

19th Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups February 2025

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. In funding research, the highest priority will be given to research that aligns with the [scientific and strategic goals](#) of EuroQol, and is of excellent scientific quality.

EuroQol has established Working Groups (WGs) which support the research agenda outlined by the Executive Committee. Proposals that seek to address one or more current priorities of the WGs will have a higher probability of being approved, taking into consideration strategic priorities and available budget. For this call, the WGs have reviewed the current research portfolio and identified priority areas, which have then been reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee. In addition, the Strategic Plan will guide funding decisions.

The Exec may, in addition to this call, and on an as needed basis, directly approach teams to submit proposals to meet specific strategic needs of EuroQol

Please note:

- The provisional funding available for the current call stands at approximately €3-3.5M. 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. 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 13 April 2025 at 23:59 CEST**, with the exception of Expressions of Interest for the Education and Outreach Working Group, which has an earlier deadline of **Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 12:00 CET**.

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 modifications) scientifically and strategically.
3. To explore the development of future instruments and modifications, scientifically and strategically.

Priorities of this call

1. Generating evidence to support the further development of bolt-ons
2. Bridging the transitions from youth to adult instruments
3. Developing deep-dive modules for existing dimensions

Further explanation RFP objectives/priorities

1. Generating evidence to support the further development of bolt-ons

1a. Skin bolt-on

The DSWG is in the process of conducting almost all the studies needed to further develop the skin bolt-on dossier. In this round we call for research to address remaining gaps in evidence for conditions other than psoriasis, expanding work into specific populations, where new treatments have recently been introduced or are about to enter the market. Examples include:

Atopic dermatitis: Previous EQ-funded work has confirmed the good content and construct validity of the skin bolt-ons (skin irritation and self-confidence) for the EQ-5D-5L in atopic dermatitis. However, most of this evidence comes from cross-sectional studies, online samples and mild-to-moderate atopic dermatitis populations. Given the increasing availability of new treatments for atopic dermatitis, we are interested in a targeted longitudinal psychometric study in key country(ies) to generate evidence on construct validity and responsiveness in moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis populations receiving biologic or small-molecule treatments.

Chronic hand and foot eczema: While the good construct validity of the skin bolt-ons has been established in atopic dermatitis, there is a lack of studies focusing on chronic hand and foot eczema. With new treatments recently approved for this condition and one currently being assessed by NICE, we are interested in a cross-sectional or longitudinal study investigating the quantitative psychometric performance of the skin bolt-ons in this population in a key country.

Acne and rosacea: Acne and rosacea represent another potentially important area for the use of skin bolt-ons, especially given the recent availability of new treatments. We encourage a project to explore the content validity of the skin (and potentially other) bolt-ons in patients with acne and rosacea.

Furthermore, research on the overlap between skin bolt-ons and existing EQ-5D-5L dimensions and the interpretation of skin attributes is needed to inform the design of future valuation studies.

1b. Cognition bolt-on

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 content and construct validity, responsiveness and test-retest reliability (and inclusion of the EQ-HWB-S is encouraged). We would also welcome evidence on both the self-report and proxy versions of the bolt-ons, examining the agreement between these versions, and evidence that informs the design of future valuation studies.

1c. Non preference based scoring on bolt-ons

Bolt-ons may be made available to users in the interim without an associated value set (and the VWG are leading the research agenda in this area). We are interested in proposals that explore how to score the EQ-5D and bolt-ons psychometrically, and how to apply those scores, that could inform guidance to users. This could include comparing the validity of different approaches to scoring, and the assumptions underlying those approaches such as a single Level Sum Score (requiring unidimensionality), multiple scores based on dimensionality, rescaled scoring, single dimension scores and IRT based scoring. The validity of these non-preference-based scoring methods may differ across different bolt-ons, and therefore we encourage this work to be conducted across different descriptors. We encourage all those interested in bolt-ons 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 is related to existing concepts of the EQ-5D-5L and may “improve decisions about health and healthcare.” For example, a study may collect evidence on how a bolt-on may change the interpretation of existing ones (e.g., social and usual activities) 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-HWB.

