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CLUSTERS 4 FUTURE
Next generation innovation networks

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Lebende Arzneimittel

Das Sächsische Präzisiontherapie-Cluster

SaxoCell Pipeline Talks

Financing and funding options along the value chain of CGT

Part 2 – Early Phase – Ilka Henze

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Fraunhofer IZI

KLINIKUM CHEMNITZ gGmbH

Fraunhofer IZI

Fraunhofer-Institut für Zelltherapie und Immunologie IZI

Funding options

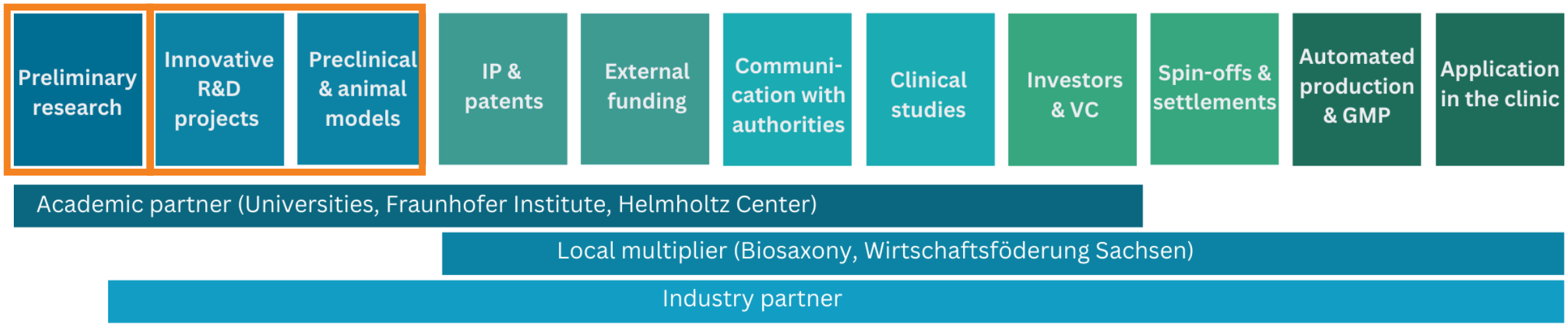
Ilka Henze

Agenda

1. Short introduction
2. Funding in Saxony- short overview from SAB - Dr. Stefanie Riedel
3. Funding in Germany
4. Funding in EU
5. Funding via Foundations

Value Chain for Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Development

Overview



Funding in Saxony

Dr. Stefanie Riedel

Unit Förderung und Finanzierung

STAATSMINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT KULTUR UND TOURISMUS

Freistaat SACHSEN

SAB SÄCHSISCHE AUFBAUBANK

Fraunhofer IZI

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Fraunhofer-Institut für Zelltherapie
und Immunologie IZI

Funding Germany

Funding in Germany

Overview

- What?
  - Topic-specific calls for proposals with deadlines
- Where?
  - funding agencies BMFTR, BMLEH, BMG, (Bekanntmachungen – BMFTR, BMLEH - Forschung – Forschungsförderung; Bekanntmachungen | BMG)
  - Look at websites or subscribe to newsletters of funding bodies or institutes (Universities, Research Management)
- How?
  - Applicant = Host Institution (University, Fraunhofer, Company…)
  - Department "executing agency"; PI is responsible person
  - Executing agency via project management organizations
  - Recurring programs are KMU-innovativ, ZIM, VIP+

Funding in Germany

General application information

- Often 2-stage applications
- Submission via different portals (dependent on funding agency)
- 1st stage: short outline
- 2nd stage: full-proposal through AZA/AZK templates with more information on the project and the budget

Eligible Costs are:

- Personnel costs
- Consumables
- Travel costs
- Equipment, Investment
- Subcontracting
- Project flat rate for Universities 20%

easy Online

PtJ Submission Platform

Funding in Germany

ZIM - Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand

What?

- Projects that strengthening the innovative power of SMEs and contribute to economic growth, in particular by tapping into value creation potential and raising the level of application-oriented knowledge.

Who?

- Projects involving at least two companies or Projects involving at least one company and one research institution
- Companies with business operations in Germany of all legal forms (SMEs (according to the EU definition of SMEs)
- Research institutes and universities in collaboration with SMEs

Project costs/ funding rates

- Individual projects SME: max. € 550,000
- Cooperation projects SME: € 450,000; Research institution: € 220,000; Max. Funding amount: € 2,300,000

Funding in Germany

AIF ZIM international

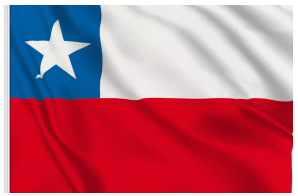
Kanada

- Deadline 18.06.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Kanada

South Korea

- Deadline 25.06.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Südkorea

Chile



- Deadline 30.06.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Chile

Israel

- Deadline 29.07.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Israel

Finland

- Deadline 15.09.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Finnland

Taiwan

- Deadline 30.09.2025
- Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) - Taiwan

Funding in Germany

KMU-Innovativ Biomedizin

What?

