

22nd Joint Call EuroQol Working Groups September 2026

Application deadline: Sunday 25 October 2026, 23:59 CEST
Please note EuroQol will not accept any late submissions; no exceptions.

Prepared by the EuroQol Research Foundation

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1. Introduction

The EuroQol Research Foundation (“Foundation”) invites applications for funding of research that will assist in achieving the mission and vision of The EuroQol Group (“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 EuroQol’s [scientific and strategic goals](#), and is of excellent scientific quality.

EuroQol has established Working Groups (WGs) which support the research agenda outlined by the Executive Committee. For this call, the WGs have reviewed the current research portfolio and identified priority areas, which have been reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee; these priorities are presented in Section 2, organised by research program rather than by working group so that applicants working on a shared topic (e.g. the Bolt-on Toolbox, or younger populations) can see the full picture in one place. We welcome proposals that address one or more current priorities or innovative research. The Strategic Plan will guide funding decisions.

Please note:

- The provisional funding available for the current call stands at €3.0M. 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. Review it before starting your submission to ensure you are applying for the correct grant type. A new application form for *individual* Conference Presentation is now available.
- Appendix 2 provides budget details. Please use the new [Excel Budget Template](#) for all submissions.
- Time-sensitive funding proposals may be fast-tracked. If you plan to submit a time-sensitive proposal, contact the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org) prior to submission.

EuroQol is open to innovative research that falls outside the listed priority areas. If you are interested in undertaking other innovative research that may have merit to EuroQol, but are uncertain whether it is in scope, contact the grants management team (grants@euroqol.org) for advice and guidance.

The deadline for submissions is 25 October 23:59 CEST. No late submissions will be accepted.

Section 3.7 provides a consolidated schedule of optional advice sessions offered by each WG ahead of this deadline.

2. Scope of this Call

This section describes five programs of research priorities for the current round, including the bolt-on toolbox development, populations and health systems, younger populations (EQ-5D-Y/EQ-TIPS), EQ-HWB (EQ Health and Wellbeing), and cross-cutting methods.

2.1 Bolt-on Toolbox Development

The experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox™ currently includes eight bolt-on areas: breathing, cognition, fatigue, hearing, self-confidence, skin irritation, sleep, and vision. Specifically, we are calling for well-specified studies that address gaps in the evidence base for developing specific Toolbox bolt-ons. The examples provided throughout represent the populations in which the Bolt-on Toolbox Development Team is currently most interested. Testing of non-Toolbox items will not be considered. In the event of multiple competitive submissions, preference may be given to proposals that include widely spoken languages, are conducted in key HTA-relevant countries, or, for quantitative proposals, are expected to generate robust evidence through objective clinical assessments or clinical trials. Cognition is not included as a priority area for the present RFP, as a substantial number of cognition bolt-on studies have been initiated through previous RFPs and are expected to conclude this year. We consider it appropriate to await the findings from these ongoing projects and synthesise the emerging evidence before identifying priorities for the next RFP. However, cognition bolt-ons may be included in piggy-backing proposals under Section 2.1.2(d), where they can be tested within an already planned clinical trial or prospective cohort study.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal in this area, please note:

- **Advice/info session:** Details of the advice session are provided in section 3.7. Applicants who require a preview version of the Toolbox items for proposal preparation should also contact Juanita Haagsma (haagsma@euroqol.org).
- **Grant type:** bolt-on proposals use a specific grant type ('1.4 Bolt-on Toolbox validation', XXXX-BT) rather than the standard research grant, exclusively for testing items already in the Toolbox — new bolt-on development or methodological research is submitted as a 1.1 Regular research grant instead. See Section 3.2 for the full grant-type policy.
- **Translations:** if a translation is not yet available for your bolt-on and language-country pair, contact the VMC Bolt-on Liaisons, Sarah Derrett (saraheq2018@outlook.com) and Claire Gudex (cgudex@gmail.com), early in protocol development to confirm availability and, if needed, budget for a researcher-led translation and VMC review. See Section 3.3 for the full translations/VMC policy.

2.1.1 Qualitative content validity testing

General requirements: 1) all qualitative projects should follow the EuroQol qualitative content validity testing guidance; 2) clinical samples are required, with physician-verified diagnoses (not online panel-based recruitment); 3) the minimum sample size is 15 participants per diagnosis (except when different diseases share symptoms, in which case mixed samples are also acceptable, e.g. hearing impairments); 4) samples should be heterogeneous, covering a range of age groups, genders, disease severities, and where appropriate, treatment types; 5) within their respective areas, studies should evaluate, wherever possible, all bolt-ons currently in the Toolbox as 'best available' or 'exploratory' items; 6) results should preferably be available within 1 year of study commencement.

- a) **Qualitative research on VISION:** we are inviting proposals for up to 3 qualitative studies to test the content validity of the vision bolt-ons in vision conditions. The study should focus on

individuals with clinically verified vision conditions, such as cataract, age-related macular degeneration, diabetes-related vision problems (e.g. diabetic retinopathy, diabetic maculopathy, etc.) and glaucoma.

- b) **Qualitative research on FATIGUE:** we are inviting proposals for up to 4 qualitative studies to test the content validity of the fatigue bolt-ons in autoimmune diseases (e.g. SLE, inflammatory bowel diseases, immune thrombocytopenia), haematological cancers (e.g. leukaemia, lymphoma), breast and prostate cancer, or chronic fatigue syndrome.
- c) **Qualitative research on HEARING:** we are inviting proposals for up to 2 qualitative studies to test the content validity of the hearing bolt-ons in hearing conditions. The study should focus on individuals with clinically verified congenital or acquired hearing conditions/symptoms, such as age-related hearing loss (presbycusis), tinnitus, cholesteatoma, otosclerosis and chronic otitis media.
- d) **Qualitative research on BREATHING, FATIGUE and SLEEP in respiratory, cardiovascular and sleep disorders:** we invite proposals for up to 2 qualitative studies assessing the content validity of the breathing, fatigue and sleep bolt-ons in respiratory conditions, including asthma, COPD, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and cystic fibrosis. In addition, up to 2 studies evaluating the same set of bolt-ons in cardiovascular diseases, such as pulmonary arterial hypertension, heart failure, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, will be considered. An additional 2 studies focusing on sleep disorders are invited; we particularly encourage research in sleep apnoea using the same set of bolt-ons, though other sleep disorders (e.g. chronic insomnia and narcolepsy) may also be addressed within the same proposal.
- e) **Qualitative research on FATIGUE, SELF-CONFIDENCE and SLEEP in mental health conditions:** we are inviting proposals for up to 3 qualitative studies to test the content validity of the fatigue, self-confidence and sleep bolt-ons in mental health populations, focusing on individuals with conditions such as anxiety disorder, depression disorder, and PTSD. Note these patient groups should be distinct from those describe in sections b and c, where the primary diagnosis is a somatic health condition.
- f) **Qualitative research on SELF-CONFIDENCE and SKIN IRRITATION in acne and rosacea:** we are inviting 1 qualitative study to test content validity of the skin irritation and self-confidence bolt-ons in acne and rosacea populations.

2.1.2 Quantitative Research

General requirements: 1) all quantitative projects should follow EuroQol's guidance to analyse Toolbox bolt-on data; 2) clinical samples are required, with physician-verified diagnoses (not online panel-based recruitment); 3) the minimum sample size is 200 participants per study — if there are multiple treatment modalities within the sample, n=100 is the minimum required per modality. A minimum sample of 50 with unchanged status for test-retest reliability or 50 with improved and/or 50 with deterioration. Larger samples may improve the robustness of the findings and strengthen the proposal's competitiveness. 4) Studies should include testing of multiple bolt-ons currently from the 'best available' and 'exploratory' Toolbox items; 5) results should preferably be available within 18 months of study commencement; 6) the chosen follow-up duration should be appropriate to detect treatment/intervention effects.

