

18th Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups September 2024

Prepared by the EuroQol Research Foundation

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1 Introduction

The EuroQol Research Foundation (henceforth “Foundation”) invites applications for funding of research that will assist in achieving the mission and vision of EuroQol, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. The Foundation aims to serve the public interest by supporting scientific research and development and use of instruments which measure and value health. The Foundation supports research that is of the highest scientific quality, and that aligns with the [scientific and strategic goals](#) of EuroQol. Research that aligns with the strategic goals of EuroQol will be given the highest priority.

EuroQol has established Working Groups (WGs) which support the research agenda outlined by the Executive Committee (“Exec”). Proposals that seek to address one or more current priorities of the WGs will have a higher probability of funding, noting that strategic priorities and available budget will be key factors in approval of research applications. For this call, the WGs have reviewed coverage of their aims by the current research portfolio and identified priority areas and alignment with the Strategic Plan. These have been reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee. In addition, the Strategic Plan will guide funding decisions.

Please note:

- The provisional funding available for the current call stands at approximately €2.5-3M. The Exec will consider a range of funding opportunities of benefit to the Group within this budget envelope. This includes activities to support research collaboration and dissemination.
- Appendix 4 provides a summary of the types of grants available.
- Any time sensitive funding proposals may be fast tracked. If you plan to submit a time sensitive proposal, please contact the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org).

Applicants may submit proposals that fall outside the listed themes, however for the best chance to have a funding proposal accepted applicants are encouraged to primarily focus on the priority research areas identified in this call, as these are the priorities for funding. If you are interested to undertake other activities that may have merit to EuroQol, but you are uncertain whether this is in scope, you are invited to contact the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org) for advice and guidance.

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 20 October 2024 at 23:59 CEST**. Good luck with your applications!

2 Scope of this call

2.1 Descriptive Systems Working Group

The three aims of the DSWG are framed around the generation of knowledge for, and development of, existing instruments, instruments currently under development, and future instruments. The aims are as follows:

1. To generate further knowledge and understanding of existing EuroQol instruments.
2. To further develop EuroQol instruments (including existing instruments, instruments under development, and bolt-ons) scientifically and strategically.
3. To explore the development of future instruments, descriptive systems and their modifications, scientifically and strategically.

Priorities of this call

1. The development of psychometric knowledge
2. Production of evidence to assess bolt-ons and other modifications to descriptive systems
3. Exploration of the 'Deep Dive' approach to measuring health-related quality of life

Further explanation of priorities

1. Development of psychometric knowledge

Evidence is required to further understand psychometric methods use for EuroQol instruments. The DSWG invites proposals on applications of psychometrics, tackling gaps not covered in recently funded work. Applicants are therefore requested to contact the DSWG at an early stage of proposal development to ensure that their planned project does not replicate previously funded work.

Qualitative methods: We are interested in proposals that explore how to incorporate the patient and public voice into the development and testing of EuroQol Instruments. This will help us to develop guidance for the group when conducting qualitative work, and identify good practice. We are also interested in theoretical or empirical work focused on exploring content validity assessment methods, and how they should be used in the context of EuroQol instruments. This includes using qualitative evidence to explore the validity of EuroQol instruments in older people and to understand issues around the transitions between EuroQol instruments. This also includes exploring the minimum number of groups required to test the content validity of generic measures. Finally we are interested in proposals comparing the results from qualitative methods in the context of both assessing EuroQol instruments, and developing descriptive systems that are appropriate for valuation.

Psychometric methods exploration: We are calling for proposals developing or testing novel psychometric approaches applicable to EuroQol instruments (including preference-based measure descriptive systems, both versions of EQ-HWB and bolt ons). This includes comparisons of psychometric methods for testing proxy and self-completion, administration modes, languages, different age groups and transitions between instruments.

Evidence synthesis: For both of the areas above we are interested in exploring how evidence from different sources and approaches should be weighted and synthesised to inform decision making about the IP status of EuroQol instruments. For example, we are interested in establishing the amount and type of qualitative and quantitative evidence required to inform the measurement performance of instruments and items, and make decisions about instrument content. We call for theoretical or empirical work in this area.

Non preference based scoring: We are interested in proposals that further explore the development of non-preference-based scoring approaches for EuroQol instruments with the potential to extend the use of the instruments into different settings not requiring values, including applying EuroQol instruments as PROMs.

2. Production of evidence to assess bolt-ons and other modifications to descriptive systems

Psoriasis: There is a growing body of evidence available regarding the psoriasis bolt-ons for the EQ-5D-5L; however, the majority of this evidence pertains to psoriasis or atopic dermatitis. Therefore, we invite two targeted projects to test the bolt-ons in key countries with two specific diagnoses. These conditions are important due to the recent development of novel treatments, and exploration of extending the psoriasis bolt on into other skin conditions.

Chronic urticaria: Previous EQ-funded work has confirmed the good content validity of the bolt-on items in patients with chronic urticaria (Sussex et al. EQ Academy Meeting 2024), but quantitative evidence is lacking. A targeted study should focus on quantitative testing in chronic urticaria, with particular interest in evidence on construct validity, responsiveness and test-retest reliability.

Alopecia areata: Another potentially important future area for the use of this bolt-on is alopecia areata (an autoimmune form of hair loss). We encourage a project to explore the content validity of the psoriasis (and potentially other) bolt-ons in patients with alopecia areata.

Breathing: The breathing bolt-ons have a growing evidence base. We call for multicountry quantitative work exploring the bolt-ons in specific conditions impacting breathing including asthma or lung cancer.

Cognition: EuroQol has recently developed a new set of cognition bolt-on items for the EQ-5D-5L that include a global item (i.e. cognition) as well as items for separate subdimensions (e.g. thinking ability, remembering) (Mulhern-Sampson). We invite projects to test the newly developed bolt-on items in key conditions and languages, focusing on relevant patient populations such as Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, ADHD, depression and stroke. These projects should collect evidence on construct validity, responsiveness and test-retest reliability. We would also welcome evidence on both the self-report and proxy versions, examining the agreement between these versions.

We encourage all those interested in this area to submit proposals, irrespective of previous involvement in the development of the bolt-ons. In addition to the measurement evidence, we encourage each study to include formative research demonstrating how the modifications will affect conceptual understanding of the EQ-5D-5L descriptive system and “improve decisions about health and healthcare.” For example, a study may collect evidence on how bolt-on domains may change the interpretation of existing ones (e.g., cognition and self-care) or list specific clinical or policy decisions that will benefit substantively from the added evidence. Considerations of additional evidence provided by the bolt-on may compared to the EQ-5D-5L and the EQ-HWB.

3. Exploration of the 'Deep Dive' approach to measuring health-related quality of life

At the 2022 plenary meeting, the DSWG presented a paper introducing an approach that conceptualises the EQ-5D as a multi layered measure of health-related quality of life (Mulhern et al 2022, available from the authors on request), and exploration of this is included in the strategic plan. We call for proposals for pilot studies explore the approach. This could be theoretical, and/or qualitative work exploring the development framework, and the strengths and challenges of the approach. We also call for exploratory empirical work to explore how dimension specific module items could be developed, and what characteristics the items should have. We are interested in exploring this for all dimensions. Work in these areas will inform the next stages of the research program. Consultation with the DSWG regarding proposals in this area is essential. Applications from those with a clinical background and experience of PROM administration in clinical groups are encouraged.

Contact information

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2.2 Education and Outreach Working Group

As part of its mission, the EuroQol Group supports activities aimed at developing and supporting its membership while disseminating knowledge to the broader scientific community. Additionally, the Group engages in outward-facing activities to enhance the understanding of EuroQol technologies among an expanding range of end-users. The Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) plays a key role in supporting initiatives to achieve these objectives.

Priorities of this call

For this round of RFP, given the EuroQol is in the process of discussing and finalizing funding allocation strategies between research and meetings, we do not call for organizing education and outreach activities, such as organizing a regional meeting or a workshop.

As outlined in the new strategical plan (Goal 5: Maintain, expand and demonstrate our contributions to the achievement of social good), we call for collaborative research to inform best practice for engaging individuals, groups, and organisations in the current or potential use of EuroQol instruments.

