JOINING FORCES TO IMPROVE HEALTH

HEALTH MISSION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SEED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY 2027



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PURPOSE OF SEED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY 2027

- The seed funding is to support development, maturation and acceleration of targeted interdisciplinary mission projects conducted in collaborative partnerships
- Projects must contribute directly to the overall goal and one or more of the challenges of the mission. See the mission website: Health Mission
- More specifically, the purpose is to support research teams and partners in developing a mission driven, innovative and robust project description and proposal for a larger-scale funding opportunity. Seed money can be used for e.g. exploring ideas, conducting preliminary research and/or for developing partnership and should lead to one or more applications for funding.



Assessment Criteria
(Scored 1-5, equally weighed):

- **Quality of the Idea**
  Is the idea innovative and original, or merely an extension of existing operations? Does it present a clear scientific hypothesis or a unique methodological approach?
- **Potential Impact**
  Does the project address significant societal challenges and is there a credible pathway to achieve impact? Applicants may use the MiREL model for inspiration, for example does the project aim to increase the TRL & SRL levels?
- **Research and Partner team**
  Is the team interdisciplinary (e.g., demonstrating an understanding of the need for collaboration cross disciplines)? Are relevant external partners mentioned?
- **Use of Seed Funding**
  Is there a well-defined budget? Is it realistic that this project will lead to a substantial external funding application? Have specific calls or a strategy for future project applications been identified?
- **Alignment with Health Mission**
  Does the project clearly express how it addresses one or more mission goals: greater coherence in healthcare, personalized care and treatment, and support for people to manage illness in everyday life? And is the path and activities contributing towards the mission goal clearly described?

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SEED FUNDING 2027

The application must:

- Consist of a coherent and clear research idea that aligns with the scope of the requested budget
- Clearly addresses the goal and one or more challenges of the mission.
- Bring together members from different disciplines, as well as external partners or other collaborations outside of AAU. The presented research idea could not be easily achieved through a monodisciplinary approach.
- Clearly outline concrete next step forward for future funding opportunities as well as possible real-world impact of the project.



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SEED FUNDING 2027

FUNDING:

- It is possible to apply for three different pools of funding with different expectations to project maturity.
  - **IGNITE**: Apply for **up to DKK 200,000 per project**. This pool is to initiate new ideas and establish early-stage collaborations with external partners. This pool has a higher level of acceptable risk but further emphasis on the novelty of the idea.
  - **CULTIVATE**: Apply for **up to DKK 400,000 per project**. This pool is to expand and strengthen existing and committed partnerships. The partnerships should already have demonstrated collaboration and have a clear plan for further development and funding.
  - **ELEVATE**: Apply for **up to DKK 600,000 per project**. This pool is to advance mature projects with global reach and interdisciplinary and intersectoral networks. The partnerships should be consolidated, and specific calls should be identified and targeted explicitly.