- a) **Longitudinal quantitative studies on VISION:** we are inviting up to 3 proposals for longitudinal quantitative studies to test the psychometric performance of the vision bolt-ons in vision conditions, focusing on individuals with clinically verified vision conditions such as cataract, age-related macular degeneration, diabetes-related vision problems, and glaucoma. Studies should evaluate psychometric performance, including known-group validity, test-retest reliability, and responsiveness based on clinical measures such as visual

acuity, visual field loss, and/or contrast sensitivity. Mode of administration (e.g. self-complete, interviewer-administered, or proxy-report) can also be explored.

- b) **Longitudinal quantitative studies on HEARING:** we are inviting proposals for up to 3 longitudinal quantitative studies to test the psychometric performance of the hearing bolt-ons in hearing conditions. Studies should focus on individuals with clinically verified hearing conditions; patients may have any hearing-related condition relevant to routine clinical practice. We are interested in collecting data from patients starting to use hearing aids, patients receiving conservative treatment such as medication, and patients undergoing surgical treatment other than cochlear implantation.
- c) **Longitudinal quantitative studies on BREATHING, FATIGUE and SLEEP in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases:** we are inviting proposals for up to 2 longitudinal quantitative studies to test the psychometric performance of the breathing, fatigue and sleep bolt-ons in respiratory conditions, such as asthma, COPD, and cystic fibrosis. We further call for up to 2 longitudinal studies in cardiovascular diseases such as heart failure, pulmonary arterial hypertension or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy using the same bolt-ons. Studies should evaluate key psychometric properties, including known-groups validity, test–retest reliability, and responsiveness against established clinical measures of disease severity (e.g., in respiratory diseases, CAT, mMRC, SGRQ, lung function measures, or other relevant clinical indicators).
- d) **Piggy-backing Toolbox bolt-on testing in clinical trials or prospective cohort studies:** we welcome proposals in any disease area and intervention where there is an opportunity to piggy-back one or more Toolbox items within a clinical trial, preferably a randomised controlled trial, or an already planned prospective cohort study. We are specifically interested in responsiveness to intervention from controlled comparisons. In such cases, funding may be requested for the additional administrative and logistical costs, translation and cognitive debriefing of the bolt-on (if required), and analysis of the bolt-on data, but not for the trial or study itself.

2.1.3 Conceptual and methodological development

This priority corresponds to the Descriptive Systems Working Group's (DSWG) call for innovative mixed-methods proposals generating conceptual and methodological evidence to support the Bolt-on Toolbox development program.

- a) **Measurement of FATIGUE:** we call for conceptual and qualitative proposals focused on how fatigue should be measured, and how fatigue bolt-on(s) should be described, across a range of relevant conditions and treatments. The Fatigue bolt-ons that appear in both the best available and exploratory Toolbox item sets (including fatigue, tiredness, worn out, exhausted, energy) should be explored. However, other approaches to frame and describe fatigue could be developed into bolt-on descriptors could also be proposed.
- b) **Measurement of SLEEP problems:** several methodological questions remain regarding the conceptualisation and measurement of the Sleep bolt-on. We invite proposals to address contextual questions such as the appropriate recall period, how respondents interpret different sleep-related questions, whether respondents completing the bolt-on in the morning or later in the day consider different aspects of their sleep experience, and whether non-health-related sleep problems (e.g. noise, heat, caring responsibilities, shift working) influence responses, and how these factors should be considered when developing the bolt-on. Both qualitative and quantitative proposals are welcome.
- c) **Administration of bolt-ons — mode of administration:** proposals that explore differences in Toolbox 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. Proposals that generate evidence to inform criteria for determining the suitability of self-completed cognition bolt-ons and guidance on when proxy assessment is required or preferable are also encouraged.

- d) **Methods for recommending bolt-ons in specific conditions or disease areas:** EuroQol is currently developing 8 experimental Toolbox bolt-ons, drawing on evidence from multiple disease areas. However, it is not feasible to test these in every patient population, and in many conditions more than one bolt-on may be relevant. There is a need for methods to guide the selection of appropriate Toolbox bolt-ons in disease areas where direct testing has not been conducted and to inform prioritisation when multiple bolt-ons are potentially relevant. We invite proposals that investigate approaches for recommending and selecting Toolbox bolt-ons in specific conditions or disease areas that may inform the guidance EuroQol provides to users. Proposals may address questions such as what factors should inform the selection of Toolbox bolt-ons in a given condition area — for example, should selection be based primarily on symptoms, functional limitations etc. — and under what circumstances evidence from one disease area can be transferred to another. A range of methodological approaches is welcome, e.g. primary data collection with the same bolt-ons to examine the transferability of evidence across patient populations, case studies, systematic reviews of PROMs in selected example conditions, secondary analyses of datasets containing EQ-5D and (condition-specific) PROMs, and qualitative studies involving patients and/or clinicians.

2.1.4 Bolt-on valuation

The Valuation Working Group (VWG) notes that valuation of bolt-ons poses three difficulties. First, the addition of extra dimensions makes the valuation task more complex; in particular, when two or more dimensions are bolted on, it is unclear whether the elicitation tasks currently used in the EuroQol valuation protocols are suitable given the extra cognitive burden placed on participants. Second, a full-scale valuation study for every bolt-on in every country is unlikely to be feasible; alternative strategies are needed. Third, the introduction of a bolt-on opens up the issue of gaming, wherein the choice of whether to bolt on — and if so, which dimension(s) — is used to manipulate the reported incremental QALYs in a way that does not represent the true incremental QALYs. Ideally, value sets for bolt-ons would be constructed in such a way as to minimise this risk.

Proposals can be conceptual or empirical and should focus on the methodological aspects, rather than representing applications for specific bolt-ons/populations. Proposals that provide methodological approaches or insights that could support valuation of the 8 bolt-ons identified in the bolt-on toolbox are particularly encouraged. In particular, the VWG invites proposals that address:

- a) **Elicitation tasks:** are current valuation tasks suitable? Is attribute non-attendance a concern with the expanded descriptive system, and if so, are there ways to mitigate this?
- b) **Valuation study burden:** are there approaches that reduce the need for a de novo valuation study for each bolt-on in each country? The scaling factor approach is one such example that could be further developed; alternative approaches are also of interest.
- c) **Gaming & valuation set consistency:** conceptually, what are the features of a bolt-on value set that make RCTs vulnerable to gaming? How can these features be avoided or minimized?

Value set redundancy, obsolescence and replacement — a related VWG priority that also touches on bolt-on value sets — is presented as a cross-cutting, instrument-agnostic topic in Section 2.5.3.

2.1.5 Contacts for this program

Content validity & psychometric testing (2.1.1–2.1.2) — BOLT Team: Juanita Haagsma, Senior EQ Office Scientist (haagsma@euroqol.org), Fanni Rencz, Program Director (rencz@euroqol.org)

Conceptual & methodological development (2.1.3) — DSWG: Brendan Mulhern, Chair (Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au), Jan Heijdra Suasnabar, Office liaison (Heijdra@euroqol.org)

Bolt-on valuation (2.1.4) — VWG: Eleanor Pullenayegum, Chair (eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca), Mark Oppe, Deputy Chair (oppe@euroqol.org), Maksat Jumamyradov, Office liaison (jumamyradov@euroqol.org)

2.2 Populations and Health Systems

The Populations and Health Systems Working Group (PHSWG) seeks to expand the use of EuroQol instruments in population health assessment and routine outcome measurement. It invites methodological, applied, and implementation-focused proposals — quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods — that advance this aim. A key priority for the PHSWG is research on EQ population norms, which provide benchmarks for comparing patient and population subgroups and are increasingly used in performance assessment, reimbursement, and priority-setting. The PHSWG also encourages submissions on real-world implementation of EuroQol instruments, including case studies on effective data collection and reporting, use of EQ-5D in shared decision-making, and applications in value-based healthcare (VBHC).