In addition, our regular funding opportunities are:

1. EuroQol Travel Grants
2. Open Access (OA) fee reimbursement

Further explanation of priorities

1. EuroQol Travel Grants

1a. Short-term EuroQol travel grants.

These travel grants support members who wish to meet physically to conduct EuroQol-related activities, primarily for specific projects, by traveling abroad for a short period of time. These grants may also be requested for meetings aimed at developing new projects or proposals, rather than working on existing projects. The period abroad can range from a few days to two months. Please note: To receive funding for meetings or collaboration efforts of smaller teams, a deliverable should be clearly defined, such as a research proposal or publication. The amount of funding is limited to €15,000 per grant, which should be used only for travel, training course fees, accommodation, and subsistence. An application form has been developed for applicants to complete; it should also be signed by the member of the host organization who will host the applicant. EuroQol's support is limited to the travel grant; all other support should be provided by the host institute.

1b. Long-term travel grants.

The long-term travel grant allows researchers interested in getting more deeply involved with specific types of EuroQol work to reside at an institute abroad for a period of 2 months to a year and be embedded in the team. The grant supports various types of residencies at a partner institute, such as work placements, internships, traineeships, and research specialization visits. If you wish to apply for this type of travel grant, you will need to identify a EuroQol member at a partner institution to act as your host. Any EuroQol member who has demonstrated expertise related to your planned work may serve as a host. An alternative to a partner institution residency could be a similar arrangement with the EuroQol Office, allowing researchers

interested in the general scope of EuroQol activities to come to Rotterdam and be embedded in the office's scientific team. The amount of funding is context-specific.

2. Open Access (OA) fee reimbursement

The EuroQol Group has an Open Access (OA) fee policy: the foundation will refund all costs of publishing articles in open access journals, either for manuscripts related to funded projects or for manuscripts on EQ-related work led by members and relevant to EuroQol in another way. To apply for the OA reimbursement, a request needs to be submitted through the grant submission portal. Payment of the OA fee can only be done via an invoice from the publisher.

The EuroQol Research Foundation encourages the Open Access (OA) publication of manuscripts in general. However, we ask you to avoid publishing in predatory journals. While there is no universally accepted list of approved or disapproved journals, we kindly ask you to verify the status of the journal you are targeting, for instance by checking whether it is included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (a whitelist) or predatoryreports.org (a blacklist). Open Access fee reimbursement requests for journals with a questionable reputation may be denied.

Contact information

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2.3 EQ-HWB Working Group

EQ-HWB Working Group

The EQ-HWB WG's primary aim is to support the developmental activities to advance the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S measures from experimental status to beta and ultimately to approved versions.

Priorities of this call

Elderly individuals are frequent users of health and social services due to complex needs, chronic conditions, functional decline, and social factors. Aged care facilities and home care are important settings for EQ-HWB application. The EQ-HWB Working Group invites research proposals that:

1. Assess feasibility of using the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S in aged care facilities and for home care.
2. Evaluate validity and reliability of the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S in aged care and home care settings.
3. Assess responsiveness of the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S.
4. Evaluate the use of EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S in informing care planning and quality improvement initiatives in aged care facilities and for home care.

The EQ-HWB WG also invites research on the valuation of the EQ-HWB-S, which is reported in the Valuation WG RFP section.

Further explanation of priorities

1. Feasibility assessment:

- Evaluate the ease of administering EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S in aged care facilities and for home care, with attention paid to differences in cognitive and physical abilities of responders
- Compare feasibility of different administration methods (self-report, proxy, interviewer-administered) and for routine assessment
- Gather feedback from residents, caregivers, and healthcare providers on implementation challenges

2. Validity and reliability evaluation:

- Assess the construct validity of EQ-HWB for residential care users and those cared at home, with diverse health problems and support needs
- Compare EQ-HWB performance against established measures in long-term care settings

3. Responsiveness investigation:

- Examine the responsiveness of EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S in patient populations within residential care and those needing long term care
- Assess the instrument's ability to detect meaningful changes in health and wellbeing over time

4. Care Planning and Quality Assessment Integration:

- Examine the use of the EQ-HWB to enhance individualized care plans
- Investigate stakeholder perceptions on EQ-HWB's value in care planning and quality assessment

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2.4 Populations and Health Systems (PHS) Working Group

The Populations and Health Systems Working Group (PHSWG) aims to promote and enhance the methods and use of EQ instruments in routine outcome and population health assessments. The PHSWG encourages proposals for methodological and applied research, using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, that contribute towards these aims.

Priorities of this call

1. Research examining methods of reporting and presenting routinely collected EQ data to various stakeholders, including clinicians, patients, administrators and decision makers.
2. Studies focusing on applications of EQ-5D data in assessing and monitoring population health, such as methods for the development and use of population norms.
3. Research on response shift, particularly in the context of surgical interventions, chronic conditions, and other conditions with lengthy treatment pathways such as cancer.

Further explanation of priorities

1. Reporting and presenting EQ instruments in routine outcome assessment

The PHSWG seeks to understand how the EQ instruments are used in routine outcome assessment (e.g. as a PROM), and the role EQ instruments could play in the future. While some health systems already collect PROM data at national (e.g., in England, Wales, Sweden, and Canada) and/or sub-national levels, our understanding of such use is limited. Please note that research to investigate the use of PROMs in clinical intervention studies or the context of health technology assessment is out of scope.

Priority topics for this call are:

- a. Reviews of methods and approaches of summarizing and presenting EQ data to various stakeholders (including patients, clinicians, administrators/managers, and policy-makers). Additionally, we are interested in research that explores stakeholder preferences over different presentational formats and suggests new approaches to data visualization. Please note that activities aimed at developing new clinical dashboards are out of scope, although the presentation of information in dashboards is encouraged.
- b. Research that explores the implementation of instruments in routine outcome measurement in various clinical settings, and the use of EQ data to inform patient, clinical, managerial, or commissioning decisions (e.g. the use in shared decision making).

2. Using EQ instruments in assessing population health

There is a long-standing tradition of using EQ instrument data in assessing and studying the determinants of population health (e.g. as part of population norms and inequality research).

Priority topics for this call are:

- a. Studies focusing on the development of and methods for population norms for EQ data. For example comparing different modes of administration: e.g. online, face-to-face interview, postal survey.
- b. Studies investigating inequalities in EQ data. For example, decomposition analysis where health inequalities are decomposed into various contributing explanatory factors.

3. **Research on response shift, how to identify and/or address changes in individuals' internal standards/reference points, response heterogeneity and other methodological challenges to using EQ instruments in routine outcome measurement and in assessing population health.**

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2.5 Valuation Working Group

The Valuation Working Group (VWG) is charged with initiating and overlooking of research related to the development and refinement of the valuation methods used for the EuroQol family of instruments. More specifically, the research streams encompass the following elements: investigating how our existing valuation methods, i.e., the time trade-off (TTO) and discrete choice experiments (DCEs), may be further refined; investigating the most appropriate methods for valuing new EQ instruments; investigating new approaches to valuing health; exploring normative issues related to valuation, for instance, in the context of value sets being constructed for and by different populations (e.g., patient groups or children/adolescents). The members of VWG collaborate with other EuroQol working groups and participate in the approved groups (e.g., squads) to advance the conceptual and practical issues related to the valuation of EQ instruments.

Priorities of this call

The priorities for this call have been selected based on the list of strategic objectives in the VWG remit that should be completed within 2024-26 and on what evidence is not covered by ongoing projects. The priorities for the present RFP are the following.

1. Bolt-on valuation.
2. EQ-HWB-S valuation.
3. Value set expiry.

For the sake of consistency of results and to focus the efforts on the methods that have been extensively developed and studied in the EQ projects, the VWG is mostly interested in research that uses EQ-VT (cTTO and latent scale DCE), or DCE with a duration attribute. If using of other methods is foreseen in a proposal, a strong rationale should be presented.

