



Grants Cancer Prevention Research 2022

Regulations

1. Theme

In 2022, on an exceptional basis, the Foundation against Cancer makes a total budget of 2 million euros available to support **research on prevention and screening of cancer**.

The focus is on **research into the effectiveness of interventions for prevention and screening** (primary and secondary prevention). The purpose of this research should include one or more of these goals:

- Contribute to the knowledge of the main factors impacting on primary prevention and screening for cancer.
- Quantify the effectiveness of the intervention by means of clear indicators.
- Demonstrate easy dissemination of the implementation.
- Map the conditions for success or failure.
- Publicize results more widely, so that they can be rolled out or integrated into policies or existing initiatives.

2. Context

In Belgium, there is an urgent need to put more effort into cancer prevention. Within EU, we rank 19th out of 27 in terms of cancer deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, but 4th in terms of cancer incidence. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has identified 11 risk factors that, in addition to screening, that have a demonstrated impact on cancer incidence. Thus, the main risk factors are known. IARC goes on to state that *"it is estimated that this 'cancer burden' could be reduced by half if scientific knowledge of the causes of cancer could be translated into successful prevention¹".*

The Foundation against Cancer wishes to contribute to increase knowledge on prevention and screening, in order to improve primary or secondary prevention strategies and to improve implementation of recommendations. Evaluating, influencing and implementing attitudinal and behavioural changes in respect of risk factors that are known to significantly increase the risk of cancer is also important. To that end the Foundation against Cancer will support research that provides a better knowledge of prevention and screening or research that promotes changes in behaviour which lead to better implementation of prevention and screening recommendations.

¹ Joachim Schüz, Carolina Espina, et al. European code against cancer 4th edition: 12 ways to reduce your cancer risk. *Cancer Epidemiology* 39S 2015: S1-10



3. Eligibility criteria

Project duration: minimum 2 - maximum 4 years

Budget: from € 100 000 to € 250 000. This funding should cover >50% of the total research costs.

Projects should:

- ✓ Focus on one of the **11 risk factors of the European Code Against Cancer in the area of primary prevention** namely tobacco, second-hand smoke, obesity, lack of physical activity, diet, alcohol, sun/UV exposure, cancer causing substances in the workplace, Radon, hormonal therapy and HPV & Hepatitis B infections.
- ✓ Or focus on **screening strategies (secondary prevention)**.
- ✓ Conduct research on the **effectiveness of interventions** or on a **broader implementation of interventions**.
This includes:
 - The design, implementation and evaluation of the effectiveness of an intervention
 - The research on how to broadly disseminate an intervention
- ✓ Have no commercial purpose.

An ongoing project may be considered if the following two criteria are fulfilled:

- it meets the eligibility and selection criteria;
- a detailed balance sheet is presented showing the stage already reached and the results obtained

Out of scope for this call:

Research on new risk factors or etiopathology of cancer. These topics may be relevant for the call fundamental research organized by the Foundation against Cancer.

About lead applicants and co-applicants:

The lead applicant, who submits and coordinates the project, has to be a person with a permanent position in a Belgian university or college of higher education.

A project can be submitted by a single lead applicant or in collaboration with maximum 2 co-applicants (persons with a permanent position in another Belgian university, a college of higher education or an officially recognized scientific institution, or with another partner with expertise in the field of primary prevention / screening and working for a legal entity under public or private law).

Individuals working in de facto associations or representing themselves cannot be co-applicants.

The lead applicant and co-applicant(s) are required to submit a financial identification sheet provided by the institution they are working for.

For each project, a single project coordinator should be appointed. This person will be responsible for implementing the project, producing the required documents and communicating the results to the Foundation against Cancer.

A lead applicant may submit only one project. He can also be co-applicant in maximum one other project.



An investigator can be co-applicant in maximum two different projects.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be proposed to the jury.

4. Selection criteria

Feasibility

- ✓ Clear scientific hypothesis.
- ✓ Clear and measurable objectives.
- ✓ Time-defined actions to achieve objective.
- ✓ Clear description of the potential impact of the project and of the target group within Belgium.
- ✓ Justification for requested funding and possible co-funding.
- ✓ Prior scientific achievements of the lead applicant and co-applicant(s) and strengths of their teams.

Impact

- ✓ Demonstrate potential impact on prevention and screening of the project, including potential number of beneficiaries.
- ✓ Measurement of the effectiveness of the intervention by means of clear indicators.
- ✓ If applicable, special attention for vulnerable target groups.
- ✓ Mapping the conditions for success or failure.

Quality

- ✓ Guaranteeing the quality of the research and/or the intervention.
- ✓ Follow-up.
- ✓ Evaluation (methodology).

Sustainability

- ✓ Demonstrating easy dissemination of the implementation.
- ✓ Publicize any success or failure widely so that they can be rolled out or integrated into policies or existing initiatives.

5. General provisions

The funding will be granted for a maximum period of 4 years and will be used to finance:

- ✓ Materials directly related to the implementation and execution of the project;
- ✓ Costs directly related to the implementation and execution of the project;
- ✓ Staffing directly related to the implementation and execution of the project.

The funding cannot be used to fund:

- ✓ Overheads (general costs such as heating, water, electricity, catering for internal meetings, licences for general software, insurance, maintenance of premises and equipment, etc.);



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- ✓ The salary or part of it, of a person who is already a permanent employee of the institute or organisation under which the project is submitted.
- ✓ Participation in the structural operation of the institute or organisation.

The origin of any co-financing must be specified in the budgeting.

Any funding granted by the Foundation against Cancer will be the subject of a specific agreement, which contains a payment plan, defines the rights and obligations of all parties and indicates the timing and contents of the required evaluation reports.

The independent jury makes a sovereign selection of the projects and the amounts awarded per project. This selection is submitted to the Board of Directors of the Foundation against Cancer for approval. No rebuttal is possible in the event of a project being rejected or partially financed.

6. How to submit an application?

Documents

An application is made by filling in, in English, the application form on the platform via the following **Link**.

www.kanker.be/Grants prevention Research-projectoproep

A bank identification form must be provided.

Timetable

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| Launch of project call | 25 Oct 2021 |
| Deadline for submitting applications | 14 Feb 2022 at 1:00 PM |
| Selection by Independent jury | Mid May 2022 |
| Approval by the Executive Board | End of May 2022 |
| Reporting of results | Beginning of June 2022 |