

Portfolio of Funding Instruments for the OH AMR Partnership

Online workshop December 2022
CSA DESIGN OHAMR



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OH  **AMR**

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Introduction

Background

The future [One Health Antimicrobial Resistance \(OH AMR\) partnership](#) will be a research and innovation (R&I) funding programme designed and launched jointly by the European Commission and member states. In the framework of Horizon Europe programme CSA project DESIGN OH AMR, the preparation for the OH AMR includes formation of a possible funding instruments portfolio (WP2, task T2.3.1).

The aim of this task is to organize the consultations with funding institutions (from JPIAMR member countries and beyond) for definition of activities/innovative funding instruments for the partnership. As part of the consultation, two surveys were created and launched. One survey was intended for the national funding organisations with the aim to map their priorities and indicative opinions about funding instruments in the context of the future OH AMR partnership programme. Another survey was targeted to the research community in order to gather information about their needs regarding funding for R&I on the AMR topic and to spot the subject from their perspective.

This online workshop on the 7th of December 2022 aimed at further consultations and discussions, based on the results from the surveys, in order to refine the portfolio for funding instruments. The workshop was organised by the Research Council of Lithuania, as a task leader in the CSA DESIGN OH AMR, with the support of the JPIAMR secretariat.

The workshop included presentations on following topics:

- Future OH AMR partnership,
- Current JPIAMR funding instruments to support AMR research
- Results from surveys on the future portfolio for funding instruments in OH AMR partnership

Additionally, there were presentations from other ongoing co-funded initiatives with examples of capacity building activities and models of research calls. For the complete Workshop agenda see Annex 1.

50 participants from funding agencies from 22 countries registered for the event of which about 30 joined the workshop on-line.

Objectives

The main goals of the workshop were:

- To provide an overview of the future OH AMR partnership
- To learn call designs and instruments from other initiatives
- To discuss how future funding instruments can be designed in the OH AMR partnership

Speakers and their presentations

Laura Marin, the coordinator of DESIGN OH AMR and the head of the Secretariat of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) hosted by the Swedish Research Council (SRC), Stockholm, Sweden. Laura provided the reasoning behind the OH AMR partnership, framework of the operations and the timeline for its further development. The expected objectives of the future OH AMR partnership were presented as outlined in the published Horizon Europe Cluster1 Work Programme 2023-2024.

Elisabeth Hedström is presently working as a Senior Analyst at the JPIAMR secretariat with focus on capacity building and the future funding portfolio of OH AMR. Elisabeth presented the activities of JPIAMR initiative and gave the overview of its funding instruments to support AMR research projects and networks. In her second presentation, Elisabeth introduced the structure of joint transnational call 2022 of Driving Urban Transitions to Sustainable Future (DUT) partnership. The aim of the presentation on this call was to demonstrate the unusual type of set up with the quite a number of topics creating opportunities to apply with proposals from basic research to more innovation oriented.

Živilė Ruželė is the advisor at the Research Council of Lithuania; also a subtask leader in the CSA project Design OH AMR. Her task (T2.3.1) in the project comprises of holding consultations with representatives of funding institutions for definition of activities/innovative funding instruments for the OH AMR partnership. In her talk, Živilė presented the results from first part of the consultations that were carried out in the form of surveys.

Bärbel Edelmann-Stephan works at the German Aerospace Center (DLR, Germany). In 2019 Joint Programming Initiative a Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL) had a call for projects with a double aim: to fund nutrition and health research projects and to support the training of Early Career Scientists. Bärbel was part in organising the training activity for Early Career Scientists that she presented at the event.

Juliane Halftermeyer, Inserm Transfert (France), works in the European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD) coordination team as a Senior Project Manager. Juliane presented several activities for capacity building of EJP RD, such as trainings, mentoring services etc.

Magnus Tannerfeldt is the Biodiversa+ partnership Vice-chair, and works as a Senior Research Officer at the Department for Environmental Sciences at FORMAS, Sweden.

Sophie Germann is the scientific project manager at the National Research Agency (ANR, France) and works in the Biodiversa+ Call Secretariat.