Further explanation of priorities

1. We invite research on methods that can be used for the valuation of bolt-ons. The proposals should consider the issue of comparability between bolt-on and core-dimensions value sets, the methodological soundness of the methods, and the pragmatic considerations (e.g., the possibility that a significant number of bolt-ons might be valued in the future). The proposals should focus on the methodological aspects, rather than only be applications for specific bolt-ons/populations. In particular, we invite proposals that
 - a. scrutinize the existing approaches (e.g., the scaling factor model),
 - b. develop new ideas that may be used for bolt-on valuation,
 - c. formulate and test the assumptions of the valuation methods relevant for bolt-ons (for instance, the additivity of utility between the core dimensions and bolt-ons).
2. In preparation for the development of the EQ-HWB-S valuation protocol, we invite research that could provide useful evidence related to the specific elements of this protocol. The specific range of topics is driven by the need to finalize the descriptive system and collect evidence about its performance in valuation context and by the size of the instrument which may present challenges of the conceptual (e.g., interactions) and logistical (e.g., large samples needed) nature.

In particular, we invite proposals that

- a. test the performance of the original and modified EQ-HWB-S in response scaling tasks e.g., ranking exercises of response levels, i.e., test if the ordering of the levels is perceived by the respondents in the intended way when the levels are presented individually, and not in the context of the descriptive system
 - b. test the presence of interactions (in terms of the impact on utility, not in the measurement sense) between the dimensions of the original and modified EQ-HWB-S (if possible, targeted at the measurement of interactions and not requiring a full valuation study),
 - c. test the logistical aspects of and can provide future guidance on valuation studies with stand-alone DCE (also beyond EQ-HWB-S) in which the respondents would be supervised and assisted (in groups, not individually) by a trained assistant (in order to reduce the risk of low quality data in view of bot-provided answers in online panels).
3. The VWG has begun to consider the issues of redundancy and obsolescence in value sets. To aid that discussion, we invite empirical work exploring
- a. the impact of changing valuation-related methodology on value sets,
 - b. methods to monitor preference changes over time, e.g., methods that could potentially be means of detecting the change and assessing whether the extent of the change warrants a value set update (the proposals should take into account the cost aspect of the valuation and the limited specificity of the preference change detection, i.e., false positive results).

In the present RFP, we are not explicitly indicating as top priority the topics related to the development of a valuation protocol for valuing EQ-5D-Y-5L, which results from the amount of evidence which is currently being collected and may inform future RFPs. Nevertheless, we continue to seek interesting proposals in this area. For instance, we continue to welcome the proposals that (i) investigate the reasons behind adults' unwillingness to trade off child life years, (ii) test if this unwillingness is an inherent part of preferences or an artifact produced by the valuation methods used, and (iii) test the methods how to mitigate this unwillingness (if the unwillingness is an artifact).

Contact information

In case of questions related to this RFP, please contact the VWG chair (Michał Jakubczyk, he/him, michal.jakubczyk@gmail.com) or the VWG deputy chair/EuroQol Office liaison to the VWG (Bram Roudijk, he/him, roudijk@euroqol.org).

2.6 Younger Populations Working Group

The YPWG promotes research on the child-friendly EQ-5D instruments, originally the EQ-5D-Y-3L (Y-3L), the recently developed EQ-5D-Y-5L (Y-5L) and the relatively new instrument EQ-TIPS for infants and toddlers. Measurement aspects of the instruments as well as research on valuation is of relevance for the YPWG.

Two EuroQol instruments (Y-3L and Y-5L) will soon be officially available for use in pediatric populations. Both can be administered in different ways (paper and pencil, electronic, self-report vs interviewer-administered (IA), etc.) and/or completed by different respondents (self vs proxy).

With this RFP, we would like to generate additional data and evidence to help answer user questions about which version and mode of administration of EQ-5D-Y (Y-3L or Y-5L, standard self-complete or IA, self-complete or proxy, etc.) is most appropriate in particular circumstances, e.g. according to child age, educational level, cultural setting, health status, or linguistic level.

Proposals should therefore focus on testing the Y-3L and/or Y-5L in younger children (e.g. use of the IA version in children aged 4 and up) and in populations that are culturally and linguistically diverse or have some level of restricted ability; proposals should also explore the strengths and weaknesses of using different MoAs and/or respondents (self vs proxy).

Quantitative (psychometric) and qualitative research approaches are encouraged. Proposals in patient populations are preferred but, depending on the relevance of the research question and study context, studies in general population samples may be of interest.

The transition between the EQ-5D-Y (Y-3L and Y-5L) and adult EQ-5D-5L descriptive systems is also of interest. To give clear guidance to end users on transitions evidence on the relationship between the youth and adult descriptive systems in adolescents is needed. Cross-sectional research with patient populations, with a range of severities, completing the adult and youth descriptive systems in parallel could inform a future crosswalk between the corresponding value sets. Longitudinal research, with patient populations, can inform the transition between instruments. Proposals in patient populations in regions with HTA guidelines are of particular interest.

Priorities of this call

1. Generating qualitative and psychometric evidence on using and comparing Y-3L and Y-5L in a range of patient and other populations, employing different MoAs and respondents (proxy vs self)
2. Generating cross-sectional and longitudinal evidence on the transition between the EQ-5D-Y (Y-3L and Y-5L) and adult (EQ-5D-5L) descriptive systems to inform guidance to end users and a future crosswalk between the corresponding value sets.

Further explanation of priorities

1. YPWG is interested in research to answer the following questions:

- Are there situations in which we would recommend the Y-3L over the Y-5L?
- Are there situations in which we would recommend the IA version over the standard self-complete version (Y-3L and/or Y-5L)?
- Does the IA version provide a similar response distribution to the standard self-complete version and how do they compare psychometrically (Y-3L and/or Y-5L)?

- In which situations should we recommend use of the proxy version (Y-3L and/or Y-5L)?
- How do adolescents and young adults respond to EQ-5D-Y (Y-3L and Y-5L) and EQ-5D-5L and how does this impact transitioning between the descriptive systems.

Research in patient and/or special populations is preferred for this RFP, though research proposals in general population samples will be considered if they adequately address the research topics of interest. ‘Special populations’ includes those with potentially restricted ability to self-complete the EQ-5D-Y e.g. populations with low literacy levels, younger children, children with learning difficulties, etc.

We encourage use of both qualitative research, using frameworks such as the Tourangeau Response Model or similar, and quantitative testing. The latter should concentrate on test-retest reliability, known groups’ validity (known groups defined using accepted clinical and/or well-established condition-specific PRO measures, or well-established generic HRQOL measures), and responsiveness

1a) We are interested in research that explores:

- Performance (feasibility, consistency of response, distributional aspects, missing responses, and psychometric properties mentioned above) of self-complete versions of Y-3L and/or Y-5L in children aged 8-10 years. Qualitative research exploring comparative acceptability, understanding and interpretation of the Y-3L and Y-5L in this age group will also be welcomed. Note that “A higher number of items can potentially increase the difficulty of completion with younger children being more likely to select extreme scores on a Likert scale” (*De Civita et al. 2005*) and we are interested in the extent to which this is the case for Y-5L. It might be useful to include a ranking exercise, as developed by the VMC [*Derrett S, et al. A New Approach to Assessing Children's Interpretation of Severity Qualifiers in a Multi-Attribute Utility Instrument-The EQ-5D-Y-5L: Development and Testing. Patient 2021;14(5):591-600*] to assess the hierarchical ordering of Y-5L severity labels in different age groups and languages.
- Feasibility and psychometric performance (particularly test-retest reliability, known groups validity, and responsiveness) of the IA version of Y-3L and/or Y-5L in children:
 - 5-7 years: to assess the possibility of extending the age range for self-report;
 - 8-10 years: in this age range, it is of interest to compare results with those obtained using the standard self-complete version;
 - 5-15 years: exploration of use in children with conditions that may limit self-completion using the standard version, e.g. in children with learning disabilities or health conditions;
 - Overall, testing of the acceptance of the IA version and its instructions.

1b) When self-completion and self-report is not possible for a child due to their age and/or health condition, proxy-report becomes relevant. The YPWG is interested in investigating the psychometric performance of Y-3L and/or Y-5L proxy version 1 in children:

- aged 3/4 to 7 years. Sub-group comparison by age range would be of interest to help establish reliability and validity of proxy responses at different ages (e.g. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 years, or combinations of these). Researchers should take care to ensure that sample sizes are appropriate for any intended comparative analysis.
- aged 8 to 15 years suffering from health conditions which may require proxy-report, for

example children with intellectual disabilities, mental health conditions, communication problems.

