

Σ eureka

Cell-Based Technologies call for R&D Project Proposals *Flanders – Netherlands*

Call opening on November 1, 2021

Online information, matchmaking and project building event – December 1, 2021

Pre-registration (mandatory) by March 1, 2022

Submission Full project proposal by May 2, 2022

Background

EUREKA is an international co-operation programme supporting collaborative market oriented research and development projects that develop innovative products, processes and services. It is a decentralised network facilitating the coordination of national funding on R&D&I, the driving force of innovation in Europe for over 35 years. Flanders (Belgium) and the Netherlands collaborate continuously among the 45 EUREKA member states and support all innovation topics with suitable EUREKA instruments (EUREKA Network, EUREKA Cluster and Eurostars projects).

Flanders and the Netherlands are jointly announcing a bilateral call for project proposals. The call is managed in line with the EUREKA initiative (www.eurekanetwork.org) by the national EUREKA offices VLAIO and Netherlands Enterprise Agency, in cooperation with the Dutch Top Sector Life Sciences and Health (Health~Holland).

The present call for project proposals is connected to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Flanders Department of Economy, Science and Innovation and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy for cooperation in the area of Personalised Medicine. Based on common societal health and care challenges and building on the already successful Flemish-Dutch public-private partnership with regenerative medicine in Regenerative Medicine Crossing Borders (RegMedXB), the partners wish to intensify collaboration on mission-driven research and development in the field of Personalised Medicine over the next five years.

This call is a next step in the operationalization of the envisioned strategic cooperation between Flanders and the Netherlands. The call addresses one of the subthemes mentioned in the MoU, Cell-Based Technologies. Both countries agree to allow international cooperation in fields of common strategic – that is: scientific, societal and economic – interest for both countries. Flanders and the Netherlands strive for complementary and high-impact R&D projects with sustainable impact and a clear valorisation perspective in both countries. Applications must elaborate the transfer of the results to the market and the benefit for participating companies.

Scope

For this call there is a common interest in promoting bilateral public-private research and development collaboration projects within the scope of Cell-Based Technologies. For instance cell- and gene therapy, human disease models, tissue engineered products and necessary quality, safety and efficacy standards for personalised medicine and health, where cell-based technologies form an underlying basis. Where possible, we invite consortia to combine biomedical, technological and data-driven expertise in their applications.

Participation and application

The call is set up in several steps:

1. Online information and matchmaking event, December 1, 2021

In cooperation with Enterprise Europe Network, spearhead cluster [flanders.healthTech](https://www.flanders.healthTech.com/), and [Health~Holland](https://www.health-holland.nl/) an online information and matchmaking event is organised. Potential applicants are invited to participate, December 1, 2021. In this information session the scope and ambition of this joint call is further explained. Flemish and Dutch participants are invited to pitch their ideas and explore the possibilities for bilateral collaboration. The agenda and registration will soon be available on <https://cell-based-technologies.b2match.io/>.

The quality of the project and consortium is essential for its success. Organisers recommend potential applicants to register their profiles on the online matchmaking platform (<https://cell-based-technologies.b2match.io/>). The platform offers a marketplace, where project ideas, cooperation offers or requests etc. can be exchanged with the ambition to find synergies, cluster and select and integrate project ideas where possible and relevant. This interactive platform is the starting point of co-creating project proposals for high impact R&D projects and remains open until March 1, 2022.

2. Pre-registration (mandatory) by March 1, 2022

Consortia are obliged to fill in a pre-registration form and submit it to the national EUREKA offices, VLAIO and Netherlands Enterprise Agency before March 1, 2022, 17:00 (CEST). Application details can be found below. Project proposals that do not fit within the scope of the call, will be contacted before March 14, 2022 and will receive recommendations on which of the other (EUREKA) funding mechanisms better fit their project idea.

3. Submission full project proposal by May 2, 2022

After pre-registration, consortia are invited to submit a full proposal and apply for funding before May 2, 2022, 17:00 (CEST). The full project proposals should be submitted to the national EUREKA offices, VLAIO and Netherlands Enterprise Agency. Application details can be found below. The proposals are evaluated by VLAIO and Health~Holland (supported by Netherlands Enterprise Agency) based on their national funding criteria and conditions.

Financing

Funding support to approved full project applications will be given to each partner by its own national funding organization in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

In the Netherlands, Health~Holland has allocated a total budget of € 1.000.000 for this call. The maximum funding (subsidy) per project for the Dutch part is € 350.000.

In Flanders, VLAIO has allocated a total budget of ~ € 1.000.000 for this call. The maximum funding (subsidy) per project for the Flemish part is € 350.000.