Magnus and Sophie presented the Biodiversa+ strategy and the set-up of the Call 2022. Biodiversa+ is a new European co-funded partnership supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society. It was jointly developed by

BiodivERsA network and the European Commission and was officially launched on 1 October 2021. Biodiversa+ has had so far three calls, the latest call JTC2022 was “*Better knowledge to develop, deploy and assess nature-based solutions*”.

List of instruments for capacity building presented in the workshop by different co-funded initiatives:

- **Capacity building for ECRs** (PostDocs and PhDs) organized by funded projects, in which they already in the proposal plan the activities such as summer schools, training, lab exchange, conferences. The scientific evaluation committee (SEC) along with the scientific quality evaluates the proposed activities.
- **Training activity as part of the partnership activities:**
 - organized in collaboration with a key partner for this (for example appropriate EIT initiative) that has the strategic objective to provide quality education for students, entrepreneurs and professionals in the related research domain. For example, 1-week online training for students (PostDocs and PhDs) of the funded projects (the grip can be projects from one call) consisting of training session in how to make pitch , impact pathway, research problem formulation, skills of entrepreneurship and brainstorming, business model canvas and regulatory requirements in the field;
 - in smaller groups open to registrants (for the researchers, for patients etc.).
 - a variety of workshops can be organised for the funded projects to reach the scientific excellence and increase societal impact. Examples of workshops topics: stakeholder engagement and science and policy interfacing, science communication, citizen science, open science and data management.
- **Guidance documents prepared by the initiative:** guidance document on the patients’ advocacy organization (PAO) involvement into the project and common pot for the financing of PAO in the research projects; handbook on stakeholder engagement (case studies etc.); policy guide containing the information about policy relevance of research; toolkits for citizen science and data management plans.
- **Networking support scheme:** funding for networking events. Open all year long with three collections and evaluations during the year, max 30 000 Eur per event, to ensure transnational collaboration all the funded events should involve min three eligible applicants from three different countries.
- **Call for early career reviewers.** Two reviewers from the funded I projects are selected to participate in the peer review panel of the currently open joint transnational call. After a selection process, the training proposed for new reviewers consists of webinars and mentoring during the evaluation process. The aim of this call is to raise a new generation of reviewers and raise their capacity to prepare a good quality application.
- **Online academic courses** open for everyone.
- **Training/mentoring service** on the translation of the research results in all project phases: application, during the lifetime of the project and after the end of the project. Free of charge.

- **Innovation management toolbox.** An online toolbox with resources for translational medicine that provides useful information for proposal preparation as well as for project implementation phases. The toolbox also contains information on the follow-up funding opportunities and steps to be taken for results translation.
- **Clinical trials support office:** preparation of clinical studies, methodologies, toolbox for relevant information.

Ideas for the design of funding instruments and other complementary activities:

- Flagship programmes launch that can run 1-2 or several years. This is a holistic way to work on specific topics. Joint transnational calls are part of these programmes including also other work streams of the partnership.
- Timeline example of the large annual call of the partnership:

Pre-announcement	June
Opening	Sept-Oct
1 stage deadline	Late Nov – early Dec
2 stage deadline	April
Evaluation	Jun-Jul
Funding decision	September
Project start	Dec-April

- Volume of the annual call: 30-35 projects of medium size (1,2 - 1,5 million Euro each), additional activities around the calls – capacity buildings for funded batch of project using workshop format (as transversal activities of the partnership).
- There can be no upper limit for consortiums size where partners can be active across several positions within the research and development system (innovation, applied research, fundamental research) also across disciplines (natural, social sciences, engineering etc.). It may be made obligatory to include at least one representative from companies, commercial organisations, consumers or civil societies into the project proposal.
- Bigger calls can have up to 10 different topics, basic research and innovation oriented; funding agencies participating in the call can choose topics to fund.

Discussion

Moderators for the two parallel breakout sessions were Ronit Meyuhas, Chief Scientist Officer at the Israel Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), and Danielle Sagar, Medical Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation (MRC UKRI).

