



05.12.2025

## MH Grants Office: Funding Updates

Welcome to the December funding newsletter from the MH Grants Office. The winter solstice is only two weeks away, bringing gradually longer days and with them, the year end-quickly approaches. Whatever you celebrate, whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, a hot cup of cocoa following a productive writing session at a cabin, a cold winter dip in a fjord, or simply time off with friends and/or family, the Grants Office would like to wish everyone at the faculty a wonderful holiday.

For some of us, time off can also mean extra time for grant writing. Hopefully this newsletter can offer some inspiration. Otherwise, we have collected some information about informative webinars, and drop-ins with the Grants Office in the coming weeks, as well as upcoming funding opportunities to expect in the new year.

Check out the [MH Grants Office website](#) to read more about the support services we offer, see an [overview of funding opportunities](#) available to health researchers in Norway, and more.



### IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

#### HORIZON EUROPE

- **Upcoming Calls:** [Introducing the new ERC+ Grants](#)
- **Info and brokerage Event:** [Cancer Missons 2026](#)
- **Info and Brokerage Event:** [Health Cluster 2026/2027](#)
- **Upcoming Calls:** [WIDERA 2026 calls and Info Day, and Brokerage Event](#)
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#### HORIZON EUROPE: SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTH

- **Info Bit:** [Why should you apply to these calls?](#)
- [Upcoming drop-in sessions with the MH Grants Office](#)

#### NORWEGIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

- **Upcoming Calls:** [2026 Thematic Calls \(preview\)](#)

#### OTHER FUNDERS

- **Open Call:** [Wellcome – Genomics in Context Awards](#)
- **Open Call:** [Research Grants from Diabetes Wellness Norway](#)



## SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- **Reading Days:** [NFR/RCN Reading Days in 2026](#)
- **Reading Days:** [Rules for Reading Days](#)

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## Horizon Europe

### The European Research Council's new super-grant: ERC+

The European Research Council (ERC) has recently unveiled the new ERC+ grants that will be available for the final cycles of Horizon Europe (2026 and 2027), with the possibility of continuation during the new framework programme for 2028-2034. These grants are designed for projects that require more money or more time than what is possible within regular ERC grants.

#### THE ERC+ GRANTS IN A GLANCE:

<b>First deadline:</b>	September 2026
<b>Funding duration:</b>	Up to 7 years.
<b>How much:</b>	Up to €7 million

#### Details:

- One grant for all career stages
- Same evaluation criteria as the other ERC grants - scientific excellence.
- Very competitive: Only 30 grants will be funded
- Not available to anyone with an ongoing ERC project

[For more information, watch the recording of the Research Council's recent info session about ERC +.](#)

More details will appear in this newsletter as they become available.

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### Cancer Missions: Info and brokerage events

Are you considering applying to a topic under the 2026 Cancer Mission, either as partner or a coordinator and need more partners?

Then you should consider attending the following digital events:

#### Info Day – EU Missions (Cancer)

This is the official information day for the upcoming topics under Horizon Europe's 2026 Cancer Mission. There is an opportunity to submit questions ahead of and during the event via SLIDO.

**When:** 20 January 2026 | 13:00-15:00

[More information here.](#)

#### Save the Date: EU Missions Brokerage Event 2026

Organized by the National Contact Points for Missions, this is a digital opportunity to hear and/or present pitches for partnering on or coordinating an upcoming call with the goal of **finding partners for your application**. There will also be a plenary session offering practical advice for applicants to these calls.

Registering for the event, you get access to an online brokerage platform which allows you to set up bilateral meetings with potential partners.

**When:** 28-29 January

**Registration:** coming soon

[More information here.](#)



The 2026 Cancer Mission call topics are expected to officially be approved and published on next week. In the meantime, the [most recent draft from Nov. 10th is available to read here](#).

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## Health Cluster Info and Brokerage Events

Are you considering applying to a 2026 Cluster 1 Health call, either as partner or a coordinator and need more partners?

Then you should consider attending the following digital events:

### Info Day Cluster 1 Health

This is the official information day for the upcoming topics under Horizon Europe's 2026 health cluster calls. There is an opportunity to submit questions ahead of the event via SLIDO.

**When:** 10 February 2026 | 9:00

[More information here.](#)

### CLUSTER Health Horizon Europe Brokerage Event 2026

Organized by the National Contact Points for Health, this is a opportunity to hear and/or present pitches for partnering on or coordinating an upcoming call with the goal of **finding partners for your application** or just listen to pitches from others.

Registering for the event, you get access to an online brokerage platform which allows you to set up bilateral meetings with potential partners.

**When:** 26-30 January

**Register by:** 21 January

[More information here.](#)

The Health Cluster calls are expected to officially be approved and published on next week. In the meantime, the [most recent draft from Nov. 10th is available to read here](#).

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## Upcoming calls and Brokerage Event - WIDERA

The European Commission has published a draft 2026/2027 work programme with new calls under WIDERA (Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area).

