Requirements Longfonds Consortium Grant 2027

Criteria for pre-applications en full applications
Annual round for consortium grants

The LONGFONDS Consortium Grant Program is aimed at building successful consortiums to perform innovative scientific research on chronic lung diseases and have an impact on societal utilization.

Longfonds applies the following criteria to determine whether your research proposal is suitable for submission:

1. **Project duration**
   The maximum duration of a consortium project is five years. Exceptions may be granted if adequately justified and approved by the Scientific Advisory Committee WAR (Wetenschappelijke Advies Raad).

2. **Consortium composition**
   A consortium must consist of at least two Dutch research institutions, including at least one clinical department. One of the participating institutions must act as the lead institution.
   Each consortium must involve at least one clinical discipline.
   Foreign academic institutions can participate in a consortium if the minimum requirement of two Dutch institutions is met.
   Longfonds considers collaboration with foreign institutions valuable if it adds a specific expertise or access to databases or cohorts to the consortium and therefore encourages international cooperation. It is possible for a Dutch researcher to work at an institution abroad, with their salary funded by the consortium budget.

   An institution is defined as:
   - An academic institution (a university—including the associated academic medical center—NKI, or KNAW institute);
   - A hospital affiliated with the Cooperating Top Clinical Hospitals, STZ.

3. **Application restrictions and budget allocation**
   Please note that the restrictions below apply to all funding rounds and proposals submitted within the same calendar year.

   Longfonds aims to ensure broad involvement of Dutch research institutions. The following rules therefore apply:

   - The main applicant may submit only one proposal per calendar year in the role of main applicant (this includes the Junior Investigator Grant round);

- In addition, a main applicant may participate as co-applicant in no more than one other consortium per calendar year;
- A co-applicant may participate as a co-applicant in no more than two consortia per calendar year;
- No more than 50% of the total budget of this consortium call will be allocated to any single institution. This is independent of a lead institution role.

4. **Research scope**
   Your research project should focus on chronic lung diseases that originate in the lungs. The medical conditions that the research can focus on are:

   - Asthma and/or respiratory allergies in relation to asthma
   - COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
   - Pulmonary arterial hypertension
   - Sarcoidosis
   - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
   - Respiratory peri- and postnatal conditions (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia)
   - Non-CF-related bronchiectasis

   Lung cancer and cystic fibrosis are outside the scope of this call.

5. **Research themes and priorities**
   To be eligible for a consortium grant in the 2027 annual funding round, your research project must address one of the research themes outlined in the document Longfonds Research Themes and Knowledge Gaps 2027.

   Our themes are aligned with the priorities of the National Programme for Lung Research 2.0 (NPL2.0) of NRS, as well as with the knowledge gaps identified in care evaluations and knowledge agendas of scientific associations focused on chronic lung diseases (NVALT, NVK, SKL and NHG). Further information on these priorities and knowledge gaps is also provided in the above-mentioned document.

6. **Requirements for patient involvement throughout the research process**
   Longfonds has established minimum requirements for patient involvement in research to be eligible for funding. Patient involvement means actively engaging people living with lung disease in your research, not merely as research participants but as partners who contribute their experiences and perspectives. Before submitting your application, please review the information on patient involvement available here. The Participation Compass website also provides a practical starting point for researchers. The minimum requirements are listed below. They are based on the article by De Wit et al. (2016), which, together with the websites mentioned above, provides further background and guidance on patient involvement in research. We encourage you to consult these resources when developing your approach to meeting the requirements.

   a. Patient involvement can take place at different stages of the research process and should ideally start as early as possible. Longfonds places great value on research that takes into account the needs and perspectives of people living with lung disease. We therefore encourage researchers to involve people from the intended target group early in the

research process. Patients and/or experts-by-experience can contribute at different stages and take on different roles, depending on the nature and phase of the research.

b. Longfonds encourages the use of a variety of approaches to patient involvement, enabling experts-by-experience to contribute in different roles. An expert-by-experience is a patient who draws on their own experiences and those of others, is able to look beyond their personal illness, and has the skills to communicate these insights effectively. Experts-by-experience can take on different roles in scientific research, such as co-thinker, advisor, partner or director. Patient involvement can take various forms, including patient panels, advisory boards, patient councils, steering committees and focus groups.

c. Patient experts receive information and support at the start of the project and throughout the research process. The researcher's approach is essential to successful collaboration. Researchers and patient experts should discuss their mutual expectations at the start of the project and agree on what is needed to meet them. Throughout the research process, researchers should keep patient experts informed about progress and share relevant information in clear, accessible language.

d. Patient experts are reimbursed for their expenses. At a minimum, patient involvement should include reimbursement of expenses incurred by patient experts when participating in the research. Researchers are also encouraged to consider additional tokens of appreciation, such as gift cards. These costs should be included in the project budget.

e. At least two researchers from the consortium must complete training in patient involvement in scientific research within the first year after the research project has started, or have completed equivalent training within the past five years. A lack of knowledge about effective patient involvement can hinder successful collaboration with patient experts. Training helps researchers develop the knowledge and skills needed for meaningful collaboration. INVOLV and the School for Participation INVOLV and the School for Participation offer training for both researchers and patients. These courses provide practical guidance on involving patients in research and help participants develop an action plan. Up to €1,000 may be included in the grant budget to cover the cost of this training.

7. **Data Management**
   Applicants invited to develop their pre-application into a full application are required to complete the data management section of the grant application form. This section should describe how project data will be organized, stored and made available for reuse. If not all data can be made publicly available (e.g. for reasons of privacy, ethics or valorization), this must be explained. The data management section will not be assessed or influence funding decisions, but reviewers and the assessment committee may provide advice.

Should you have any questions about the conditions listed below, please feel free to contact us via research@longfonds.nl.