The breakout session information (outlined below) was sent out to the participants prior to the workshop.

The background for the discussions: A. the findings from the surveys on portfolio of funding instruments for the candidate OH AMR partnership conducted in September 2022, B. recently published [call text from the Horizon Europe Cluster1 Work Programme 2023-2024](#) and C. JPIAMR Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) recommendations.

A. Surveys on portfolio of funding instruments

The aim of the first survey intended for the national funding organisations was to map their priorities and indicative opinions about funding instruments in the context of the future OH AMR partnership programme. 25 agencies responded to it. Agencies coming from 21 countries, of which 18 are JPIAMR members and 18 participate in the current ERA-NET JPIAMR-ACTION.

Another survey was targeting the research community in order to gather information about their needs regarding funding for R&I on the AMR topic and to spot the subject from their perspective. 120 responses were received. 72% of respondents previously participated or currently participate in the JPIAMR research projects and 44 % - in JPIAMR funded networks.

Conclusions and summary from the surveys:

Main gaps

- international implementation research projects
- international fundamental research projects
- international translational projects
- interdisciplinary AMR research considering SSH aspects

Appropriate funding steams for funders (for more than 50% of funders)

- Basic, fundamental research (88%)
- Applied and translational research (88%)
- Support for translation into innovation (80%)
- Intervention-implementation research (72%)
- Pre-clinical research or clinical studies (72%)
- AMR research considering SSH aspects (84%)
- Support for implementation research (56%)
- Networking (52%)

Possible portfolio of funding instruments

Call type (appropriate for more than 50% of funders)	Networking, training and mobility schemes (around 36% of funders could fund these)	Measures for facilitation of research translation into products and solutions (appropriate for around 50% of funders)
<p>Calls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergistic calls and calls for interdisciplinary collaboration (60%) • specific targeted research projects (STREPs) (18-36 months) (64%) • short-term research projects (from 9 to 24 months) (proof of concept, high risk) (56%) • research projects (1 or 2 stage; standard projects grants up to 3 years) (91%) 	<p>Calls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large coordination and support actions (36%) • Medium network calls (to 2 years) (40%) • Support for long-term networks (3 to 4 years) (36%) 	<p>Calls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • networks between researchers, practitioners, translational stakeholders and commercial developers (52%) • implementation research (44%)

New funding instruments and schemes that funding organisations would like to see implemented in the future partnership are presented in the table in Annex 2.

B. Call HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-09-01: European Partnership: One Health Anti-Microbial Resistance

New funding instruments and/or new elements to the existing funding instruments have to be designed and implemented in a way to address the objectives of the OH AMR partnership.

The OH AMR partnership should be structured along the following three main objectives:

1. Collaboration and alignment of Research and Innovation agendas on OH AMR

The Partnership should mobilise and link key AMR stakeholders, encompassing the human, veterinary, agricultural and environmental disciplines and including a broad spectrum of pathogens, bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses, through a cross-cutting, interdisciplinary one health approach. It should provide a framework to close the current knowledge gaps and break existing silos in the AMR research landscape, facilitating the integration of national and international scientific and policy communities with industry and the civil society. For this, the partnership could support, although no limited to, the following activities:

- Joint strategic programming and global coordination of research and innovation through an agreed One Health AMR SRIA (covering the scientific areas

Therapeutics, Surveillance, Diagnostics, Transmission, Prevention and Intervention, environment and social behavioural science).

- Target research and innovation efforts to actual needs (challenge-driven) of policymakers and stakeholders.
- Create a transnational system that supports collaboration between EU, MS and international initiatives.

2. Boost Research and Innovation

The Partnership should strengthen the ERA by supporting excellence in innovative research, capacity building, programmes for development of talent, widening the engagement of countries and sectors not yet involved. For this, the partnership could support, although no limited to, the following activities:

- Support excellent OH AMR research and development of new prevention methods, interventions, treatments and diagnostics through annual joint transnational research calls and research network calls.
- Develop new tools and instruments to support research and innovation.
- Support networking, training and mobility of researchers.
- Facilitate sharing and use of data and research infrastructure.

