

20th Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups September 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 €3.5-5M. 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).

The following working groups are offering advice sessions for anyone that needs help developing their ideas for their proposal:

- DSWG: 16 September 10:00 - 12:00 CEST (please refer to the DSWG chapter of this document for more information).
- EQ-HWB WG: 24 September 12:00 – 13:30 CEST (please refer to the EQ-HWB WG chapter of this document for more information).
- PHSWG: 12 September 07:00 - 08:00 CEST and 17:00 - 18:00 CEST (please refer to the PHSWG chapter of this document for more information).
- YPWG: 15 September 09:00 – 10:00 CEST (please refer to the YPWG chapter of this document for more information).

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. Please also note that if we receive multiple proposals that have overlapping scope, that we may not be able to fund all overlapping proposals, even if they are well-aligned with the strategic plan.

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 19 October 2025 at 23:59 CEST**.

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 development of the areas included in the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox
2. Generating methodological evidence to support the standardization across items within the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox
3. Exploring the measurement properties of the EQ-5D in older populations

New grant type for Bolt-on Toolbox item psychometric testing: From the 20th RFP, we have introduced a new grant type for qualitative or quantitative psychometric testing of existing items in the experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox. Please select ‘**1.4. Bolt-on Toolbox validation (XXXX-BT)**’ grant type under 1. Research grants in the submission portal. This is exclusively for testing items within the experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox. Any new bolt-on development or innovative research related to bolt-ons should be submitted as a 1.1 Regular research grant (XXXX-RA). Please note that the submission requirements differ between these two grant types, and applicants are therefore advised to carefully review the relevant submission form prior to applying. Any proposals for secondary data analysis of existing bolt-on datasets would be submitted under a regular research grant.

Virtual advice sessions for interested applicants

The DSWG will hold eight 15-minute virtual drop-in consultations on 16 September 2025 (10:00-12:00 CEST) to answer specific questions and advise prospective applicants on their ideas (e.g., about alignment with the scope of the call, methodology).

- Slots must be booked in advance [via this sign-up link](#) (latest by 8 September, 8 slots available).
- Note that the sessions will be most effective if you prepare a brief description of your proposal idea with key points you would like advice on (5 minutes max).

Participation is entirely optional and will not influence the assessment of submitted proposals.

Further explanation of RFP priorities

1. Generating evidence to support the development of the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox

We are calling for proposals focused exclusively on six of the seven bolt-on areas that have been selected for inclusion in the EQ-5D Bolt-On Toolbox (Cognition, Vision, Hearing, Fatigue, Breathing and Skin). We are primarily interested in languages in which the EQ-5D is frequently used (e.g. English, Chinese, Spanish, German, Dutch, French), although other languages not mentioned will be considered if sufficient

justification is provided. For any new item development, the source language must be English, as outlined below. International collaborations are also encouraged, as long as English is one of the included languages.

We strongly recommend discussing your proposal idea with the DSWG leadership prior to submission (see contact details below). Collaboration with the DSWG and other teams, as well as regular reporting, are expected from all participating teams.

Note: If your research requires a translation of existing bolt-on(s), we also request that you contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett). Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and VMC light review, all of which have time and cost implications. To ensure accurate budgeting, please obtain an indicative cost before submitting your application.

We encourage proposals to include formative research demonstrating how the modifications are related to existing concepts of the EQ-5D-5L. Teams should clearly justify any comparator measures included, and comparisons between EQ-5D-5L+bolt-ons and the EQ-HWB-9 are discouraged this round.

1a. Cognition bolt-on: EuroQol has recently developed a new set of cognition bolt-on items for the EQ-5D-5L (Mulhern-Sampson). As part of this development, single item (i.e. cognition) and multi-item (e.g. memory, concentration) versions have been explored (Mulhern-Sampson). The intent of this will be to have a single item bolt-on recommended for broad use, and criteria guiding the use of selected items from the multi-item set in different populations. In this round we invite qualitative projects to contribute to the finalisation of the wording of the cognition bolt-on item set and understand the use of both the single and multi-item options in relevant patient populations such as Alzheimer's disease, other dementias, Parkinson's disease, ADHD, epilepsy, sclerosis multiplex and depression. These projects should collect evidence on content validity. We would also welcome evidence on both the self-report and proxy versions of these bolt-ons.

