

## **21<sup>st</sup> Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups February 2026**

Application deadline: Sunday 12 April 2026, 23:59 CEST

*Please note that from this RFP onwards EuroQol will not accept any late submissions, no exceptions.*

Prepared by the EuroQol Research Foundation

## Table of contents

21 <sup>st</sup>	Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups.....	1
1	Introduction .....	3
2	Scope of this call .....	5
2.1	Descriptive Systems Working Group.....	5
2.2	EQ-HWB Working Group .....	8
2.3	PHS Working Group .....	10
2.4	Valuation Working Group .....	12
2.5	Younger Populations Working Group .....	14
3	Submission Guidelines.....	16
3.1	Who can submit? .....	16
3.2	Submission procedure .....	16
3.3	Timelines.....	16
3.4	Further information.....	17
4	Appendices.....	17

## 1 Introduction

The EuroQol Research Foundation (henceforth “Foundation”) invites applications for funding of research that will assist in achieving the mission and vision of The EuroQol Group (henceforth “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 Executive Committee 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 €3.5M to 5M. . The Executive Committee will consider a range of research priorities within this budget envelope.
- Appendix 3 provides a summary of the types of grants available. As of 1 January 2026, the Education and Outreach Working Group (EOWG) has officially transitioned into the Education and Outreach Team (EOT). While the EOT will no longer be involved in future EuroQol RFP processes, EuroQol will continue to provide Travel Grants (TVGs) and Education and Outreach Grants (EOs) in accordance with existing policy (see Appendix 3). However, the criteria for the two grants have changed so please check Appendix 3 to ensure you are applying for the correct grant type before you start your submission in good grants.
- 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](mailto:grants@euroqol.org)) prior to submission.

The EuroQol is open to innovative research that fall outside the listed priority areas. If you are interested to undertake other innovative research that may have merit to EuroQol, but you are uncertain whether this is in scope, please contact the grants management team ([grants@euroqol.org](mailto:grants@euroqol.org)) [for advice and guidance](#).

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 12 April 2026 at 23:59 CEST**. Please note that from this RFP onwards EuroQol will not accept any late submissions, no exceptions.

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

- DSWG: Eight 15-minute virtual drop-in sessions will be held on 25 February 10:00-12:00 CET (please refer to the DSWG chapter of this document for more information).
- EQ-HWB WG: 9 March 14:00 – 15:00 CET (please refer to the EQ-HWB WG chapter of this document for more information).
- PHSWG: 3 March 08:00 - 09:00 CET and 18:00 - 19:00 CET (please refer to the PHSWG chapter of this document for more information).
- YPWG: 12 March 08:30 – 10:30 CET (please refer to the YPWG chapter of this document for more information).
- **Version Management Committee:** Members of the Version Management Committee are also holding a session on Sunday 1 March from 20:00-20:30 CET to discuss queries you may have about research involving translations. This may be current or planned research projects. (Attendees: Erica Lubetkin, Des Scott & Sarah Derrett). You can join the call via zoom:  
<https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/67586317993?pwd=bv2sBiVJ4wf5azlV7E3xiF568uxCUo.1>  
Meeting ID: 675 8631 7993  
Passcode: 391393

## 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. Generation of methodological evidence to support the development of the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox
2. Further exploration of developing potential 'deep dive' modules for the EQ-5D-5L (using Mobility and Anxiety/Depression as case studies)
3. Targeted literature review exploring the impact of different recall periods

#### Further explanation of the priorities

1. Generation of conceptual and methodological evidence to support the development of the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox

In the previous round, a large number of projects were funded to validate the items in the experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox. Therefore, in this round, we are requesting that validation proposals are not submitted. Instead, we are calling for innovative proposals focused on generating conceptual and methodological evidence to support the development program. We welcome studies that can address one or more of the following priority questions.

