

2016 CALL FOR TRANSNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS WITHIN THE JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

CALL TEXT

DEADLINES

April 18th, 2016 – CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN

June 6th, 2016 – DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

JPIAMR WORKING GROUPS CALL SECRETARIAT (JCS)

is hosted by the French National Research Agency (ANR)

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CALL FOR TRANSNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS WITHIN THE JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) is a transnational platform bringing together 22 countries to maximise European research efforts concerning the increasing health threat of drug-resistant bacteria. The aim of this initiative is to develop integrated approaches to pursue unique world-class transnational research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The outcomes of the JPIAMR's research will be translated into new therapeutic, prevention, and intervention strategies to improve public health and the wellbeing of populations. It is expected that the results will also lead to economic and societal benefits not only in Europe but also globally.

JPIAMR is pleased to launch a rapid action call for leading scientists and experts in the field to establish Working Groups to enhance resource alignment and maximise existing and future efforts to combat AMR. The Working Groups will for example produce white papers, prospective views, guidelines, and/or best practice frameworks to identify key questions to be address or identify potential solutions to overcome barriers to antimicrobial resistance research studies. Supported Working Groups will provide outputs within a 6-14 months' timeframe that will be of value to the broader AMR research community. These results will be made available on the JPIAMR website.

The JPIAMR countries contributing funding to this call are (see Annex A for details):

- Belgium, The Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)
- Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- France, National Research Agency (ANR)
- Germany, The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF/DLR)
- Netherlands, The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMW)
- Norway, The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
- Spain, The National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)
- Sweden, The Swedish Research Council (SRC)
- United Kingdom, The Medical Research Council (MRC)

1. Aim of the call

1.1 Context of the call

The discovery of antibiotics constitutes one of the most crucial advances in the history of medicine. Their use has revolutionised the way we fight bacterial infections and significantly reduced associated morbidity and mortality. Nevertheless, the development of antibiotic resistance has thrown doubt on existing drugs' effectiveness and could lead to therapeutic deadlocks, rendering treatment of some serious infections impossible. The fight against resistance has become a national, European, and international public health challenge.

The emergence and selection of antibacterial resistant pathogenic agents are complex phenomena and involve different environmental compartments, as well as a variety human and animal activities and practices. Responding effectively to these phenomena demands a coordinated and collective response both geographically and in terms of engaging sectors, actors, and disciplines. Concerted actions are needed in fields such as, but not limited to, politics, medicine, industry, environment, veterinary, and agricultural science, and education.

JPIAMR was established in 2012 to coordinate research efforts at the international level. The initiative aims to maximise the impact of funds allocated and reduce the duplication of research. Maximising research efforts and exchanging information and best practice are crucial to tackle this problem. At the moment:

- Few new drugs are being developed
- There is excessive use of antibiotics
- Resistance continues to spread
- Funding and research efforts are dispersed

All this leads to a global societal problem, which will spiral out of control without action. Hence, political and societal awareness on the threat of AMR is crucial to stimulate the implementation of measures to fight the misuse of antibiotics and to stimulate innovation. Knowledge transfer and intensive collaborations between scientists and policy makers is important for the successful adaptation of measures that positively impact on AMR, have social support and are cost effective.

JPIAMR aims to align resources by creating a collaborative platform, maximising existing, and future efforts to combat AMR. In that sense, a Strategic Research Agenda was published end of 2013 to provide a framework of opportunities for countries involved in the JPIAMR and those who are willing to participate in joint actions. As shown on the figure 1 thereafter, the six priority topics that cover all relevant aspects of AMR and will eventually lead to more rational use of antibiotics in veterinary and clinical settings and to a significant reduction of the risk that antibiotic-resistance poses to public

health. The order of these priority areas is arbitrary but a comprehensive action against AMR should encompass all the different areas.

