countries from Africa. African research teams can apply for funding from Sida or can participate as non-funded partners (contributing their own funds to the project).

Q25: Since SIDA funds researchers from Africa, are EU state members eligible to partner with African partners?

A: Yes, Sida-funded partners can be included in any consortium as long as the general eligibility criteria for consortia are fulfilled.

Q26: Do partners from African countries have to apply for funds separately during the application or is this automatically taken care of?

A: No separate application is necessary, it will all be in one proposal of the whole consortium.

Q27: The eligibility rules state that there must be 3 partners asking for funding from 3 different countries. Does this mean that in proposals that are applying for funding from both SRC and Sida they both count as one country (even though it's two separate funding partners?)

A: Sida does not fund partners affiliated in Sweden. For this reason, partners funded by SRC and Sida will be counted separately.

Q28: Is Sudan funded?

A: Yes, Sudan can be funded by Sida. Apologies for not including Sudan in the map.

Q29: Can Sida-funded partners be considered as EU members in the consortium, since they are being funded by Sweden?

A: Unfortunately, they cannot. They need to collaborate with EU member or EU Associated countries.

Types of institutions

Q30: Can a medical hospital/medical microbiology lab also be a part of the consortium?

A: The call text doesn't specify that. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text for specific national regulations.

Q31: Is a UN agency eligible to apply and to be member or lead of a consortium to apply?

A: It may be, depending on where this UN agency is based. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text for specific national regulations.

Q32: Can a company be a partner at full proposal stage or must it be identified at the pre-proposal stage?

A: Generally speaking, the composition of the consortium should not be modified between the pre-proposal and full proposal stage, so participating companies should be identified in the pre-proposal. The exceptions are:

- adding a non-funded partner or a partner from an undersubscribed organization in the widening process – see Section 3.2 of the Call text
- adding a partner at the full proposal stage due to unforeseen circumstances
- adding a partner upon recommendation of the Peer Review Panel.

Q33: How many companies can participate in one consortium?

A: There is no limit. Companies follow the general eligibility rules described in Section 3.1 of the Call text. It is even possible to have a consortium composed only of companies if at least three of them are eligible for funding from three different eligible countries (including at least two amongst EU Member States or Associated Countries).

Q34: Can any company participate? What are requirements for a company?

A: There are no specific requirements at the international level. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text to check the eligibility criteria defined by relevant national funding organizations.

Coordinator/Principal investigator of a research team

Q35: Does each partner in a consortium put forward a PI? Or only the coordinating partner?

A: Yes, each partner must have a PI and CVs of all partner PIs should be included in section C of the pre-proposal.

Q36: Should a project coordinator be from the EU country?

A: No, the coordinator must be affiliated with an institution which is eligible for funding, but the funding organization can be outside EU.

Q37: Should the coordinator be an academic institution or could even a company coordinate the project?

A: Companies can coordinate projects only if they are eligible for funding (non-funded companies cannot be coordinators). Please note that not all national funders can fund companies – please refer to Annex B for details.

Q38: Can you kindly clarify if PIs must be affiliated with an academic institution?

A: The types of institutions eligible for funding are defined by national funders. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text or contact a relevant national funding organization.

Q39: Would an Early Career Researcher with a 10-year post-PhD award who had a research break for teaching or industry still be eligible? How do you define *extension?

A: The 8-year period may be extended to allow for career breaks including: parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organizations and student organizations, mandatory military or civil service, illness (own illness or care for close family members), medical internships or medical fellowship (applies to clinically active professionals). The last two categories may involve periods of up to 24 months each.

Call topics and scope

Q40: How many projects could potentially be funded under Topic 1 vs Topic 2 please?

A: There will be no quotas for each of the topics. The projects will be selected for funding based on the quality of the proposals.

Q41: Among topic 1, is there something which is deemed more priority than others or human/animals will be regarded with the same weight?

A: The Call text does not specify any priorities. For national rules please refer to Annex B.

Q42: Does "One health setting" mean one sector i.e. either human medicine, veterinary or there is other meaning?"

A: According to Section 2.2 of the Call text, the DISTOMOS call covers the following One Health settings:

- Human Health, and/or
- Animal Health (including wildlife, livestock, aquatic organisms, and companion animals), and/or
- Plants (including trees and crops), and/or
- Food, and/or
- Environment (including natural and built environment).

Q43: Is the call mainly focused on human microbial pathogens?

A: No, the call covers all One Health settings. For details please refer to Section 2.2 of the Call text.

Q44: Is AMR in adults preferred to the AMR in paediatric patients?

A: No, there is no preference. The eligibility and evaluation criteria are indicated in the Call text.

Q45: How can I find out whether my proposal is within scope of the national funder. E.g. in the UK, some One Health settings are not supported. Is there a specific contact person within UKRI to discuss this with?

A: Yes, the names and contact information of the contact persons within each funder are listed in Annex A of the Call text (pp. 17 – 18).

Q46: Proposals focusing on surveillance (topic 2) must include at least 2 One Health settings. This is clear, and there is a list provided. My question: how is wastewater surveillance classified? Especially when wastewater originating from different (veterinary, urban, healthcare) sources. Are they considered multiple OH settings or considered (semi-) environment?

A: It all depends on what the focus of different research tasks will be. It is responsibility of the PI to address this issue well in the proposal.

Q47: If we are going to develop a device for rapid detection of pathogens, do you expect that the device already have a CE mark?

A: Not necessarily. You can propose a proof-of-concept project.

Evaluation

Q48: How can we contact the Evaluation panel for discussion of the eligibility of a project idea?

A: You cannot contact the evaluation panel. Any questions should be directed to the call secretariat.

Q49: Is the evaluation done centrally at JPIAMR or will it be national evaluation?

A: The formal eligibility check is done at both national and international level. The scientific merit of the proposals will be evaluated centrally, by an international panel of experts.

Financial aspects

Q50: Is there a minimum budget of the total budget that non-funded partners have to reach in a consortium to be allowed?

A: The call text does not specify this, but different funders may specify different financial terms – for details please refer to the national rules and regulations in Annex B to the Call text.

Q51: Is there a minimum or maximum for the requested budget or project duration? Is there a ceiling amount for each partner in the consortium?

A: The call text does not specify this, but different funders may specify different financial terms – for details please refer to the national rules and regulations in Annex B to the Call text.

Q52: Do you need to indicate the overall budget total at the pre-proposal stage?

A: Yes, there is a detailed budget table in Section B9 of the pre-proposal.

Q53: For a country that doesn't have a funder (say, India), if an Indian team were to partner with teams from countries with funders, can the Indian team receive funds from the partner teams, assuming the grant is approved by the expert panel?

A: It may be possible for some funders and some types of costs, but may not work for others. Please refer to Annex B of the Call text for specific national regulations.

Q54: Is it possible to do hybrid funding such as the call and another from a different funder for the same project?

A: Double funding of projects is not permitted. Co-funding of a given task or a budget item from different sources may be acceptable to some funders, but not to others - please refer to Annex B of the Call text for specific national regulations.

Q55: Can eligible funded partners also contribute in-kind academic time? As well as funded researcher time?

A: Yes they can. In the budget section, partners are invited to describe the requested funding and the in-kind funding (for ex: salary for permanent positions already paid by other means).

Q56: If there is more than one consortium member from the same country, does the budget limit apply to each member separately or must the total country budget come under the funder limit?

A: The call text doesn't specify that. However, please check your national annexes! Your funder may have included national limitations.