- a. Administration of Bolt-ons – Order effects: We request proposals to explore order effects relating to the administration of the core EQ-5D-5L, EQ VAS, and bolt-ons. We also request proposals to explore order effects within particular groupings of two or more bolt-ons from the eight constructs included in the best available experimental Toolbox. The groupings should be clearly justified, both in terms of the constructs included, and the number of bolt-ons collected. We are interested in whether the order of the bolt-ons relative to the EQ VAS (i.e. before or after), and relative to each other, affects responses. If responses are impacted, it is important to establish which factors drive differences (e.g. the number of bolt-ons included, the constructs measured, modes of administration or characteristics of the sample, such as disease severity). To explore these issues, we are requesting both qualitative and quantitative research focused on relevant patient populations.
- b. Administration of bolt-ons – Mode of administration: Proposals that explore differences in bolt-on responses across modes of administration, including both self-complete and proxy assessments, and interviewer administered modes, are welcomed. Proposals should focus on populations where bolt-ons will require mixed modal administration. For example, the vision bolt-on(s) will be administered via both self-complete and interviewer-administered modes, and the cognition bolt-on(s) will require reliance on proxy as well as self-report. It is important that the chosen samples reflect an appropriate distribution of disease severity.
- c. Administration of bolt-ons – Framing: We call for proposals that will provide evidence on the impact of including additional explanatory content to preface or otherwise accompany bolt-on administration. For instance, administration of the Bolt-on Toolbox may benefit from generic pre-ambles specifying the consideration of aids and adjustments, or restating or reframing 'Today' as the recall period, and

whether this can support more valid or consistent responses. We are particularly interested in sensory functioning items (e.g. hearing and vision) and items relevant in fluctuating conditions (e.g. breathing problems, confusion).

- d. Measurement of fatigue: We call for conceptual and qualitative proposals focused on how fatigue should be measured across a range of relevant conditions and treatments, and how fatigue items should be described. Work in this area should explore the Fatigue items that appear in both the best available and exploratory item sets included the Experimental Toolbox. The relevance of other ways to frame and describe fatigue that could be developed into bolt-on descriptors can also be explored (if clearly justified).
- e. Psychometric methods for the assessment of bolt-ons: We call for empirical work to explore different psychometric approaches to assessing bolt-ons. The aim of this call is to support the development of the psychometrics focused elements of the Toolbox development plan. This work should quantitatively test the sufficiency of existing published guidance for the development and assessment of bolt-ons (e.g. Mulhern et al 2022) using existing datasets. For example, proposals could explore the most appropriate approaches to test and choose between candidate bolt on items that are very similar, and criteria to explore the relationship and overlap between EQ-5D-5L and Toolbox dimensions.
- f. Exploring the conceptual basis of the EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox and other bolt-ons that have been developed: One of the criteria used to select bolt-ons for the Toolbox was to specifically address gaps in Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) not covered by the EQ-5D-5L. This resulted in the selection of eight constructs from the overall pool of over 50 constructs for which bolt-ons have been proposed. We call for proposals to explore how the EQ-5D-5L plus items in both the exploratory and best available versions of the Toolbox, align with existing frameworks of HRQoL. As items from the Toolbox will always be administered following the EQ-5D-5L, the use of particular bolt-ons, or sets of bolt-ons, has different implications for the conceptual framework. This could be explored. Work in this area will support understanding of the conceptual basis of the EQ-5D-5L plus bolt-ons from the Toolbox and inform which sets of bolt-ons align with different conceptual models.

## 2. Exploration of the conceptual basis and development of deep-dive modules for EQ-5D-5L dimensions

The EQ-5D-5L descriptive system includes five core dimensions that are each measured using a single item providing a concise health state description. This approach facilitates valuation but limits the possibility of collecting rich profile information about health status within each dimension. To address this gap the DSWG continues to explore the conceptual basis and development of deep-dive modules that comprise a set of items associated with each of the core EQ-5D-5L dimensions. This approach is introduced in Mulhern et al 2022 (available from the DSWG on request) and would combine the benefits of both preference weighted and profile measures into a single system.

Taking Mobility as an example deep-dive module, the core dimension is framed as the extent of problems with 'walking about' and has country-specific utility decrements associated with each severity level. A hypothetical deep-dive module would include additional items assessing other areas of mobility. Responses to these questions would provide profile data that could be used in other research and clinical settings.

For this call we are requesting that proposals focus on two dimensions (either Mobility or Anxiety/Depression, or both) as a case studies. We are calling for specific conceptual proposals in the following areas. This work will be valuable in decision making about whether to proceed with the initiative.

- a. Conceptual work to explore the advantages and disadvantages of a deep-dive module for Mobility and/or Anxiety/Depression. We strongly encourage wide membership collaboration on proposals to capture diverse views. Outcomes may solely be conceptual pieces taking into account diverse collaborator views. However, consultation with the membership via interviews, focus groups or surveys should be considered, and build on the results of the limited consultation conducted as part of the initial pilot study (results available from DSWG on request). This could include consideration of the scope of what could be included, and different use cases based on alternative visions of the scope

of modules. For example exploring how the deep-dive relates to the core dimension, and specific characteristics and content requirements. For Mobility this would include consideration of whether both breadth (e.g. ‘walking about’ related items) and/or depth (other types of mobility) constructs should be included, and how this impacts possible uses. For AD, how to conceptualise deep-dive modules for composite dimensions should be considered.