Develop solutions

- Facilitate translation of scientific knowledge into innovative solutions.
- Connect, merge and align dissemination of outputs with other initiatives to support evidence-based policy in whole One Health domain.
- Societal engagement by bridging science to society creating awareness of AMR challenges, value creation, support the wellbeing of citizens and sustainability of the environment.

C. Recommendations from the JPIAMR Scientific Advisory Board involved in the SRIA drafting (representation of researcher's opinion)

- To combine calls where people from different expertise areas come together, find solutions and collaborate - synergy and alignment not only between pathogens and research fields but also between thematic topics
- Consider implementation, not just basic research
- Yearly call for all thematic topics where funding available would be divided over the topics

Discussion points for the Break-out Session

- How to break the silos? (An overview of the results can be found in Annex II)
 - between different OH settings
 - between disciplines,
 - between countries
 - between the research and policy, implementation
 - between research and industry

- What can be done to close the current knowledge gaps?
 - Using new or upgraded funding instruments
 - Implementing funding instruments in a way to reach desired social impact (through specific conditions and establishing evaluation criteria, composition of evaluation panels)
 - Setting topics, cross-cutting approaches (like social sciences and environmental research) for the calls;
 - Dissemination activities and additional activities of the partnership.
- How can we design the calls to be able to support not only innovative research, but also capacity building, programmes for development of talent, widening the engagement of countries and sectors not yet involved?
- How to attract more funding organisations of different profiles and geography enabling provide support to all types of beneficiaries involved throughout the pipeline from basic research to innovation, funding actors from all OH sectors and break silos between countries?

Brainstorming ideas

How to brake silos between OH settings or disciplines?

It is challenging; there are three levels: political (policy documents are in place), institutional (how to reach at this level, how to engage those that are not involved, how to engage ministries and institution at the national level; important to identify what actors should be approached and engaged), operational (to develop concept, foresee the activities, mapping exercises, other good examples).

The OH AMR partnership proposal has to go beyond biomedical health research on AMR; OH intersection must be really present with the aim at the end to create a product to impact human health; impacts are in the human health, but has to be an effort for well-placed and prominent addressing of the animal and environment health.

Suggestions from the participants in the discussion sessions:

- Capacity building and training on OH approach, assessment board for OH approach; important to ensure continuity and sustainability of capacity building measures, because the results will come up on a long run. (UKRI long-term activity example); Doing systematically, taking the challenges, pushing this agenda forward should ensure continuity and sustainability.
- To some thematic areas OH approach could be applied, but not to all. Intersectional research, OH priorities are areas dependent (consider it while applying to the specific topics).
- Interaction between funded projects from different sectors could address silos between OH domains and disciplines and different pathogens; the common seminars, workshops could be organised to facilitate this interchange and networking.

- To be able to break silos we need to support or to create conditions for mobility – “discipline hopping”. Mobility between actors from different fields is key to create an OH community. This can also be “hopping” between research and industry and policy environment. Specific mobility support measures through the research calls could be an option if carefully implement in the calls and to request to plan visits, staff exchange in the proposals.
- Improve the dissemination activities of funded projects by designing the research calls, ensuring that the results will create the impact included in the applications. It could be also a small grants, follow-up funds for identified projects to generate more impact though additional dissemination activities such as internet platforms, networking and knowledge sharing etc.
- While focusing on design of new instrument, implementation modalities has to be also carefully looked over, including monitoring and evaluation making stronger emphasis on impact and quality of dissemination plans.
- Think about new or improving existing tools for brokerage.
- From the reflection on the presented in the workshop examples of other initiatives:
 - The example of DUT partnership – a call including many topics – was found interesting although with implementation challenges. Further consultations on implementation of such activities could be of use.
 - The idea to include ECRs as evaluation panel members was also noticed.
 - Guidance documents for applicants about the inclusion of policy makers or other relevant stakeholders into the project could be useful tool. They can be prepared using the examples of other initiatives.

