



**ORION**

**Novel co-creation initiatives to open up  
research in life sciences and biomedicine**

**Funding Call Guidelines**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 741527 and runs from May 2017 to April 2021.

**The H2020 ORION project has opened a call for proposals on cross-sector collaborations to carry out innovative co-creation initiatives to make research activities in life sciences and biomedicine more open, transparent, accessible, relevant and impactful for research and society.**

## About the ORION Project

The [ORION project](#) aims to trigger institutional and cultural change in research and funding organizations in life sciences and biomedicine to “embed” Open Science through Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles (ethics, gender, governance, open access, public engagement, and science education) in their policies, practices and processes to organize and do research. This is achieved by diverse co-creation experiments, including public dialogues on research strategy and disruptive technologies, and citizen science.

ORION is a 4-year project (from May 2017 to April 2021) that is funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Science with and for Society (SWAFS) Work Programme.

## What is Co-creation?

Co-creation brings together different stakeholders to share their interests and values and generate new ideas, concepts, products or projects. In co-creative projects, all groups are involved and have influence throughout the project lifecycle: from planning, to implementation, to dissemination.

Co-creation has been used in both the public and private sectors to help bring new ideas and perspectives to the table and increase project impact. In research, co-creation has been used in a wide range of contexts including public dialogues, interdisciplinary work groups and citizen science. The ORION [Menu of Co-creation Methods](#) gives examples of a variety of co-creation tools and methodologies that have been used in scientific contexts.

## The Call

There are a wide variety of stakeholders who are interested and can be involved in research activities. These include: academia, industry, government, funders, regulators, educators, charities, civil societies, patient groups and the general public. The aim of this funding call is to support initiatives that bring together these different stakeholder groups in innovative and exciting ways, with the goal of making research activities in the life sciences and biomedicine more open, transparent, accessible, relevant and impactful for research and society.

We are looking for proposals with the following characteristics:

- **Research-related:** Building on a relevant research topic in life sciences/biomedicine and directly engaging researchers, especially [early stage researchers](#).
- **Co-creative:** Including at least three different stakeholder groups throughout the whole lifetime of the project, to produce a new product, programme, policy or project.
- **Innovative:** Original and inventive ideas are encouraged. Classic public engagement and two-way stakeholder projects will not be considered (e.g. scientific cafés, school workshops, academia-industry collaborations etc.).
- **Relevant and impactful:** Addressing their relevance to society and how they will achieve long-term impacts.
- **ORION-aligned:** Projects should follow Open Science and RRI principles. Projects are also encouraged to include an international dimension.

For examples of co-creative projects in the life sciences please see [‘Examples of Co-creation in Research’](#).

## Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

The call is open to all proposals involving at least one of the ORION consortium partners: Assistenza Nazionale Tumori (ANT), Babraham Institute (BI), Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), Centre for Research in Science and Mathematics (CRECIM), Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), South Moravian



Centre for International Mobility (JCMM), Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC) and Vetenskap & Allmänhet (VA). Proposals can also involve legal entities that are outside the ORION consortium and are based in one of the [European Union member states or associated countries](#).

To be eligible, projects must include research in the life sciences/biomedicine and involve at least three different stakeholders, including an ORION partner.

There will be four evaluation criteria which will all be weighted equally:

1. **Originality**: what makes this proposal innovative, in terms of new research and/or engagement?
2. **Co-creativity**: how will different stakeholders be included and what influence will they have on the project? Are you engaging with junior researchers or collaborating internationally? How will your project align with Open Science and RRI principles? What will be produced/developed by the co-creation approach?
3. **Quality and efficiency**: how will your plan be implemented? Is your plan realistic and efficient in terms of time, resources and costs?
4. **Impact**: what impact will this project have on each of the stakeholders involved, and on society as a whole? What will be the long term impacts? How will you ensure maximum impact? How will impact be measured?

The BI project manager who is coordinating the call will run an initial pre-check of the applications. Applications that are submitted after the deadline, are not complete or do not comply with eligibility criteria as well as the submission guidelines will be rejected.

Applications that have passed the pre-check stage will be evaluated by the ORION Advisory Board based on the four criteria above. If additional expertise is required, a remote evaluation may be requested to a scientific expert in the research field of the submitted application.

Projects need to be supported by an academic Principal Investigator, but they can be run by researchers at different career stages or by other relevant stakeholders. Projects shall be carried out in close collaboration with the Communication/Public Engagement departments from the relevant ORION consortium partner to facilitate effective outreach to society. Awardees will be required to submit an intermediate report at 6 months, and a final report at the end of the project (12 months). They will also be invited to the ORION annual meetings to present and discuss their project with the whole consortium.

## Funding

Funding is available up to a maximum of 100,000€. Indirect costs will follow EC regulations, and will be calculated as 25% of the direct costs. The budget of the selected project(s) will be managed by the participating ORION consortium partner(s).

Funding can be requested for personnel, project costs (consumables, technical services, etc.) and/or communication costs (website, community management, press releases, events, flyers, etc.). The call will not support purchase of new equipment. Sub-contracting should be avoided, but if strictly required, it should be justified in detail.