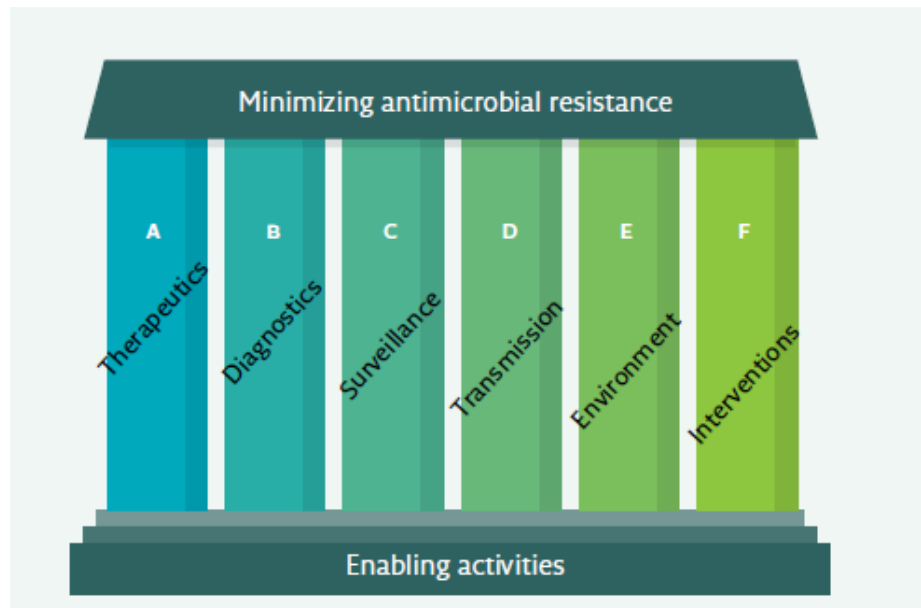


Figure 1 Schematic outline of priority topics identified in JPI AMR ([link to the online version](#))

1.2 Focus of the call

The intent of the call is to assemble motivated Groups of leading experts and establish Working Groups in order to enhance resource alignment and maximize existing and future efforts to combat AMR by pushing forward the conceptualisation of ideas in order to provide white papers, prospective views, guidelines and/or best practice/ roadmap/systematic reviews and frameworks **to identify key questions to be addressed or identify potential solutions** to overcome barriers to AMR research studies.

Based on the priority topics identified in the JPIAMR Strategic Research Agenda, applicants are invited to tackle one or more of the suggested focal areas. Examples of questions within the areas are provided as a guide; however, those examples are neither mandatory nor limiting. Working Groups should be built with emphasis on what is needed at a National and International level to address AMR.

1. **Guidelines on use (Human & Veterinary) - Affordable stewardship**
2. **Surveillance in primary care**
Examples of questions:

- *What data are collected or need to be collected nationally?*
- *What standard practices need to be/are being implemented at national level to ensure this data is comparable and useful at a multinational level?*
- *What is the best practice for sharing this type of information internationally?*
- *Etc.*

3. New anti-infective/ New adjuvant therapies / Alternative approaches

4. Evaluation of risk for generation of resistance in human setting

Examples of questions:

- *Would it be possible to build clinical trial designs to demonstrate reduction of AMR risk linked to a specific antibiotic / or perform retrospective meta-analysis to understand such a risk?*
- *Would it be possible to develop new antibiotics by defining preclinical models to predict occurrence of AMR in animal and have a preclinical standard to compare various compounds / combinations?*
- *Would it be possible to define an individual-specific risk of developing AMR – e.g. microbiome- related “resistome” and threshold thereof?*
- *Etc.*

5. Rapid diagnostic tests

Examples of questions:

- *What are the challenges in diagnostic development?*
- *What clinical sample collections are needed?*
- *Is it possible to reach standardisation?*
- *Are there options for diagnostic test validation – How to set up a EU platform for this?*
- *Etc.*

6. Role of environmental factors

Examples of questions:

- *What risk assessment models or experimental models could be developed to improve surveillance?*
- *Would it be possible to define an environmental resistome threshold?*
- *Would it be possible to define a set of tests for ecological impact of AMR / Risk of AMR?*
- *Would it be possible to develop guidelines, methods and standards for surveillance of emergence and transmission of resistant clones and resistant genes from food and the environment to humans?*

- *Are there criteria and models for human health risk assessment in environmental emergence and transfer of AMR? Would it be possible to suggest validation methods for such models?*
- *Etc.*