2.2.1 Population norms methodology

The PHSWG calls for research to collate, evaluate, and compare EQ-5D population norms across countries and settings. This work has highlighted important methodological challenges, and evidence gaps that require further investigation. The PHSWG welcomes research that contributes to improving the robustness, validity, and applicability of EQ-5D population norms. Projects are expected to focus on the EQ-5D instruments, but applications to the EQ-HWB are welcome, although methodological considerations may not differ. Areas of interest include:

- a) **Methodological choices influencing quality and interpretation of population norms**, including but not limited to: recruitment approaches, sampling strategies, and sample representativeness; statistical methods used to improve representativeness or adjust for sampling limitations; survey administration modes (e.g., online, interviewer-administered, paper-based); data collection protocols and quality assurance approaches; and data sources and survey platforms.
- b) **Methodological approaches for generating population norms for underrepresented instruments, countries, and population groups**. Examples include: improving understanding of population norms across the age spectrum, including older age groups beyond the 65+ category; examining the methodological implications of different administration modes among older adults or other populations with specific measurement considerations; and — in collaboration with the Younger Populations program — robust approaches for generating population norms for the EQ-5D-Y instruments and related methodological issues (see Section 2.3.3).

This call is not intended to fund the generation of new population norms, but rather research that advances the understanding of best methodological practices to support future population norms development.

2.2.2 Real-world implementation and use in routine outcome measurement

The PHSWG has reviewed the use of EQ-5D instruments within PROM programmes, including registry-based applications. Building on this work (available upon request), the PHSWG aims to develop a collection of case studies and evidence demonstrating how EQ-5D can be effectively implemented and used to support routine outcome measurement and health system improvement.

- a) **Real-world case studies of EQ-5D applications.** We welcome submissions that aim to provide detailed descriptions of real-world case studies. Relevant topics include: how EQ-5D data are collected (e.g., timing, frequency, modes of administration and integration into clinical workflows); approaches to data management and analysis, interpretation, and reporting; methods for addressing missing data, response rates, data quality challenges, or longitudinal measurement issues; how EQ-5D results are used to support shared decision-making; applications in quality improvement, performance monitoring, benchmarking, service redesign; and use of EQ-5D in VBHC initiatives.

Research focused only on the use of EQ-5D by HTA agencies or in economic evaluations of interventions is outside the scope of this call.

- b) **Broader implementation evidence across disease areas, health systems, or geographical regions.** This may include: horizon scanning exercises; surveys of registries, health agencies, or healthcare organisations; review of the literature on PROMs implementation; qualitative research with stakeholders involved in PROM implementation; and evaluations of factors influencing adoption, sustainability, and impact.

Given the increasing global adoption and implementation of VBHC approaches, the PHSWG is particularly interested in research exploring the role of EQ-5D within VBHC initiatives. As VBHC can be interpreted differently across healthcare settings, researchers are encouraged to contact the PHSWG prior to submission to discuss whether a proposed application aligns with the objectives of this call.

2.2.3 Contacts for this program

PHSWG: Paula Lorgelly, Co-Chair (paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz), Juanita Haagsma, Co-Chair (j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl), Stevanus Pangestu, Office Liaison (pangestu@euroqol.org).

The PHSWG welcomes engagement with individuals up to one month before the deadline, and recommends reviewing recently funded PHSWG projects, available on the EuroQol website.

Details related to the advice/info session are included in 3.7

2.3 Younger Populations (EQ-5D-Y / EQ-TIPS)

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), EQ-5D-Y-5L (Y-5L), and the EQ-TIPS for infants and toddlers. The EQ-TIPS is an experimental instrument.

Online Advice session: see the consolidated schedule in Section 3.7.

Please contact the VMC EQ-TIPS Liaison, Erica Lubetkin (lubetkin@member.euroqol.org), early in protocol development to confirm availability and, if needed, budget for a researcher-led translation and VMC review. See Section 3.3 for the full translations/VMC policy.

2.3.1 Methodological research for youth valuation

The EQ-5D-Y-5L valuation protocol will use methods related to either (1) DCE with duration that accounts for nonlinear time preferences (e.g. similar to Yu et al., 2026¹) in adults and/or adolescents, and/or (2) latent scale DCE in adults and/or adolescents and cTTO data from adults. DCE data is usually collected online; however, growing concerns about data quality motivate interest in exploring alternative modes of administration (MoA) for data collection. While such work is already underway for the EQ-5D-5L, no such data is available for Y valuation. Furthermore, there is interest in including adolescents in these valuation tasks; further methodological and conceptual research is encouraged to explore this inclusion.

- a) **Alternative modes of administration:** alternative approaches to DCE (with duration and latent scale) data collection are welcome, provided participants remain identifiable — e.g. group settings such as online self-complete, in-person self-complete, or virtual/in-person classrooms. This includes collecting this type of data in adolescents to identify the best MoA (performance may differ between adults and adolescents), and testing whether performance differs between adults valuing their own health versus that of a 10-year-old child, across modes of administration.
- b) **Qualitative and task-design research:** investigating the lowest adolescent age for feasibly completing DCE with and without duration, using qualitative interviews; and exploring adults' willingness to trade in tasks that include comparisons with immediate death (e.g. standard cTTO) versus tasks that do not (e.g. DCE with duration or modifications of cTTO). This includes adults' apparent reluctance to trade off child life years in current valuation tasks — the extent to which this reflects underlying preferences versus features of the task itself, and, where appropriate, methods to address task-related influences.
- c) **Combining valuation data:** conceptual thinking, combined with technical evidence, to explore different approaches to weighting and combining adolescent and adult valuation data to calculate value sets for EQ-5D-Y-5L.

2.3.2 Research exploring instrument transitioning

To better understand transitions between instruments, particularly the impact of these transitions on preference-weighted scores, QALY estimates, and cost-effectiveness results, the YPWG seeks studies to:

- a) explore piggyback data collection opportunities alongside clinical trials, cohort studies, or population health interventions that include adolescents aged approximately 12–21 years, where both EQ-5D-Y-3L/Y-5L and EQ-5D-5L can be collected. Such studies would improve understanding of how transitioning between youth and adult instruments affects preference-weighted scores, estimated QALY gains, and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs);
- b) conduct methodological research for valuing EQ-5D-Y-5L and EQ-5D-5L using the same elicitation method (EQ-VT or DCE with duration) and comparable study designs, to better understand differences in the characteristics of valuation data between instruments.

2.3.3 Testing and application of EQ-5D-Y and EQ-TIPS

¹ Yu, A., Roudijk, B., Jiang, P., Norman, R., Viney, R., Street, D., ... & Brendan, M. (2026). Valuation of the EQ-5D-Y-5L Using DCE Methods That Account for Nonlinear Time Preferences. *Medical Decision Making*, 46(3), 343-354.

The YPWG encourages research on the EQ-5D-Y (3L or 5L) and EQ-TIPS-5L to continue building evidence to support their use.

- a) **Implementation in population health surveys and outcome systems (joint priority with the PHSWG — see Section 2.2.1):** together with the PHSWG, the YPWG is interested in the implementation of EQ-5D-Y-3L/Y-5L or EQ-TIPS-5L in large-scale population health surveys and routine outcome measurement systems. Studies exploring the feasibility, acceptability and/or challenges of integrating EuroQol measures into these explorative or pilot studies are welcome. The YPWG would also consider supporting the analysis of EuroQol data from existing data sets. Applicants are recommended to contact the PHS or YPWG to discuss any planned research proposals before submission.
- b) **Psychometric performance** of these instruments in prevalent health conditions and health conditions of interest for the development of new health technologies. Longitudinal data collection to determine responsiveness to an intervention is highly recommended across all youth instruments. The YPWG is 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-5L in neurodevelopmental disorders, congenital anomalies and infectious and systemic disease.