1. Bridging the transitions from youth to adult instruments

Evaluating interventions which impact across the life course involves the measurement of HRQoL using age-specific instruments (e.g. EQ-TIPS for infants, EQ-5D-Y-5L for children, and EQ-5D-5L for adults). These transitions between instruments raise a number of challenges for measuring HRQoL in a consistent manner. We call for proposals to explore these issues through reviews of the literature, theoretical and empirical work.

3. Deep dive development

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). 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 modules could be developed, and what characteristics the modules

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.

Note: If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we also request that you to contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett) early in the process. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure feasibility and proper budgeting, please reach out to obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

Contact information

Brendan Mulhern, DSWG Chair (Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au)

Aureliano Finch, DSWG Liaison (finch@euroqol.org)

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.

For this round of RFP, in addition to the regular types of grants we have been called for, we specifically invite members to consider the application of organizing regional meetings in 2026.

1. Informing best practice for engagement activities
2. EuroQol Travel Grants
3. Expression of interest (EOI) for 2026 regional/thematic meeting

1. Informing best practice for outreach and engagement activities

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. This includes but is not limited to:

- Explores effective methods for engaging with stakeholders involved in or affected by the use of EuroQol instruments and research.
- Investigates best practices for inclusive consultation and co-design in the development and valuation of EuroQol instruments.

2. EuroQol Travel Grants

These travel grants support Group members and students who wish to participate in f2f meetings or to conduct knowledge-based research activities, including but not limited to:

a) Participation in conferences and other scientific meetings

Members of the EuroQol Group are encouraged to share relevant research output with the wider scientific community. Where an abstract has been accepted for oral presentation in a meeting organised by a society with international standing (for example, ISPOR, ISOQOL, SMDM) then reimbursement support can be applied for to cover the costs of registration, travel and accommodation. Such support is also open to members of the PhD network with an accepted abstract for a podium or poster presentation. A single such application will be permitted in any calendar year. The total costs of funding in each case should not exceed 3,000 Euros.

b) Creating or expanding collaborative networks

Creating and developing scientific collaboration has been an integral feature of the evolution of the EuroQol Group. This is an important and valued component of the Group's programme of scientific meetings. From time to time, individual members may wish to extend their own collaborative network, or create new ones. Exploring such potential may require more timely arrangements than are possible with the established calendar of Group meetings. In such circumstances, it would be considered legitimate to request support for time-limited exchange

visits. Funding support would be available to cover travel and accommodation costs for a short period of time, of no more than 3 weeks.

It would be expected that such visits would provide opportunities for knowledge- transfer and for seminar/workshop presentations. Proposals that envisage specific collaboration in developing new initiatives at an early stage, or that lead to the completion of manuscripts for journal publication will be favourably considered.

Where geographical proximity allows, a multisite itinerary can be considered. Funding for networking visits should not normally exceed a total of 5,000 Euros.

c) Developing new projects or proposals

Where f2f interaction is necessary to make significant progress in designing new projects, then support may be provided where it can be demonstrated that this will lead to significant progress being made.

Under ordinary circumstances, this type of support is not available to support research being undertaken as part of an existing study. However, it is acknowledged that analysis and reporting can sometimes be better facilitated when research colleagues share physical proximity.

In addition to these specific categories, a further category provides the possibility of support for researchers wishing to develop expertise in specific methods recognised as central elements of the EuroQol Research Foundation scientific agenda.

Applications under this category could be highly flexible and allow for support over a more sustained period of time, allowing for researchers to be temporarily relocated in partner institutions, for example for a semester. Such an arrangement could be hosted by a EuroQol member or research group with demonstrable expertise related to a planned programme of work. Any application will require the formal endorsement of the host organisation.

A similar arrangement with the EuroQol Office can also be envisaged, allowing researchers interested in the general scope of EuroQol activities to be seconded with the Rotterdam office's scientific team.

Applicants will be expected to establish a case for need, and a clearly defined costing will be required.

General requirements

In all instances, application for funding support will require a brief description of the expected outcome(s) and the means by which these will be adjudged to be successful. Where applicants have requested support for participation in conferences or scientific meetings, they will be expected, as part of the reimbursement procedure, to provide copies of any presentation slides or posters.

Where travel grants have been made available for network collaboration, then in addition to listing scheduled activities, applicants will be asked to provide empirical evidence that supports an external assessment of the value of any outcomes.