Eligibility

In order to apply for this call, applications must meet the following EUREKA and national eligibility criteria:

- The R&D project must fit the scope of the call;
- The R&D project fits within and contributes to the Dutch societal challenge 'Health & Care', as outlined in the [Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020-2023](#);
- The R&D project fits within the scope of the Flemish Impuls Program '[Innovatie in de zorg en gezondheid](#)';
- The consortium includes at least one independent company from Flanders, one independent company from the Netherlands and one research organisation from the Netherlands. In Flanders, research organisations can participate as subcontractor or research partner of the Flemish company, but not as a direct beneficiary of the subsidy. Participation of Flemish research organisations is encouraged, but is not mandatory;
- Undertakings in difficulty at the moment of submission are ineligible for funding within the scope of this call;
- For none of the beneficiaries the requested budget can exceed 70% of the total project budget;
- The project must be directed at researching or developing a (set of) product(s), process(es) or service(s);
- Every participant has a defined role in the project that contains research and/or development tasks with significant (scientific or technological) risks and is necessary for the project success;
- The project must benefit all project partners in a well-balanced consortium and the project is significant to the health strategies in both countries involved;
- The project has an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the different countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to data, R&D infrastructure, etc.);
- The duration of the project may not exceed 36 months.

On national level additional eligibility criteria may apply. Applicants are strongly advised to consult their national contact point and check if additional national eligibility criteria are applicable.

A signed consortium agreement on the execution of the project and the commercialisation of the projects results is mandatory before the actual start of the project. The consortium agreement should include, amongst others, the ownership and use of the know-how and IPR agreements. Project partners should take appropriate measures to protect intellectual property rights arising from the cooperation projects under the framework of this call and in line with national legislations and international agreements in force.

Evaluation criteria

National criteria:

For the assessment of the (Flemish part of the) projects in this call, VLAIO will use the evaluation criteria of its regular research and development projects (['Toelichtingsdocument O&O projecten'](#)).

For the assessment and funding conditions of the (Dutch part of the) projects in this call, consult the 'TKI-LSH Funding conditions PPP allowance' document on the Health~Holland website.

International EUREKA criteria (for the assignment of the EUREKA label)

- Impact
 - o Is the market properly addressed in terms of size, access and risk?
 - o Is the value creation in terms of growth, employment, environmental and societal benefits properly addressed/
 - o What would be the competitive advantages resulting from the project?
 - o Are the commercialization plans clear and realistic?
- Excellence
 - o What is the degree of innovation?
 - o How is the new knowledge going to be used?
 - o Is the project challenging scientifically, technically and for the partners?
 - o Are technical achievability & risks conveniently addressed?
- Quality & efficiency of the implementation
 - o Quality of the consortium
 - o Is there added value through international co-operation?
 - o Are project management & planning realistic and clearly defined?
 - o Is the cost structure reasonable?

Application procedures

Pre-registration, submission deadline Tuesday March 1, 2022, 17:00 (CEST)

- Consortia have to submit a pre-registration form, which can be downloaded from VLAIO ([link](#)), Health~Holland ([link](#)) and Netherlands Enterprise Agency ([link](#)) websites. The form must be completed in English.
- The completed pre-registration form should be submitted to the national EUREKA offices simultaneously **by email** to contact persons at VLAIO (patricia.menten@vlaio.be) and Netherlands Enterprise Agency (teamiris@rvo.nl), with copy to all partners of the consortium. Submission deadline is March 1, 2022, 17:00 (CEST).
- The pre-registration forms will allow the two EUREKA offices and Health~Holland to get an estimate about the number of proposals that will be submitted in the call, which will facilitate an efficient management of the evaluation procedure. In addition, the forms will be screened by the two EUREKA offices and Health~Holland. Consortia that do not fit within the scope of the call will be contacted by March 14, 2022, and will receive recommendations on which of the other (EUREKA) funding mechanisms best/better fit their project idea.