[You can read the work programme here.](#)

### KEY DATES:

- **[Knowledge Day & Brokerage Event:](#)** 17 December 2025
- **[Horizon Europe's WIDERA info day:](#)** 22 January 2026

### WHAT IS WIDERA?

Widera funds projects that:

- Build strategic partnerships with "widening countries" (i.e. those receive little EU funding) as well as other leading EU institutions.
- Contribute to capacity-building, networking, and research excellence.
- Attract talent (e.g. hosting postdocs from "widening countries" at NTNU).

We include one example of an upcoming WIDERA call below. Information about all calls and topics is available in the draft work programme linked above:

### HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02: Twinning

**Deadline:** 9 April 2026

**Call Opens:** 8 January 2026



Projects should build strategic partnerships in a defined area (proposed by the applicant) between a Widening country coordinator and at least two leading EU institutions.

**Funding available for:**

- Activities such as staff exchanges, expert visits, joint training, workshops, summer schools, and outreach
- Activities to strengthen research management capacity and develop a dedicated team.
- Optional research component where  $\leq 30\%$  of budget may be used for advancing state-of-the-art in your field.

More information about these calls and available support is available through the [Grants Office](#).

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## **Call for expression of interest in Horizon Europe calls for NTNU's Horizon Europe brochures**

### **Are you interested in collaborating on Horizon Europe projects and looking for partners?**

NTNU's Brussels office is collecting expressions of interest from NTNU researchers for inclusion in the new brochure edition of the **Mapping of NTNU Researchers' Interests in Horizon Europe Calls**, focusing on the Horizon Europe 2026/2027 Work Programmes.

### **Why Participate?**

The information you share will be used in a marketing brochure showcasing NTNU's range of expertise and competencies, and the specific calls that NTNU researchers are most interested in as either a partner or coordinator with the intent to generate requests for collaboration and invitation to consortia from external players.

The finished brochures will be distributed to a mailing list of over 4,000 relevant contacts, relevant EU networks, and showcased on social media.

### **To participate:**

Identify the Work Programme(s) relevant to your expertise from the list below and click on the corresponding link(s) to access a questionnaire, which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Links to the surveys for work programmes containing health-related calls are listed below:

- [\*\*CLUSTER 1\*\* - Health](#)
- [\*\*CLUSTER 2\*\* - Culture, creativity and inclusive society](#)
- [\*\*CLUSTER 3\*\* - Civil Security for Society](#)

**[Previous editions of the brochures can be found here.](#)**

### **Deadlines:**

Information is collected on an ongoing basis, but brochures will be updated periodically based on specific cut-off dates. There was a **first release at the beginning of December** to allow to match some of the calls opening in December and January.

Further releases to integrate new participants will happen according to the cut-off dates below:

- 30th January 2026
- 30th March 2026|
- 30th May 2026
- Further releases will be planned if needed.

NB: The information about the calls for 2026/2027 is based on drafts from the European Commission. The content, budget and wording of the calls may change in the final version. However, we



still request that you fill in all relevant information and select the calls of interest as this will help us to produce and distribute the brochures as soon as possible.

*A quick list of topics in the health cluster is available in the [October Newsletter from the MH Grants Office](#).*

*A quick list of health-relevant topics in Clusters 2, 3 and 6 is available in the [November Newsletter from the MH Grants office](#).*

More information about these calls and available support is available through the [Grants Office](#).

## Horizon Europe: Spotlight on European Partnerships in Health, continued!

### Why apply?

This month we continue November's spotlight on European Partnerships, highlighting **why you should apply for Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs) from European Partnerships?**

These calls offer more than just funding; they are gateways to impactful collaboration, cutting-edge research, and long-term visibility in the European research landscape. Wondering if they are worth your time? The answer is YES! because...

#### 1. They offer access to funding

While modest compared to other areas of Horizon Europe, approx. **€400,000- 500,000 per Norwegian coordinator** (apart from IHI, which tend to be very large projects), they can support you in scaling your research.

#### 2. They help you build strategic collaborations

Requiring partners from at least 3 countries, these projects can **help to consolidate and build your network within Europe** (and beyond, as in Global Health EDCTP). Thus, they often lead to future Horizon Europe projects and further international opportunities.

#### 3. They can increase your research impact

European Partnerships fall under HEU's Pillar II, which is concerned with shared societal challenges, e.g. how to operationalise health innovations or achieve global health equity. By participating either through projects or engaging as a stakeholder, **your research contributes to solutions to global problems**.

#### 4. They position you for Horizon Europe success

Joining a partnership-funded project is an **excellent stepping stone into larger consortia within Horizon Europe**. JTCs have a lower entry threshold with sometimes higher success rates than in other areas of Horizon Europe.

#### 5. JTCs offer opportunities for early career researchers

Due to modest budgets, senior researchers' time is often minimally allocated. However, participating in JTCs offers an **excellent opportunity to develop careers of early career researchers**. Participation is great for your CV and gives access to career development networks, like the ERA4Health Early Career Network.

More information about these calls and available support is available through the [Grants Office](#).



## Drop-in Q&A sessions with the MH Grants Office

Are you considering applying for a European Partnerships call with a deadline for pre-proposals in January and February?

The MH Grants Office is hosting digital drop-in sessions where you can stop by and ask questions any time within the hour we will be hosting. Everyone is welcome! No pre-registration required.