- b. Different methodological approaches could be used to develop Mobility and Anxiety/Depression deep-dive modules. We welcome conceptual proposals outlining how existing guidelines and methods used for the development, assessment, and scoring of generic and condition specific Patient Reported Outcome Measures can be adapted for the generation, item and response level wording and formatting of items for inclusion in deep-dive modules.

### 3. Targeted literature review exploring recall period

We call for a specific proposal for a systematic review that will summarise the existing empirical evidence focused on the impact of using different recall periods on the measurement of health-related quality of life. This review will extend earlier work by Peasgood et al (2023) to include the full range of recall periods that have been used for generic preference accompanied measures, and should also include unpublished evidence from EuroQol funded studies (support identifying these will be made available). The results of this review will inform the next stages of the DSWG’s research program exploring recall periods for EuroQol instruments. Please contact the DSWG if you are interested in submitting a proposal to conduct this review.

#### **Contact details**

For further information please contact Brendan Mulhern ([brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au](mailto:brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au)) and Jan Heijdra Suasnabar ([heijdra@euroqol.org](mailto:heijdra@euroqol.org))

The DSWG will hold eight 15-minute virtual drop-in consultations on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 CET to answer specific questions and advise prospective applicants on their ideas (e.g., about methodology and alignment with the scope of the call). Participation is entirely optional and will not influence the assessment of submitted proposals.

- Slots must be booked in advance via [this sign-up link](#).
- Please prepare a brief description of your ideas and the points you would like advice on (5 minutes max).
- If there is sufficient request to accommodate US time zones, an additional session could be planned for March 3<sup>rd</sup> (please contact [heijdra@euroqol.org](mailto:heijdra@euroqol.org)).

#### **References:**

Mulhern B, Finch A, Janssen B, Oppe M. (2022). A multi layered “Deep Dive” measure of health-related quality of life based on the EQ-5D: Introducing the approach. EuroQol Plenary, Chicago

Peasgood T, Caruana JM, Mukuria C. (2023). Systematic Review of the Effect of a One-Day Versus Seven-Day Recall Duration on Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs). *The Patient*;16(3):201-221.

Advice sessions for interested applicants

## 2.2 EQ-HWB Working Group

The EQ-HWB WG's remit is to encourage developmental activities to advance the EQ-HWB and EQ-HWB-9 measures from experimental status to approved versions that are ready for broad implementation.

### Priorities of this call

In this round, the EQ-HWB WG seeks to encourage more prospective studies involving primary data collection to test different modes of administration of the EQ-HWB-9 in targeted populations, such as frail older adults and social care users. In addition, the EQ-HWB WG aims to accumulate further evidence on the use of the VAS alongside the EQ-HWB-9.

### 1. Modes of administration/alternative forms:

Interviewer Administration (IA) and proxy versions are important modes of the EQ-HWB-9, especially given the populations in which the HWB is salient, i.e. frail elderly. 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. We are particularly interested in studies testing different modes of administration in English-speaking countries. Prospective study designs are encouraged. Such studies may apply the same methodological approaches separately to the IA and proxy versions, including assessments of test–retest reliability, inter-rater validity, responsiveness, and other aspects of validity and reliability.

1a. We would like to encourage comparison of the validity and reliability of self-complete with interviewer administered EQ-HWB-9 (EMV2.1 version) in targeted populations, such as patients with stroke, Parkinson's disease, or dementia or mild cognitive impairment, and their caregivers, and individuals with social care needs.

1b. Second, studies of validity and reliability of the proxy version of the EQ-HWB-9 (EMV2.1 version) for self-complete or IA are needed. The EQ-HWB-9 may be particularly appropriate for populations who are unable to respond on their own behalf, including, but not limited to, frail older adults who may require proxy assessment by carers.

