Call for Applications 2015-2016

Joint TDR/EURO Small Grants Scheme for Implementation Research in Infectious Diseases

Deadline for submission: 30 September 2015

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, in collaboration with the Astana Medical University, Kazakhstan, are pleased to announce the 2015-2016 call for applications for the Joint TDR/EURO Small Grants Scheme for implementation research in infectious diseases.

Background
The Small Grants Programme is a joint initiative of TDR and WHO Regional Offices under the current TDR Strategy. TDR is hosted at the World Health Organization (WHO) and is sponsored by the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and WHO. It supports implementation research on infectious diseases of poverty that leads to health improvement and strengthening research capacity of the individuals and institutions in low- and middle-income countries. TDR also supports translating research results into policy and improved health practices, and promotes the engagement of individuals and communities in using research evidence to reduce the disease burden in their respective countries.

The European Advisory Committee on Health Research (EACHR), which reports directly to the WHO Regional Director for Europe, promotes the use of research evidence for public health decision-making and to inform policies for the development of health research in the EURO Region. The call supports the implementation of priorities and directions based on the discussions at the EACHR’s April 2015 meeting.

This call for applications is undertaken in close collaboration with Astana Medical University (AMU) in Kazakhstan, one of TDR’s supported Regional Training Centres with considerable expertise in bioethics and implementation research.

Objectives of the joint TDR/EURO Small Grants Scheme

- Strengthen the research capacity of relevant individuals and institutions in countries of the EURO Region;
- Generate new knowledge, solutions and implementation strategies that can be applied by countries for the control and elimination of infectious diseases;
- Encourage intersectoral dialogue.
Priority research areas
- Prevention and control of infectious diseases, including elimination of malaria, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases relevant in the region.
- Health systems including health service delivery and community-based approaches, or qualitative research topics in the context of the infectious diseases
- Drug resistance.
- Emerging infectious diseases.
- Co-morbidity of infectious diseases with non-communicable diseases.

Eligibility criteria
Applicants submitting proposals must be researchers or health professionals working in infectious disease programmes of ministries of health, national universities or research institutions, and who are from from one of the following countries in the WHO European Region: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

1. The topic of the research proposal must correspond with the priority areas listed above.
2. The proposal must be developed in collaboration with the infectious disease programmes of the ministries of health. Staff of the national control programme should be part of the research team.
3. The proposal must clearly illustrate how the knowledge gap addressed by the research is relevant or important in the context of local health system or disease programmes. The linkage between the proposed research and the policies and programme within the country should be clearly demonstrated.
4. The duration of the research project should be no longer than 12 months.
5. The budget per proposal should not go beyond US$ 15 000.
6. Proposals can be submitted in either English or Russian.
7. Application forms must be completed appropriately. Incomplete applications will be screened out.

Evaluation criteria and steps
Each application will be screened for compliance with the eligibility criteria. Following this, each eligible application will be assessed independently by at least two reviewers and scores will be assigned based on the sets of criteria listed below. The highest scoring applications will be recommended for funding.

Criteria for relevance
- Fills a knowledge gap related to an operational/programmatic issue that has a direct policy and programmatic relevance within the country, e.g. addresses a priority in the country’s national health plan or infectious disease control programmes workplan.
- Strengthens research capacity and fosters collaboration between research institutions and disease control programmes in the country.
- The results dissemination plan is designed to reach the broadest spectrum of stakeholders from the respective field.
- TDR promotes gender equity and therefore encourages applications from women researchers as principal investigators and as part of the project team.
Criteria for scientific merit and quality

- Novelty of the concept, innovation, does not replicate previous research
- Encourages multidisciplinary, multisectoral approach
- Hypothesis and objectives are clear and well defined
- Deliverables and milestones are clear and realistic
- Methodology is appropriate to fulfill the objectives
- Methods are described in sufficient detail and they include quality assurance and control
- Literature review is comprehensive
- There is a sound plan for uptake of research results into policy and practice, and the manner to follow up on the application of outputs is described
- Research ethics and environmental aspects are addressed appropriately

Criteria for feasibility

- Investigator / team showing a good track record in conducting research
- Project team showing strong expertise in the respective field
- Support from the institutions involved in the project
- Appropriate and well justified budget covering all the essential elements required for the project
- Feasible timeline taking into consideration the planning, implementation and reporting phases
- Sufficient time allocated by the principal investigator (PI) to manage the project
- Leveraging resources (in-kind, infrastructure, technical support, etc.) from other projects and/or institutions interested in the proposed project
- Risk assessment addresses the most significant risks with appropriate mitigation actions

We encourage applicants to review their own application against the criteria above before submitting.

Applications not fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be excluded and the applicants will be advised by 20 October 2015. Applications passing the eligibility screening will be reviewed and scored, and the final decision on the funding will be announced to applicants by November 2015.

Financial support: up to US$ 15 000 per project.

How to apply

Deadline for submission: 30 September 2015

Download the application form

Include:
1. Letter of endorsement from the related disease control programmes of the ministry of health
2. Updated curriculum vitae of all investigators

Complete all forms in English or Russian and sign.

Email application form and related documents to: eurotdrcall@gmail.com

Related links

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