You are welcome virtually stop by if you are interested in the following topics:

### 11th Dec | 14:00 – 15.00

**THCS: Access to Care:** Aiming to fund research and innovation projects that contribute to ensuring equitable access to and utilisation of health care services

**[Teams link here](#)**

### 18th Dec | 11.00 – 12.00

**ERDERA:** Resolving unsolved cases in rare genetic and non-genetic diseases

**[Teams link here](#)**

### 18th Dec | 13.00 – 14.00

**EP PerMed: CARMEN2026:** Personalised medicine for Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Kidney diseases

**[Teams link here](#)**

### 18th Dec | 14.00-15.00

**EP PerMed Twinning:** Advancing Collaborative Implementation of Personalised Medicine Approaches in Healthcare

**[Teams link here](#)**

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## Norwegian Research Council

### Preview of 2026 Thematic Calls

The Research Council has shared information about upcoming 2026 calls for proposals that are open to or require input from HSS (humanities and social sciences). More information will be posted when the calls are available

The complete call texts will be published on the RCN's website in December and January. There may also come additional relevant calls within other subject areas.

NB: Although the announcement was about relevance to HSS, some of these calls are relevant to health research – see the overview below for calls relevant for health.

**Deadline:** Various - the first deadline is planned for the second half of April.

### Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects:

#### Loneliness, exclusion, and social inequality in health (up to NOK 106 million)

To maintain good public health and a sustainable welfare society, there is a need for research on measures that can help combat loneliness, exclusion, and social inequality in health. NOK 15 million has been earmarked for projects with a significant humanities component.



### **Food, environment, climate and public health (up to NOK 67 million)**

Projects should address the links between food, environment, climate, and health in a holistic manner. Cultural and social conditions are relevant topics that may be included in the research. Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.

### **Societal security and preparedness (up to at least NOK 255 million)**

Research is necessary in the transition to a more robust and resilient society. Adaptation, prevention, and management of threats and crises must include both short-term and long-term perspectives that take into account environmental, social, cultural, economic, political, technological, legal, and ethical aspects.

### **Researcher Projects:**

#### **The social significance of culture (up to NOK 66 million)**

The purpose of the call is to generate new knowledge about the role of culture in social development and to increase understanding of how art and culture affect sustainability, inclusion, participation, identity, and quality of life in a time of major social change.

More details will appear in this newsletter as they become available.

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## **Other Funders**

### **Open Call: Wellcome - Genomics in Context Awards**

The Wellcome foundation is accepting research proposals for collaborative research at the intersection of genomics, humanities, social sciences and bioethics.

**Deadline:** 16 March 2026

**Funding amount:** Up to £500,000

Proposals for projects between 12-24 months are accepted from researchers at any career stage.

[Further information about this call and application procedure is available here.](#)

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### **Open Call: Research Grants from Diabetes Wellness Norway**

Diabetes Wellness Norway invites the submission of research projects and proposals requiring funding in the field of diabetes.

**Deadline:** 6 January 2026, 17:00

**Funding amount:** Up to 200,000 NOK

The foundation is actively seeking research projects in Norway which, in the long term, can lead to improved treatment methods and hopefully a working remedy for people living with diabetes.

- Applications can be basic, clinical or translational research in any area of diabetes including causes, complications, treatment and prevention.
- Applications will only be considered from researchers working in Norwegian research institutions.
- Completed applications should be sent to:  
[submit@diabeteswellness.se](mailto:submit@diabeteswellness.se).
- All applications should be completed in English



**[Click here to access the application.](#)**

For further information about the call please contact:

[Sarah Brown](#) or [research@diabeteswellness.se](mailto:research@diabeteswellness.se).

For research related questions, please contact:

[Dr Reshma Ramracheya](#).

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## Support Activities

### NFR/RCN Proposal Reading Days

**Time:** 28 January | 12.00-15.00 (register by Jan 26<sup>th</sup>)

11 February | 9.00-12.00 (register by Feb 9<sup>th</sup>)

**Place:** tbc

**[Register here](#)** (same link for both dates) and choose up to three proposals you want to read.

**[An overview of the available proposals can be found here.](#)**

The Grants Office invites you to a reading day of proposals that have been funded by the Research Council of Norway.

It is invaluable to see how successful proposals are structured and formulated, whether you are writing your own proposal or helping others secure funding as an adviser. We now have an updated and expanded our list of available proposals and are very grateful to the 19 researchers who have agreed to share their work.

**We have a selection of both FRIPRO and collaborative proposals to choose from.**

If you have any questions about securing funding from the research council or would like more information, you can reach the MH Grants Office at: [soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no](mailto:soknadshjelpen@mh.ntnu.no).

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### Reading Day Rules:

To protect the researchers who have been so kind as to share their ERC and NFR proposals, these rules will be in place during our reading days:

- You can only read the proposals at the set time and place
- You can't take the proposal out of the room
- No copying or taking pictures of the proposal
- You may take notes on paper, laptop or another digital note-taking device.
- Before you can see the proposals, you will have to sign a non-disclosure agreement

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