

# EUROPEAN INITIATIVES FOR RESEARCH ON COVID-19

up to March 27, 2020

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## ***CALLS FOR PROPOSALS***

### **AUSTRIA**

#### **FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR DIGITAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, MOBILITY, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

EMERGENCY CALL FOR RESEARCH ON COVID-19 IN THE WAKE OF THE SARS-COV-2 OUTBREAK

**Deadline:** 8 April 2020, 11 May 2020

**Total budget:** 21 million euros

**Description:** the call was published on 10 March 2020. The development period of proposed projects should be equal or inferior to 12 months. The deadline for submitting projects is 8 April 2020 (for short-term decisions) and 11 May 2020 (for additional applications and funding decisions).

**This call is not open to international participation.**

<https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/emergencycall-covid-19>

### **DENMARK**

#### **NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION**

SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS SEEKING TO MITIGATE THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) EPIDEMIC IN DENMARK

**Deadline:** 18 June 2020 (latest possible application date, if funds still available)

**Total budget:** 50 million Danish kroner (6,7 million euros)

**Description:** the call was launched on 18 March 2020. Each selected project can receive funding up to 5 million Danish kroner (670,000 euros). Applicants must be based in public institutions or private non-profit organisations in Denmark.

**This call is open to Danish applicants only.**

<https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/grants/stoette-af-projekter-der-soeger-at-afboede-de-sundhedsmaessige-konsekvenser-af-coronavirus-covid-19-epidemien-i-danmark/>

**FRANCE**

**AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE**

FLASH CALL COVID-19

**Deadline:** 23 March 2020

**Total budget:** 3 million euros (initial)

**Description:** the application process must be carried out by the scientific coordinator of the project on behalf of a group or a consortium. The peer review will be carried out by a scientific multidisciplinary evaluation committee, without external experts. A list of projects will then be selected by a steering committee on the basis of recommendations given by the evaluation committee.

Each project can be financed for a maximum of 200.000 euros for a period of 12 to 18 months.

**This call is open to Chinese participation**

<https://anr.fr/fileadmin/aap/2020/aap-flash-covid-2020.pdf>

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH AND MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

**Deadline:** expired

**Total budget:** 4 million euros

**Description:** 20 projects have been selected on a total of 33 proposals by the scientific council of REACTing, a consortium coordinated by INSERM (National Institute for Health and Medical Research). The call for proposals has been carried out under the aegis of Aviesan (Alliance for Life and Health Sciences).

**This call was not open to international participation**

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid150211/covid-19-20-projets-de-recherche-selectionnes-pour-lutter-contre-l-epidemie.html>

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid150212/l-effort-global-de-recherche-sur-le-covid-19-porte-a-8-millions-d-euros-afin-de-soutenir-et-coordonner-la-reponse-scientifique-a-la-propagation-du-virus-sur-le-territoire-national.html>

#### **MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES AND DEFENCE INNOVATION AGENCY (AID)**

**Deadline:** 12 April 2020

**Total budget:** 10 million euros

**Description:** this call, launched by AID, aims at funding innovative solutions to immediately deploy against the pandemic, be they of technological, organisational, managerial nature, or concerning adaptation of industrial processes. These solutions should be directly deployable to protect the population, test the population, monitor the evolution of the disease. These innovative solution must be easily and rapidly reproducible and usable on national scale. The call is open to any kind of entity (academic, SMEs, great enterprises). It is also possible for a group constituted of different entities to apply.

**It is not specified whether the call is open to international actors.**

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/aid/appels-a-projets/appel-a-projets-lutte-covid-19>

## **GERMANY**

### **FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

RESEARCH ON COVID-19 IN THE WAKE OF SARS-COV-2 OUTBREAK

**Deadline:** 11 May 2020

**Budget:** Modules 1, 2, 3: up to 2 million euros per project; Module 4: up to 50,000 euros per project

**Description:** Funding will be provided for individual projects and, exceptionally, small research consortia (up to 3 partners). Funding will also be provided for individual projects by German applicants who wish to participate in international research consortia within the framework of the global research response to COVID-19 coordinated by the WHO. The funding covers a period of 18 months; the BMBF intends to share relevant data with international sponsors who are WHO-coordinated in GloPID-R. Funded projects must be application-oriented research and development: projects relying mainly on basic research are not eligible for funding. Cooperation with thematically related R&D projects abroad is possible, although the international partner(s) must in principle have their own funding for their part(s) of the project. However, if cooperation with a foreign working group is necessary for the processing of an essential work package, personnel and material resources in the form of a subcontract are eligible for funding.

