

Spain - AEI

Agencia Estatal de Investigación
Subdivisión de Programas Científico - Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia
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Funding Criteria and Regulations

Funding Programme:

Funding Programme: The framework for this funding action is the [Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Técnica e Innovación 2024-2027](#). On a national level, the Call will be managed by the [Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia \(STRAN\)](#) of the AEI.

Instrument for funding the Spanish groups

The instrument for funding the Spanish groups is “Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional” (Projects of International Collaboration).

The applicants are strongly advised to read the call text of the [PCI 2025-1 \(“Resolución de 5 de marzo de 2025”\)](#) for reference and especially [the PCI Requirements](#) document.

Data Protection:

By submitting a grant application to the AEI, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

Funding commitment

Maximum funding for the QuantERA Call 2025: 1.000.000,00 €.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible entities for the AEI funding are:

Non-profit research organizations (such as universities, public research institutions, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain), which must comply with the requirements established by this transnational call and with the rules on eligibility defined in the corresponding Spanish national funding instrument “Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional” (PCI) and the [PCI Requirements document](#). The entities must have been previously beneficiaries of any of the AEI calls. They have to ensure contractual relationship with the Principal Investigator (PI) during all the implementation of the project.

Although private enterprises are not funded by the AEI, the Spanish industrial sector is welcome to participate in the transnational consortia using their own funds or obtaining funds from the CDTI or other innovation and technological development funding agencies.

Additional eligibility criteria

Principal Investigators (PIs) requesting funding to the AEI must:

- Be eligible to the corresponding PCI call (see [PCI2025-1](#) as an example) and the [PCI Requirements document](#)
- Demonstrate experience as investigators in projects funded by the different Plan Estatal I+D+i: 2013-2016, 2017-2020, 2021-2023, 2024-2027, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national or international programmes.

Incompatibilities: These must be taken into account when participating in different ERA-Nets, European Co-funded Partnerships or other international initiatives.

- PIs are not allowed to apply for funding in (i) more than one proposal of this transnational call, (ii) in more than one proposal in the same PCI call and (iii) in PCI calls in consecutive years.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals in this transnational call, they will all be declared ineligible, except one, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- PIs must remain unchanged between the proposal to this transnational call and the corresponding PCI call should the proposal be recommended for funding.
- A PI that has been granted a PCI the previous year will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.

Important:

1. Submission of proposals at the AEI. Within one week after the QuantERA proposal submission (until 12th of December 2025 at the latest), the Spanish PI must submit a copy of the international joint proposal, and the “Declaración responsable del investigador principal” (templates in [PDF](#) and [WORD](#) available on AEI website).
You can find below the link to the AEI application system to upload these documents:
<https://aplicaciones.ciencia.gob.es/proyectostransnacionales/>
2. The applicants should include the PI’s full name and the full name of their institution as it is stated in [the Sistema de Entidades \(SISEN\)](#).

Eligible costs

- Research and innovation activities are eligible. Mere dissemination, communication or other similar activities will not be eligible
- Only Personnel costs for new temporary employment dedicated to the project are eligible. This must be clearly stated in the contract. The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs.
- Direct costs such as current costs, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Overheads (25% of all direct costs, including the subcontracting costs).

The AEI will avoid double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding) and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded.

Funding rates

The following **funding limits** (including direct + 25% indirect costs) **are** considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.

Maximum funding per project	CD (€)	CI (25%) (€)	TOTAL (€)
One AEI applicant	140.000	35.000	175.000

One AEI applicant - coordinator	220.000	55.000	275.000
Two AEI applicants- one coordinator	260.000	65.000	325.000

Additional € 30.000 (direct costs) can be granted for the entire proposal if the work plan includes substantial experimental tasks.

IMPORTANT:

- only ONE applicant asking funding for AEI is allowed per proposal as partner,
- two AEI applicants are allowed in the same proposal if one of them is acting as coordinator
- these amounts refer to 3 years projects. In case of shorter projects, the amount will be adjusted accordingly

Other Funding Criteria

- Centres formed by different Spanish legal entities will be considered as a unique entity, and thus the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established above (for example mixed centres).
- Two centres or institutions belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) will be treated as two separate partners one from another when one of them is acting as Coordinator of the proposal and their tasks and identity in the project are sufficiently separated and justified.

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of the industrial sector, and the financial resources available.

Mandatory acknowledgement

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación: "Project (reference nº XX) funded by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación through the PCI (year) call (or its equivalent)".

Open Access and Open Data policy

Applicants should comply with Open Access/Open Data specified in the respective PCI call or equivalent. The results of the funded research actions, including both the results disseminated through scientific publications and the data generated in the research, must be available in open access, with the exceptions indicated in the PCI call or equivalent.