Full project proposal, submission deadline Monday May 2, 2022, 17:00 (CEST)

- Full proposals consist of an English international (umbrella) application, describing the joint project, and a national annex for each region, describing the impact for the partners from that particular region. For Flanders, these documents can be consulted on VLAIO ([link](#)) website. For the Netherlands, these documents can be consulted on Health~Holland ([link](#)) website.
- Full proposals must be submitted before **May 2, 2022, 17:00 (CEST)** as follows:
 - o The Flemish project partners are required to submit the funding application (umbrella application + national Flemish annex) to VLAIO by using the e-portal of VLAIO:
 - For projects with only development activities: use the e-portal for [development projects](#) (access through button 'Aanvragen'). Choose the European network: 'Cell Based Technologies'. By choosing this call, you will be referred to the correct templates.
 - For projects with research activities or a combination of research and development activities: use the e-portal for [research projects](#) (access through button 'Aanvragen'). Choose the European network: 'Cell Based Technologies'.
 - o The project partners from the Netherlands are required to submit the funding application (umbrella application + national Dutch annex) to Health~Holland (tki@health-holland.com) and Netherlands Enterprise Agency (teamiris@rvo.nl) by e-mail.
- The full project proposals will be evaluated by VLAIO and Health~Holland (with support of Netherlands Enterprise Agency) according to their national criteria and funding rules. Based on the national evaluation results both funders agree which projects to approve and recommend for funding. VLAIO and Health~Holland strive to have final results available within 3 months after submission deadline.

Application for a EUREKA label, submission after approval of the project by both national agencies

- All partners must complete the online Eureka project form. The form must be completed in English. More detailed instructions will be communicated once the project was selected for funding by both national agencies.

National funding conditions

Flanders

Flanders participates in this bilateral EUREKA call with two programmes: development projects and research projects. All regional modalities can be consulted on the following web pages:

- [development projects](#)
- [research projects](#)

In summary:

- Both large enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with an exploitation site in the Flemish Region are eligible for funding.
- Participation of research organisations is encouraged but not mandatory; they can participate as subcontractors or research partners of the participating companies, but will not be a beneficiary of the grant. This implies that their activities will be funded according to the same subsidy percentage as the activities of the corresponding company (for which they act as subcontractor or research partner). The nonsubsidized part of the costs of the research organisation should be paid by the corresponding company.
- The funding provided are grants (60% for industrial research activities, 35-50% for experimental development activities, depending on the size of the enterprise).
- The Flemish project part should cover industrial research or experimental development, or a combination thereof.
- The project should be of a qualitatively high level and the innovative products and services should have an added economic or societal value.
- The project should benefit the Flemish knowledge infrastructure and economy or society.

For this bilateral call, the total requested funding for the Flemish part of the proposal should be between 25kEUR and 350kEUR for development projects, and between 100kEUR and 350kEUR for research projects.

Netherlands

Dutch consortia members apply for funding at Health~Holland according the following rules:

- The consortium consists of at least one for-profit enterprise and at least one research organisation.
- Research organisations and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) registered in the Netherlands are eligible for funding. The funding provided by Health~Holland are grants (for each participant: 50% for industrial research activities and 25% for experimental development activities)
- For this call Health~Holland requires minimum 30% contribution of project costs of (for-profit) enterprises in the consortium. This contribution can be in cash and/or in kind, depending on the size of the enterprise. At least 2/3 of the required minimum contribution of a large enterprise must consist of a cash contribution. The contribution of SMEs may be fully in kind.
- Projects fit within the societal challenge 'Health & Care', as outlined in the [Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020-2023](#), and the objectives of the regulation.
- The project covers industrial research or experimental development, or a combination thereof. A description of the types of research is provided on www.health-holland.com.
- Effective collaboration takes place. The project will be realised at joint cost and risk and all consortium partners will make a substantive contribution to the project.
- The research is of a qualitatively high level and the innovative products and services are deliverables that have an added societal and economic value.
- The research project benefits the Dutch knowledge infrastructure and economy.
- Dutch companies get the right to exploit the project results in their specific business area.
- The project must start within six months after the national awarding letter was received.

The complete and detailed funding conditions for full project applications can be found on the Health~Holland website, shortly after call launch.

Contact

Flanders - VLAIO (www.vlaio.be):

Call management:

Ms. Patricia Menten, +32 (0)2 432 43 29, patricia.menten@vlaio.be

Matchmaking platform:

Ms. Els Van der Burght, +32 (0)2 553 14 48, els.vanderburght@vlaio.be

The Netherlands - Netherlands Enterprise Agency (www.rvo.nl/eureka)

Call management:

Mr. Niels van Leeuwen, +31 (0)6 52 56 33 10, niels.vanleeuwen@rvo.nl

Mr. Jelle Knop, +31 (0)6 15 50 42 79, jelle.knop@rvo.nl

Matchmaking platform:

Ms. Michelle Lemmers, +31 (0)6 11 70 46 80, michelle.lemmers@rvo.nl

The Netherlands - Health~Holland (www.health-holland.com):

Ms. Jolande Zijlstra, +31 (0)6 24 92 68 82, zijlstra@health-holland.com

Ms. Lisa Büller, +31 (0)6 42 53 32 97, buller@health-holland.com