2.3.4 Contacts for this program

YPWG: Janine Verstraete, Chair (janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za), Bram Roudijk, Office Liaison (roudijk@euroqol.org)

2.4 EQ-HWB (EQ Health and Wellbeing)

The EQ-HWB WG's remit is to lead and support developmental activities to advance the EQ-HWB (-9) measures from experimental status to approved versions that are ready for broad implementation in settings, populations, and contexts where the measurement of well-being in addition to health is relevant to decision-making — for example, in social care or in measuring impacts on carers.

As the development of the EQ-HWB-9 is approaching completion, the WG's priority is to generate evidence on the performance of the 'finalized' version of EQ-HWB-9. The WG is particularly interested in studies that assess the responsiveness of the EQ-HWB-9 across different settings and populations. In addition, the development of the EQ-HWB Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) is ongoing; further evidence is required to support decisions regarding the final development of the EQ-HWB VAS, including the appropriate anchors. Lastly, the WG is interested in studies analysing EQ-HWB long-form data using existing datasets, particularly those that enable comparisons between negatively and positively framed items.

2.4.1 Psychometric performance and comparison with related instruments

The WG is particularly interested in longitudinal studies that enable assessment of responsiveness over time. In particular, the WG seeks to understand how the EQ-HWB-9 performs relative to instruments such as ASCOT, ICECAP-A, ICECAP-O, CarerQoL, QOL-ACC and other wellbeing, social care, and caregiver-related instruments. Relevant application areas include, but are not limited to, social care, caregiving, integrated health and social care systems, disability and long-term condition support, rehabilitation and community-based care, mental health and psychosocial services, public health, and research on ageing, frailty, and loneliness. The WG prefers that studies use the 'finalized' approved EQ-HWB-9.

Please note that the 'approved' English version of the EQ-HWB-9 is expected to become available in early 2027, with other language versions expected to follow a few months later. Researchers should take this timeline into account when planning studies. Please contact the EQ-HWB-9 VMC liaison, Des Scott (des.scott@uct.ac.za), with any enquiries regarding existing translations.

2.4.2 EQ-HWB VAS

The WG continues to welcome both qualitative and quantitative studies on the development and evaluation of the EQ-HWB VAS. Previous studies have explored the different anchors among patients and the general population. This call specifically seeks empirical research evaluating alternative EQ-HWB VAS versions (e.g. health, health and wellbeing, health and quality of life). Priority will be given to: (1) qualitative research exploring EQ-HWB VAS versions among caregivers and care recipients in English and other prevalent languages; (2) quantitative, preferably multi-country studies enabling the comparison of multiple EQ-HWB VAS variants in large samples and diverse cultural contexts; and (3) quantitative studies specifically focusing on caregivers and/or care recipients including studies involving proxy reporting.

Researchers interested in conducting VAS studies are encouraged to contact the Office Liaison, GuangJie Zhang (zhang@euroqol.org), to discuss ongoing work, identify remaining evidence gaps, and ensure that proposed studies provide additional value to the development program.

2.4.3 Exploring the long-form of the EQ-HWB (secondary data analysis only)

The long form of the original EQ-HWB version (v1.1, 2022) included three positively framed questions (feeling accepted, feeling good about oneself, could do things one wanted to), which were subsequently revised to negatively framed questions (feeling excluded, negative feelings about oneself, difficulties with enjoyable activities) in version v1.2 (2024) onwards. As the wording of these items in the long-form EQ-HWB has not yet been finalized the WG welcomes secondary analyses of existing datasets, particularly those that include both positive and negative item phrasing, to investigate the influence of item polarity on respondents' answers and the overall measurement properties of the instrument. Such studies will provide evidence to inform future recommendations regarding the use of positively and negatively worded items in the long-form EQ-HWB.

This priority is closely related to the item framing review described in Section 2.5.1 — applicants interested in framing effects should review both. Section 2.4.3 seeks empirical analysis of existing EQ-HWB data; Section 2.5.1 seeks a broader conceptual/methodological review across PROM/HRQoL measurement generally.

2.4.4 Contacts for this program

EQ-HWB: Simon Pickard, Chair (pickard1@uic.edu), GuangJie Zhang, Office Liaison (zhang@euroqol.org)

2.5 Cross-Cutting Methods

Three methodological priorities apply broadly across EuroQol instruments rather than to a single program and are presented here rather than duplicated within multiple sections. The first is a DSWG priority; the second is a VWG priority.

2.5.1 Item framing: positively vs. negatively worded items

The DSWG calls for proposals reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of including both positively and negatively framed items within a single PROM/HRQoL measure. For example, asking about energy alongside fatigue, or combining ability-framed items (“I am able to walk about”) with

problem-framed items (“I have pain”). Mixed framing may reduce acquiescence bias but may also introduce method effects and comprehension difficulties that undermine measurement precision. The DSWG welcomes reviews drawing on psychology, psychometrics, HRQoL measurement and valuation, addressing questions such as the evidence for reduced acquiescence versus increased respondent burden and error; performance across literacy levels, cognitive impairment, and translation/cross-cultural adaptation; effects on factor structure, differential item functioning, and response consistency; and how framing may bias stated preferences in valuation methods such as TTO and DCEs. The DSWG is interested in understanding measurement error arising from framing, particularly in preference-weighted measures where a single item captures each domain, leaving no redundancy to offset wording effects.

See also Section 2.4.3 for a related, EQ-HWB-specific empirical analysis of item polarity using existing long-form data.

2.5.3 Value set maintenance and replacement

The VWG has begun to consider the issues of redundancy, obsolescence, and replacement of value sets. Although the motivating examples below draw on EQ-5D-3L/5L experience, the underlying questions — when a value set doesn’t reflect current preferences, and how to detect and respond to that — are instrument-agnostic and will apply equally to Y-5L, bolt-on, or other EuroQol value sets over time. To aid this discussion, the VWG invites proposals that:

- a) seek to learn stakeholders' views on the matter, with input from EuroQol Group leadership;
- b) 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 (proposals should consider the cost aspect of valuation, and the limited specificity of the preference change detection, i.e., false positive results);
- c) study the impact of changing valuation-related methodology (for example, old vs. new EQ-5D-5L valuation protocols) on value sets, cost-utility analysis results and resource allocation;
- d) provide criteria to assist in assessing whether wording changes in the descriptive system warrant changes in the value set.

2.5.4 Contacts for this program

Item framing (2.5.1) — DSWG: Brendan Mulhern, Chair (Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au), Jan Heijdra Suasnabar, Office Liaison (Heijdra@euroqol.org)

Value set maintenance (2.5.3) — VWG: Eleanor Pullenayegum, Chair (eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca), Mark Oppe, Deputy Chair (oppe@euroqol.org), Maksat Jumamyradov, Office Liaison (jumamyradov@euroqol.org)

3. Submission Guidelines

3.1 Who can submit?

The Foundation accepts proposals 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. Although having a EuroQol member on the project team is not required, it is recommended.

All researchers are encouraged to contact the relevant program (Section 2) to discuss proposal plans and ensure alignment with priorities and ongoing and planned research. For general questions, contact the Grants Management team at grants@euroqol.org.

3.2 Grant types

Two grant types are particularly relevant to this call's priorities; the full catalogue of grant types is in Appendix 3.

- **1.1 Regular research grant (XXXX-RA):** the default grant type for new instrument or bolt-on development, methodological research, and applied studies.
- **1.4 Bolt-on Toolbox validation (XXXX-BT):** reserved exclusively for qualitative or quantitative psychometric testing of items already in the experimental EQ-5D Bolt-on Toolbox (see Section 2.1). Any new bolt-on development or methodological research related to bolt-ons should instead be submitted as a 1.1 Regular research grant.

Submission requirements differ between grant types — review the relevant submission form before applying.

3.3 Translations and the Value Measurement & Comparison (VMC) process

Please contact the VMC Liaison to confirm availability of language-country pairs for experimental versions. Where unavailable, a researcher-led translation and cognitive debriefing with a VMC 'light' review can be included and budgeted in the proposal.