1b. Vision bolt-on: We are interested in both qualitative and quantitative psychometric studies that test multiple versions of the vision bolt-on, including variations in wording (e.g. 'vision' vs. 'seeing') and the inclusion or exclusion of visual aids (e.g. glasses or contact lenses). These studies will support the finalisation of item wording and inform the development of recommendations about the populations in which the bolt-ons should be used. Therefore, studies should focus on key patient populations, such as those with age-related macular degeneration, visual complications of diabetes, retinal diseases, cataract, glaucoma, or myopic choroidal neovascularisation. Projects should aim to gather evidence on content and construct validity, responsiveness, and test-retest reliability.

1c. Hearing bolt-on: We are interested in quantitative and qualitative psychometric studies that test the newly developed hearing bolt-ons (Sampson-Page), including the impact of including or excluding hearing aids. Relevant populations include older adults with hearing impairment, individuals with hearing loss due to chronic or genetic conditions, and those with related conditions such as tinnitus. Projects should aim to gather evidence on content and construct validity and reliability. Studies may also examine the responsiveness of the bolt-on to hearing aids and implantable devices.

1d. Fatigue bolt-on: We are interested in a mixed-methods research project to develop new fatigue item(s) for the Toolbox. Multiple constructs, such as fatigue, tiredness, energy, and vitality, among others, may be explored as part of this project (with the aim to use the evidence generated to recommend a preferred descriptor for the final bolt-on). In this round, we invite projects focusing on fatigue alone, not the interaction between fatigue and sleep or comparisons with other instruments. The patient populations in which the bolt-on is tested should be clearly justified.

1e. Breathing bolt-on: In this round we invite both qualitative and quantitative projects to contribute to the finalisation of the wording of the breathing bolt-on, focusing on relevant patient populations such as asthma, COPD, lung emphysema, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary fibrosis. These projects should collect evidence on content and construct validity, and reliability.

1f. Skin bolt-on: Over the past few years, substantial psychometric evidence, both qualitative and quantitative has accumulated supporting the validity of the skin bolt-ons (skin irritation and self-confidence) in key chronic skin condition groups, including psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and chronic urticaria. In this round, we encourage a qualitative project to explore the content validity of the skin bolt-ons in patients with acne and rosacea.

2. Generating methodological evidence to support the standardization across items within the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox

We are calling for mixed methods proposals focused on the standardization of bolt-ons selected for inclusion in the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox. We welcome innovative studies that can address the following methodological questions affecting multiple bolt-ons within the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox. Preferably, studies will address methodological issues as part of work to develop the areas included in the Toolbox, as highlighted in Section 1 above.

- **Non preference-based scoring on bolt-ons:** Bolt-ons may be made available to users in the interim without an associated value set. We are interested in proposals that explore how to score the EQ-5D-5L and bolt-ons psychometrically, and how to apply those scores.
- **Inclusion of ‘aids’:** We call for work exploring whether sensory functioning items (e.g. hearing, seeing) should include ‘aids’ in the dimension label, and how the description of the ‘aids’ should be worded. We also call for work to explore whether versions both with and without aids should be available for use based on the population and assessment context.
- **Inclusion of examples and definitions:** Should examples be included to support interpretation of the dimensions or response options?
- **Framing of items:** We welcome methodological research testing various response scales such as severity, difficulty, or frequency (for bolt-ons where this may be justifiable and meaningful)
- **Overlap:** Studies may collect evidence on how a bolt-on may change the interpretation of existing dimensions
- **Composites:** Should the response option labels include two or more components (e.g., pain or discomfort)? This is particularly challenging when components are highly correlated.

3. Addressing methods and evidence gaps regarding use of EQ-5D in older populations

The DSWG is developing a research program to explore the use of EuroQol’s instruments in measuring the health of older populations.

3.1 Exploration of measurement issues

We call for proposals exploring both conceptual and measurement issues relating to the measurement of HRQoL in older populations. For example, proposals should draw on the existing evidence and experiences from recent work on the development of instruments targeting older populations, in particular the QoL-ACC (Ratcliffe et al), and explore differences across age-groups (65-74; 75-84; 85+) and other relevant characteristics, e.g. institutionalized or not, with the aim of informing which subgroups to target for further analysis.