2. Cross-sectional and longitudinal research to explore the transition between the EQ-5D-Y (Y-3L and Y-5L) and the adult EQ-5D-5L

- EuroQol currently recommend that either the EQ-5D-Y or adult EQ-5D versions for children 12-15 years. Thus, we are interested in research with adolescent patient populations (aged 12-18 years) where transitions or comparisons between the descriptive system are likely to occur. These patient populations should ideally include a range of severities to further inform a crosswalk. If self-report is not possible due to the health condition proxy-report is also of interest.
- The youth and adult descriptive systems should be completed in parallel, and the order randomized
- Evidence on preferences for the youth and adult descriptive systems is also of interest.
- We recommend that willingness to share data for a future crosswalk study should be indicated

Note 1: studies should ensure sufficient sample sizes for any sub-group analysis and adequate recruitment strategies to reach sample sizes across the whole age continuum included. Collaborations with clinicians seem as helpful for this.

Note 2: if the relevant EQ-5D-Y translation is not available, please be aware that at least 6-9 months are required to produce a new language version. This should be considered when planning a project. You also need to incorporate the costs for the translation process into the proposed budget.

Contact information

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3 Submission Guidelines

3.1 Available budget

For the current call a budget of up to €2.5-3M can be made available, but the Foundation reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available for this round depending on the number and quality of proposals received.

3.2 What we fund

This call invites applications for various types of research grants: proposals for small projects, regular research applications, proposals for educational or regional meetings, topical research applications for larger projects or programmes of work, and proposals for funding of PhD research.

Low cost proposals: Low cost proposals (max budget €25,000) qualify for a lighter review procedure. These proposals will be reviewed by WGs and based on these reviews a decision will be made by the Executive Committee.

Topical research program proposals: Members are invited to submit proposals for larger projects, possibly of a longer duration (i.e. 2-4 years), either as a coherent series of studies, or one very large study, to an intended maximum of €150K. Requests for larger budget can be made, but a strong motivation would be needed and it is recommend to look for co-funding from another organization instead. Interested members are encouraged to contact the relevant WG Chair to ensure alignment with ongoing- and planned research. For grants that fall within this category, the Executive Committee will provide feedback on a first-stage application before a full grant proposal can be applied for.

PhD proposals: The current call also invites applications for PhD scholarships/fellowships. The Executive Committee has prepared a practical guidance document for applicants seeking funding for PhD proposals from EuroQol (appendix 1).

The attached budget guidelines specify how the budgets should be presented. The budget guidelines are the same for all proposals.

For more detailed information on the types of grants that EuroQol offers, please refer to Chapter 2 of this call and appendix 1, guidance for applicants.

3.3 Who can submit?

In this round, the EuroQol Research Foundation accepts proposals that are submitted by research teams or individual researchers affiliated to different institutions/organisations (Universities, NGOs, companies, etc.). The Principal investigator does not need to be a member, but at least one EuroQol member has to be involved in the project as co-investigator.

All researchers are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant WG Chair to discuss plans for proposals, to ensure alignment with ongoing and planned research, and alignment with the research objectives of the WG and this Call for Proposals. If you would like input or have questions about the preparation of your proposal, please email the relevant WG contact below, or for general questions, contact the Grants Management team at grants@euroqol.org.

3.4 Submission procedure

All proposals reports will need to be submitted via the EuroQol Projects Submission Portal: <https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>. You will first need to register to create a personal account. Then you can start working on your submission. Progress will be saved, and you update your submission right until the submission deadline (even if you have submitted it already). The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 20 October 2024 at 23:59 CEST**.

At registration, please make sure to accept receiving broadcast emails, and notifications from the system to facilitate communication.

3.5 Timelines

After the deadline:

- the grants management team will check whether your proposal meets the call's eligibility criteria.
- experts will review all the eligible proposals in November 2024
- your proposal will be discussed by the Exec in December 2024
- applicants will normally receive further information about the decision of the Exec within three weeks after the Exec meetings (by early January 2025).
- The deadline for any resubmissions linked to this RFP will be Sunday 9 February 2025, to be discussed by the Exec at the Academy meeting in March 2025.

3.6 Further information

For further information, you can contact the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org), the relevant working group chairs and office scientist(s) who support that WG, or any other members of that WG. The primary contacts of each WG for questions about this call are:

Descriptive Systems	Brendan Mulhern	Brendan.Mulhern@chere.uts.edu.au
	Aureliano Finch	finch@euroqol.org
Education and Outreach	Zhihao Yang	zhihao_yang_cn@126.com
	Mandy van Reenen	vanreenen@euroqol.org
EQ-HWB	Clara Mukuria	c.mukuria@sheffield.ac.uk
	Aureliano Finch	finch@euroqol.org
Populations and Health Systems	Juanita Haagsma	j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl
	Paula Lorgelly	paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz
	Bas Janssen	janssen@euroqol.org
Valuation	Michal Jakubczyk	michal.jakubczyk@gmail.com
	Bram Roudijk	roudijk@euroqol.org
Younger Populations	Mike Herdman	mikeherdman.insight@gmail.com
	Bram Roudijk	roudijk@euroqol.org

If you are interested to seek collaboration or get access to the data which may become available as part of the agreements with researchers/authorities in Sweden and Alberta, Canada, please contact the local contact persons (copying the WG chair):

Emelie Heintz (Sweden)	emelie.heintz@ki.se
Fatima Al Sayah (Alberta)	falsayah@ualberta.ca

This call for proposals introduces the SAVED initiative. In light of changing demands on managing research data and the transition to Open Science, EuroQol seeks to further increase added value for its members by making selected data available for secondary use. This implies that selected funded proposals may be required to transfer the resulting data and data management to EuroQol and its SAVED Archive. If SAVED status has been or is being considered for a project or funded proposal, this will be specified in the Grant Offer Letter and preparations for data transfer and secondary use need to be made.

4 Appendices

1. Guidance for applicants
2. Budget guidelines
3. Grants offered by EuroQol

Guidance for applicants: Procedures for research funding applications

1. The EuroQol Research Foundation will fund high quality research that is of scientific and strategic interest to the EuroQol Group and its members.
2. Proposals should be submitted to the EQ Office using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal (<https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>). Please review the [Proposal Budget Guidelines](#) before submitting a proposal.
3. For clarity, applicants should ensure that when they refer to EuroQol instruments they use the correct terms – see [EQ-5D Nomenclature](#).
4. Unless stated otherwise in a Request for Proposals, the lead applicant must be a member of the EuroQol Group, in principle, unless applying for a Seed Grant.
5. Twice a year the Executive Committee (Exec) issues a Call for Proposals, with two funding rounds (open from February/March – April and August/September – October) highlighting the current research priorities. These will be circulated by email and posted on the members’ area on the website. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.
6. Applications for funding can be submitted at any time, but are encouraged for submission when a funding round is open
7. EuroQol can offer a variety of grant types, listed below. Each Call for Proposals will outline what type of projects are invited. Please note the availability of the types of grants offered may vary from one call to the next.

Parent category	Sub category
1. Research grants	1.1 Regular research project
	1.2 Valuation study
	1.3 Seed grants
2. Individual grants	2.1 PHD grant
	2.2 Postdoctoral grant (currently not available)
	2.3 Travel grant
3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer	3.1 Education and outreach project
	3.2 Open access fee reimbursement
4. Large scale investments (XL grants)	4.1 Program of work in any strategically relevant topic area

8. Proposals are reviewed every quarter in March, June, September and December. Please note that:
 - a. For time sensitive and other high priority proposals, a fast track review procedure may be requested.
 - b. Different review and decision procedures apply for regular proposals and low cost proposals (maximum budget €25,000)

If you have any questions on the review process or submission deadlines you can send an email to the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org).