### 2. EQ-HWB 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). In the 20th RFP, research on VAS anchors formed a key component of the work program. **Building on this earlier work, the focus of the current round shifts towards examining how a defined EQ-HWB VAS (based on health and well-being as recommended by the HWB WG, with a default reference of 7 day recall; alternate versions of today or no recall as options that may be more appropriate to specific populations) performs and is interpreted in practice.**

The WG encourages clear hypothesis-driven comparative studies examining differences in EQ-HWB VAS scores across relevant populations, such as long-term patients, social care users and caregivers. We are particularly interested in social care populations where differences in EQ-HWB VAS are anticipated, i.e. not general population studies. The submitted proposals are suggested to set a priori hypotheses and justify why the expected differences and the usefulness of the EQ-HWB VAS are relevant in the chosen area. **Research that examines the appropriateness of different recall periods to support better quality (more informative) data on specific populations will be particularly useful in determining which version(s) of the VAS to consider in finalizing VAS options associated with the HWB instrument.** For instance, in conditions such as those that are relapsing and remitting, hypotheses could test whether the 7 day recall period is more useful than recall today.



### **3. Potential collaborations**

The EQ-HWB WG is interested in engaging with stakeholders who are using, or are interested in using, the EQ-HWB/EQ-HWB-9 in real-world settings. We would like to better understand their needs and priorities and to explore opportunities for further collaboration.

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.

The EQ-HWB Working Group will hold an online consultation session on the 21st RFP research agenda on 9 March 2026, from 14:00 to 15:00 CET, via Zoom. The session aims to support prospective applicants in aligning their proposals with the Working Group's research priorities. If you would like to take part, please contact the WG liaison, Guangjie Zhang ([zhang@euroqol.org](mailto:zhang@euroqol.org)), by 7 March, 23:59 CET.

First point of contact for RFP questions (office) Guangjie Zhang: [zhang@euroqol.org](mailto:zhang@euroqol.org)

HWB WG Chair: Simon Pickard: [pickard1@uic.edu](mailto:pickard1@uic.edu)

## 2.3 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 for 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 the comparative advantage of EQ instruments relative to other generic patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) within both health systems and population health surveys.
- 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.

### Further explanation of RFP objectives/priorities

#### 1. Exploring the comparative advantage of EQ instruments

The PHSWG seeks to understand the comparative advantage of the EQ-5D-5L and EQ-VAS relative to other generic instruments as routine outcome measures (ROMs) in healthcare systems, including hospital and community settings, and in population health surveys. We are particularly interested in research that explores factors that lead to greater uptake and use of our instruments. Research that focuses on real-world use cases that demonstrate how EQ instrument data supports and informs healthcare decision-making is also encouraged.

Please note that the PHSWG is not calling for proposals that undertake psychometric evaluation of EQ instruments on their own or relative to other PROMs.

#### 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 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 (e.g. the EQ-DAPHNIE study, POPCORN study, national health surveys)**, including projects that examine how factors such as survey design influence data completeness, reliability, and validity.
- 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 reviews, surveys, or qualitative analyses. We additionally welcome research that utilises secondary data analysis, including projects analysing data hosted in the EuroQol [SAVED Data Catalogue](#). 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 Paula Lorgelly ([paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz)) or Juanita Haagsma ([j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl](mailto:j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl)) 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.

The PHSWG will hold two virtual consultation sessions on the 20th RFP research agenda on 3 March 2026, at the following times: 08:00-09:00 and 18:00-19:00 CET. 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](mailto:pangestu@euroqol.org)) by 27 February 2026, 13:00 CET.

## 2.4 Valuation Working Group

The Valuation Working Group (VWG) is charged with initiation and oversight of research related to the development and refinement of the valuation methods used for the EuroQol family of instruments. More specifically, the research streams encompass the following elements: investigating how our existing valuation methods, i.e., the time trade-off (TTO) and discrete choice experiments (DCEs), may be further refined; investigating the most appropriate methods for valuing new EQ instruments; investigating new approaches to valuing health; and 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).

### Priorities of this call

The priorities for the present RFP are the following:

1. bolt-on valuation;
2. value set expiry; and
3. EQ-5D-Y-5L valuation.

The VWG remains interested in innovative approaches to valuation in either the design or analytic domains.

### 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, rather than representing applications for specific bolt-ons/populations. Proposals that support valuation of the 8 bolt-ons identified in the bolt-on toolbox are particularly encouraged. 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 (i.e., that handle the increased cognitive burden),
  - c. investigate the use of latent-scale DCEs for bolt-on valuation, in particular disentangling the impact of adding bolt-ons on scale vs. the impact on disutilities of the core dimensions themselves,
  - d. develop the understanding of consistency between core and bolt-on value sets (in the normative, pragmatic, or axiomatic context),
  - e. 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. with input of EuroQol Group leadership, 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 to detect change and assess 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),

- c. the impact of changing valuation-related methodology on value sets and the impact of value set changing (including changes between 3L to 5L value sets) on cost-utility analysis results and resource allocation.
- 3. We continue to seek proposals on EQ-5D-Y-5L valuation that handle adults' unwillingness to trade off child life years; and test methods to mitigate this.