We call for quantitative work to explore the measurement characteristics of the EQ-5D in older people in existing datasets. Datasets that also include health dimensions considered in the Bolt-on Toolbox would be

of particular interest. The aim of this work will be to apply different methods to existing datasets. Suitable datasets can be identified in collaboration with the DSWG.

Contact information

We strongly encourage discussing your proposal ideas with the DSWG leadership early in the development process:

Bolt-on proposals: Please contact Brendan Mulhern (Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au) and Fanni Rencz (rencz@euroqol.org)

EQ-5D in older populations: Please contact Brendan Mulhern and Jan Abel Olsen (jan.abel.olsen@uit.no)

Please note that any **new experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox item translations** should be carried out in line with VMC guidelines and under VMC oversight. Both the translation work and the time required for a VMC “light” review could be included in the budget. Advice can be sought at saraheq2018@outlook.com

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.

In the 19th round of RFP, the Executive Committee approved funding for seven regional meetings, which will be held in late 2025 and throughout 2026. Given that these meetings are already planned, we will not be inviting new proposals for large-scale meetings in this round of the RFP. For the 20th round of RFP, we invite proposals that directly support the EOWG's objectives and make use of the grant types relevant to our remit. Please refer to the "Grants offered by EuroQol" section for full details. Section 2.3 ("Travel Grant") and parent category 3 ("Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer") are particularly applicable. We welcome proposals for innovative and practical activities that broaden the understanding and use of EuroQol knowledge, engage a wide range of audiences, and foster stronger connections and knowledge sharing within the EuroQol member network worldwide.

General requirements

In all instances, application for funding support will require a brief description of the expected outcome(s) or deliverables 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.

Contact information for the Education & Outreach Working Group

Zhihao Yang, Zhihao_yang_cn@outlook.com

Mandy van Reenen, vanreenen@euroqol.org

2.3 EQ-HWB Working Group

The EQ-HWB WG's primary aim is to support developmental activities to advance the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-9 measures from experimental status to approved versions ready for broad implementation.

Priorities of this call

The EQ-HWB WG aims to finalize the descriptive system of the EQ-HWB-9 first. To support this, we are primarily interested in research that focuses on the validity and reliability of alternative forms and different modes of administration. Another program of work is the potential addition of visual analog scale(s) (VAS) to the EQ-HWB-9.

In-person Advice Session

The EQ-HWB WG will hold one in-person consultation session on the 20th RFP research agenda at the EuroQol Plenary in Vienna on 24 September 2025, from 12:00 to 13:30 CEST in the Parkring restaurant of the Vienna Marriott hotel.

The session will be organized in the format of two open tables, with 15 seats prepared. Although there are only 15 seats, other interested participants are also welcome to join. Participation is entirely optional. These sessions aim to support prospective applicants in aligning with the working group's research priorities. If you would like to take part, please contact the WG liaison, Guangjie Zhang (zhang@euroqol.org) by 21 September 2025, 23:59 CEST.

Further explanation of RFP priorities

1. Modes of administration/alternative forms:

Interviewer Administration (IA) and proxy versions are important modes of the EQ-HWB-9. Previous studies have suggested that the IA version may be particularly suitable for populations with low literacy. It is anticipated that offering diverse modes of administration will enhance the usability and applicability of the EQ-HWB-9 across different settings and populations.

1a. We would like to encourage comparison of the validity and reliability of self-complete with interviewer administered EQ-HWB-9.

1b. Second, studies of validity and reliability of proxy versions of the EQ-HWB-9 are needed. The EQ-HWB-9 may be particularly appropriate for populations such as the frail elderly who are unable to respond on their own behalf, necessitating proxy assessment of the EQ-HWB-9 by carers. Thus, studies that examine proxy versions of the EQ-HWB-9, including patient-proxy agreement, test-retest, interrater validity, responsiveness, and other tests of validity and reliability are encouraged.

2. EQ-HWB Visual Analogue Scale (VAS):

EQ instruments like the EQ-5D have included a VAS, which can provide a score that complements the index-based summary score based on the descriptive system. A VAS is now being considered for the EQ-HWB (-9), but the specific question and anchor points need to be investigated. We call for both qualitative and quantitative research using different anchors in various languages. Researchers interested in submitting should contact the WG for specific advice on the design and VAS versions to be tested to allow for standardized testing across teams. Smaller proposals on secondary analysis using existing datasets with EQ-HWB VAS versions are also welcome.