9. The **regular proposal review process** is as follows:
 - a. Two Exec reviewers will independently review each proposal.
 - b. The relevant Working Group (WG) will also review each proposal. The WG Chair may delegate the reviewing task to a WG member or to another researcher with special expertise on the topic. However, the Exec wants to be assured that this review represents the considered view of the WG.
 - c. When proposals are received on a topic that falls outside the immediate remit of the WGs (e.g. 'innovative' proposals), the scientific team leader chooses the reviewers.
 - d. All reviews will be completed online using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal, where reviewers can view the proposal and rate or leave comments pertaining to the following criteria: Strategic and scientific importance; Approach/study; Design/methods: Feasibility; Budget, timelines and deliverables; Data protection and protection of human subjects. Next, the scores and/or comments are shared with all members of the Exec to decide on the proposal.
 - e. The Exec Chair may install a triage committee to facilitate the decision making process. This will be announced in the Request for proposals, together with a description of the triage process. The triage committee will consider the proposals and their reviews and make a triage decision (Fund/Conditional Fund/Revise and Resubmit/Reject/Discuss with Exec) based on the reviewer comments when a clear picture emerges from the review reports. These triage decisions need to be ratified by the full Exec. If there are important concerns raised by any member of the Exec about any triage-decision, the proposal will be deferred for discussion at the next Exec meeting. If the review reports do not provide a strong basis for a triage decision, the proposal is moved to the discussion with the full Exec.
 - f. The WG Chair may be invited to join the Exec meeting when proposals are discussed that fall within a particular WG's remit, to ensure informed decision making by the Exec.
 - g. Reviewers, WG members and Exec members will be expected to make a declaration of interest (including potential conflict of interest) for proposals they review. Any person with a conflict of interest will be excluded from being involved in any part of the reviewing and decision-making process regarding funding.

10. The **review procedure of low cost proposals** is as follows:
 - a. For low cost proposals, the relevant WG will provide 2 reviews. The Chair, or Deputy Chair of the Exec will consider the review(s) and will provide a recommendation, along with the proposal and the review, to members of the Exec. That recommendation needs to be ratified by the Exec in their quarterly decision making meeting. In case any concern is raised with the suggested decision, the proposal will be discussed by the full Exec to reach a decision.

11. The **fast track review process** is as follows:
 - a. Decisions on time sensitive or other high priority proposals can be fast tracked. The fast track procedure provides a possibility to judge funding requests in the interval between Executive Committee decision meetings. The fast track procedure invites reviews for proposals upon receipt, and the decisions are made offline.
 - b. A review will be sought from at least one member of the Executive Committee. One or more additional reviews can be requested from the Exec or Working Groups, at the discretion of the Executive Chair or Deputy Chair.
 - c. The Chair, or the Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee will consider that review and will send a recommended decision via email, along with the proposal and the review, to members of the Exec with request to respond to within 48 hours in case of concerns.

- d. If there are important concerns raised by any member of the Executive Committee about the Chair's recommended decision, the proposal will be deferred for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting. If not, the applicant will be informed of the Exec decision to fund/ not to fund the proposal.
 - e. If you want to have your proposal reviewed by the fast track procedure, you need to contact the Scientific Director and Grant Manager (grants@euroqol.org), who will discuss with the chair of the Executive Committee if your proposal qualifies for the fast track procedure.
 - f. Applicants should use the regular approach to submit their proposal, via the EuroQol Project Submission Portal, see point 2.
12. **Executive Committee decisions** on proposals will be either:
- a. Funding awarded;
 - b. Funding conditionally awarded, subject to satisfactory revisions and clarifications (confirmed by Chair's action, on the basis of reviewers' recommendations; and reported to the following Executive Committee meeting);
 - c. Invited to revise and re-submit for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next meeting;
 - d. Funding declined.
13. Applicants will normally receive feedback within three weeks after the Executive Committee meetings. Reviewers' comments will be provided anonymously to principal investigators by the EQ Office.
14. Abstracts of applications that are awarded funding will be published on the public website.
15. When funding is awarded, the Scientific Director or the Grants Manager will follow-up with a notification email, and subsequently a Grant Offer Letter confirming Executive Committee approval. The Grant Offer Letter will include a proposed payment schedule in two or more instalments, annual reporting requirements (if applicable), and will explain what is required before an invoice can be sent. The Grant Offer Letter will be accompanied by a General Terms and Conditions (GTC) document. EuroQol requests the Grant Offer Letter to be signed and returned within three months of the date on the letter.
16. If funding for a proposal is refused, the Scientific Director or Grants Manager will follow-up with a rejection notification mail that includes the reasons. To appeal a decision, you must write a letter to the Scientific Director or the Grants Manager asking to have the decision reconsidered and motivate this request.
17. **If a project has an annual or interim reporting requirement**, a notification email from Good Grants will be sent with an invitation to submit the annual/interim report within a three-month timeframe. In most cases the annual/interim report will be reviewed by a member of EuroQol's Scientific Team, and the PI will be notified if the report is approved (and therefore, in most cases, the next invoice can be submitted and/or the next phase of the project can commence if this is stated in the Grant Offer Letter). If the report is not approved, the PI will be notified of the reasons for this, and will be given an opportunity to revise and resubmit the annual/interim report.

18. **If a project is undergoing delays** and the Principal Investigator is unable to submit an annual or final report on time, they must inform EuroQol (or respond to an email from EuroQol regarding an update on a project) providing reasons for the delay and a revised timeline with a request for a budget-neutral deadline extension providing the new expected end date for the performance period. Any deadline extensions must be approved by the Grants Manager.
19. **Once a project is completed**, the process is as follows:
- a. As specified in the Executive Committee approval letter, at the completion of the project, a final report should be submitted, using the Final Report Form on the EuroQol Project Submission Portal (<https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>), together with the original proposal, all deliverables described in the proposal and all reviewer reports, if applicable. The Principal Investigator will receive a notification email from Good Grants with an invitation to submit the final report within a three-month timeframe.
 - b. The final report will be reviewed by the relevant WG. The WG Chair may delegate the reviewing task to a WG member or to a member of the EQ Group with special expertise on the topic. However, the Exec wants to be assured that this review represents the considered view of the WG.
 - c. In case of a final report on an ‘innovative’ proposal, or any other proposal outside the scope of the WGs, the Exec Chair, together with the Scientific Director from the EQ Office, will identify a member of the EQ Group with relevant expertise and invite this member to review the report.
 - d. The final report review will be completed online using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal, where reviewers can view and rate the report and offer a recommendation (Sign-off, or Revise and Resubmit). Reviewers are asked to comment on: *Was the work completed as planned? Is the reporting up to standard? Are there strategic implications?* Next, the scores and/or comments are shared with all members of the Exec to decide whether the report can be signed off.
 - e. The final report and its review recommendation will be circulated to the Exec. Unless any issue is raised by the Exec, the final report will be approved as recommended and the PI will be notified with an invitation to submit the final invoice for the remaining budget.
 - f. An abstract of the final report will be published on the EuroQol Group’s website, unless the Exec and the project team agree otherwise.
 - g. If the applicants fail to deliver a final report of sufficient quality in a timely way, payment of the last instalment may be withheld and, in some circumstances, the first instalment may be required to be repaid. Failure to deliver a final report will be taken into account in consideration of future applications.
20. **If it is not possible to complete a project**, the process is as follows:
- a. The Principal Investigator must inform EuroQol (or respond to an email from EuroQol regarding an update on a project) as soon as possible, providing reasons for why the project cannot be completed.
 - b. The Principal Investigator must provide a summary of work completed so far, listing any completed deliverables and any failed deliverables.
 - c. The Principal Investigator should provide a proposal of how they wish to close the project, including any reporting or use of data that might be possible, a breakdown of budget already used and the remaining budget that can be returned to EuroQol.
 - d. The proposal will then be reviewed to by the Grant Manager and Scientific Director, and will be put forward for approval by the Executive Committee.

Lastly, the Executive Committee reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines when required by circumstances.

If you have any questions about applying for funding, please contact grants@euroqol.org.

Proposal Budget Guidelines (annex to 01 Guidance for applicants.pdf)

Knut Stavem & Bernhard Slaap

Effective from 01JUL2024

The Executive Committee studies budgets in applications in detail. The guidelines below are provided to ensure a smooth review process.