## Timeline

Call open: June 2019

Deadline for applications: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at 12:00 Central European Time (CET)

Project selection: December 2019

Projects will start in January 2020 and run for a maximum period of one year.

## Submission guidelines

Please find attached a project proposal template. Proposals should be no longer than two sides of A4 (min 11pt, single spaced, 2cm margins). Completed proposals should be saved as a single PDF file and uploaded to the ORION website: [https://www.orion-openscience.eu/form/novel\\_co\\_creation\\_initiatives](https://www.orion-openscience.eu/form/novel_co_creation_initiatives)



## Contacts

For further information please contact the relevant ORION officer.

@ANT: Luca Franchini [luca.franchini@ant.it](mailto:luca.franchini@ant.it), Melania Raccichini [melania.raccichini@ant.it](mailto:melania.raccichini@ant.it)  
 @BI: Stephanie Norwood [stephanie.norwood@babraham.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.norwood@babraham.ac.uk), Hayley McCulloch [hayley.mcculloch@babraham.ac.uk](mailto:hayley.mcculloch@babraham.ac.uk)  
 @CEITEC: Kateřina Ornerová ; [katerina.orneroval@ceitec.muni.cz](mailto:katerina.orneroval@ceitec.muni.cz)  
 @CRECIM: Digna Couso [Digna.Couso@uab.cat](mailto:Digna.Couso@uab.cat), Marina Jiménez Iglesias [Marina.Jimenez@uab.cat](mailto:Marina.Jimenez@uab.cat)  
 @CRG: Michela Bertero [michela.bertero@crq.eu](mailto:michela.bertero@crq.eu), Gloria Lligadas [gloria.lligadas@crq.eu](mailto:gloria.lligadas@crq.eu)  
 @ISCIII: Laura Mohedano [lmohedano@eu-isciii.es](mailto:lmohedano@eu-isciii.es)  
 @JCMM: Michael Doležal [michael.dolezal@jcmm.cz](mailto:michael.dolezal@jcmm.cz)  
 @MDC: Luiza Bengtsson [luiza.bengtsson@mdc-berlin.de](mailto:luiza.bengtsson@mdc-berlin.de)  
 @VA: Maria Hagardt [maria.hagardt@v-a.se](mailto:maria.hagardt@v-a.se)  
 Other: Stephanie Norwood [stephanie.norwood@babraham.ac.uk](mailto:stephanie.norwood@babraham.ac.uk), Michela Bertero [michela.bertero@crq.eu](mailto:michela.bertero@crq.eu)



## Examples of Co-creation in Research

### GENIGMA – a citizen science project funded by ORION

The Genigma project being carried out in collaboration with the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona, Spain, is bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to make a new app exploring the 3D structure of the genome in cancer cells. Whilst computer algorithms can help to characterise how the genome is organised, humans are still more efficient than computers in identifying image patterns. The Genigma app will encourage citizens to become 'genome explorers' and help to analyse patterns in research data.

In order to co-create this app, the Genigma team held three workshops bringing together an eclectic mix of stakeholders, including bioscience researchers, clinicians, communication experts, educators, cancer patients, storytellers, gamers, youtubers, journalists, graphic artists, and bioethics experts. The workshops explored three different aspects of game development: (1) message (2) tone, aesthetics and emotions and (3) game mechanics and the role of science. Based on these workshops, gamification experts 'Jocs al Segon' are now guiding the development of the Genigma app.

Bringing in a variety of stakeholders to discuss the development of the app, rather than just creating the app and then disseminating it to different stakeholders, exemplifies the idea of co-creation. The Genigma team's top tip for designing co-creation experiments is to always 'think outside the box': bring in a wildcard stakeholder group because you never know what interesting insights they might offer. For a more detailed explanation of the co-creation process employed by Genigma see [Genigma: citizen science to decode the cancer genome](#).

### PlayDecide – deliberative citizens' debates

The Decide project was developed in 2004 by the European network of science centres and museums (Ecsite) and is based on the Democs deliberation method and card game established by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) in 2001. The result is a series of games called PlayDecide which can be used by museums, charities, schools and a variety of other organisations to help small groups debate and deliberate complex policy issues. Examples of topics include: vaccinations, health care structure, human enhancement, animal testing and genome editing.

PlayDecide has been used in a variety of contexts including to inform policy decisions (e.g. [POLKA: Patients' Consensus on Preferred Policy Scenarii for Rare Diseases](#)), and to conduct research on public perceptions of health-related issues (e.g. [Adolescents' Perspectives on Personal and Societal Responsibility for Childhood Obesity — The Study of Beliefs through 'Serious' Game \(PlayDecide\)](#)).

The Democs project originated as a tool provided by NEF to empower the public to talk about current policy issues. However, the Decide project has taken this initiative one step further and generated a platform for co-creation of new PlayDecide games. This platform allows anyone to apply for funding to develop a new topic with relevance for their own local issues and needs. Games have been developed in a variety of languages and all new topics are shared and freely available online. The use of this platform to allow co-development by users has both widened the audience, and helped to make this method more relevant for participants. To read more about how PlayDecide was developed see: [An experimental approach to strengthen the role of science centers in the governance of science](#).

For further examples of co-creation in research please see ORION's [Menu of Co-creation Methods](#).