- **Bolt-on Toolbox translations:** contact the VMC Bolt-on Liaisons, Sarah Derrett (saraheq2018@outlook.com) and Claire Gudex (cgudex@gmail.com).
- **EQ-TIPS translations:** contact the VMC EQ-TIPS, Erica Lubetkin (lubetkin@member.euroqol.org).
- **EQ-HWB-9 translations:** contact Des Scott (des.scott@uct.ac.za).

Note that the approved English version of the EQ-HWB-9 is expected in early 2027, with other languages following a few months later — plan study timelines accordingly.

If your proposed study requires an official translation that is not yet available, contact Sarah Derrett from the VMC (saraheq2018@outlook.com) early in protocol development so that translations can be planned and budgeted for.

3.4 Data sharing and SAVED status

Applicants are encouraged to make study data available for secondary use in EuroQol's repository, following the SAVED (FAIR principles) policy.

In light of changing demands on managing research data and the transition to Open Science, EuroQol may require selected funded proposals to transfer resulting data and data management to EuroQol's SAVED Archive. Where SAVED status has been or is being considered for a project, this will be specified in the Grant Offer Letter, and the standard Grant Terms and Conditions are replaced by a Data Transfer Contract (DTC) governing archiving and secondary use.

3.5 Submission procedure

All proposals must be submitted via the [EuroQol Projects Submission Portal](#). Registration is required for submission. Submissions can be updated at any time before the deadline: **Sunday 25 October 2026, 23:59 CEST**.

At registration, please accept receiving broadcast emails and system notifications to facilitate communication about your application. If you have an existing account, please check in your profile preferences that you have allowed these communications.

3.6 Use of AI in proposal writing

Artificial intelligence (AI) software such as large language models is frequently used by researchers to enhance their work. The Foundation may consider proposals for which AI has been used to improve writing. Applicants are required to be transparent about the use of AI in the writing of their proposals and must indicate whether, and to what extent, AI was used. Proposals generated by AI will not be accepted for review.

3.7 Timelines

After the submission deadline, applicants can generally expect the following process:

- The Grants Management team checks whether each proposal meets the call's eligibility criteria.
- Independent experts review all eligible proposals.
- Funding recommendations are discussed and decided by the Executive Committee in December 2026.
- Applicants are notified of the funding decision within approximately two to three weeks of the Executive Committee meeting.
- The deadline for any conditional fund responses linked to this RFP will be Sunday 31 January 2027 23:59 CEST. Applicants will be informed of the final funding decision by mid-March 2027.
- The deadline for any resubmissions linked to this RFP will be Sunday 8 February 2027 23:59 CET, to be discussed in the Executive Committee meetings in March 2027. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by mid-April 2027.

3.8 Advice sessions

Most programs offer an optional consultation before you submit, to help align your proposal with current priorities. Participation is entirely optional and does not influence assessment.

Program	Session Details
Bolt-on Toolbox	By arrangement — contact Juanita Haagsma (haagsma@euroqol.org)
DSWG	By arrangement — contact Brendan Mulhern (Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au) or Jan Heijdra Suasnabar (Heijdra@euroqol.org)
EQ-HWB WG	During the Lunch break on 23 September at the Plenary Meeting. Contact GuangJie Zhang (zhang@euroqol.org)
PHS WG	Two virtual consultation sessions on 17 September 2026 , at 08:00-9:00 CEST and 18:00-19:00 CEST . If you would like to take part, please contact the Office liaison, Stevanus Pangestu (pangestu@euroqol.org) by 15 September.
VWG	Virtual consultation sessions on 11 September 2026 , 16:00-17:00 CEST , and 14 September , 15:00-16:00 CEST . If you would like to take part, please contact the Office liaison, Maksat Jumamyradov (jumamyradov@euroqol.org).
Younger Populations	Two virtual consultation sessions on 1 October 2026 , at 09:00-10:00 CEST and 15:00-16:00 CEST . If you would like to take part, please contact the Chair, Janine Verstraete (janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za) by 28 September.

3.9 Contacts

Program	Contact	Email
Bolt-on Toolbox	Fanni Rencz (Program Director)	rencz@euroqol.org
	Juanita Haagsma (Office Liaison)	haagsma@euroqol.org
	Sarah Derrett (VMC Liaison)	saraheq2018@outlook.com
	Claire Gudex (VMC Liaison)	cgudex@gmail.com
DSWG	Brendan Mulhern (Chair)	Brendan.mulhern@uts.edu.au
	Jan Heijdra Suasnabar (Office Liaison)	Heijdra@euroqol.org
EQ-HWB WG	Simon Pickard (Chair)	pickard1@uic.edu
	GuangJie Zhang (Office Liaison)	zhang@euroqol.org
	Des Scott (VMC Liaison)	des.scott@uct.ac.za
PHS WG	Paula Lorgelly (Co-Chair)	paula.lorgelly@auckland.ac.nz
	Juanita Haagsma (Co-Chair)	j.haagsma@erasmusmc.nl
	Stevanus Pangestu (Office Liaison)	pangestu@euroqol.org
YPWG	Janine Verstraete (Chair)	janine.verstraete@uct.ac.za
	Bram Roudijk (Office Liaison)	roudijk@euroqol.org
	Erica Lubetkin (EQ-TIPS VMC Liaison)	lubetkin@member.euroqol.org
VWG	Eleanor Pullenayegum (Chair)	eleanor.pullenayegum@sickkids.ca
	Maksat Jumamyradov (Office Liaison)	jumamyradov@euroqol.org
VMC general queries	Sarah Derrett	saraheq2018@outlook.com
General	Grants Management team	grants@euroqol.org

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Guidance for applicants

Procedures for research funding applications

1. General Submission Requirements

- 1.1. The EuroQol Research Foundation will fund high-quality research that is of scientific and strategic interest to the EuroQol Group and its members.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. For clarity, applicants must use the correct terminology referring to EuroQol instruments – see [EQ-5D Nomenclature](#).
- 1.4. Study teams do not have to include a EuroQol member; however, this is advisable.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. EuroQol Group offers a variety of grant types, listed below. Each Call for Proposals will outline the types of projects invited. Please note the availability of the types of grants offered may vary from one call to the next.
- 1.7. If your research requires a translation that is not yet available, please contact the Version Management Committee (VMC) Chair before submitting your funding application to ensure feasibility and proper budgeting. Developing a new version involves translation, cognitive debriefing interviews, and a VMC review. These steps require additional time and budget.

2. Review and Decision Process

- 2.1. General principles governing the review process are:

- 2.1.1. All reviews are completed online using the EuroQol Project Submission Portal. Reviewers evaluate proposals on several criteria including strategic and scientific importance, study

design/methods, feasibility, budget, timelines, deliverables, stakeholder engagement and data protection.

2.1.2. All reviewers, Working Group (WG) members, and Executive members must make a declaration of interest. Anyone with a conflict of interest is excluded from the review and decision-making process.

2.1.3. Following discussion of the proposals, the Executive Committee makes funding decisions based on reviews and WG inputs.

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

2.2.1. Two reviewers independently review each proposal. The relevant WG will support reviewer selection. The WG Chair may delegate reviews to a WG member or to another researcher with special expertise on the topic.

2.2.2. The Scientific Team Lead assigns reviewers for proposals that fall outside the WG scope.

2.2.3. All reviews are completed online through the EuroQol Project Submission Portal on criteria described above. These comments are shared with Executive Committee members for decision-making.

2.2.4. Each WG provides the Triage Committee with a summary of all their allocated proposals. This highlights high-priority projects and notes any overlapping proposals. If proposals overlap, the Triage Committee may select only one or two similar proposals for funding. A Triage Committee reviews proposals and their initial reviews to provide a funding recommendation: Fund, Conditional Fund, Revise and Resubmit, Reject or Discuss by the Executive Committee. Alternatively, the committee may defer its decision and invite two additional reviews from Executive Committee 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. The full Executive Committee must confirm all triage decisions to make them final.