3. Studies of secondary interest

We are interested in (a) exploring the validity of EQ-HWB-9 in younger populations; (b) examining the validity of the longer form version of HWB (25 item) as reflected with modifications. However, these topics are lower priority in the context of this RFP which focuses on EQ-HWB-9.

3a. Examining the validity of the EQ-HWB-9 in 16–17-year-olds in order to recommend an age range and provide supporting evidence. Sixteen and older constitutes the recommended age range for the EQ-5D. Note that the population should fit the target population of the EQ-HWB-9 who are patients, informal carers and social carers and should preferably provide sufficient variance, i.e. healthy 16- and 17-year-olds will not be a desirable cohort to examine psychometric properties of the measure.

3b. While the WG is highly focused on finalizing the EQ-HWB-9, we are also looking to the future launch of the EQ-HWB, the longer 25-item measure. The EQ-HWB-9 can be derived from the EQ-HWB. Possible modifications have also been suggested for the EQ-HWB and there may be scope to suggest further changes (in consultation with the WG). Testing of the EQ-HWB would include the following:

- Testing the congruence/reproducibility of the subset of 9 item responses when the 25 items version is administered.
- Comparison between the modified and experimental versions of the EQ-HWB to identify which items perform better in the modified version and which perform better in the experimental one.

Exploring the international comparability of the modified EQ-HWB across different regions and patient groups.

4. Potential collaborations

There are specific issues to be addressed in finalizing the EQ-HWB-9 for which the WG seeks evidence. The usual approach for smaller screen digital devices, i.e. smart phones, is to present one item at a time, while more than one item can be presented on larger screen devices. Thus, we are interested in evidence on the acceptability and differences between the item-by-item layout and multiple items at a time for the EQ-HWB-9 in vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults ≥ 65 years, individuals with moderate-to-severe disability). This includes user-reported acceptability, user preferences, cognitive burden, response patterns, completion time, and the quality of the data collected with each version of the instrument (missingness, straight-lining, variance between layouts). If you are interested in collaborating with the WG on this initiative (which focuses on English and involves testing in vulnerable populations and have access to relevant populations for testing, please contact the WG.

Contact information:

Simon Pickard: pickard1@uic.edu; Clara Mukuria: c.mukuria@cmheconsulting.com; Guangjie Zhang: zhang@euroqol.org

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 that investigates how EQ instruments perform in comparison to other patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) within health systems and population health settings.
- 2) Research that examines **methodological approaches for estimating population health norms**, particularly the influence of factors such as recruitment methods, survey administration modes, sample representativeness, data collection protocols, and data sources.
- 3) Research that investigates **response scale heterogeneity and its implications for health outcomes measurement**, including how variations in response interpretation affect data comparability and the validity of decisions based on these measures.

Virtual advice sessions

The PHSWG will hold two virtual consultation sessions on the 20th RFP research agenda on **12 September 2025**, at the following times: **07:00-08:00** and **17:00-18:00 CEST**.

Participation is entirely optional. These sessions aim to support prospective applicants in aligning with the working group's research priorities. If you would like to take part, please contact the WG liaison, **Stevanus Pangestu** (pangestu@euroqol.org) by **8 September 2025, 23:59 CEST**.

Further explanation of RFP priorities

1. Exploring the comparative advantage of EQ instruments

The PHSWG seeks to understand how the suite of EQ instruments are used - or could be used - in healthcare systems, including hospital and community settings, and in particular their use compared to other PROMs instruments.

Many health systems collect PROM data of some form at national and/or sub-national levels. We are interested in understanding how they are collected, presented and used to change practice or inform funding decisions. We are particularly interested in research that investigates how the EQ-5D-5L and EQ-VAS perform in comparison to other PROMs and PREMs in health system applications (specifically chronic conditions, longterm disabilities and in ageing populations). Research that focuses on real-world use cases that demonstrate how EQ instrument data supports and informs health-care decision making is also encouraged.

Together with the Younger Populations Working Group we are also calling for research that explores the inclusion of youth measures in population health surveys. Our particular interest is in how they perform relative to other HRQoL measures for children.