3. Express of interest (EOI) for 2026 regional/thematic meeting

The Executive Committee has decided that there will be no Academy meeting in 2026. Instead, we are launching a call for proposals to organize regional or thematic meetings in 2026. In the past, several regional meetings have been successfully organized by members, reflecting the international reach of the EuroQol Group. Additionally, Early Career Researcher (ECR) meetings and topical meetings have been held to accommodate the diverse needs of members and researchers.

Through this call for proposals, we invite members to express their interest in hosting a regional or thematic meeting in 2026. We anticipate funding 3–5 meetings, with a budget allocation of €50,000–€100,000 per meeting.

To participate in the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, please complete the EOI form in good grants (category 3.3) and submit it by **26 March 2025 at 12:00 CET**. All applications will be evaluated by the Education Outreach Working Group (EOWG) and the Executive Committee. The decisions of the EOI applications will be communicated in early April. A shortlist of EOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal before 12 May, 2025.

Contact information for the Education & Outreach Working Group

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Mandy van Reenen, vanreenen@euroqol.org

2.3 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

The EQ-HWB WG estimates that sufficient research has been conducted, is ongoing, or is planned and funded to inform the development of a solid classifier measure i.e., the EQ-HWB and/or the EQ-HWB-S. Therefore, the working group suggests the EuroQol group to direct efforts in synthesizing the evidence available or shortly forthcoming from existing studies, to upgrade the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S to Beta or Approved.

In anticipation of reaching an Approved status, the working group recognizes that more evidence is welcome to facilitated the valuation of the EQ-HWB-S and for understanding its placement and possible use within the wellbeing instruments landscape. The last is also relevant to better understand the value of the EQ-HWB compared to the EQ-HWB-S. The EQ-HWB WG therefore calls for research including:

1. Conceptual and theoretical work on the EQ-HWB-S in comparison with other wellbeing and social care measures
2. Valuation work investigating the type, magnitude and impact of interactions in the EQ-HWB-S
3. Work informing the placement, added value and pros and cons of the EQ-HWB compared to the shorter EQ-HWB-S e.g., economic evaluations and other applications within and beyond health and social care
4. Expressions of interest from members who are interested in being involved in studies supporting evidence synthesis

1. Work on the EQ-HWB-S in comparison with other social care and wellbeing measures:

There is a large and increasing number of health, wellbeing and social care instruments available to users. These include measures such as the ASCOT, and more recent developments such as the QOL-ACC and WIX. Measures vary significantly in the traditions they follow, the theoretical models they adhered to and the strategies and key choices taken for their development. They have in common the objective of being used in economic evaluations. The EQ-HWB working group invites research that informs and supports the placement and value of the EQ-HWB-S alongside these measures. Examples include:

- Comparative analysis of theoretical frameworks and their appropriateness for use in a measures of outcomes for economic evaluations, with particular focus on the specific areas where wellbeing outcomes may be of interest specific areas where wellbeing outcomes may be of interest e.g., community interventions, prisons etc.
- Conceptual work on differences and similarities between measures of health, wellbeing and social care
- Methodological reviews of steps, choices and characteristics taken for the development of different instruments available in the measurement landscape, and critical assessment of their value and fit for purpose for evaluating interventions in social care or for other settings and purposes of application.

2. Valuation work:

The EQ-HWB-S has more items than the EQ-5D, meaning that there is an expectation that more interactions will be present. It also includes items related to health, and items related to wellbeing, which pose additional challenges. Therefore, the EQ-HWB WG invites methodological research looking into these possible interactions, with respect to the ones that are more likely to occur, those between health items, and between health and wellbeing items, and on how to include them in models. Possible examples of research include:

- Methodological work identifying which interactions are most prominent, and whether these are present across different countries and contexts.
- Comparative work of the types and size of interactions between the EQ-HWB-S and the EQ-5D, including interactions within EQ-HWB-S health items, and EQ-HWB-S health and wellbeing items
- Methodological approaches to include interactions in models.