2.3. The **fast-track review process** is as follows:

2.3.1. Decisions on time-sensitive or other high-priority proposals can be fast-tracked. This procedure allows the Executive Committee to evaluate and fund urgent requests between scheduled decision meetings. Fast-track procedure reviews begin on receipt, with final decisions made either offline or at the next Executive Committee meeting.

2.3.2. To request a fast-track review, please contact the Scientific Director and Grant Managers (grants@euroqol.org). They will consult with the Executive Committee Chair to determine if your proposal qualifies for this process.

2.3.3. Applicants must submit their proposals through the standard process via the EuroQol Project Submission Portal (point 1.2).

2.3.4. A review will be sought from at least one member of the Executive Committee. At the discretion of the Executive Chair or Deputy Chair, additional reviews may be requested from the Executive Committee or WGs

2.3.5. The Executive Committee Chair or Deputy Chair will evaluate the review and email a recommended decision, the proposal and review(s) to all Executive Committee members. Members must respond within 48 hours with any concerns.

2.3.6. If an Executive Committee member raises important concerns regarding the recommended decision, the proposal will be deferred for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting. If no concerns are raised, the applicant will be informed of the final funding decision.

2.4. Executive Committee decisions on proposals will fall into one of four categories:

2.4.1. Funding awarded.

2.4.2. Conditional Funding: The proposal is approved subject to satisfactory revisions and clarifications. A member nominated by the Triage Committee confirms these, and they are reported at the next Executive Committee meeting.

2.4.3. Revise and Resubmit: The applicant is invited to revise the proposal for reconsideration at the next allocated Executive Committee meeting.

2.4.4. Funding declined: The proposal is rejected.

3. **Feedback**

3.1. Applicants will normally receive feedback within three weeks of the Executive Committee meetings. The EuroQol Office will provide reviewers' comments anonymously to principal investigators (PIs).

3.2. If funding for a proposal is refused, the Scientific Director or Grants Manager will follow up with a rejection notification including the reasons. Appeals can be made for procedural reasons only. Applicants must write to the Scientific Director or Grants Manager to request reconsideration and provide specific justifications. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee that the Executive Committee will accept or review it.

4. **Grant Processing**

4.1. When funding is awarded, the Grants Managers will send a Grant Offer Letter confirming Executive Committee approval. This letter includes a proposed payment schedule, annual reporting requirements (if applicable), and invoice submission instructions. It will be accompanied by a General Terms and Conditions (GTC) document. The signed letter must be returned within three months of its issuance date.

4.2. Some funded projects may be assigned SAVED status. For these projects, researchers agree to archive all generated data in EuroQol's data repository. This data is then made available for secondary use, in accordance with applicable data protection, governance, and access procedures.

4.3. Projects designated with SAVED status require 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.

4.4. Abstracts of applications that are awarded funding will be published on the public website.

5. Grant Reporting

- 5.1. **If a project requires annual or interim reporting**, a notification from Good Grants will be sent with an invitation to submit the annual/interim report within three months. A member of EuroQol's Scientific Team will review the submission, and the PI will be notified of the outcome. Once approved, the next invoice can be submitted, or the next project phase can begin, depending on the terms of the Grant Offer Letter. If the report is not approved, the PI will receive feedback and an opportunity to revise and resubmit the annual/interim report.
- 5.2. **If a project is delayed** and the PI cannot submit an annual or final report on time, they must notify the grants managers. The PI must provide reasons for the delay, a revised timeline, and a new expected end date for the performance period. This request for a budget-neutral deadline extension must be formally approved by the Grants Managers.
- 5.3. **Once a project is completed**, the process is as follows:
 - 5.3.1. As specified in the Grant Offer Letter, upon project completion, you are required to submit a final report via the EuroQol Project Submission Portal (<https://euroqol-proposals.grantplatform.com/>). The submission must include the completed Final Report Form, the original proposal, and all listed deliverables. The PI will receive an invitation from Good Grants to submit the final report within three months.
 - 5.3.2. The relevant WG reviews the final report. While the WG Chair may delegate this review to a WG or EQ Group member with special expertise on the topic, the final review must reflect the WG's considered view.
 - 5.3.3. In case of a final report on proposals outside the scope of the WGs, the Executive Committee Chair and the Scientific Director will identify and invite a EuroQol Group member with relevant expertise to review the report.
 - 5.3.4. Final report reviews are completed online through the EuroQol Project Submission Portal, where reviewers evaluate the report and recommend either Sign-off or Revise and Resubmit. Reviewers comment on: *Was the work completed as planned? Is the reporting up to standard? Are there strategic implications?*
 - 5.3.5. The final report and its review recommendation will be circulated to the Executive Committee. Unless the Executive Committee raises any issues, the final report will be approved as recommended, and the PI will be notified and invited to submit the final invoice for the remaining budget.
 - 5.3.6. An abstract of the final report will be published on the EuroQol Group's website, unless the Executive and the project team agree otherwise.
 - 5.3.7. If an applicant fails to deliver a high-quality final report on time, EuroQol may withhold the final instalment payment. Under certain circumstances, the initial instalment may be required to be repaid. Additionally, failure to deliver a final report will negatively impact the evaluation of any future funding applications.

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

- 6.1. The PI must inform EuroQol immediately or respond promptly to progress update inquiries detailing the reasons why the project cannot be completed.
- 6.2. The PI must provide a summary of work completed so far, listing any completed deliverables and any failed deliverables.
- 6.3. The PI must submit a project closure proposal. This document must outline any feasible final reporting, planned data usage, breakdown of spent funds, and the remaining budget to be returned to EuroQol.
- 6.4. The proposal will then be reviewed by the Grant Managers and Scientific Director and will be put forward for approval by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines when circumstances require.

If you have any questions about applying for funding, the review process or submission deadlines, please contact grants@euroqol.org.

Appendix 2 — Budget Guidelines

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

In the **EuroQol Grant application form**, please provide a breakdown of the proposed budget. All proposals should use the provided [Excel Budget template](#).

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 entrance fees
- Travel costs and expected costs for hotel costs and meals in line with the [Dutch CAO guidelines](#) for accommodation and subsistence costs per city (kindly use the automatic 'English translate' option in the internet browser).

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 number 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 professors 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.**

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 are 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: €138.50 per hour/ €1108.00 per day. Please specify this amount separately as an 'in-kind' contribution.

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 to buy computer/electronic hardware for data acquisition. Renting computer/electronic hardware for a study is acceptable.

For valuation studies that require EQ-VT technology, please add €25.000 for EQ-VT costs (software development, training, support, etc.). Upon approval by the Executive Committee, this will be provided as in-kind support. Please specify this amount separately as an 'in-kind' contribution

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

- Secretarial support, stationery, 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 study results. Allowable costs include:

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

The applicant must seek funding from other sources for other dissemination costs, such as board and lodging, hours spent away from the office, co-presenters of the study results, etc. As a rule, costs of publishing, e.g. in open access journals, should not be budgeted in the application. You can apply for open access fees through the specific Knowledge and Dissemination Grant.

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.

Appendix 3 — Grants Offered by EuroQol

The table below outlines the standard EuroQol grant types, followed by a detailed description of their aims and scope. The application and review procedure is similar for all grant types and described in the [Guide for Applicants](#). In addition to these standard grants, EuroQol may issue targeted calls requiring ad hoc submission forms as specified in the call documentation. For questions regarding this call, applicants may contact the EuroQol grants management team (grants@euroqol.org).

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
	3. Conference presentation grant
4. Implementation grants	1. Tools and resources
	2. Program coordination grants (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 primary way the EuroQol Research Foundation funds research.

Scope

The Foundation funds high-quality research aligned with the scientific and strategic interests of the EuroQol Group. Accordingly, any proposal that supports the overall scientific strategy will be considered for funding. At least twice a year, the Executive Committee will issue a competitive Call for Proposals highlighting the current research priorities. These will be circulated by email and published on the EuroQol website.