In the **Proposed budget area of the grant proposal form on good grants**, you are requested to provide a breakdown of the proposed budget.

Please split up your study budget in the following categories:

- Personnel costs
- Data acquisition costs
- Material costs and other preparation costs
- Dissemination costs

If you are **applying for a workshop or a symposium**, please also provide details about:

- Honoraria, including preparation time
- Venue costs and entrances fees
- Travel costs and expected costs for hotel costs and meals

Personnel costs

Personnel costs are typically the largest cost constituents in proposal budgets. These can be budgeted for the preparation of the study or workshop, data acquisition and data analysis. Try to estimate the numbers of hours/days that will be spent on the project to the best of your knowledge. Please apply appropriate local hourly or daily rates when calculating personnel costs, but note that these should not exceed the EuroQol Group Foundation's 3 categories for **maximum daily rates**, i.e.:

- (1) €135.75 per hour/ €1086.00 per day, including overheads, for **senior researchers**, e.g. for investigators with leadership roles, who are at least associate professor level: experienced researchers with PhDs and a substantial publication list.
- (2) €103.50 per hour/€828.00 per day, including overheads, for **less experienced researchers**, e.g. post-docs.
- (3) €54.25 per hour/€434.00 per day for **students and office staff**.

Please note that the Executive Committee expects applicants to use the 3 categories for budgeting personnel costs. Applicants must provide a justification if they choose to budget research staff at higher daily rates that described above. Furthermore, a justification should be provided for any team member budgeted at the maximum daily rate. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the budget for personnel costs will be approved, or a lower budget proposed.

EQ Office staff members can participate in EQ-funded studies. Please discuss your plans with the Scientific Director or the Executive Director prior to submitting such a proposal.

When EQ Office staff is participating in your project, please insert a line item under Personnel costs titled 'EQ Office Staff' to specify their hours, using the day rate for senior researchers: €135.75 per hour/ €1086.00 per day. In **section 9, Budget requested from EuroQol**, specify this amount separately. The total amount will determine what review procedure is required (refer to guidance to applicants).

Under the category of **Data acquisition costs** it is acceptable to have the following costs as line items:

- Respondent's fees and travel costs
- Interviewer costs and their travel costs
- Office/room rent for data acquisition outside the University
- If an agency/ outside company is used, please provide a copy of their invoice/ cost proposal

As a rule, it is not acceptable to request funding for buying computer hardware or software to be used for data acquisition. Renting computer hardware for a study is acceptable.

For EQ-VT studies please add €25.000 for EQ-VT costs (software development, training, support etc.). Upon approval by the Exec this will be provided as in-kind support. In **section 9, Budget requested from EuroQol**, specify this amount separately as in-kind support.

Under the category of **Material costs and other preparation costs** it is acceptable to have the following costs as line items:

- Secretarial support, stationary, telephone costs etc. (usually not more than 5 % of total budget).
- Processing costs for human subject protection/ethics approval, if applicable

It is not acceptable to request funding for computer hardware or software to be used for data analysis or manuscript writing.

Under the category of **Dissemination costs** it is acceptable to budget for one researcher to attend an international congress to present the results of the study. Allowable costs include:

- (1) An economy class airline ticket
- (2) Meeting registration fee.

The applicant is required to seek funding from other sources for other dissemination costs, such as board and living, hours spent away the office, co-presenters of the study results etc. As a rule, costs of publishing e.g. in open access journals, are not reimbursed, although exceptions are possible for strategic important studies.

Please contact [Bernhard Slaap](#) (Executive Director) [Elly Stolk](#) (Scientific Director) or [Laura Pickering](#) (Grants Manager) if you have any comments, questions or suggestions on Research Proposal budgeting.

Grants offered by EuroQol

Once a call/application round has been published inviting the submission of a grant application, interested persons may put forward a proposal. The call will state what grant type applications are invited. The table below lists all EuroQol grant types and in the remainder of this document we describe the aims and scope of each grant. The procedure of applying for a grant is similar for all grant types and described in general terms in the Guide for Applicants. The procedure for specific grants may differ from this procedure to some degree due to grant specific elements. Please note that the availability of the types of grants offered may vary from one call to the next.

Parent category	Sub category
1. Research grants	1.1 Regular research project
	1.2 Valuation study
	1.3 Seed grants
2. Individual grants	2.1 PHD grant
	2.2 Postdoctoral grant (currently not available)
	2.3 Travel grant
3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer	3.1 Education and outreach project
	3.2 Open access fee reimbursement
4. Large scale investments (XL grants)	4.1 Program of work in any strategically relevant topic area

1. Research Grants

1.1 Regular research project

A research grant is defined as a grant obtained for conducting a piece of research as described in a funding application. Research grants are the principal way of funding research for the EuroQol Research Foundation.

Scope

The Foundation aims to fund high quality research that is of scientific and strategic interest to the EuroQol Group and its members. Any proposal targeting an aim that is consistent with the overall scientific strategy will be considered for funding. Twice a year the Executive Committee (Exec) issues a Call for Proposals, with two funding rounds, highlighting the current research priorities. These will be circulated by email and posted on the members' area on the website. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Funding

Standard research projects can have a budget up to around €200,000. For requests over this threshold value, applicants would need to provide particularly convincing arguments for the need to complete all work in a single project.

Eligibility

Eligibility will be described in the request for proposals. Generally, calls are aimed at researchers with established lines of research involving EQ-5D or related instruments, many of whom are affiliated with the EuroQol Group. Some calls require that the lead applicant is a EuroQol member or that the project team includes a EuroQol member.

1.2 Valuation studies

Valuation studies are a specific type of research project, aimed at producing a preference based national value set for one of the EuroQol instruments. Value set development is part of the R&D process of EuroQol instruments, and EuroQol therefore wishes to collaborate closely with parties that are interested to produce a value set. This chapter describes our policy for how to set up a valuation study.

Scope

The EuroQol Group and the EuroQol Research Foundation are conducting a series of value set studies globally. Value sets can be developed only for instruments that are made available to the wider public as an approved EuroQol instrument. A protocol for how to conduct the valuation studies has been published or can be obtained from the EuroQol Office. These studies are generally conducted in accordance with a protocol developed by EuroQol, which may involve conducting TTO interviews in a large sample of the general population using our standard proprietary software package called EQ-VT. Approved studies will receive in kind support of the EuroQol research foundation, but a few hurdles need to be passed before support is obtained, including assessment of case for need and available budget for the research.

Eligibility

All parties interested in conducting a valuation study of one of the EuroQol instruments, are invited to contact EuroQol Office first to learn about our policy regarding valuation studies. EuroQol membership status is not required. Before a research application is invited, we want to learn about your team, your funding and your time planning. We also want to learn about the status of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in your country, local experience with valuation research, local use of EQ-5D-3L and EQ-5D-5L and the case for need for developing a value set.

Funding

Your plans for how to finance the study are also reviewed before a valuation study proposal is invited. We typically expect the country team to secure local funding to cover most of the total project cost. So, you should be aware that this will be an expensive study. Our current protocol for valuing EQ-5D-5L requires a study sample of at least 1000 respondents for an EQ-VT study. This means 1000 face-to-face interviews to be completed by a team of about 10 trained interviewers. EuroQol research foundation will support approved studies in kind, by building and testing an EQ-VT version for your country, translation costs and costs for training, quality management and support. The EuroQol Research Foundation will be taking care of these costs (around €25,000) when your studies is approved by the Executive Committee of the EuroQol Group. However, you must secure funds for the project team members, participant incentives, fieldwork, etc from local sources. Depending on how the study is conducted, an estimate for the total study budget would be €70,000 to €300,000 or more, depending on the wages in a country and the extent to which parts of the study are farmed out to commercial companies. Subject to a decision of EuroQol's Executive Committee, co-funding may be obtained from EuroQol Research Foundation to make ends meet.

Should the availability of resources be a problem, we encourage you to consider conducting a valuation study of the EQ-5D-3L instrument, which requires a smaller sample (~300) and can be completed by a smaller team. Furthermore, using the so-called 'crosswalk' approach it will be possible to create values for the 5L instrument from the 3L data.