7. Infrastructures/Biobanks available relevant to infection and AMR

Examples of questions:

- *What infrastructures are useful, what information needs to be collected, how can it be standardized, etc.?*
- *Would it be possible to propose best practice for sharing information/ knowledge, resources, and expertise across countries?*
- *Would it be possible to offer guidelines on legal aspects for sharing AMR related research data?*
- *Etc.*

1.3 Characteristics and mode of operation of these Working Groups

- The Working Groups should be guided by a clear project plan and conclude work in a 6-12 months' period (plus 2 months to deliver the final report) starting end of 2016/beginning of 2017.
- It should involve key opinion leaders with an internationally competitive track record in AMR research and policy.
- It should be led by an individual with the energy and commitment to drive a collaborative and output-directed process. This individual does not necessarily need to be the most senior person in the Working Group.
- A typical arrangement would entail small workshops at the beginning and end of the process, with sub Groups established to achieve more focused work through remote-Working.
- Consideration should be given to establishing an external reference Group to ensure that objectivity is maintained in developing the Working Group conclusions and recommendations.

1.4 Expected outputs and evaluation

- Working Groups are required to produce a report no later than 2 months after the end of the funding period which should contain for example white papers, prospective views, guidelines, and/or best practice frameworks, and to be published on the JPIAMR website. This report is expected to act as a reference point for the wider AMR research community and stakeholders in planning/delivering future research studies.
- In addition, the beneficiaries of the grant commit to respond to a survey for ex-post evaluation of the Working Group, at the end and three years later (*Annex 1: SURVEY ON*

RESEARCH OUTCOMES, to download from the [JPIAMR website](#) or on the [online submission tool](#)). This survey will be collected by the JPIAMR task leader on evaluation, The National Institute of Health Carlos III, ISCIII. If possible this commitment should be included in the Consortium Agreement of the funded Working Groups.

- Applicants should also put forward an appropriate plan to disseminate the outcomes, for example, through formal publications in scientific journals or in workshops, in liaison with the JPIAMR that needs to be informed through the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS hosted by ANR). In addition, unless the JPIAMR requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any dissemination of results (in any form, including electronic) must:

- (a) display the JPIAMR emblem and
- (b) include the following text:

“This project has been supported under the framework of the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance”.

The applicants will find a quick guide displayed on the [JPIAMR website](#) or on the [online submission tool](#) to provide an overview of the Intellectual Property and Open Access issues. This is a support document to be taken into account within the JPI AMR funded projects (*Annex II: QUICK GUIDE FOR DISSEMINATION OF THE JPI AMR RESEARCH PROJECTS RESULTS*).

- It is recommended that Working Groups invite 1 or 2 JPIAMR members to their organized workshops or meetings (at least once during the Working Group funded period) as observers at the JPIAMR member’s expenses and not the expenses of the Working Group budget.
- Successful Working Groups will be asked to organise a final and common review seminar to present their results. This meeting will be supported by JPIAMR funding.

2. Application

2.1 Funds available and form of support

Up to €655,000 will be available to fund Working Groups under this call (*see Annex A*). Funding decisions will be based on the quality of the applications received and the best fit to the call.

Each Working Group selected for funding will be funded by the funding agency where the institution of the coordinator is located accordingly to its national rules. If for some reason this is not possible, funding will be allocated to one or two partners of the Working Group.

The Working Group would need to start at the end of 2016/beginning of 2017 for a time period of 6 to 12 months (plus 2 months to deliver the final report).

Each Working Group can bid for a **maximum of €50,000** for support of its activities (see Annex A for equivalent amounts in foreign currencies). Additional funding will be available for Working Groups offering to organize the final and common review seminar.

Funding will cover the costs of meetings and travel required to deliver the Working Group’s objectives:

- Funding is expected to cover two small workshops, with further work to be undertaken through email, tele-, video- or web-conferencing.

This funding will not provide support for:

- direct research activities or equipment;
- the salaries of tenured investigators, although funds to support an administrative co-coordinator for the activity will be permitted;
- Student grants.