Funding

Standard research projects can have a maximum budget of €200,000. Funding requests exceeding this limit require strong, detailed justifications demonstrating why the scope of the work must be completed within a single project. Research budgets are detailed in the [Budget Guidelines](#) and may include reimbursement of researcher time, at the daily rates stipulated by the Foundation, as well as necessary direct costs (e.g. use of subcontractors). Separate university or institutional overhead costs are not eligible for funding.

Eligibility

Specific eligibility will be detailed in each Request for Proposals. Generally, calls are aimed at researchers with established lines of research involving EuroQol instruments, many of whom are affiliated with the EuroQol Group. Although having a EuroQol member on the project team is not required, it is recommended.

1.2. Valuation studies

Valuation studies produce preference-based national value sets for a EuroQol instrument. Given the importance of these value sets to our users, EuroQol wishes to collaborate closely with interested researcher partners. This chapter describes our policy for establishing a valuation study.

Scope

Value sets can be developed only for instruments made available as approved EuroQol instruments. Published protocols for EuroQol instrument valuation can be obtained from the EuroQol Office or downloaded from the website. These studies are conducted in accordance with a protocol developed by EuroQol, such as the EQ-VT protocol or the DCE with duration protocol. The EQ-VT protocol involves conducting TTO interviews with a large sample of the general population using our standard proprietary software package, EQ-VT. The DCE with duration methodology will be publicly available in Q4 2026/Q1 2027. Funding approval is contingent on an assessment of the case for need and available budget for the research. Approved studies will receive in-kind support from the EuroQol Research Foundation for costs related to software development, training and support (See Budget guidelines).

Eligibility

All parties interested in conducting a valuation study for a EuroQol instrument are invited to contact the EuroQol Office first to review our valuation study policy (roudijk@euroqol.org / jumamyradov@euroqol.org). EuroQol membership is not required. Before inviting a formal research application, the Office requires information about your team, funding, and timeline. Additionally, we will discuss the status of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in your country, local experience with valuation research, current utilisation of EuroQol instruments, and the need to develop a value set.

Funding

We will review your funding sources before inviting a valuation study proposal. We typically expect the country team to secure local funding for the majority of the project cost. Applicants should note these studies require significant resources. The current protocol for an EQ-5D-5L EQ-VT study requires a sample of at least 1000 respondents for face-to-face interviews facilitated by 10 trained interviewers. The EuroQol Research Foundation will support approved studies in kind, including EQ-VT management, translation costs, training, quality management, and support (around €25,000). However, you must secure funds for the project team members, participant incentives, fieldwork, etc. from local sources. Depending on local rates and commercial outsourcing, estimated budgets for the EQ-5D-5L range from €70,000 to over €300,000. EuroQol's Executive Committee may consider co-funding on a case-by-case basis.

Alternatively, resource-constrained teams may consider an EQ-5D-3L valuation study, which requires a smaller sample (~300) and allows a crosswalk approach to generate EQ-5D-5L values. Using the DCE with duration protocol is another option, which requires fewer resources but more technical expertise to conduct.

Application

Research teams may advance to proposal development once the EQ-VT Support Team (of the Valuation Working Group) approves their initial study design, funding plan, and timeline. During this stage, the EQ-VT Support Team collaborates with the country team to develop a research proposal for submission and review by the EuroQol Executive Committee. Use the valuation-specific submission

form. Please note that submitting the proposal does not guarantee approval; if the Executive Committee decides not to fund the study, the Foundation will not provide EQ-VT software or in-kind support.

1.3. Seed grants

Seed Grants support innovative research that serves as a catalyst for launching new projects or redirecting existing research.

The Research Seed Grant program aims to:

- encourage external research groups to collaborate with the EuroQol group on research projects where data from EuroQol instruments play a key role, such as routine clinical practice (see examples below).
- advance innovative research aligned with the strategic research priorities of the Research Foundation and/or one or more EuroQol Working groups (Descriptive Systems, EQ-HWB, Valuation, Younger Populations, Populations and Health Systems).

Scope

Through a seed grant, short-term, exploratory research projects can be supported. Seed funds are provided to stimulate innovative use of EQ-5D or data from EuroQol instruments. A seed grant allows researchers to explore new research initiatives that may be high-risk. Findings will determine the potential and feasibility of the research or inform the design and execution of a larger-scale study.

Examples include:

- Leveraging Routine Outcome Monitoring datasets to generate new insights
- Development and validation of risk-prediction models, diagnostic tools, or decision support models
- Investigating disparities in patient care and health outcomes
- Research or implementation science within strategic frameworks for value-based healthcare
- Analysing patient profiles in health care, patient platforms, and care pathways
- Methodological or applied research in the field of psychometrics, health economics, classification theory, mapping, instrument development, or data processing and presentation

Funding

The maximum allowable budget for a seed grant is €50.000 (in line with the [Budget Guidelines](#)), with a project duration of no more than 12 months. Higher budgets require exceptional justification.

Eligibility

Experienced researchers and early career researchers with a proven track record or strong professional promise are eligible to apply. Applicants must be non-members of the EuroQol Group seeking to establish new lines of research involving EQ-5D or related instruments. Current EuroQol members are ineligible to apply but may collaborate as an advisor or co-investigator. EuroQol member participation is not required.

Proposals must demonstrate how the research will develop new collaborations. Consequently, the application requires details on the planned work, applicant, and institution, alongside a clear vision for long-term collaboration and a plan for integrating the study's findings into future research.

2. Individual Grants

2.1. PhD grants

EuroQol invites proposals for PhD research that supports EuroQol Foundation's strategic goals. This grant supports a PhD candidate to conduct original research and produce and successfully defend a

thesis that meets local university and EuroQol requirements (listed below). The proposal should focus on broadening theoretical understanding or exploring a novel research area and enhancing research skills. The lead supervisor is responsible for selecting a suitable candidate with a demonstrated interest in the field. If a candidate is already identified, include their CV in the application. If not, the applicant must outline a clear recruitment strategy and timeline.

Scope

While the primary aim of this grant is *personal* capacity building, it also provides opportunities to investigate a particular EuroQol-related *topic* or *dataset* in depth. The project description is the core of the application; it must detail the planned PhD project and outline a robust research strategy based on a strong scientific rationale. The background should identify evidence gaps or methodological issues that lead directly to the stated aims of the PhD proposal. Furthermore, applicants must clearly describe the significance of the research questions (1) to the field, and (2) to the EuroQol community. Describe methodologies with sufficient detail to allow reviewers to evaluate the quality, feasibility, and risk of the proposed work. For existing data, provide source details to verify quality and suitability; for new data, outline the collection, analysis, and reporting plans. Crucially, proposals must address how the PhD candidate will interact with the relevant research communities, including identifying the specific EuroQol body or Working Group that will serve as their primary sounding board.

Funding

The EuroQol Group recognises variation in doctoral education across countries – including differences in qualifications, coursework, timelines, examination, and funding structures – and accepts that budgets and deliverables will vary accordingly. Consequently, applicants must outline how PhD research is structured at their host institution, including formal procedural and graduation requirements. The description should clarify the student's rights and responsibilities, detailing research training or institutional duties beyond the PhD research.

The standard funding range for PhD proposals is € 150,000 – €180,000; higher amounts may be requested with sufficient justification. A EuroQol grant may be combined with other sources of funding, and applicants may request a smaller budget to supplement an existing award or extend data collection for an ongoing PhD study. To support the request, applications must include a detailed budget plan that declares any currently secured funds from alternative sources and justifies the requested data collection budget. If decisions on other grant requests are pending, EuroQol grants may be awarded as a conditional grant and released as soon as the remaining budget has been secured.

Budgets will be disbursed in annual instalments, and local institutional policies will define how funds are distributed and to the student (e.g. as a stipend and fees or salary).