3. Placement and value of the EQ-HWB

The EQ-HWB includes 25 items, meaning it poses some additional challenges e.g., translations, responders burden etc. compared to the EQ-HWB-S, yet it may generate rich information for some groups and populations. The EQ-HWB WG invites research to better understand the placement and value of the EQ-HWB alongside the EQ-HWB-S. Examples of studies may include:

- Descriptive comparisons between the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-S and assessments of the amount of additional information captured by the profile measure compared to the classifier
- Investigations of responders burden when using the EQ-HWB-S compared to the EQ-HWB in different contexts and populations, including for vulnerable groups and older adults, and after which point burden affects different groups, in different setting of administration.
- Consistency of responses when items are embedded within the longer measure, compared to when embedded within the shorter measure.

4. Synthesis of current evidence

The EQ-HWB Working group will dedicate the next year to the consolidation of evidence produced to date. This effort will lead to proposals submissions for the current call. The working group invites expression of interests to join these evidence synthesis projects. This offers a good opportunity for ECR researchers wanting to get more involved, particularly those part of the SIG. Team leads within the WG have been identified and will guide ECR.

Note: If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we also request that you to contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett) early in the process. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure feasibility and proper budgeting, please reach out to obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

Contact information: Aureliano Finch finch@euroqol.org; Simon Pickard: pickard1@uic.edu

2.4 PHS Working Group

The Populations and Health Systems Working Group (PHSWG) aims to advance the use of EQ instruments in routine outcome measurement and population health assessments. We invite proposals on both methodological and applied research, utilising quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods, that align with and support these aims.

Priorities of this call

1. Research examining methods of analyzing and reporting routinely collected EQ-5D data within health systems. This includes but is not limited to, analyzing EQ-5D data to evaluate healthcare outcomes (e.g., within the context of value-based care), scoring the EQ-5D in non-preference-based applications, comparing providers including healthcare professionals and hospitals (e.g., for benchmarking purposes), and informing clinical management at the individual patient level (e.g., in shared decision-making).
2. Studies focusing on using EuroQol instruments in routine outcome measurement within health systems and population health assessment (including inequalities research), particularly in low- and middle- income countries (LMIC).
3. Research on response scale heterogeneity and its impact on measuring health outcomes, particularly in the context of surgical interventions, chronic conditions, and other conditions with lengthy treatment pathways such as cancer.

Further explanation of RFP objectives/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:

- o Reviews of methods and approaches of summarizing and presenting EQ data to various stakeholders (including patients, clinicians, and policy-makers). Additionally, we are interested in research that explores stakeholder preferences for 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 research investigating the presentation of information in existing dashboards is encouraged.
- o Research that explores the implementation of EuroQol instruments in routine outcome measurement in various clinical settings, and the use of EQ data to inform patient, clinical, managerial, or commissioning decisions.

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:

- Studies focusing on applications of EQ instrument data in assessing and monitoring population health in low middle income countries (LMIC) and marginalized groups.

- Systematic/scoping reviews or landscape analyses that aim to understand the use of the EQ instruments in LMICs and marginalised groups.
- 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.
- Studies investigating inequalities in EQ data. For example, decomposition analysis where health inequalities are decomposed into various contributing explanatory factors.

3. Exploring response scale heterogeneity and its impact on measuring health outcomes

We welcome proposals that explore response shift/reporting heterogeneity in EQ instruments. This includes proposals that investigate how to identify and/or address changes in individuals' internal standards/reference points, particularly in the context of surgical interventions, chronic conditions, and other conditions with lengthy treatment pathways such as cancer. We also welcome proposals that investigate response heterogeneity and other methodological challenges in using EQ instruments in routine outcome measurement and assessing population health.

Contact information

Please contact Juanita Haagsma (j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl) or Paula Lorgelly (paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz) to discuss potential proposal submissions and/or for further information about any of the research areas described. We also suggest to review the recently funded projects that fall under the PHSWG umbrella.

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. Value set expiry.
3. EQ-HWB-S valuation.

New ideas for the modelling of cTTO data.

Further explanation of the RFP 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. The VWG has begun to consider the issues of redundancy, obsolescence, and replacement of value sets. To aid that discussion, we invite work on
 - a. 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 consider the cost aspect of valuation, and the limited specificity of the preference change detection, i.e., false positive results),
 - b. the impact of changing valuation-related methodology on value sets,
 - c. the impact of value set changing (including changes between 3L to 5L value sets) on cost-utility analysis results and resource allocation.