How to design the calls to integrate capacity building?

- Some funders see it difficult to integrate; we need to speak to funders, try to think out of the box, search for good practice example from other initiatives
- The budget within the research project for capacity building, not only for PhDs exchange, but also, for example twinning activities (with special focus on LMIC partners and less advanced partners from European countries) how to write the grant, white paper, to bring policymaker on board, how to make quality dissemination etc.
- ITN example, employment of LMICs researchers and widening researchers in the project, even though their countries do not put money into the call

How to attract other funders, new countries?

- Not human sectors inclusion is key
- Important to get industry and policy makers involved in the proposals, but need funders who can fund these stakeholders. If they cannot be part of the consortium, they need to get involved in a different way through meetings etc.
- Dialog on different levels are needed

Annex I. Workshop Agenda: Portfolio of Funding Instruments for the OH AMR Partnership

Agenda

Session	
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome and Introduction to candidate OH AMR partnership Laura Marin, head of JPIAMR Secretariat
14:10 – 14:20	Background: JPIAMR current funding instruments to support AMR research Elisabeth Hedström, JPIAMR Secretariat
14:20 – 14:35	Results from the funding agency survey “New funding tools and instruments for the future One Health AMR partnership programme” – main conclusions Živilė Ruželė, LTM
Examples of capacity building funding programs (activities)	
14:35 – 14:50	How to include capacity building in a call for research projects - Presentation from JPI HDHL Bärbel Edelmann-Stephan, DLR
14:50 – 15:05	How to include capacity building in the partnership - Presentation from EJP RD Juliane Halftermeyer, Inserm Transfert
15:05 – 15:15	Break
Models of other co-funded partnership research calls	
15:15-15:30	biodiversa+ 2022 call Sophie Germann, ANR
15:30-15:40	DUT 2022 call Elisabeth Hedström, SRC
15:40 – 16:25	Break-out sessions - How can calls be designed to break the silos?
16:25 – 16:30	Conclusions

Annex II. Instruments, topics and activities proposed by survey respondents

Table 1. Overview of results from surveys on Research and Innovation Objectives for the OH AMR Partnership, conducted December 2022 - January 2023.

Silos						
Proposed funding instruments by funders (F) and researchers (R)	OH settings	Disciplines	Countries	Research and policy implementation	Research and industry	Research and end-users
	OH calls (F,R)	SSH inclusion in research on AMR; SSH oriented calls (F, R), 84%*	Twinning projects (F), 36%*	Calls for research to inform end-users (F)	Innovation grants (F)	Applied research calls on research question through to dissemination and implementation (F), 88%*
	Coordination with GloPID-R on One Health approaches to infectious diseases (F)	Funding projects to investigate the gaps existing in AMR with a gender lens (F)	LMIC oriented calls (F), 28%*	Calls for implementation (F, R), 44%*	Calls for translational research (F), 88%*	
		Support for bioinformatics, Modelling, AI in AMR (R)	Pilots for harmonisation of data gathering, processing, reuse, creating data repositories (F, R), 40%*	Calls for trials (F, R)	Seed funding: pilot projects, exploratory studies on preliminary results (F)	
				Annual conference on funded project results (F, R)	Pilots, shorter research grants with small consortia (F), 56%*	
				Prizes, example Longitude Prize (F)	Mentoring for translation (F)	
				Synthesis calls (F)**		
			Calls on reuse of data, fairification of data (F, R), 40%*			

Funding instruments overarching all silos

Knowledge hub (examples from JPI HDHL, THCS), knowledge mobilisation activities (F, R)
Training, capacity building, mentoring schemes (F), 36%*
Support for infrastructures (F)
Network calls, longer term grants (F)
PhD, Postdocs fellowships, support for ECRs (R), 36%*

* Approximate percentage of funders who would be interested in funding such call.

** Intended to support the synthesis of existing research knowledge over the last decade and the identification of knowledge gaps: a) Support the evidence's use in decision-making, and the application of best practices; and b) Assist in developing future research agendas.