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

- **PhD Bench Fee:** An individual allowance of €5000 per PhD student to support their scientific career. The student may use these funds at their discretion for conference travel, course registration, or related academic activities, etc.
- **Material Costs:** a maximum budget of € 25,000 to cover material costs (e.g. for data collection or acquisition). This can be included in the initial proposal or requested later, while the project is active.
- **Supervisory Support:** Funding is available to support one or two supervisors. Total funding is capped at €7,500 for one supervisor and €10,000 for two supervisors.
- **Travel:** Any budget allocation of travel must be explicitly explained and justified within the proposal.

Note: Do not include EuroQol meeting attendance or open access fees in the budget. EuroQol meetings are fully reimbursed, if applicable, and open access funding can be requested according to 3.2. You cannot request funding to cover indirect costs or overheads.

Eligibility

EuroQol members approved to lead or co-supervise a PhD candidate at an accredited institution are eligible to apply. Although research may be conducted across multiple institutions, the university where the student is enrolled will serve as the official project, host the lead supervisor, and manage the budget. Additional team members may serve as co-supervisors or advisors.

The lead supervisor must have formal approval to act as a primary supervisor at the enrolling institution. They must also demonstrate the institutional capacity and resources required to provide the support, opportunities, and resources needed to enable effective supervision and to ensure that the candidate meets all degree standards. The application must clarify the qualifications of all project team members by including their full academic CVs and intended roles.

Deliverables

While PhD deliverables are partly defined by the local institutional context, EuroQol-funded projects must meet specific minimum standards. The lead supervisor is responsible for satisfying all local institutional requirements alongside EuroQol requirements. At minimum, the EuroQol Foundation requires the student to submit two research articles to a peer-reviewed journal, with at least one accepted for publication during the PhD timeframe. Furthermore, the candidate is expected to present the research regularly at scientific conferences, including EuroQol events, and contribute to the scientific network if invited by leadership or Working Groups. Where applicable, projects should include creating user documentation/guidelines for EuroQol-related instruments, topics, or datasets. Generally, analytical tools/programs are shared with EuroQol members. If the student receives external co-funding, EuroQol requirements will be adjusted to reflect the magnitude of investment.

Proposals must include a detailed timeline, preferably using a Gantt chart, that integrates milestones from both the host institution and EuroQol. The project team needs to pay close attention to potential barriers to the timely availability of data (including ethical approval). EuroQol requires annual reports to monitor progress. These annual reports serve as an important communication tool for knowledge transfer and as the formal mechanism for requesting EuroQol approval for any necessary project amendments requiring EuroQol sign-off.

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)

Travel Grant applications must demonstrate a strong alignment with EuroQol's research priorities.

Scope

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

Short-term stay abroad:

The short-term travel grants support applicants travelling abroad for a short period. The period abroad can range from 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. These grants may support a) creation or expansion of collaborative networks, b) work on new projects/proposals, c) work on ongoing projects, and/or d) development in EuroQol-specific methods, as detailed below.

- a. Creating and developing scientific collaboration has been an integral feature of the evolution of the EuroQol Group and is an important component of the scientific meetings. Individual members may occasionally wish to extend their own collaborative network or create new ones, which may need to occur outside of scientific meetings. In such circumstances, the EuroQol Group would consider supporting time-limited exchange visits. It is expected that opportunities for knowledge-transfer and seminar/workshop presentations are included.
- b. Proposals focusing on new early-stage collaborative initiatives 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.
- c. Where face-to-face interaction is necessary to make significant progress in designing new projects, funding will be considered. While research activities within an ongoing study are generally excluded, support may be granted if close collaboration will significantly advance new project design, data analysis or reporting. Support for this should be provided in writing from the relevant Working Group.
- d. For researchers wishing to develop expertise in specific methods central to the EuroQol Research Foundation's scientific agenda. Applications could be highly flexible and allow support over a longer period, allowing temporary relocation to partner institutions, for example for a semester. A EuroQol member or research group with demonstrable expertise could host such an arrangement for a planned programme of work. All applications require formal endorsement from the host organisation. Alternatively, researchers may pursue a secondment with the EuroQol Office Scientific team in Rotterdam. Applicants must demonstrate a compelling case for need and provide a clearly itemised budget.

Long-term stay abroad:

This long-term stay allows researchers to engage deeply with specific EuroQol projects by completing a residency (two months to a year) at a host institution abroad. The grant supports various types of residencies at a partner institute, e.g. work placements, internships, traineeships, and research specialisation visits. Applicants must have a host contact person at a partner institution within the EuroQol network. Any EuroQol member with demonstrated expertise in your planned line of work may serve as a host. Alternatively, researchers interested in the broader scope of the EuroQol Office activities may arrange a residency to embed directly with the EuroQol Office scientific team in Rotterdam.

Eligibility

EuroQol members and students connected to EuroQol's PhD Network can apply for travel grants that support a short-term or long-term stay abroad.

3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer

3.1. Education and Outreach Grant (EOs)

This grant type invites applicants 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 a distributor of instruments and as a grant-making organisation in the field of measurement and valuation of health. Educational activities that facilitate access to the EuroQol Group's accumulated research expertise and actively promote the transfer of knowledge and evidence on 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 an 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:

- Coordinated group symposium or panel discussion with funding for two or more researchers
- Teaching or delivery of courses
- Organisation of regional meetings to build capacity
- Ad hoc small-scale meetings or workshops 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 supported by a EuroQol Education and Outreach grant:

- Development of teaching materials
- Development 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 Foundation's Open Access policy covers publishing fees for manuscripts that either arise from EuroQol-funded research or are authored by members and align with the organization's mission.

EuroQol supports open access dissemination and normally reimburses publishing fees when costs are not already covered through institutional or publisher agreements. Authors are therefore encouraged to seek alternative funding sources before applying to EuroQol.

Submit requests for open access fees through the [grant submission portal](#). Requests are reviewed to confirm they fall within scope and that the journal meets recognised academic standards; EuroQol does not reimburse fees for publications in predatory or otherwise non-credible journals.

Approved reimbursements are strictly limited to eligible open access fees and require an official publisher invoice. Following acceptance of a manuscript for publication, an application for the approval of an Open Access fee reimbursement should be made to the Foundation. Once EuroQol approves the application, it will share the invoice and payment details with the applicant. The author should indicate a third-party payment and provide the relevant invoice and payment details in the publisher's system. Please note that if you have already made the payment yourself, EuroQol can reimburse only the article processing charge, not any VAT costs incurred.

Eligibility

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

3.3. Conference Presentation Grant

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 presentation at scientific conferences and meetings of international standing.

Scope

Researchers may apply to EuroQol for **individual** support towards conference-related costs, 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 consider factors such as the meeting's relevance to EuroQol's mission, the applicant's role in the presentation, the extent to which the employer or other sources contribute to the costs, and whether EuroQol support is necessary to enable participation.

Funding

Allowable costs include conference/meeting registration, accommodation, preparation time and travel (economy-class airline or train ticket). Budget accommodation and meal costs in accordance with the [Dutch CAO Guidelines](#) for reimbursement, based on the destination (please use the automatic English translation available in the internet browser). Preparation time is suggested at 3 hours for every 1 hour of presentation time, unless substantially justified.

A maximum of one conference participation will be allowed per funded EuroQol proposal. 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 fund multiple conferences in close succession or cover the full costs of extensive travel. Priority will be given to applications where support would meaningfully reduce barriers to dissemination, particularly for early-career researchers and/or Low and Low-Middle-Income Countries.

Eligibility

Individual EuroQol members, students within EuroQol's PhD Network, and researchers conducting EuroQol-funded research can apply for funding to support conference presentations.

4. Implementation grants (IG)

Implementation Grants support projects that develop 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 they focus 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 funds the development of products that serve the EuroQol Group, such as software, statistical packages, translations, guidelines, or other standardised tools. Deliverables are tangible outputs that EuroQol members or broader research contexts can use. 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; instead, they 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 developing and delivering 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 program coordination grants is currently under review and therefore not included in this document.