**Contact information**

In case of questions related to this RFP, please contact the VWG chair (Eleanor Pullenayegum, she/her, [eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca](mailto:eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca)), the VWG deputy chair (Mark Oppe, he/him, [oppe@euroqol.org](mailto:oppe@euroqol.org)), or the Office liaison to the VWG (Maksat Jumamyradov, he/him, [jumamyradov@euroqol.org](mailto:jumamyradov@euroqol.org)).

## 2.5 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, and transitions between instruments.

### Priorities of this call

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

1. Research Exploring Instrument Transitioning
2. Testing and application of the EQ-5D-Y-3L, EQ-5D-Y-5L and EQ-TIPS

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, you must contact the VMC Chair (Sarah Derrett: [saraheq2018@outlook.com](mailto:saraheq2018@outlook.com)) early in the process.

### Online advice session

The YPWG will be available on 12 March 2026 between 08:30-10:30 CET for a virtual consultation on the 21st RFP research agenda or other ideas for research proposals.

If you would like to take part, please contact the WG Chair, Janine Verstraete ([janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za](mailto:janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za)), by 10 March 2026.

### Further explanation of priorities

#### 1. Research Exploring Instrument Transitions

To better understand transitions between instruments, YPWG seeks studies involving parallel data collection with Y-3L and Y-5L and EQ-5D-5L, particularly in patient populations hypothesised to have severe health states. This research will clarify relationships between these instruments and inform transition pathways between paediatric and adult measures. We are interested in understanding how the transition between these instruments impacts both measurement and preference-weighted scores. We anticipate that at least preliminary values for the Y-5L will be available in 2026. Considering the currently available evidence severe responses in the physical dimensions may help us better understand this transition, and thus recruitment from appropriate clinical populations is required (e.g. hospitalised patients). Longitudinal data collection would be helpful to compare responsiveness and the magnitude of change (with improved or worsened health) between the instruments. Please contact the YPWG to discuss the suitability of your proposed sample.

#### 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.

Considering prevalent health conditions, those with a high burden of disease and paediatric drug development trends 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. We are further interested in the performance of the EQ-5D-Y (3L or 5L) in common mental health conditions (e.g. depression, anxiety, and obsessive compulsive disorder) and the EQ-TIPS (3L or 5L) in neurodevelopmental disorders.

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.

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

### 3 Submission Guidelines

#### 3.1 Who can submit?

In this round, the Foundation accepts proposals that are submitted by research teams or individual researchers affiliated with various institutions/organisations (Universities, NGOs, companies, etc.). The Principal Investigator does not need to be a EuroQol member, but at least one EuroQol member needs 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 the Grants Management team at [grants@euroqol.org](mailto:grants@euroqol.org) to discuss potential options.

All researchers are encouraged to contact the relevant WG to discuss plans for proposals, to ensure alignment with priorities of the WG and ongoing and planned research. 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](mailto: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/>. A registration is required for submission. Submission can be updated anytime before the submission deadline. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 12 April 2026 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 April/May 2026.
- Funding recommendations will be discussed by the Executive Committee in June 2026.
- Applicants will be notified of the funding decision within two weeks after the final Executive Committee meeting date in June.
- The deadline for any resubmissions linked to this RFP will be Sunday 16 August 2026 23:59 CEST, to be discussed in the Executive Committee meetings on 14 & 16 September 2026. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of September.
- The deadline for any conditional fund responses linked to this RFP will be Sunday 30 August 2026 23:59 CEST. 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:Brendan.Mulhern@chere.uts.edu.au">Brendan.Mulhern@chere.uts.edu.au</a>
	Jan Heijdra Suasnabar	<a href="mailto:heijdra@euroqol.org">heijdra@euroqol.org</a>
EQ-HWB	Simon Pickard	<a href="mailto:Pickard1@uic.edu">Pickard1@uic.edu</a>
	Guangjie Zhang	<a href="mailto:zhang@euroqol.org">zhang@euroqol.org</a>
Populations and Health Systems	Paula Lorgelly	<a href="mailto:paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz">paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz</a>
	Juanita Haagsma	<a href="mailto:j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl">j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl</a>
	Stevanus Pangestu	<a href="mailto:pangestu@euroqol.org">pangestu@euroqol.org</a>
Valuation	Eleanor Pullenayegum	<a href="mailto:eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca">eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca</a>
	Maksat Jumamyradov	<a href="mailto:jumamyradov@euroqol.org">jumamyradov@euroqol.org</a>
Younger Populations	Janine Verstraete	<a href="mailto:Janine.Verstraete@uct.ac.za">Janine.Verstraete@uct.ac.za</a>
	Bram Roudijk	<a href="mailto:roudijk@euroqol.org">roudijk@euroqol.org</a>