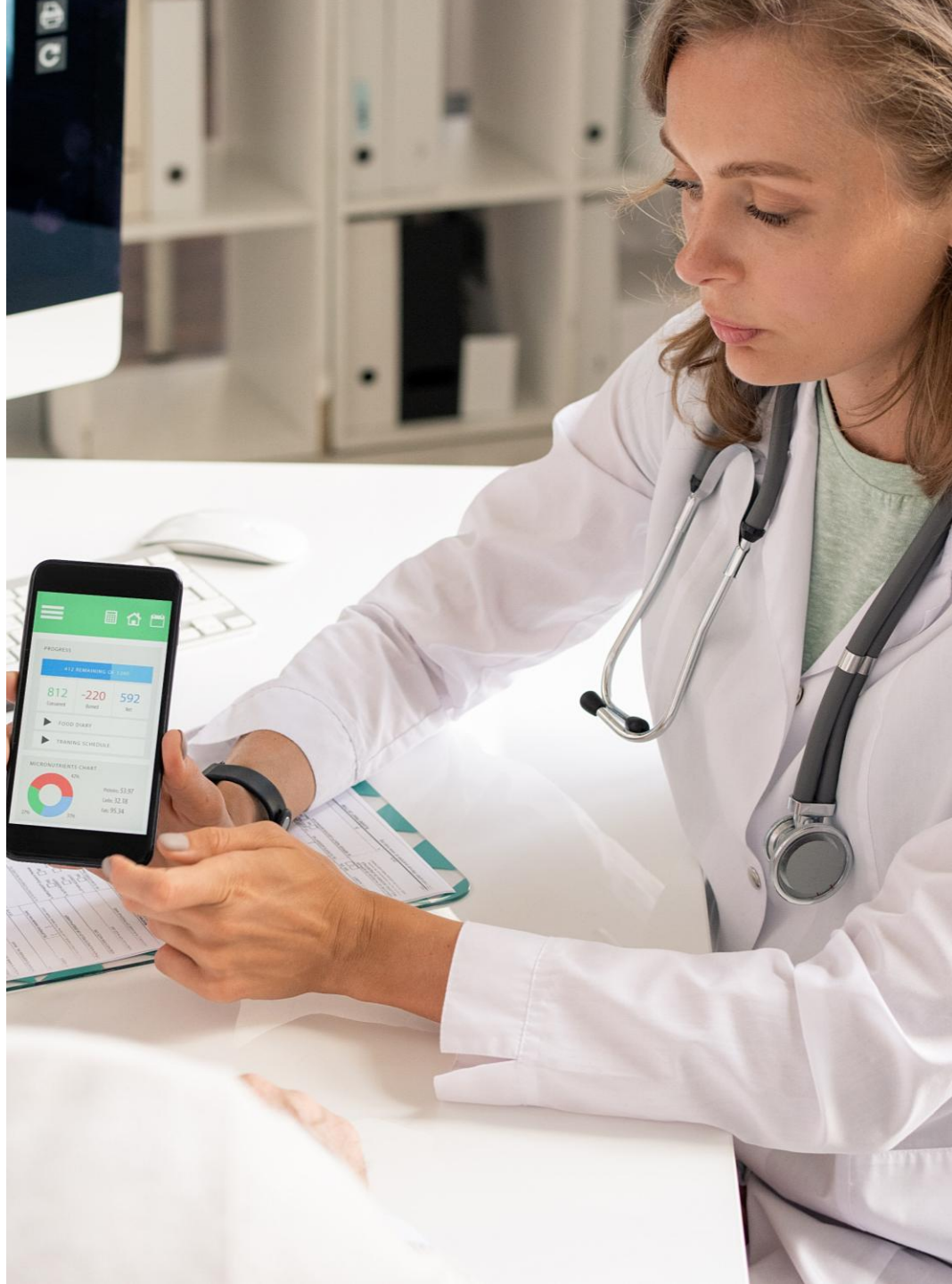
  If the project is targeting calls with deadline after 31/12-2027, then the application should include how this is expected to be executed by the project team without the project funding.



SEED FUNDING 2027

FUNDING (Continued):

- The funding can be used for buy out of staff or research assistance, expenses for meetings, travel, workshops and other infrastructures needed to enhance the project.
- The funding cannot be used to pay for expenses for external partners (State Aid Rules).
- The awarded researchers must adhere to evaluation criteria in a final evaluation.
- The awarded projects must be submitted to VBN/Pure and connected to the mission VBN page Health Mission. If the project is already submitted and connected, the seed funding should be included under "Funding" for the project.



SEED FUNDING 2027

PROCESS

- Launch of the seed funding opportunity October 9th, 2026:
- Application deadline: November 22nd, 2026, at the end of the day
- Notification no later than December 11th, 2026.
- Project start: January 1st, 2027
- The funding must be spent before 31.12.2027. This cannot be exceeded or postponed.

APPLICATION

- Fill out and send the application form to seedfunding@aau.dk
- Assessment of applications by Mission Management Mette Grønkjær, Niels Van Berkel, Ninna Meier and Trine Rolighed Thomsen and Vice deans for research and innovation Ole Kæseler Andersen and Michael B. Skov
- The title and participants of the awarded project will be published on the mission webpage

QUESTIONS

- Reach out to Mission Officer Pernille Lykkegaard plj@adm.aau.dk for questions concerning the seed funding and application.

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APPLICATION FORM OVERVIEW

- Full name of main applicants (PI)
- VBN links of applicants (PI)
- Project title (max 250 characters)
- Names of all researchers in the research team and their affiliation and names of external actors and organizations in the partnership and maturity level of the partnership (max 1000 characters)
- Related projects and grants
- Project description - background, idea, problem and how it addresses the goal and one or more challenges of the mission, objectives, tentative research questions and brief outline of design/work packages (max 4000 characters)
- Expected impact of the project, both during the project period, but also the societal impact the project aims for. (max 2000 characters)
- Funding plan with specific funding outlets and deadlines 2027 and 2028 (max 1000 characters)
- A tentative budget with total amount applied for and a description of how the funding will be spent (max 2000 characters)