2. Extending the methods and estimation of population norms when using EQ instruments to assess population health

EQ instruments are regularly included in large surveys, as a means to assess and understand the determinants of population health and the distribution of health. The PHSWG is currently undertaking research to collate and compare population norms, this has identified a number of areas where further research is warranted:

- Research that examines **methodological approaches for estimating population health norms**, particularly the influence of factors such as recruitment methods, survey administration modes, sample representativeness, statistical methods to address representativeness, data collection protocols, and data sources.
- **Research on the quality of EQ data collected in large-scale surveys**, including studies that examine how factors such as survey design influence data completeness, reliability, and validity. This includes work aimed at identifying best practices to enhance the consistency and comparability of EQ data across populations and survey contexts.
- Studies and reviews examining the usage of population norms in various applications.

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

We welcome proposals that investigate response scale 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 chronic or long-lasting conditions. We also welcome proposals that investigate response heterogeneity and other methodological challenges in using EQ instruments in routine outcome measurement and when assessing population health. Proposals are welcome on research that investigates how variations in response interpretation affect data comparability and the validity of decisions based on these measures.

Research on any of the topics above could utilise systematic review methodology, surveys, or qualitative analyses. We additionally welcome research that utilises secondary data analysis, including projects analysing the EQ-DAPHNIE data. Proposals that provide open source coding and allow for wider capacity building as a deliverable of the research are encouraged. Applications can focus on any of the EQ instruments, including those instruments (or bolt-ons) in development, where appropriate. We particularly welcome applications on the priorities noted above in areas or populations that are currently under researched.

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 welcome engagement with individuals up to one month before the deadline. We also recommend reviewing the recently funded projects under the PHSWG umbrella available on the EuroQol website.

2.5 Valuation Working Group

The Valuation Working Group (VWG) is charged with initiating and overlooking 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 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. DCE stand-alone valuation,
4. EQ-HWB-9 valuation,
5. new ideas for the modelling of cTTO data,
6. EQ-5D-Y-5L valuation.

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., a significant number of bolt-ons to be valued in the future). The proposals can be conceptual or empirical and should focus on the methodological aspects and not only be applications for specific bolt-ons/populations. In particular, we invite proposals that
 - a. scrutinize and develop the existing approaches (e.g., the scaling factor approach) or develop new ideas how DCE and cTTO methods may be used for bolt-on valuation
 - b. develop ideas to facilitate the production of value sets with 2+ bolt-ons,
 - c. develop the understanding of consistency between core and bolt-on value sets (in the normative, pragmatic, or axiomatic context),
 - d. formulate and test the assumptions of the valuation methods relevant for bolt-ons (for instance, the preferential interactions between the core dimensions and the bolt-ons or between various bolt-ons, i.e., the additivity of utility).
2. The VWG has begun to consider the issues of redundancy, obsolescence, and replacement of value sets. To aid that discussion, we invite proposals that
 - a. will seek to learn stakeholders' views on the matter,
 - b. will develop methods to monitor preference changes over time, e.g., methods that could potentially be used for detecting a 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),
3. In view of the launch of the DCE with duration experimental valuation protocol and the remaining challenges related to the quality of online panels, we welcome proposals that

- a. would generate and test ideas for the quality-control measures (including the measures to control for interviewer effect) that can be used in valuation studies using DCE with duration (the proposals should focus on EQ-5D-5L for which the experimental DCE duration protocol is available),
 - b. would inform the comparison of various modes of administration of DCE duration (for instance, face-to-face interviews, DCE conducted by groups of respondents with a single supervisor, or online panels).
4. In preparation for the development of the EQ-HWB-9 valuation protocol, we invite research related to the specifics of this instrument, and the large number of items in particular. We invite proposals that test the presence of interactions between the dimensions (in terms of the impact on utility, i.e., additivity, not in the measurement sense). The proposals should be targeted at the measurement of interactions, and not require a full valuation study.
5. 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.
6. We continue to seek proposals on EQ-5D-Y-5L valuation that investigate the reasons behind adults' unwillingness to trade off child life years; test if this unwillingness is an inherent part of preferences or an artifact produced by the valuation methods used, and 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), the VWG deputy chair (Bram Roudijk, he/him, roudijk@euroqol.org), or the Office liaison to the VWG (Mark Oppe, he/him, oppe@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 paediatric 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 four priority areas:

1. Parallel Data Collection or Research Exploring Instrument Transitioning
2. Testing and application of the EQ-5D-Y and EQ-TIPS
3. Impact of Mode of Administration for EQ-5D-Y-3L and EQ-5D-Y-5L
4. Feasibility of EQ-TIPS DCE latent scale methodology

Researchers interested in applying 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 contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett: saraheq2018@outlook.com) 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.