2.2 Eligibility

- Applications must be led by a coordinator from an eligible institution within one of the JPIAMR participating countries (in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant national funding organisations, see Annex A).
- Only transnational Working Groups will be funded. To qualify for funding, each proposal must involve contributors from at least **three** participating countries.
- As a cross-JPIAMR activity, experts from all JPIAMR member countries may participate in the Working Groups, including experts from countries that are not financial participants to the call ([see the list of the 22 JPIAMR countries](#)). In addition, Working Groups can include key expertise from non-JPIAMR countries.
- Working Group contributors are permitted to be members of more than one Working Group, however, individuals cannot act as Working Group coordinator for more than one proposal.
- Following the evaluation of the proposals, the participating funding organizations will align Working Groups selected for funding with the funding available.
- Members can be added to the Working Group as the Working Group develops further and if additional experts and knowledge would benefit the Working Group output success.
- Each funding agency would potentially fund any high quality Working Group, involving eligible participants, on any focal area. However, note that:
 - ICSIII (Spain) will not fund national partners leading on a Working Group in focal area 6- “Role of environmental factors”, hence within this a Spanish expert cannot lead the Working Group, but can form part of the Working Group.

2.3 Submission of proposals

The application form for this call is available on the JPIAMR website (4th Joint Call: <http://www.jpiamr.eu/>), and on [the online submission tool](#).

Applicants will be required to cover the following:

- the rationale for the proposed activities, identifying a clear question to be addressed, and why the outputs will uniquely contribute to moving AMR research forward;

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- the objectives and mode of operation of the Working Group, specifying the work-plan and timeline for delivery;
- the identity of the experts to be involved, specifying the leadership/coordinator for the exercise;
- where appropriate, the identity of experts who will act as an advisory reference Group for the process to help validate the outputs;
- project plan with expected outcomes and deliverables, including dissemination.
- a breakdown of the budget request;

Submission of proposals will be done using the Application Form provided. Application forms must be submitted by the Working Group's coordinator on the online submission website (https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/JPIAMR_WG) no later than **17.00h (CET) on June 6th, 2016**. The server will not accept proposals after this time. The system will be opened by **April 18th, 2016**.

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The general timeline of this call is:

April 18th, 2016	Publication of the transnational call for Working Groups
June 6th, 2016 (17:00, CET)	Deadline for proposal submission
By the end of September 2016	Evaluation Meeting and funding recommendation to national funding agencies
December 2016 – early 2017	Expected Working Group start (also subject to national procedures)

2.4. Contact persons

The only official communication line of the proposal is between the Joint Call Secretariat and the Working Group coordinator. The Working Group coordinator will be the person contacted by the Joint Call Secretariat during the application procedure, so he/she must forward the information to the other participants. Each funding organisation has national contact persons who can be contacted for information about the specific national requirements (see table below).

Country	Funding organization	Contact person	Email
Belgium	FWO	Olivier Boehme Toon Monbaliu	JPI@fwo.be
Canada	CIHR	Elisabeth Pagé Olivier Jacob-Gravel	elisabeth.page@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca Olivier.jacob-gravel@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
France	ANR (Joint Call Secretariat)	Amélie Vergne Natalia Martin	JPIAMR-WG-CALLS@anr.fr
Germany	PT-DLR	Barbara Junker Martin Barth	Barbara.Junker@dlr.de M.Barth@dlr.de
UK	MRC	Ruth Kelly/ Ghada Zoubiane	amr@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk
Netherlands	ZonMW	Thera Habben Jansen	abr@zonmw.nl
Norway	RCN	Sonja Prehn Dyveke Hetland	sp@rcn.no , dhe@rcn.no
Sweden	SRC	Maria Starborg AnhThu Nguyen Hoang	maria.starborg@vr.se AnhThu.NguyenHoang@vr.se
Spain	ISCIII	Irene Sánchez	isanchezgarcia@isciii.es

3. Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by a Peer Review Panel (PRP) composed of scientists/experts with an internationally recognised expertise with regard to the aim of the call. A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate the proposal's performance with respect to the different evaluation criteria.

