

Faculty of Medicine Else Kröner Fresenius Center for Digital Health (EKFZ)

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2nd Call for EKFZ Interdisciplinary Innovation Projects Health Economics, Humanities and Social Science

(Deadline: January 8, 2024)

1 General information

In addition to the Interdisciplinary Innovation Projects MedTech (IIP MedTech), the EKFZ also supports projects with a focus on health economics (IIP Economics) or the humanities and social sciences (IIP Social) in order to develop a holistic approach to the topic of digital health. The increasing opportunities arising from digitalisation for medicine require more interdisciplinary consideration of an economic, business and methodological perspective as well as of ethical, philosophical, social and legal issues. Of particular interest is research into topics such as needs alignment, user-centricity and the generation of added value from digital health solutions.

Both IIP Economics and IIP Social funds are institutional seed funds designed to quickly build new collaborations and acquire further funding. The focus is on connecting and establishing new project teams consisting of clinicians and experts from the health economics or humanities and social sciences respectively. The aim is to initiate high-class scientific projects that can provide a clear perspective, e.g. for DFG funding of the thematic focus.

The cooperation with the non-university partners of the EKFZ (Dresden Fraunhofer Institutes, Helmholtz Center Dresden-Rossendorf, NCT/UCC Dresden or Leibniz IPF or IFW) is possible.

2 Project criteria

2.1 Principal Investigators (PIs)

IIP Economics and IIP Social are open instruments led by at least two PIs.

- a) Health economics or humanities & social science PI: An expert from the field of health economics (e.g. faculty of business and economics or ZEGV) or humanities & social sciences at TU Dresden, who will supervise the research in terms of content and with the respective expertise. The project funds are to be made available primarily to this partner.
- b) Clinical PI: An experienced clinician with scientific track record in the respective field at the University Hospital Dresden / Faculty of Medicine representing the medical need and (if necessary) providing the needed clinical mentorship. The clinician enables the provision of the data required.

Additional principal investigators or mentors from the health economics or humanities and social science or clinician categories are optional.

In order to **promote young scientists** in the EKFZ, opportunities should be offered to them to participate in existing courses offered by chairs and institutions. These could be lectures, seminars, workshops, journal clubs, etc.. Both clinical and health economics or humanities & social science PIs should specify which (existing or individually designed) education courses can be offered to the young scientists of the EKFZ in order to further educate themselves in the respective subject. Ideally, participation in the education courses are open to all interested talents.

2.2 Scientific criteria

Only projects with excellent scientific quality, high originality and demonstrable ethical, philosophical, social and legal or current health economic relevance will be funded. IIP Economics and IIP Social have to meet the following criteria:

- Projects have to meet proven clinical needs and are supported by a clinician with a strong scientific track record for the topic. The existing clinical problem should be presented accordingly.
- The research project should adequately involve the target group(s) (e.g. health care professionals, patients, people in need of care and relatives).
- It is a plus if the project and the research idea addresses sustainability issues.
- We encourage especially young and new teams with exciting and courageous ideas for application. The lack of a common track record is no obstacle to the application.

Exclusion criteria:

- Projects that have already developed a functional demonstrator or prototype are generally no longer eligible for funding.
- Clinical studies are excluded from funding.
- Excluded from funding are projects that have current or past funding from EKFZ or third-party agencies (such as DFG, BMBF, SAB etc.) for the specific research tasks applied for.

3 Funding framework

The EKFZ funding is based on the following framework:

- Funding will be provided for two years (01.07.2024 – 30.06.2026).
- For each project a total project volume of 100 k€ is available over the entire project period (max. two years). The funds can be used for all project-related costs, e.g. personnel costs, consumables, travel funds or small investments, the distribution is flexible within the project period. Please explain in detail the requested funds per partner in the application. A financial project plan needs to be submitted at the time of application. Changes to this plan are possible, but must be approved by the EKFZ Project Office.
- Funding is generally provided for a talent as academic position (PhD student, early Postdoc stage) in the health economics or humanities and social sciences or a similar discipline. Talents should be named in the application, but specific recruiting is also possible.
- Additional financing of projects from other intramural sources (own contribution) is welcome and encouraged and may be supportive.
- Cooperation with external and non-academic partners is possible. The maximum amount of EKFZ funds that are spent at the respective institutions depends on the categories:
 - Non-university partners: Projects can also be combined with additional funding of the Fraunhofer institutes IWS, IWU, FEP, IKTS, and IPMS and/or of the HZDR/NCT/UCC Dresden. To access this committed funds, a consensus between the project team and the institution needs to be established. Up to 50 % of project funds can be spent at the collaborating institutions.
 - SMEs (preferably regional ones) can be project partners and receive funding in joint development (e.g. joint IP) projects of up to 25 % of the total project volume. A collaboration agreement between the project partners of the TU Dresden and the SME must be presented before funds can be allocated to the SME.
 - External academic partners (only regional ones) can be involved if justified by specific technical or clinical skills or existing IP and may receive up to 25 % of total project funds.
- Projects, partners, titles, funds and review results will be public within the center.
- A cost-neutral extension of the project for 6 months is possible upon request.

4 Templates & Deadlines

The templates for the proposal can be found [here](#). The project description shall not exceed eight (8) A4 pages (font Arial, font size 11 pt, standard margins). The bibliography and signature page do not count toward the 8 pages.

All persons involved in the project and named in the project team have to submit a CV.

In this call, the deadline is January 8, 2024 with a planned start of projects on July 1, 2024. For this selection round, we expect to fund between 2-3 projects.

5 Duties of project teams

The EKFZ funds are to be used according to the criteria of good scientific and clinical practice and must meet the ethical and non-profit standards of the TU Dresden and the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation. Specifically:

- Results generated during IIP Economics and IIP Social must be made accessible to the public through scientific publications primarily in peer-reviewed journals and platforms.
- Potentially patentable results from the EKFZ funding are treated according to the procedures of the TU Dresden. The assertion of intellectual property rights needs to be communicated to the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation and is coordinated by the EKFZ Project Office.
- Cooperation of project teams with the public relations, outreach and dissemination activities of the EKFZ and TU Dresden is expected.
- A project report must be submitted to the EKFZ Project Office no later than 6 months after completion of funding.

6 Support and Project Advice

The EKFZ Project Office will be happy to answer any questions you may have (0351-458-18589, ekfz@tu-dresden.de).