3. 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. We invite proposals that
 - a. test the performance of EQ-HWB-S in response scaling tasks, 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 whole descriptive system,
 - b. test the presence of interactions (in terms of the impact on utility, not in the measurement sense) between the dimensions (if possible, targeted at the measurement of interactions and not requiring a full valuation study),
 - c. would compare various modes of administration of stand-alone DCE (which would be useful also beyond HWB-S valuation to reduce the quality issues of online panels): for instance, face-to-face interviews, DCE conducted by groups of respondents with a single supervisor, or online panels.
4. We invite studies that would propose new methods to model cTTO data and that would account for challenging characteristics of these data such as non-normal (or even non-symmetric) distribution of values, censoring, and the presence of respondent heterogeneity and heteroscedasticity of the error term.

Apart from the priorities listed above, we are also looking for expression of interest to collaborate with VWG on the finalization of the DCE with duration stand-alone protocol.

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).

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 Younger Populations Working Group (YPWG) promotes research on measuring and valuing child health using EuroQol instruments, including the EQ-5D-Y-3L (Y-3L), the recently developed EQ-5D-Y-5L (Y-5L), and the EQ-TIPS for infants and toddlers. While Y-3L and Y-5L are available for pediatric use worldwide, EQ-TIPS remains in an experimental phase.

The YPWG identifies and synthesizes evidence to address key knowledge gaps on how these instruments perform across populations and settings. Key areas of interest include measurement properties, respondent and mode effects, and transitions between instruments. Additionally, the YPWG collaborates with the Valuation Working Group to explore valuation methods for pediatric instruments, ensuring appropriate methodologies for valuing health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in children and adolescents.

Priorities of this call

This **Request for Proposals** seeks new evidence to support ongoing research in three priority areas:

1. Parallel Data Collection to Explore Instrument Transitioning
2. Further Testing of EQ-TIPS
3. Impact of Mode of Administration for EQ-5D-Y and EQ-5D-Y-5L

Researchers interested to apply for funding in any of these areas are encouraged to contact members of the YPWG to discuss potential proposals and help ensure they align with YPWG priorities.

Note: If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we also request that you to contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett) early in the process. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure feasibility and proper budgeting, please reach out to obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

Further explanation of priorities

1. Parallel Data Collection to Explore Instrument Transitions

To better understand transitions between instruments, YPWG seeks studies involving parallel data collection with EQ-5D-Y and EQ-5D (3L or 5L), or EQ-5D-Y and EQ-TIPS (3L or 5L). This research will clarify relationships between these instruments and inform transition pathways between pediatric and adult measures. A comprehensive understanding requires data from multiple types of patients, so researchers with opportunities for parallel data collection are strongly encouraged to include this in proposals. Contributions will support a broader evidence base on instrument transitions.

To facilitate data synthesis, applicants must agree to make their data available for secondary use in EuroQol's repository, following the [SAVED](#) policy.

2. Further Testing of EQ-TIPS

The EQ-TIPS instrument is still in an early development phase, and several evidence gaps remain:

- a. Psychometric performance of EQ-TIPS in children aged 0–4 years.
- b. Potential mappings between EQ-TIPS and EQ-5D-Y to support value set construction.

We welcome proposals that investigate the feasibility and psychometric performance of the EQ-TIPS in various disease areas, particularly focusing on test-retest reliability, known-groups validity, and responsiveness. In addition, qualitative research exploring the comparative acceptability, understanding, and interpretation of EQ-TIPS across different respondent groups is encouraged. We encourage you to contact the YP WG if you want to know in which clinical areas contributions are most needed.

Since EQ-TIPS valuation is in its early stages, we are exploring feasibility of different methods rather than committing to a single approach. We are particularly interested in studies examining different *mapping* approaches between EQ-TIPS and EQ-5D-Y, including:

- a. *Response Mapping (or Crosswalk)*
- b. *Utility Mapping*
- c. *Vignette-Based Methods*

While the first two are well-established in health economics^{1, 2}, vignette-based methods offer an alternative when direct paired response data is unavailable. This approach would assess the severity of EQ-TIPS health states relative to EQ-5D-Y health, for instance using paired comparisons. Its application in the WHO's DALY framework suggests it may be a robust method for anchoring new health descriptions to an existing value scale³. However, its effectiveness in comparing EQ-TIPS and EQ-5D-Y remains uncertain, as these instruments target different age groups and dimensions.