Online advice session

The YPWG will be available on 15 September 2025 between 09:00-10:00 CEST for any discussion on the 20th RFP or other ideas for research

proposals <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88223982184?pwd=dnulzh3rfO33yfhUBInd5eMEly1b0e.1>

Further explanation of priorities

1. Parallel Data Collection or Research Exploring 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). This research will clarify relationships between these instruments and inform transition pathways between paediatric and adult measures. A comprehensive understanding requires data from multiple types of patients, so researchers with opportunities for parallel data collection in patient populations are strongly encouraged to include this in proposals. Contributions will support a broader evidence base on instrument transitions.

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

2. Testing and application of EQ-5D-Y and EQ-TIPS

We encourage research on the EQ-5D-Y (3L or 5L) and EQ-TIPS (3L or 5L) to continue to build on evidence to support their use. We encourage research across diverse patient groups, age groups and in diverse settings including Low Income settings or other settings with lower resources and literacy levels. Assessing the Burden of Disease and paediatric drug development across the age groups would further strengthen proposals.

a) Psychometric performance

- i. Proposals investigating any psychometric performance are welcome. We have, however, noted gaps in the evidence for responsiveness testing research on the EQ-5D-Y, which includes younger age groups (6-10 years). Proposals that address these gaps are encouraged.
- ii. Performance of these instruments in prevalent health conditions and health conditions of interest for the development of new health technologies. Clinical trials information shows that oncology, vaccines and respiratory illness are currently of interest in infants and toddlers. With the increase in biotech modalities, exploring HRQoL in genetic conditions may also become more important. It is noted that the prevalence of health conditions and new technologies may depend on the age range and country of interest.

b) Use of these instruments as routine outcome measures.

c) Together with the PHS, we would be interested in integrating youth measures in health surveys.

3. Impact of Mode of Administration for EQ-5D-Y-3L 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 paediatric 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. Research on MoA will inform future best practices for EQ-5D-Y data collection, improving accuracy and comparability in paediatric HRQoL assessments.

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 of the underlying concept.

4. Feasibility of EQ-TIPS DCE latent scale methodology

Many open questions remain on valuing the EQ-TIPS, which include the feasibility of valuations for the age group represented by the EQ-TIPS in general, as well as the feasibility of obtaining QALY-anchored values for this instrument. Mapping the EQ-TIPS to the EQ-5D-Y is considered a promising approach, and work on this has been initiated. However, there is a need to understand the scope for other valuation methods. Considering the EQ-5D and EQ-5D-Y valuation protocols, the YPWG and VWG would like to start by encouraging EQ-TIPS research using latent scale DCE, so without any duration attribute. If this is shown to be feasible, future work investigating anchoring (e.g. DCE with duration and TTO) will be encouraged. As the 5L versions is more complex to value, latent scale DCE research on the EQ-TIPS-5L is encouraged.

a) Proposals exploring qualitative and or mixed-methods research to explore whether it is feasible to elicit direct preferences for the EQ-TIPS are invited. These include proposals on: Interpretation and presentation of EQ-TIPS dimensions in valuation tasks.

- i. Valuation tasks currently only present dimension headings and not additional parenthetical text. Thus, we are interested in whether the EQ-TIPS dimension headers are understood in isolation.

- ii. Exploration of how to best present the latent scale DCE tasks for EQ-TIPS. (e.g., display of examples, format of tasks.)
- b) Explore how the general population and caregivers conceptualise the task of valuing the health of young children.
 - i. How do different respondent roles and experiences influence willingness to engage with the tasks?
- c) How do framing strategies influence preferences.
 - i. Is there a difference in responses if health states are elicited for a hypothetical child versus own child?
 - ii. If health states are elicited about a hypothetical child, does the age of the child influence the preference task?

Researchers are welcome to contact the Chair, Janine Verstraete (janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za) if they have any additional queries or concerns.

3 Submission Guidelines

3.1 Who can submit?

In this round, the EuroQol Research Foundation accepts proposals that are submitted by research teams or individual researchers affiliated with 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. Applicants who are not currently collaborating with a EuroQol member but wish to apply are invited to contact us to discuss potential options.

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.