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):

Gunilla Jacobson Ekman (Sweden)	<a href="mailto:gunilla.jacobsson-ekman@regionstockholm.se">gunilla.jacobsson-ekman@regionstockholm.se</a>
Fatima Al Sayah (Alberta)	<a href="mailto:falsayah@ualberta.ca">falsayah@ualberta.ca</a>

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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) software such as Large Language Models (e.g. ChatGPT) are frequently used by researchers to enhance their work. The Foundation may consider proposals for which AI has been used to improve writing. We require you to be transparent about the use of AI in the writing of your proposals, so please indicate whether and to what extent AI was used in the writing of your proposal. Proposals generated by AI in a more elaborate capacity are not welcome for submission.

## 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 using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal (<https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>). Please review the Proposal Budget Guidelines (appendix 2 of the RFP) 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 Call for Proposals, at least one investigator must be a member of the EuroQol Group, (does not apply to Seed Grants).
5. Twice a year the Executive Committee 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 website. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.
6. EuroQol Group offers 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.
7. If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, we request that you contact the Version Management Committee (VMC) Chair - before you submit your funding application – to ensure feasibility and proper budgeting. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC review, all of which have time and cost implications, and will have impact upon timelines.
8. 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).

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 using criteria such as strategic and scientific importance, study design/methods, feasibility, budget, timelines, deliverables, stakeholder engagement and data protection.
- b. All reviewers, Working Group (WG) members, and Executive 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. Following discussion of the proposals, the Executive Committee makes funding decisions based on reviews and WG inputs.

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](mailto:grants@euroqol.org)).

9. The **regular proposal review process** is as follows:

- a. Two reviewers will independently review each proposal. The relevant 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.
- 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, rate and provide comments pertaining to the following criteria: Overall recommendation, Scientific and strategic importance; Scientific quality; Stakeholder engagement; Feasibility; Timelines and budget. Next, the scores and/or comments are shared with all members of the Executive Committee to decide on the proposal.
- d. Each WG also provides a summary for the triage committee of all the proposals received per WG, noting the proposals that are high priority for funding, and listing any overlapping proposals (the triage committee may then need to select only one or two similar proposals for funding).

A triage committee will review proposals and their initial reviews. It will provide a funding recommendation (Fund / Conditional Fund / Revise and Resubmit / Reject / Discuss by the Executive Committee). Alternatively, the committee may defer its recommendation and invite two additional reviews from Executive members before making a final recommendation. WG Chairs also review triage recommendations and can request that proposals be sent to the Executive Committee for discussion before a final decision is made. All triage decisions must be confirmed by the full Executive Committee, which raises the triage recommendation to the status of the final decision.

10. 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 or in the next Executive meeting.
- b. If you want to have your proposal reviewed by the fast-track procedure, you need to contact the Scientific Director and Grant Managers ([grants@euroqol.org](mailto:grants@euroqol.org)), who will discuss with the chair of the Executive Committee if your proposal qualifies for the fast-track procedure.
- c. A review will be sought from at least one member of the Executive Committee. One or more additional reviews can be requested from the Executive Committee or WGs, at the discretion of the Executive Chair or Deputy Chair.
- d. The Chair, or the Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee will consider that review and send a recommended decision via email, along with the proposal and the review, to Executive members with request to respond to within 48 hours in case of concerns.
- e. 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 Executive decision to fund/ not to fund the proposal.
- f. Applicants should use the regular approach to submit their proposal, via the EuroQol Project Submission Portal, see point 2.