We encourage research critically evaluating these and other approaches, considering their implications for future valuation of EQ-TIPS.

3. *Impact of Mode of Administration for EQ-5D-Y and EQ-5D-Y-5L*

Although EQ-5D-Y-3L and EQ-5D-Y-5L are globally available, questions remain on how best to collect data across pediatric age groups. While EuroQol provides guidance on self-report vs. proxy-report, limited evidence exists on how mode of administration (MoA)—particularly interviewer involvement—affects data quality and feasibility. A key question is whether interviewer administration lowers the self-report age threshold, enabling younger children to complete the questionnaire meaningfully. Expanding self-report opportunities is particularly relevant for children with limited reading ability, cognitive immaturity, or developmental challenges.

We invite proposals investigating:

- a. The appropriate minimum age for interviewer-assisted EQ-5D-Y completion.
- b. How different administration modes (self-completion, proxy-report, interviewer-assisted) affect data quality, reliability, and interpretation.
- c. Whether interviewer support leads to responses that better reflect the child's health state compared to self-completion or proxy assessments.

This research will inform future best practices for EQ-5D-Y data collection, improving accuracy and comparability in pediatric HRQoL assessments.

¹ Van Hout et al. Interim Scoring for the EQ-5D-5L: Mapping the EQ-5D-5L to EQ-5D-3L Value Sets, *Value in Health*, Volume 15, Issue 5, 2012, Pages 708-715, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2012.02.008>.

² Mukuria et al. An Updated Systematic Review of Studies Mapping (or Cross-Walking) Measures of Health-Related Quality of Life to Generic Preference-Based Measures to Generate Utility Values. *Appl Health Econ Health Policy* 17, 295–313 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40258-019-00467-6>.

³ Haagsma JA, Charalampous P. Deriving disability weights for the Netherlands: findings from the Dutch disability weights measurement study. *Popul Health Metr.* 2024 Oct 7;22(1):26. doi: 10.1186/s12963-024-00342-0.

3 Submission Guidelines

3.1 Available budget

For the current call a budget of up to €3-3.5M 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 13 April 2025 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 April/May 2025.
- your proposal will be discussed by the Executive Committee on 10, 12 and 17 June 2025.
- applicants will normally receive further information about the decision of the Exec within two weeks after the Exec meetings (by the end of June 2025).
- The deadline for any resubmissions linked to this RFP will be Sunday 17 August 2025 23:59 CEST, to be discussed in the Executive Committee meeting on 16 September 2025.
- The deadline for any conditional fund responses linked to this RFP will be Sunday 31 August 23:59 CEST.

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
	Mark Oppe	oppe@euroqol.org
Younger Populations	Mike Herdman	mikeherdman.insight@gmail.com
	Elly Stolk	stolk@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
	3.3 Expression of interest form for regional events
4. Large scale investments (XL grants)	4.1 Program of work in any strategically relevant topic area

8. If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we also request that you to contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett) early in the process. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure feasibility and proper budgeting, please reach out to obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

9. 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).

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.
13. **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.
14. 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.
15. Abstracts of applications that are awarded funding will be published on the public website.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. **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.

19. **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.

20. **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.

21. **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

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 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 for **less experienced researchers**, e.g. post-docs.
- (3) €54.25 per hour/€434.00 per day for **students and office staff**.

The above daily rates we pay are intended to provide a fair and reasonable reimbursement for researchers' time. The rates do not explicitly make any allowance for institutional overheads.

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. Please note that research budgets can include reimbursement of researchers' time, at the daily rates we stipulated by the Foundation, and any direct costs it is necessary to incur in undertaking the research (e.g. use of subcontractors). The Foundation does not cover institutional overheads.

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.

Note: If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we also request that you to contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett) early in the process. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure feasibility and proper budgeting, please reach out to obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

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. The Foundation does not cover institutional overhead costs, indirects, material costs and travel expenses. 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.