3.2 Submission procedure

All proposals reports will need to be submitted via the EuroQol Projects Submission Portal: <https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>. You will 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 19 October 2025 at 23:59 CEST**.

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

3.3 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 October/November 2025.
- Your proposal will be discussed by the Executive Committee on 4, 9 and 11 December 2025.
- applicants will normally receive further information about the decision of the Exec within two weeks after the Exec meetings (by the end of December 2025).
- The deadline for any resubmissions linked to this RFP will be Sunday 8 February 2026 23:59 CET, to be discussed in the Executive Committee meetings on 10 & 12 March 2026. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of March.
- The deadline for any conditional fund responses linked to this RFP will be Sunday 23 February 2026 23:59 CET. Applicants will be informed of the final funding decision by mid-March.

3.4 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
	Jan Heijdra Suasnabar	heijdra@euroqol.org
Education and Outreach	Zhihao Yang	zhihao_yang_cn@126.com
	Mandy van Reenen	vanreenen@euroqol.org
EQ-HWB	Simon Pickard	Pickard1@uic.edu
	Guangjie Zhang	zhang@euroqol.org
Populations and Health Systems	Juanita Haagsma	j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl
	Paula Lorgelly	paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz
	Stevanus Pangestu	pangestu@euroqol.org
Valuation	Michał Jakubczyk	michal.jakubczyk@gmail.com
	Bram Roudijk	roudijk@euroqol.org
Younger Populations	Janine Verstraete	Janine.Verstraete@uct.ac.za
	Bram Roudijk	roudijk@euroqol.org

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

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

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

4 Appendices

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

Guidance for applicants:

Procedures for research funding applications

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

Parent category	Sub category
1. Research grants	1. Regular research project
	2. Valuation study
	3. Seed grants
	4. Bolt on validation
2. Individual grants	1. PHD grant
	2. Postdoctoral grant (currently not available)
	3. Travel grant
3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer	1. Education and outreach project
	2. Open access fee reimbursement
	3. Expression of interest form for regional events (currently not available)
4. Implementation grants	1. Tools and resources
	2. Program coordination grants (inviting project ideas) (currently not available)

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. Review and decision on funding proposals happens quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The regular review process is described below in item 11. Different review and decision procedures apply for the following proposal types (see items 12–15).
 - time sensitive
 - low-cost proposals (maximum budget €25,000)
 - proposals for bolt-on validation
 - Program Coordination Grants
10. General principles governing the review process are:
 - a. All reviews are completed online using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal. Reviewers can view proposals and provide ratings/comments on criteria such as strategic and scientific importance, study design/methods, feasibility, budget, timelines, deliverables, and data protection.
 - b. All reviewers, WG members, and Exec members must make a declaration of interest. Anyone with a conflict of interest is excluded from any part of the review or decision-making process.
 - c. When proposals are discussed by the Exec, the relevant WG Chair may be invited to ensure informed decision-making.

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).

11. The **regular proposal review process** is as follows:
 - a. Two reviewers will independently review each proposal. The relevant Working Group (WG) will support reviewer selection. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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.
 - f. A triage committee will review proposals and their initial reviews. It will provide a direct recommendation (Fund / Conditional Fund / Revise and Resubmit / Reject / Discuss by the full Exec). Alternatively, the committee may defer its recommendation and invite two additional reviews from Exec members before making a final recommendation. All triage decisions must be confirmed by the full Exec, which raises the triage recommendation to the status of the

final decision. WG Chairs also review triage recommendations and can request that proposals be sent to the full Exec for discussion before a final decision is made.

12. 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.
13. The **review and decision procedure of bolt on validation proposals** is as follows:
 - a. Bolt-on validation proposals follow a separate review and decision-making procedure. The Exec will appoint a dedicated committee to review the proposal and provide a recommendation.
 - b. This recommendation must be confirmed by the full Exec before it becomes the final decision.
14. The review of **Program Coordination Grants** proposals is as follows:
 - a. Applicants first submit a project idea.
 - b. The Full Exec reviews and decides whether to reject the idea or invite a full proposal.
 - c. The invited full proposal will be reviewed by at least two Exec members. Additional reviews may be requested at the Exec's discretion.
 - d. The proposal and its review will be discussed in a meeting by the full Exec to make a decision.
15. 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.
16. **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.
17. 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.
 18. Abstracts of applications that are awarded funding will be published on the public website.
 19. 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.
 20. 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.
 21. **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.
 22. **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.
 23. **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.