The call is composed of four modules:

- Module 1 - *Combating COVID-19 through early clinical studies for the application of already known therapeutic approaches to Sars-CoV-2;*
- Module 2 - *Control of COVID-19 through new therapeutic and diagnostic approaches;*
- Module 3 - *Research that contributes to the understanding of the virus and its spread;*
- Module 4 - *Support of already ongoing research projects on coronaviruses.*

**This call is open to Chinese participation**

[https://www.dlr.de/pt/Portaldata/45/Resources/Dokumente/GF/2020\\_03\\_02\\_Call\\_announcement\\_covid19.pdf](https://www.dlr.de/pt/Portaldata/45/Resources/Dokumente/GF/2020_03_02_Call_announcement_covid19.pdf)

## **GERMAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

CALL FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INTO EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS IN RESPONSE TO THE OUTBREAK OF SARS-COV-2

**Deadline:** 1 July 2020 (letter of intent), 1 September 2020 (proposal)

**Total budget:** unknown

**Description:** this call was published on 19 March 2020. Funding is available for projects addressing the prevention, early detection, containment and investigation of the causes, impacts and management of epidemics and pandemics, taking the example of SARS-CoV-2 and other microorganisms and viruses that are pathogenic to humans. The call is primarily

aimed at multidisciplinary research projects. Funding is available for individual or joint proposals in the form of individual research grants or proposal packages. Proposals will be reviewed on a comparative basis and with the participation of an international group of reviewers in accordance with the DFG's standard review processes. Applicants should aim to cooperate with international researchers. The costs associated with international cooperation can be requested as part of the project in line with the rules applicable to each country.

**Only researchers based in Germany can apply; however, international partners can participate to the projects.**

[https://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/announcements\\_proposals/2020/info\\_wissensch aft\\_20\\_20/](https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/announcements_proposals/2020/info_wissensch aft_20_20/)

## IRELAND

### **HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING CALL (COV19 2020)

**Deadline:** 7 April 2020

**Budget:** 200,000 euros per project

**Description:** the call was published on 25 March 2020. The funding available is typically 200,000 euros per selected project, but it can be higher in exceptional circumstances. The programme focuses on the areas of health services research, patient-oriented and clinical research and population health research. While it is not a requirement, applications with involvement of health and care practitioners, policy makers and planners are particularly welcome.

**This call is not open to international participation.**

<https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/all-funding-schemes/grant/covid-19-pandemic-rapid-response-funding-call-cov19-2020/>

## SWEDEN

### **SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**

SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR VIRUS RESEARCH

**Deadline:** unknown

**Total budget:** unknown

**Description:** The Swedish Research Council is now mapping ongoing viral research being conducted in Sweden. Later this spring, it will be inviting researchers and other stakeholders to a workshop to jointly identify knowledge gaps and agree on the best priorities to strengthen Swedish research and knowledge in the area. The Swedish Research Council is then planning to issue a call for research on viral diseases for which treatment is currently lacking; the results of the workshop will help determine the focus of the call.

**This call will not be open to international cooperation, but researchers who are doing research in Sweden – including researchers with Chinese citizenship – will be able to participate.**

<https://www.vr.se/english/just-now/news/news-archive/2020-02-27-swedish-research-council-special-initiative-for-virus-research.html>

## NORWAY

### **RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY**

COVID-19 EMERGENCY CALL FOR PROPOSALS: PROJECT OUTLINES FOR CALL CONCERNING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

**Deadline:** 16 March 2020 (proposal outline), 31 March 2020 (full proposal)

**Total budget:** 30 million Norwegian kroner (2.766 million euros)

**Description:** the call for proposals is based on the recent research priorities defined by the WHO. International collaboration with research groups in other countries, including those funded by GLOPID-R member organisations to foster larger-scale studies, is encouraged. Project outlines may only be submitted by approved Norwegian research organisations; these organisations may submit project outlines in cooperation with the public and/or private sectors, other public entities and/or private organisations. The Research Council can provide 1 to 5 million Norwegian kroner (92,600 to 463,000 euros) per project under this call. Each applicant must provide at least 20 % own financing.

