

# Grants Cancer Prevention 2025

## Research

### General Regulation

#### 1. Theme

In 2025, the Foundation against Cancer makes a total budget of 2 million euros available to support **Cancer Prevention** through its Grants Cancer Prevention. Next to research projects regarding cancer prevention, operational projects linked to the 12 known recommendations of the European Code Against Cancer can be submitted in this type of Grant.

Concerning the **research projects** in cancer prevention, the focus is on **research in primary prevention and screening of cancer**. The purpose of this research should contribute to the knowledge of the factors impacting the incidence and early detection of cancer.

#### 2. Context

In Belgium, there is an urgent need to put more effort into cancer prevention. Within EU, we rank 21st out of 27 in terms of the highest number of cancer deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, but 6th in terms of cancer incidence. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has identified 11 risk factors that have a demonstrated impact on cancer incidence. These form the basis for the 12 recommendations of the European Code Against Cancer (ECAC) to reduce the risk of cancer or to stimulate the early detection of cancer via screening. 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 prevention<sup>1</sup>".*

The Foundation against Cancer wishes to contribute to increase knowledge of primary prevention and screening, in order to improve primary or secondary prevention strategies and to improve the implementation of recommendations thereafter. It is also important to assess, influence and implement attitudinal and behavioural changes regarding the 11 ECAC risk factors, which are known to significantly increase the risk of cancer, and environmental factors which are currently less well known in terms of their impact on cancer risk. To this end the Foundation against Cancer will support research that provides a better knowledge of primary prevention and screening or research that

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<sup>1</sup> 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

promotes behavioural change leading to better implementation of prevention and screening recommendations.

### 3. Eligibility criteria

**Project duration:** minimum 2 - maximum 4 years

**Budget:** from 100 000€ to 400 000€. With a maximum of 100.000€/year.

This funding should cover more than 50% of the total research costs.

**Projects are only eligible if they focus either on:**

- ✓ Primary prevention:
  - Either on one of the **11 risk factors of the European Code Against Cancer in 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 on **environmental risk factors**
  - Or target personal **behaviour**
- ✓ Secondary prevention:
  - Known or new **screening methods and strategies**

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

#### **Lead applicants and co-applicants:**

The lead applicant, who submits and coordinates the project, must be a person with a permanent position in a university, a college of higher education or in a research institute in Belgium.

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 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, procuring 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.

A co-applicant can be involved in maximum two different projects.

Out of scope for this call:

- Fundamental, Translational and Clinical cancer research projects
- Commercial organisations
- Projects with a commercial purpose
- Individuals working in de facto associations or representing themselves cannot apply

**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 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
- ✓ Mapping the conditions for success or failure

### Quality

- ✓ Guaranteeing the quality of the research
- ✓ Follow-up
- ✓ Evaluation (methodology)

### Sustainability

- ✓ Plan for dissemination of the results

### Finance

- ✓ Detailed justification of the requested funding and any co-funding

## 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 as follow:
  - PhD student: max. 1 FTE/year or two 0,5 FTE/year
  - Post doc: max. 0,5 FTE/year
  - Technical staff/Data Manager/Data Nurse: max. 1 FTE/year in total

Please note the following **limits for expenses** specifically related to the project:

- Congress registration fees: max 2000€ over the duration of the funding
- Publication costs: max 2000€ /year

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, fixed rent, etc...)
- The salary of a person who is already a permanent employee of the institute or organisation under which the project is submitted (staff members or independent academic staff)
- Participation in the structural operation of the institute or organisation
- Travel & accommodation fees

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 apply

### *Documents*

An application is made by filling in, in English, and submitting the online application form available on our website via the following link: [grants.cancer.be](https://grants.cancer.be)

A bank identification form (FIS) dating from no longer than one year ago must be attached to the application.

### *Timetable*

Launch of the project call	24 April 2025
Deadline for submitting applications	19 August 2025, 13h
Reporting of results	Mid-December 2025