24. 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. EuroQol does not separately allow budgeting of overhead costs for institutions.

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 than 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

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. 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.

Parent category	Sub category
1. Research grants	1. Regular research project
	2. Valuation study
	3. Seed grants
	4. Bolt on validation
2. Individual grants	1. PHD grant
	2. Postdoctoral grant (currently not available)
	3. Travel grant
3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer	1. Education and outreach project
	2. Open access fee reimbursement
	3. Expression of interest form for regional events (currently not available)
4. Implementation grants	1. Tools and resources
	2. Program coordination grants (inviting project ideas) (currently not available)

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). EuroQol does not separately allow budgeting of overhead costs for universities.

Eligibility

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

1.2 Valuation studies

Valuation studies are a specific type of research project, aimed at producing a preference based national value set for one of the EuroQol instruments. Value set development is part of the R&D process of EuroQol instruments, and EuroQol therefore wishes to collaborate closely with parties that are interested in producing 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 by 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 timeline 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 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 is not required, meaning that EuroQol members can join a research team as advisor or co-investigator. The application form invites detail about the planned work, 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.

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 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

1.4 Bolt on validation

Starting in 2025, the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox will become an experimental instrument requiring extensive validation across multiple disease areas. The DSWG's RFP chapter calls for a series of proposals aimed at validating Toolbox items for specific diagnoses.

Each bolt-on area requires qualitative and quantitative testing across several priority disease groups, selected based on prevalence and the availability of new treatments or devices. We anticipate a large number of concurrent studies (up to 10 per bolt-on area).

These proposals may be similar in content (e.g., "XX bolt-on validation in XY diagnosis") and, while valuable collectively, may offer limited standalone insights. A key objective is to manage the portfolio efficiently while ensuring all participating teams meet our quality standards.

To streamline the review and oversight of these proposals, EuroQol has adopted a hybrid model—positioned between an implementation grant and a tender. Key elements include:

- A shortened submission format focused on essential data only
- Use of standardized protocols and analysis templates provided by the DSWG
- A different evaluation process emphasizing feasibility and alignment with DSWG priorities
- A dedicated review committee appointed by the Exec
- Centralized coordination and oversight through the DSWG Bolt-on sub-team to ensure consistent implementation and encourage collaboration

Key benefits of this approach include reduced administrative burden, portfolio-level coordination, and controlled spending of a preplanned budget for Bolt-on Toolbox development within the financial year.

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 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 (two 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, trainee ships, 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.

3.3 Expression of interest form for regional events

Currently not available.

4. Implementation grants (IG)

In 2024, the Exec launched a new funding application category, 'Implementation Grants'. Implementation Grants support projects aimed at producing tools, resources, or structured programs that directly advance the work of the EuroQol Group. They differ from Research Grants, Individual Grants, and Knowledge Transfer Grants in that the focus is on deliverables, coordinated activities, and implementation rather than generating new research findings. There are two subtypes of implementation grants, described below:

4.1 Tools and resources

This grant type invites applicants to submit plans to develop products that serve the EuroQol Group, such as software, statistical packages, translations, guidelines, or other standardized tools. Deliverables are tangible outputs that can be used by EuroQol members or in broader research contexts. Emphasis is placed on usability, scalability, and alignment with EuroQol standards.

Scope

Applicants may request funding for activities that support the implementation, improvement, or broader use of EuroQol products. Such activities are not considered part of the research domain, but instead focus on the development, adaptation, or dissemination of tools and resources. Applications should follow an implementation-oriented format, with clear emphasis on deliverables, coordination, and impact rather than purely research-focused outputs.

Funding

Applicants may request support for costs directly related to the development and delivery of the proposed tool or resource. Eligible expenses may include personnel time, software development, translation costs, coordination activities, or other direct costs. Requested budgets should be proportionate to the scope of work and clearly justified in relation to the expected deliverables.

Eligibility

Applicants must demonstrate the expertise and capacity needed to complete the proposed work to EuroQol standards. Proposals should specify the roles and responsibilities of all contributors and describe how quality assurance will be ensured. Collaborative proposals are encouraged, particularly where complementary skills (e.g., methodological, technical, linguistic) are required.

4.2 Program Coordination Grants

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