11. **Executive Committee decisions** on proposals will be either:

- a. Funding awarded;
- b. Funding conditionally awarded, subject to satisfactory revisions and clarifications (confirmed by Chair or Deputy Chair, 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.
12. Applicants will normally receive feedback within three weeks after the Executive Committee meetings. Reviewers' comments will be provided anonymously to principal investigators (PIs) by the EQ Office.
  13. 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.
  14. To appeal a decision, you must write to the Scientific Director or Grants Manager asking to have the decision reconsidered and provide your motivations for this request. Submitting an appeal does not mean that the appeal will be accepted and/or considered by the Executive Committee.
  15. When funding is awarded, the Grants Manager will follow-up with a Grant Offer Letter confirming Executive Committee approval. The Grant Offer Letter will include a proposed payment schedule in two or more instalments, annual reporting requirements (if applicable), and will explain what is required before an invoice can be sent. The Grant Offer Letter will be accompanied by a General Terms and Conditions (GTC) document. EuroQol requests the Grant Offer Letter to be signed and returned within three months of the date on the letter.
  16. Some funded projects may be assigned SAVED status. Projects with SAVED status are those for which it has been agreed that the data generated will be archived in EuroQol's data repository and made available for secondary use, in accordance with applicable data protection, governance, and access procedures.
  17. Projects designated as having SAVED status are subject to specific contractual arrangements. For these projects, the standard Grant Terms and Conditions (GTC) are replaced by a Data Transfer Contract (DTC), which governs the archiving of data in EuroQol's data repository and its availability for secondary use.
  18. Abstracts of applications that are awarded funding will be published on the public website.
  19. **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.
  20. **If a project is undergoing delays** and the PI 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.

**21. 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 PI 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 Executive Committee 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 Executive 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 Executive to decide whether the report can be signed off.
- e. The final report and its review recommendation will be circulated to the Executive Committee. Unless any issue is raised by the Executive, 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 Executive 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 consideration for future applications.

**22. If it is not possible to complete a project**, the process is as follows:

- a. The PI 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 PI must provide a summary of work completed so far, listing any completed deliverables and any failed deliverables.
- c. The PI 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](mailto: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) €138.50 per hour/ €1108.00 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) €105.50 per hour/€844.00 per day for **less experienced researchers**, e.g. assistant professor or post-docs.
- (3) €55.25 per hour/€442.00 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.

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

When EuroQol 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 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 [the Grants Management Team](#) if you have any comments, questions or suggestions on Research Proposal budgeting.



## Grants offered by EuroQol

The table below lists the standard 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. In addition to the standard grant types listed below, EuroQol may issue targeted calls, which may require the use of ad hoc submission forms as specified in the call documentation. Applicants with questions about this call can contact the EuroQol grants management team ([grants@euroqol.org](mailto:grants@euroqol.org)). The application and review procedures are described in the general Guidance for Applicants.

Parent category	Sub-category
1. Research grants	1. Regular research project
	2. Valuation study
	3. Seed grants
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
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. Any proposal targeting an aim that is consistent with the overall scientific strategy will be considered for funding. At least twice a year, the Executive Committee (Exec) will issue a Call for Proposals, highlighting the current research priorities. These will be circulated by email and posted on EuroQol website. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.

##### *Funding*

Standard research projects can have a budget up to €200,000. For requests exceeding this budget, 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 projects, aimed at producing a preference based national value set for one of the EuroQol instruments. Given the importance of value sets to users of EuroQol instruments, EuroQol 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 study 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 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 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, indirect costs, 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 details about the planned work, 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

## 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 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 details 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 – €180.000; 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 the 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 (TVGs)**

All applications for Travel Grants must be for activities that are strongly EuroQol-related; for example, travel related to studies that merely make general use of EuroQol instruments without a clear focus on EuroQol research priorities will not be considered. The Education and Outreach Team (EOT) will review all applications and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee for the decision on funding.

### *Scope*

These Travel Grants support EuroQol members and students who wish to participate in face-to-face meetings or to conduct knowledge-based research activities, including but not limited to:

- **Conference presentation:** Members of the EuroQol Group and researchers undertaking EuroQol-funded projects are encouraged to disseminate relevant research outputs to the wider scientific community, including through participation in scientific conferences and meetings of international standing.

Researchers may apply to EuroQol for support towards conference-related costs, such as registration, travel, and accommodation, where an abstract has been accepted for presentation. All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to review against EuroQol's funding principles, available resources, and the strength of the justification provided.

In assessing applications, EuroQol will take into account factors such as the relevance of the meeting to EuroQol's mission, the role of the applicant in the presentation, the extent to which employer or other sources contribute to the costs, and whether EuroQol support is necessary to enable participation. EuroQol may offer partial support for conference-related costs, either to supplement contributions from other sources or to manage available resources and ensure fair distribution of funding.

EuroQol does not normally seek to fund multiple conferences in close succession or to cover the full costs of extensive travel, and priority may be given to applications where support would meaningfully reduce barriers to dissemination, particularly for early career researchers.

