

COMPETITIVE SEED FUNDING CALL AT LS4FUTURE – PATHWAY TO LARGER GRANTS: FRAMEWORK

Purpose

To fund 5 short collaborative projects up to 20K each, with the duration of 4-6 months. The aim is to bestow 1 award to a main applicant in each LS4FUTURE partner institution.

Rationale

One of the major goals of the Associate Laboratory is to diversify income sources and capture more international funding through collaborative efforts. The main goals of this initiative are to create a funding mechanism to stimulate collaboration and boost preparation of teams for larger international funding applications (over 300K).

Eligibility

- Only LS4F principal investigators are eligible as main applicants.
- Teams need to be composed of members from at least 2 LS4FUTURE institutions.
- Projects shall focus on the creation of consortia, creation of required conditions or generation of pilot data to enable applications for larger collaborative international schemes
- Projects must be aligned with both LS4F research and international funding priorities.
- Projects must anticipate the submission of a larger grant proposal to a European or other larger international collaborative scheme within 12 months of the award.

Funding and execution

Funding will be dispensed by each institution to its own awardees from its LS4F budget. Each project can request up to 20K, whereas applicants from the main institution can request only up to 15K and co-applicants up to 5K.

Application process

The application form should not exceed 4 pages.

Review

Proposal eligibility will be screened by the LS4F Coordination Office. Eligible projects will be reviewed by a panel composed of 5 external experts. Reviewers will independently score projects based on:

- project scientific merit and feasibility.
- general alignment with LS4FUTURE research.
- eligibility for the named large collaborative international funding schemes.
- main applicants' CVs.
- preference will be given to projects from teams who intend to coordinate the designated larger collaborative international grant application.

The selection of awardees will occur at a final review meeting with the external experts and a representative of each of the partner institutions.

Timeline

| Stage | Date 2023/2024 |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Open call | 13 December |
| Close call | 22 January |
| Review process and meeting | February |
| Awards | March |