Application

The stage of drafting a valuation study proposal is entered if a team is considered capable and if it has a study design, funding and a time planning which is considered acceptable by the EQ-VT Support Team of the Valuation Working Group. In this stage the EQ-VT Support Team will work with the country team to develop a research proposal ready for review and approval by the EuroQol Executive Committee. Please note that if the EuroQol Executive Committee can also decide not to fund the study, which means that we will not provide the team with our EQ-VT software or funding.

Valuation studies have their own submission form, covering all elements required to perform a valuation study in accordance with our protocol.

1.3 Seed grants

The Executive Committee announced the launch of Research Seed Grants in 2022. The main focus of the Research Seed Grants is to support innovative research that may result in providing a catalyst to, and a starting point for, launching new projects or facilitating a change in the direction of the research. The Research Seed Grant program has the following goals:

- to encourage interest among external research groups to develop new collaborations with the EuroQol group in research projects where EQ-5D or EQ-5D data play a key role, e.g. embedded in clinical practice, as a routine PROM. (see below for example areas).
- to encourage innovative research related to the research priorities of one or more EuroQoL Working groups (Descriptive Systems, EQ-HWB, Valuation, Younger Populations, Population and Health Systems).

Scope

Through a seed grant, short-term, exploratory research projects can be supported. The seed funds are provided to stimulate innovative use of EQ-5D or of EQ-5D data. The results will determine the potential and long-term feasibility of the research or inform the design and execution of a larger scale study. A seed grant allows researchers to explore new research initiatives, that may be high-risk projects, to start working on their research project. Examples include:

- Applications leveraging further value from existing data sets made available through Routine Outcome Monitoring
- Development and validation of risk-prediction models, diagnostic tools, or decision support models
- Studies addressing the nature of disparities in care and outcomes
- Research done in strategic framework for value-based health care research and/or implementation
- Patient profiles in health care, patient platforms, care pathways
- Methodological or applied research in the field of psychometrics, health economics, classification theory, mapping, instrument development, or information processing and presentation.

Funding

Research seed grants may be requested up to €50.000. For requests over this threshold value, applicants would need to provide particularly convincing arguments for the need. The grant is for covering the direct cost of research and researcher salaries, following the usual budget guidelines. Institutional overhead expenses, indirects, material costs and travel expenses are not covered. Requested project budget should agree with project aims and scope. The maximum duration of research projects funded by a Seed Grant applications is 12 months.

Eligibility

The grants are specifically aimed at researchers aiming to establish new lines of research involving EQ-5D or related instruments and who are currently not affiliated with the EuroQol Group, allowing EuroQol to enter into new collaborations. Current members of the EuroQol group are not eligible to apply for this grant type. Collaboration with EuroQol members in the proposed research is allowed but not required, meaning that EuroQol members can join a research team as advisor or co-investigator.

The call is open to experienced researchers as well as to early career researchers, who have a proven track record, or indication of promise for early career researchers. Eligibility is subject to the requirement that the proposed research can support new collaborations or new research lines to develop. The application form will include questions about how the research is embedded in order to judge the scope for integrating results in next steps.

All domains are eligible for funding. Applicants should consider the following requirements:

- Research topic should be related to health and/or health care, to the EQ-5D or related instruments or to the Working Group themes
- Research is open to methodological as well as applied studies
- Research should be innovative in either methodology or application
- Project duration is variable but max. 12 months (see below)
- Requested project budget should be in agreement with project aims and scope

Application

Each call for proposals will be disseminated to stakeholders with the intention to solicit applications. All research groups viewing this call may submit their projects. Applicants with questions about this call can contact the EuroQol grants management team (grants@euroqol.org). The application and review procedure are as is described in the general Guidance for Applicants. The application form invites detail about the planned research, as well as detail about the Applicant, the organisation represented, and a vision around how funding of the proposal may be a basis for building collaborations.

2. Individual Grants

2.1 PhD grants

EuroQol invites proposals for PhD research that supports EuroQol's wider goals. The grant should allow a PhD student to do original research, write it up in a thesis that meets local requirements, and defend that thesis and earn the PhD title, as well as meeting the minimum requirements of EuroQol as listed below. The student's focus will be on broadening the theoretical understanding of a theoretical subject or exploring into any unknown area and enhancing research skills. The candidate is selected by the lead-supervisor. If the application is initiated with a specific candidate in mind, a CV of the prospective candidate must be provided together with the CVs of other team members. In case of projects initiated by the applicant, and for which there is no identified candidate, the strategy and timeline for recruiting or selecting the PhD candidate needs to be described. A suitable candidate must be identified who has demonstrated interest in the area.

Scope

While the primary aim essentially is *personal* capacity building, the secondary aim is to provide opportunities to investigate in depth a particular EuroQol related *topic* or *dataset*. The most important part of the application form is the project description. The project description explains the research project or projects for the PhD, and it outlines the research strategy in some detail. It is important to present a strong rationale for the research. The background should identify gaps in the evidence base/methodological issues that will be addressed, leading to the stated aims of the PhD proposal. The significance of the research questions (1) to the field, (2) to the EuroQol community should be clearly stated. The methods of all planned projects need to be described in a level of detail. It is not necessary to provide every last detail, but the description should allow reviewers to judge what level of quality is being pursued and to consider feasibility of the proposed work and assess risk. Details of existing data sources must be provided to allow quality and suitability of the data to be assessed. If new data will be collected, a description is needed of how data will be collected, analyzed, and reported. Unlike other standard proposals, attention should be paid to interaction with the research communities addressed, including the EuroQol group (e.g. by indicating which WG will be the most natural sounding board).

Funding

There are considerable differences between countries in the approaches to doctoral education, for instance regarding qualifications, coursework requirements, time to degree, examination, and funding. . The EuroQol-Group acknowledges such variations and accepts that budgets required to fund a PHD and deliverables will vary. Applicants need to provide relevant detail about how PhD research is structured in the host institution, and list the formal requirements in terms of process and outcome. The description needs to clarify the rights and duties of a PhD student and explain whether the student will receive research training, and have tasks and duties beyond the PhD research.

The targeted amount for PhD proposals is in the range of 150.000 – 160.000 euro; higher amounts may be requested if properly motivated. A EuroQol grant may be combined with other sources of funding. A smaller budget can also be requested if EuroQol funding is requested to supplement a previously awarded project or extend the budget available for an existing PhD study. You need to provide a budget plan to explain and justify the requested budget. Please describe the total amount of funds you currently have from other sources. If decisions on other grant requests are pending, EuroQol grants may be awarded as a conditional grant that will be released as soon as the remainder of the budget has been secured.

Your local context will define the way in which the budget will be made available to the student (e.g. as a stipend and fees or salary). The budget will be made available in annual instalments.

In addition to stipend/fees/salary for the student, you may request:

- an individual bench fee of €5000 for the PhD student to encourage his or her scientific career. The student can freely decide whether to spend this on travel to conferences, registering for courses, etc.
- a budget up to €25.000 to cover material cost, e.g. for data collection/acquisition. This can be included in the original proposal, or applied for separately at a later stage after approval of the project while the work is ongoing.
- supporting funds for one or two supervisors. The amount is capped at €7,500 euro in case of one supervisor and at €10,000 in case of two supervisors.
- If travel is involved, this needs to be explained and justified.

Note: The cost of attending EuroQol meetings will be fully reimbursed, if applicable, and do **not** need to be included in the budget. Budgets to cover open access fees also should **not** be included in your application, but can be requested later upon acceptance of a manuscript.

It is *not* possible to request funding to cover indirect costs or overheads.

Eligibility

All EuroQol members who have approval to be a lead or co-supervisor of a PhD candidate at an institution that confers PhDs are eligible to apply. The PhD research could be undertaken at more than one institution, but the institution at which the student is enrolled will provide the lead supervisor and be the official representative of the project and budget holder. Other people involved can be co-supervisors or part of a broader advisory team.

Applicants need to ensure that the student has the necessary lead-supervisor and institutional support. The lead-supervisor must have approval to be a primary supervisor at the institution at which the student is enrolled. The lead-supervisor needs to have institutional capacity to provide the support, opportunities, and resources needed to enable effective supervision and to ensure that the candidate will qualify for the PhD according to relevant standards (this may include teaching). Qualifications of all project team members need to be clarified by including their full academic CV and intended roles in the application.