Scoring system:

0: Failure. The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor. The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.

2: Fair. The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.

3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion in question well but certain improvements are necessary.

4: Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.

5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.

Evaluation criteria:

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the aims of the call;
2. The right leadership to drive the Working Group and out-put directed process forward and the standing of the experts within the proposed Working Groups and whether as a Group they have the appropriate mix of expertise;
3. The feasibility and appropriateness of the project plan, which should include delivery of a report no later than 2 months after the end of the Working Group;
4. The plans for dissemination and the potential impact of the outcomes to the field

The evaluation of the proposals will be made based on the quality of the applications received and the best fit to the call. The review panel will consider high quality/fundable Working Group proposals within each focal area and will provide a ranked list of Working Group proposals taking into account the quality of proposals as well as the breath of focal areas received. Given these conditions, it is possible, for a given focal area, that none or several Working Groups will be funded, depending on the quality of the received proposals.

ANNEX A: Summary of JPIAMR Working Group call participants' indicative funding commitments and eligibility.

Please note that this is only a summary. Refer to the national websites and contact the respective national contact persons for full details.

Participant Organisation name	Country/region	Specific National/Regional rules	Eligible costs	Additional documents required	Tentative initial funding commitments
ANR	FRANCE	See French website: http://anr.fr/JPI-AMR-working-groups-2016 Eligible institutions (PI of the research Group must belong to an eligible institution): - Public research institutes such as EPST, EPIC, universities, university hospitals, non-university research institutes - Enterprises: large and SMEs	See call requirements	No	€100,000

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<p>CIHR</p>	<p>Canada</p>	<p>The Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) must be an independent Researcher. The NPA must have an academic or research appointment at a CIHR eligible institution (See Institutional Eligibility Requirements for eligibility process and associated timelines)</p> <p>Each Canadian-led Working Group can bid for a maximum of \$75,000 for support of its activities.</p>	<p>See call requirements Recipients should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.</p> <p>No indirect costs will be covered</p>	<p>Canadian applicants must complete a CIHR application and submit it using ResearchNet. The purpose of this additional application to CIHR is to provide CIHR with an Operating Budget with the amounts quoted in Canadian dollars, and a complete justification for funds requested.</p>	<p>\$CA 75,000</p>
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FWO	Belgium	Eligibility of the experts, Article 9: http://www.fwo.be/nl/mandaten-financiering/onderzoeksprojecten/onderzoeksproject/reglement-inzake-de-onderzoeksprojecten/#_Contractuele_partijen	See call requirements	No	€30,000
ISCIII	Spain	<p>Eligible institutions (PIs and members of the research Group must belong to the eligible institution):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitals, primary health care or public health settings of the Spanish - National health System - Accredited Health - Research Institutes - CIBER or CIBERNED - Intramural ISCIII <p>NOTE: Only one partner per beneficiary institution may be funded within the same proposal. Only one proposal per partner is allowed. Researchers with ongoing JPIAMR projects in 2017 cannot apply to the current call.</p> <p>National phase: National application will be required from applicants officially invited by ISCIII.</p> <p>Any publication resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge “Award no. XX by ISCIII thorough AES 2016 and within the JPI-AMR framework” even after the end of the project.</p>	See call requirements Overheads: up to 21% of the direct cost.	No	€50,000

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MRC	UK	Eligibility of the experts - See guidelines: http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/	See call requirements (UK co-ordinator will be paid in Pounds (£) and the exchange rate on the date of submission will be used [June 6th, 2016])"	No	€50,000
PT-DLR	Germany				€50,000
RCN	Norway	Eligibility of the experts - See guidelines: http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/General_application_requirements/1184159007037	See call requirements	No	€100,000
SRC	Sweden	See national guidelines. http://www.vr.se/inenglish/researchfunding/applyforgrants/conditionsforapplicationsandgrants.4.5adac704126af4b4be280007743.html	The same as for applications for SRC project grants	No	€100,000

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ZonMw	Netherlands	Eligibility of the experts; see General Terms and Conditions Governing Grands of ZonMw	See call requirements, no overhead is funded.	No	€100,000
					≈ €655,000