- **Short term stay abroad:** The short-term travel grants support members who wish to travel abroad for a short period of time. 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. These grants may be requested to support work in ongoing projects, but can also be used to create or expand collaborative networks, or to work on new projects/proposals, as detailed below.

Creating and developing scientific collaboration has been an integral feature of the evolution of the EuroQol Group. This is an important and valued component of the Group's programme of scientific meetings. From time to time, individual members may wish to extend their own collaborative network or create new ones. Exploring such potential may require more timely arrangements than are possible with the established calendar of Group meetings. In such circumstances, the EuroQol Group would consider supporting time-limited exchange visits. Funding support would be available to cover travel and accommodation costs for a short period of time, of no longer than 3 weeks. It would be expected that such visits would provide opportunities for knowledge-transfer and for seminar/workshop presentations. Proposals that envisage specific collaboration in developing new initiatives at an early stage, or that lead to the completion of manuscripts for journal publication will be favourably considered. Where geographical proximity allows, a multisite itinerary can be considered. Budget requests will be evaluated based on value for money and the appropriateness of proposed costs.

Where face-to-face interaction is necessary to make significant progress in designing new projects, then support may be provided where it can be demonstrated that this will lead to significant progress being made. Under ordinary circumstances, this type of support is not available to support research being undertaken as part of an existing study. However, it is acknowledged that analysis and reporting can sometimes be better facilitated when research colleagues share physical proximity. In addition to these specific categories, a further category provides the possibility of support for researchers wishing to develop expertise in specific methods recognised as central elements of the EuroQol Research Foundation scientific agenda. Applications under this category could be highly flexible and allow for support over a more sustained period of time, allowing researchers to be temporarily relocated in partner institutions, for example for a semester. Such an arrangement could be hosted by a EuroQol member or research group with demonstrable expertise related to a planned programme of work. Any application will require the formal endorsement of the host organisation. A similar



arrangement with the EuroQol Office can also be envisaged, allowing researchers interested in the general scope of EuroQol activities to be seconded with the Rotterdam office's scientific team. Applicants will be expected to establish a case for need, and a clearly defined costing will be required.

- **Long term stay abroad:** 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.

#### *Eligibility*

EuroQol members, students connected to EuroQol's PhD Network, and researchers conducting EuroQol funded research can apply for funding to support conference presentations. Only members of the EuroQol Group can apply for travel grants that support a short term or long term stay abroad for other reasons, unless stated otherwise in a request for proposals or when an exception has been approved.

### **3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer**

#### **3.1 Education and Outreach Grant (EOs)**

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. Educational activities that facilitate access to the accumulated research expertise of the EuroQol Group and that actively promote the transfer of knowledge and evidence regarding the use, analysis, and interpretation of measures developed by the EuroQol Group are essential to generating impact.

#### *Scope*

Funding may be requested for a range of activities. The primary deliverable of the funding application may either be an event or a product. Applicants proposing to organise event or produce a product are asked via the submission form, to describe the planned activity, its objectives, the target audience, the aims, and the expected outcomes.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Teaching or delivery of courses
- Organisation of regional meetings aimed at capacity building
- Organisation of regional meetings to build capacity
- Ad hoc small-scale, face-to-face meetings that address time-sensitive needs aligned with EuroQol research and outreach priorities, for instance: workshops (f2f or online), roundtable meetings, ad boards, or webinars, etc.

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** under which authors may apply to the Foundation for reimbursement of open access publishing costs for manuscripts arising from EuroQol-funded projects, as well as for manuscripts authored by EuroQol Group members that are otherwise relevant to EuroQol's mission.

In general, EuroQol supports open access dissemination and normally approves requests for reimbursement where the open access fee is not already covered through institutional or publisher agreements. Authors are therefore encouraged to seek alternative sources of coverage where available and to apply to EuroQol where such arrangements do not apply.

Requests for Open Access fee coverage need to be submitted in the grant submission portal: <https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>. Requests are reviewed to confirm that they fall within scope, and that the journal meets recognised standards of academic publishing; EuroQol does not reimburse fees for publications in predatory or otherwise non-credible journals.

Where approved, reimbursement is limited to eligible Open Access fees and can only be processed on the basis of an invoice issued by the publisher. Accordingly, following acceptance of a manuscript for publication and approval of an Open Access fee reimbursement by the Foundation, authors should indicate third-party payment on the publisher's system following instructions they will receive upon approval of their Open Access fee reimbursement request.

#### *Eligibility*

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

### **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