Deliverables

The required deliverables for a PhD project will be defined in part by the local context. In some countries the requirements are defined in terms of published papers, while in others it rests on a thesis presented to an exam committee. The EuroQol Group acknowledges this and accepts that the deliverables of PhD projects funded by EuroQol will vary. The lead-supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all local requirements are met, as well as the possible additional requirements defined by EuroQol. The EuroQol-Group defines as a minimum requirement from a PhD project submission of two research articles to a peer reviewed journal, and at least one of these must have been accepted for publication during the timeframe of the PhD. Furthermore, the PhD student is expected to present the research regularly at scientific conferences, including those organized by the EuroQol-Group. The EuroQol-Group expects contribution to the scientific network, e.g. if invited by a WG or the EuroQol-leadership. If applicable it also includes creating documentation/guidelines for users of the EuroQol-instrument on the topic/dataset. Generally, it is assumed that analytical tools/programs are shared with those EuroQol-members. If another organization/agency also is supplying funding to the PhD student then the EQ requirements are modified to reflect the magnitude of investment.

The timelines and important milestones of the project need to be presented (ideally on a Gantt chart), in order to allow progress to be judged. The timeline needs to include the required milestones of the

host institution and of EuroQol. The project team needs to pay appropriate attention to potential barriers for timely availability of data (including ethical approval). EuroQol requires the submission of annual progress reports to monitor if the project is on track and delivering expected results. More generally, the annual report is an important communication tool for knowledge transfer and also to document changes that become necessary or even desirable during the PhD project after its approval and require sign off by EuroQol.

2.2 Postdoctoral grants

The policy for funding of postdoctoral grants is currently under review, and therefore not included in this document.

2.3 Travel grants

EuroQol travel grants (EQTGs) aim to provide students and researchers funding for international travel and subsistence to study the EQ-5D at a university or a recognized academic or policy center/institute under the supervision of a EuroQol member. The travel grants support short term visits abroad as well as long term partner institution residency. The scope of these travel grants is wide and could serve different aims.

Scope

- *Short term travel grants:* The short-term travel grants support members who wish to meet physically to conduct EuroQol-related activities, mostly for specific projects, to travel abroad for a short period of time. These grants may also be requested with the purpose of meeting to develop projects/proposals, rather than working on existing projects. The period abroad can vary between a couple of days to 2 months. Please note: To receive funding for meetings or collaboration efforts of smaller teams, a deliverable should be clearly defined, such as a research proposal or a publication.
- *Long term Travel grants:* The general idea is to allow researchers interested in getting more deeply involved with specific types of EuroQol work to get residency at an institute abroad for a specific period (2 months to a year) and be embedded in the team. The grant supports various types of residency at a partner institute, e.g. work placements, internships, traineeships, and research specialization visits. If you want to apply for a travel grant of this type, you will need a contact person at a partner institution in the EuroQol network: your host. Any EuroQol member who has demonstrated expertise related to your planned work may act as a host. An alternative to partner institution residency could be similar arrangements with the EuroQol Office allowing researchers interested in the general scope of EuroQol activities to come to Rotterdam and be embedded in the office scientific team.

Funding

The amount of funding for short term travel grants is limited to €15,000 per grant and this should be used for travel, training course fees, accommodation and subsistence only. An application form has been developed for the applicant to complete; it should also be signed by the member who will host the student in their organization. The support from EuroQol is limited to the travel grant, all other support would be provided by the host institute. No maximum amount has been defined for long term travel grants. The amount of funding is context specific.

Eligibility

Only members of the EuroQol group can apply for a travel grant, unless stated otherwise in a request for proposals.

3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer

3.1 Education and outreach grant

This grant type invites interested persons to submit plans for any educational or outreach activity that supports the [mission of EuroQol Group](#). The EuroQol Group Association and EuroQol Research Foundation aim to improve decisions about health and health care throughout the world by developing, promoting and supporting the use of instruments with the widest possible applicability for the measurement and valuation of health. The Foundation is active in two roles, i.e. as distributor of instrument and as a grant making organisation in the field of measurement and valuation of health. Activities to ensure access to the accumulated research expertise of the EuroQol Group and to actively promote the transfer of knowledge and evidence regarding the use, analysis, and interpretation of measures developed by the EuroQol Group are required to generate impact.

Scope

Funding may be requested for a range of activities. The deliverable of the funding application can be an event or a product. Some examples of events that may qualify for EuroQol funding by an educational and outreach grant are listed below. If you would like to apply for a grant to organise an event, the submission form invites you to describe the event you are planning, the target audience, the aims, etc.

- Capacity teaching of courses,
- workshops or webinars,
- conference visits to support dissemination of new research findings
- organisation of regional meetings to build capacity

Examples of product development that can be supported by a EuroQol Education and Outreach grant:

- development of teaching materials
- developments of analytical tools
- books

Funding

No maximum amount has been defined for education and outreach grants. The amount of funding is context specific.

Eligibility

Generally, calls are aimed at researchers with established lines of research involving EQ-5D or related instruments, many of whom are affiliated with the EuroQol Group. EuroQol membership status is not required.

3.2 Open Access fee reimbursement

The EuroQol Group has an **Open Access fee policy** that the Foundation will refund all costs of publishing articles in open access journals, for manuscripts related to funded projects. The Open access fee reimbursement policy also covers open access publishing cost of manuscripts drafted by members and relevant to EuroQol in another way. To apply for the OA reimbursement, a request needs to be submitted in the grant submission portal: <https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>. Payment of the OA fee can only be done via an invoice from the publisher.

Eligibility

EuroQol members and authors of manuscripts of projects that were supported by the EuroQol Research Foundation can apply for funding.

4. Large scale investments (XL grants)

As a supplement to regular calls, the Executive Committee is interested in ideas for larger strategic investments in scientific programmes of work. Examples of programmes of work that have been funded as a large strategic investment include the EQ-DAPHNIE project, the programme around the TANDI, and larger investments in support around the Australian QUOKKA study. In addition, the ongoing UK valuation study can be seen as an example of large-scale spending outside the regular call structure.

Scope

The main characteristics of an application for a large-scale strategic investment programme application (XL grant) should include:

- Strategic importance: there must be compelling reasoning aligned with the EuroQol vision and mission, for the Group to take on the opportunity costs, e.g. by reaching new target groups, specific scientific milestones, or lowering user barriers.
- Scale/cost: for project ideas with budget impact up to several hundred thousand Euros, and/or with limited complexity, the regular project proposal procedure will be the default.
- Practical case: please provide reasoning for why your research idea cannot be implemented in the regular proposal structure.
- (Optional) membership involvement: EuroQol will consider proposals that allow the involvement of wider groups of members, ideally those who would otherwise not be highly active.

Funding

No maximum amount has been defined for education and outreach grants. The amount of funding is context specific.

Eligibility

It is not possible to start an application for an XL grant via the grants portal on your own account. Firstly the idea will need to be pitched to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee is interested in the idea, an invitation will be shared to submit a full proposal.

This funding option is aimed at researchers with established lines of research involving EQ-5D or related instruments, many of whom are affiliated with the EuroQol Group. The lead applicant must be a EuroQol member.

The steps to apply for an XL grant are as follows, with every next step being conditional on a positive judgement in the previous step:

1. Contact the Executive Chair and/or the Scientific Director (grants@euroqol.com) to briefly discuss your idea and receive confirmation that it is in scope.
2. Send a memo to the Exec that describes **what** it is that you are asking funding for, presents a **strong case** for financing the plan and **outlines the work** that will be done if the grant is awarded with an appropriate level of detail. The memo will be shared with the Exec for a go/no go decision, and to collect inputs and feedback if the Exec agrees to move forward with this idea.
3. Submit a full proposal via the grants portal. Your proposal will be assessed in the usual way. All applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the EuroQol Group and by at least two other EQ members, who may be a member of the relevant Working Group(s).



Applicants will be assessed on the following criteria: strategic value, scientific quality, feasibility, track record, and prospects to build on this work.