**This call is open to Chinese participation**

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/call-for-proposals/2020/emergency-call-proposals-project-outline-covid-19/>

## SWITZERLAND

### **SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (SNSF)**

*SPECIAL CALL ON CORONAVIRUSES*

**Deadline:** 25 March 2020

**Total budget:** 5 million Swiss francs (4.729.878,5 euros)

**Description:** the SNSF is supporting projects involving research into coronaviruses to tackle the current crisis and prepare for likely future epidemics. The call takes into account the agenda set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is in line with the priorities defined by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH).

The SNSF will forward the project proposals to international experts for evaluation. Applicants may request up to 300,000 francs (282,700 euros) for projects lasting up to 24 months. Bigger grants are conceivable, provided the applicant has good reasons for requesting a higher amount.

On completion of the project, research data must be made available for researchers and authorities worldwide and without delay.

**This call is open to Chinese participation**

<http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/programmes/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx#News>

## EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

### **ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR THE CLINICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE 2019-NCOV EPIDEMIC**

**Deadline:** expired (12 February 2020)

**Total budget:** 47,5 million euros

**Description:** With the additional amount from the Horizon 2020 programme, the Commission is scaling up the emergency call launched in January to fight the COVID-19 outbreak to €47.5 million. This allowed to select 17 projects(out of a total of 91 proposals) involving 136 research teams from across the EU and beyond, which will start working on



developing vaccines, new treatments, diagnostic tests and medical systems aimed at preventing the spread of the Coronavirus.

**Chinese participations to this call are 4 in total, spanned across 3 projects**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/sc1-phe-coronavirus-2020>

## **STARTUPS AND SMES WITH INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**

**Deadline:** 20 March 2020

**Total budget:** 164 million euros

**Description:** The European Commission is calling for startups and SMEs with technologies and innovations that could help in treating, testing, monitoring or other aspects of the Coronavirus outbreak to apply urgently to the next round of funding from the European Innovation Council (EIC Accelerator). This call is “bottom up”, meaning there are no predefined thematic priorities and applicants with Coronavirus relevant innovations will be evaluated in the same way as other applicants. Nevertheless, the Commission will look to fast track the awarding of EIC grants and blended finance (combining grant and equity investment) to Coronavirus relevant innovations, as well as to facilitate access to other funding and investment sources.

**Companies that apply must be established in an EU Member State or a Horizon 2020 associated country. Large corporates, research centers or scientists cannot apply directly but they can participate in projects as subcontractors or third parties and don't need to be established in an EU Member State or associated country.**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/startups-and-smes-innovative-solutions-welcome-2020-mar-13\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/startups-and-smes-innovative-solutions-welcome-2020-mar-13_en)

## **INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE (IMI): CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE CORONAVIRUS**

**Deadline:** 31 March 2020

**Total budget:** 45 million euros (+45 million euros from pharmaceutical companies through in-kind contributions)

**Description:** funding will come from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, and will fund the involvement in the projects of organisations such as universities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Large pharmaceutical companies that are members of EFPIA and IMI2 Associated Partners will not receive EU funding through this Call, but are expected to contribute to the projects with their own resources and funds. Proposals will be assessed by independent experts, and the funding will go to the consortia with the highest scores. Applicants who want to score well will need to demonstrate their ability to develop tests and/or treatments for COVID-19, and maximise the added value of the IMI2 public-private partnership by including contributing partners in their consortium.

**This call is open to Chinese participation**

<https://www.imi.europa.eu/apply-funding/open-calls/imi2-call-21>

## CHINA

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF CHINA (NSFC)**

BASIC RESEARCH OF TRACEABILITY, PATHOGENESIS, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

**Deadline:** expired (13 February 2020)

**Total budget:** about 30 million Chinese yuan (3.8 million euros)

**Description:** This special programme encourages inter-disciplines to adopt new scientific research paradigms in solving key scientific issues to provide theoretical and technological support in the prevention and control of COVID-19 infections. The programme will fund about 20 projects with a budget of 1.5 million yuan (192.000 euros) each. Project funded will have a duration of two years.

**The possibility of participation of international researchers or entities is not mentioned**

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – RESPONSE, TREATMENT AND IMPACT

**Deadline:** 20 March 2020

**Budget and description:** the aim of this programme is to conduct foresighted, basic, retrospective and evidence-based joint research surrounding four topics: prevention and control, governance mechanisms, economic impact and social management under major health emergencies. Projects funded will have a duration of one year; each of them will be funded for 500.000 to 800.000 Chinese yuan (64.000 to 102.000 euros). A mechanism of continuous funding will be tried under this programme: projects selected will be continuously funded if outstanding results are achieved.

