

ABSTRACT CALL

ERICA ERN Research Conference in Udine 11-13 December in Udine, Italy

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the European Rare Disease Research Coordination and Support Action consortium (ERICA), in which all 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs) take part, is to build on the strength of the individual ERNs and create a platform that integrates all ERNs research and innovation capacity.

We would like to invite you to take part in the call and submit **Abstracts exemplifying ERN research**.

We welcome **all research activities that address a relevant question that cannot be tackled other than by international network collaboration**.

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT

- Clinician scientists, basic scientists, both early career and more senior
- ERN Patient representatives
- Industry
- Regulatory

TOPICS LIKE (addressing all stakeholders perspective optimally)

- Good proposal to do a clinical trial in ultra-rare condition, with sound methodology
- New drug development using registry based clinical trials or drug repurposing
- Translational research
- New technologies for diagnostics or therapies
- Diagnostic Research (Data Readiness, Genome re-analysis research pipeline, Genomic innovation to shorten time to diagnosis)
- Outcome Research (Real World Data, Clinical Outcome Assessment)
- Innovative Therapies (Advanced Therapeutic Medicinal Products, N-of-few approach)
- Clinical Trials (Drug Trials; Non-Pharmacological interventions)
- Patient perspective on RD research

THEMATIC AREAS

Diagnostic Research

Outcome Research

Innovative Therapies

Clinical Trials

UPDATE

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF ABSTRACTS

- All abstracts will be evaluated by the ERICA Scientific Committee.
- The decisions of the ERICA Scientific Committee will be sent by e-mail to the first author indicating, if accepted, in which format it has been selected (oral, poster, or poster with pitch).

[Regulations for abstracts](#)

EVALUATION

All abstracts will be evaluated by the ERICA Scientific Committee composed of ERICA Executive Committee (10) members <https://erica-rd.eu/about/governance/executive-committee/> . Every abstract will be evaluated by two reviewers. The ERICA office will ensure any conflict of interest.

Evaluation of abstracts

The process for evaluation of the submitted abstracts will be organized in three steps:

- **Eligibility check:** the ERICA Coordinating office will check all abstracts for compliance with the eligibility criteria described in Regulations for abstracts. Eligible abstracts will be anonymized and forwarded to the Evaluation Committee members, ensuring any conflict of interest.

- **Evaluation by the Evaluation Committee:** The quality of abstracts will be assessed according to evaluation criteria, using a common evaluation form. A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used for the different evaluation criteria. Evaluation scores will be awarded for the 3 main criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation), and not singularly for the different aspects listed below the criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores to justify presentation, will be 10. The maximum score that can be reached from all three criteria together is 15 points.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The abstracts will be selected based on the following criteria:

Excellence:

- Quality of the research abstract

Impact:

- Relevance;
- Potential added value for ERN(s);
- Adherence to ERICA goals, such as:
 - new intra- and inter-ERN rare disease competitive networks;
 - effective data collection strategies;
 - better patient involvement;
 - enhanced quality and impact of clinical trials;
 - increased awareness of ERNs innovation potential.

Implementation:

- Appropriateness;
- Opportunities to link with different RD Stakeholders (incl. Industry)
- Relevance & Applicability beyond specific conditions

Scoring system:

0: Failure: The abstract fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor: The abstract shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.

2: Fair: The abstract generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.

3: Good: The abstract addresses the criterion in question well, but certain improvements are necessary.

4: Very good: The abstract addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.

5: Excellent: The abstract successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question

•Consensus discussion and final selection decision: All Evaluation Committee members will meet (online) for final review, discussion and ranking of the abstracts, and select the abstracts recommended for presentations during the ERICA ERN Research Conference. Beside opportunity to present the poster or give an oral presentation during the conference, also 6 travel grants are provided (max 1000 euros) to join the conference. Best 3 abstract authors will be additionally awarded.

Summary review reports including Evaluation Committee recommendations will be prepared by the ERICA Coordination office, validated by the commission members and forwarded to all applicants.

The representative of the ERICA Coordination will ensure that the whole implementation and evaluation process of the call is in line with the Horizon 2020 guidelines and respects transparency and equal opportunity rules.