**This call is open to international participation**

### **MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MoST)**

R&D OF ON-SITE RAPID TESTING PRODUCTS FOR 2019-nCoV

**Deadline:** expired (13 February 2020)

**Total budget:** unknown

**Description:** the projects focus on the urgent needs for on-site rapid testing of COVID-19. The scientific data generated by the projects should be submitted timely to MoST, and be accessible to all the project participants, scientists and general public.

**This call is only open to research institutes, universities and enterprises registered in mainland China**

## OTHER INITIATIVES

### FRANCE

#### **GLOBAL EFFORT FOR RESEARCH ON COVID-19**

**Date:** 6 March 2020

**Total budget:** 8 million euros

**Description:** the French government, which had already mobilised 2.5 million euros at the beginning of February to finance research against COVID-19, has now mobilised 5.5 million euros more in cooperation with Inserm and REACTing. These 8 million euros will fund research programmes already under way in French laboratories after the outbreak of COVID-19, and do not include the calls for proposals launched by the Ministries of Health and Education and by ANR.

<https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid150212/l-effort-global-de-recherche-sur-le-covid-19-porte-a-8-millions-d-euros-afin-de-soutenir-et-coordonner-la-reponse-scientifique-a-la-propagation-du-virus-sur-le-territoire-national.html>

### SPAIN

#### **MOBILISATION OF FUNDS FOR RESEARCH ON COVID-19**

**Date:** 17 March 2020

**Total budget:** 29.7 million euros

**Description:** the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology will grant funding of 25.2 million euros to the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) and of 4.5 million euros to the National Centre of Biotechnology (CNB) under the Spanish National Research Council. In particular, 24 million euros of funding to ISCIII will be directly funding projects and programmes of research on COVID-19; the remaining 1.2 million euros will cover exceptional expenses related to the crisis. All of the funding granted to CNB will fund research projects and programmes on COVID-19.

[http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.edc7f2029a2be27d7010721001432ea0/?vgnnextoid=7e59f67b7a8e0710VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=4346846085f90210VgnVCM1000001034e20aRCRD&utm\\_campaign=ndp-rd-coronavirus&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=acumbamail](http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.edc7f2029a2be27d7010721001432ea0/?vgnnextoid=7e59f67b7a8e0710VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=4346846085f90210VgnVCM1000001034e20aRCRD&utm_campaign=ndp-rd-coronavirus&utm_medium=email&utm_source=acumbamail)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### **EU COMMISSION FINANCING TO INNOVATIVE VACCINES COMPANY CUREVAC**

**Date:** 16 March 2020

**Total budget:** 80 million euros

**Description:** The Commission offered up to €80 million of financial support to CureVac, a highly innovative vaccine developer from Tübingen, Germany, to scale up development and production of a vaccine against the Coronavirus in Europe. The support would come in form of an EU guarantee of a currently assessed EIB loan of an identical amount, in the framework of the InnovFin Infectious Disease Finance Facility under Horizon 2020. CureVac has already started its COVID-19 vaccine development program and estimates to launch clinical testing by June 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_474](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_474)

## EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)

### **InnovFin INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Budget:** from 7.5 to 75 million euros per research entity

**Description:** according to the EIB president Werner Hoyer, the EIB Group will use existing financial instruments shared with the European Commission, primarily the InnovFin 'Infectious Disease Finance Facility', to finance projects that work towards halting the spread of, finding a cure, for and developing a vaccine against coronavirus.

The InnovFin Infectious Diseases Finance Facility (IDFF) provides financial products ranging from standard debt to equity-type financing for amounts typically between EUR 7.5 million and EUR 75 million, to innovative players active in developing innovative vaccines, drugs, medical and diagnostic devices or novel research infrastructures for combatting infectious diseases. Project costs may include clinical trial costs, set-up of commercialisation such as market access, development of prototypes or industrial roll-out of novel equipment, pre-clinical R&D costs and working capital requirement. The promoter should be a large pharmaceutical company, a mid-cap or a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), a research institute/organisation, a university, a non-profit entity or a special-purpose vehicle (SPV). Promoters, sponsors and/or operators must be willing to substantially co-fund the project.

**Chinese research entities can receive funding from EIB**

<https://www.eib.org/en/products/blending/innovfin/products/infectious-diseases.htm>

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-086-eib-group-will-rapidly-mobilise-eur-40-billion-to-fight-crisis-caused-by-covid-19>