- Funding is provided for **research and development projects** in the field of medical biotechnology that focus on the area of **drug development** and go **beyond the state of the art**.
- The aim should be to **contribute to the cure, alleviation or prevention of human diseases and to improve healthcare** in the long term.
- The focus is on **researching and developing innovative active ingredients and effective and safe drugs** up to clinical phase

Who is eligible?

- **Collaborative projects between one or more SMEs and universities or research institutions** to accelerate the transfer of knowledge and technology.

Funding in Germany

KMU-Innovativ Biomedizin

Project structure

- **significant proportion of the R&D** work must be carried out **by the SMEs a**nd the benefits of the project must primarily accrue to them.
- The intended results should form the **basis** for the participating SMEs **to independently develop products and/or services** that improve their market position.
- Applicants must ensure that the **regulatory requirements** are **adequately considered** in the R&D projects.
- Project duration up to 3 years

→ **Funding rate**: 100% for research institutes and universities, SME up to 70%

→ **Application deadline**: each year on15th April and 15th October

KMU innovativ Medizintechnik

Funding in Germany

Validierungsförderung VIP+

Conditions

- Open to all disciplines; Submission possible throughout the year
- Review of applications in regular review meetings
- Starts as early as possible when the results of basic research have been completed
- Already focuses on exploitation at this stage
- One-stage procedure (→ full proposal instead of outline)

Funding rate

- Individual projects and collaborative projects- Funding of up to € 500,000 per year for up to three years (not more than 1.5 million euros per project plus project lump sum)

Ready for Validation?

- ✓ Own promising results must be available
- ✓ Proof of feasibility has been provided
- ✓ Unique selling points are available
- ✓ Results can be validated
- ✓ Prospect of exploitation

Examples

- ❖ Development of demonstrators or functional models, Implementation of e.g. test series, studies and pilot applications (including concepts)
- ❖ Proof of suitability and acceptance
- ❖ Analyses to prove the monetary or non-monetary innovation potential
- ❖ Property rights analysis and protection

Industrial Research vs. Experimental Development

	Industrial Research (Gaining new insights)	Experimental Development (Application of existing knowledge)
Definition	What: • Planned research or critical investigation Aims: • Gain new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or significant improvements of these • Includes development of parts of complex systems (if necessary for industrial research and in particular for the validation of technological principles)	What: • Acquisition, combination, design and use of existing scientific, technical, economic and other relevant knowledge and skills Aims: • Developing new or improved products, processes or services • Including, e.g. activities to design, plan and document new products, processes and services
Characteristics	➢ High uncertainties/ risks ➢ Application-oriented (in contrast to basic research) ➢ Results • Not marketable without further development work • May be relevant under intellectual property law • Enable the development of a product/service or the development of processes, methods or systems	➢ Uncertainties/risks are present ➢ Influencing the state-of-the-art ➢ Results • Development activities towards marketable products, services and/or processes • Transfer from laboratory to experimental production scale
Examples	o Work on laboratory scale, e.g. synthesis, materials research, tests o Production of laboratory and functional samples, demonstration models and prototypes in laboratory environment o Programming algorithms, developing programming languages and operating systems	o Development of prototypes, demonstration activities, pilot projects o Testing and validation of new or improved products, processes and o services → in an environment representative of real-life operating conditions

Industrial Research vs. Experimental Development

Higher funding rates

→ can increase the funding rate by 25%

Lower funding rates

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Funding Europe

Funding in Europe

Fundamentals of EU Research Policy: Implementation & Expected impacts

Figure 1 – Implementing Horizon Europe

- → Horizon Europe Work Program 2025
- → Horizon Europe Work Program 2026-2027

Horizon Europe

Overview

Budget
- 86.12 bn. EURO
- 5.41 bn. EURO NextGenerationEU

Funding through
- Grants
- Prizes
- Procurements
- Financial instruments

Types of projects*
- Research and innovation action (RIA)
- Innovation action (IA)
- Coordination and support action (CSA)
- Programme co-fund action (COFUND)

Types of actions
- Networking and coordination
- Research/ Innovation
- Pilot actions
- Market deployment actions
- Training and mobility actions
- Dissemination & exploitation of results

Types of recipients
- Scientists and academics
- Research organisations
- Universities
- Industry
- SME
- Students…

* here: collaborative projects

- Research and innovation action (RIA)
  - establishes new knowledge and/or explores a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution

Up to 100%

- Innovation action (IA)
  - produces plans or designs for new or improved products, processes or services
  - E.g. prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication

Up to 70%

- Coordination and support action (CSA)
  - improve cooperation between legal entities from the EU and associated countries to strengthen the European Research Area
  - e.g. standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising, communication and networking activities, policy dialogues, mutual learning or studies (max. 10% research component)

Up to 100%

- Programme co-fund action (COFUND)
  - provides multi-annual co-funding for European partnerships of public and private partners

30-70%

Horizon Europe (HEU)

Programme implementing HEU

Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- Widening participation & spreading excellence
- Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

Horizon Europe (HEU)

Programme implementing HEU

Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- Health
- ~~Culture, Creativity &~~ Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- Widening participation & spreading excellence
- Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

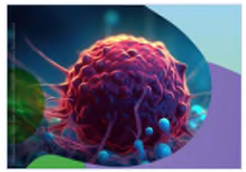
Overview of EU funding opportunities in the area of HEALTH

EU Mission: Cancer

EU Cancer Mission is the European Commission's response to addressing the increasing cancer burden which represents a growing societal challenge.

in particular by generating and sharing new evidence and delivering innovative concepts that shape policy actions in each of the four Mission objectives.

Mission objectives



Objective 1

Understanding of cancer

Projects and main initiative 'UNCAN.eu data platform'.

Objective 2

Prevention and early detection

Projects and main initiative 'European Cancer Prevention Centre'.

Objective 3

Diagnosis and treatment

Projects and main initiative 'Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures'.

Objective 4

Quality of life for patients, survivors and & their families

Projects and main initiative 'European Cancer Patient Digital Centre'.

The Cancer Mission:

- In 2025 HE allocates €960 million through **Horizon Europe** for Health and Cancer
- € 117 for transnational research and innovation projects that address the four Mission objectives.

Additional aim:

- **build synergies** with other EU funding initiatives and programmes to **increase** its outcomes and **impact for people at risk of or living with and beyond cancer.**

Overview of EU funding opportunities in the area of HEALTH

EU Mission: Cancer

- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-01**:
  Sustained collaboration of national and regional cancer funders to support the Cancer Mission through translational research
- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-02**:
  Understanding the effects of environmental exposure on the risk of paediatric, adolescent and young adult cancers
- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-03**:
  Innovative surgery as the cornerstone of affordable multi-modal therapeutic interventions benefitting cancer patients with locally advanced or metastatic disease
- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-04**:
  Investigator-initiated multinational early-stage innovative clinical trials for paediatric cancer
- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-05**:
  Pragmatic clinical trials to enhance the quality of life of older cancer patients (65 years and older) through nutrition
- **HORIZON-MISS-2025-CANCER-02-06**:
  Support to the network of National Cancer Mission Hubs (NCMHs)

Overview of EU funding opportunities in the area of HEALTH

Calls 2025

Opening Date: 14.05.2025

Deadline: 16.09.2025

→ Horizon Europe Work Program 2025

→ Overview of currently open calls under Horizon Europe Health Cluster (NKS Gesundheit)

Cluster Health strives to contribute to six expected impacts (set out by Strategic Plan) that are the following six DESTINATIONS of the work programme:

- **Destination 1:** Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- **Destination 2:** Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- **Destination 3:** Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- **Destination 4:** Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare
- **Destination 5:** Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
- **Destination 6:** Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry

EU Research

EU Funding Programmes – IHI Call 11 (2nd half of 2025)

IHI will pilot a novel, applicant-driven approach.

Shift from topics clearly defined in terms of the health challenges to be addressed and the outcomes and impacts expected from the resulting projects.

to

Untapped opportunities in the IHI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for novel ideas on how to harness new science and technologies to foster the development of health innovations.

- IHI Call Days - call 11 | IHI Innovative Health Initiative (23.6.-30.6.25)
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

➢ Proposals will still have to **adhere to the philosophy of IHI**:

- ❖ Address an unmet public health need;
- ❖ Require a large-scale, ambitious, cross-sector, public-private partnership (high in-kind contribution);
- ❖ Have clearly-described impacts on society, the economy and science;
- ❖ Take account of the pre-competitive nature of IHI projects.

➢ Standard, single-stage or two-stage calls, five topics

TOPICs under call 11

(1) Understanding how infections foster and induce non-communicable diseases
(2) AI-Powered signal detection in pharmacovigilance
(3) Towards precision medicine: platform for transdiagnostic stratification of brain dysfunction
(4) Establishing ortho and cardiology ambulatory surgical centres in Europe
(5) Leveraging Europe's expertise to accelerate cell therapy for type 1 diabetes

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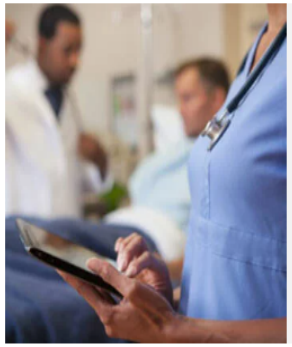
Funding via Foundations

Funding through Foundations

Deutsche Krebshilfe

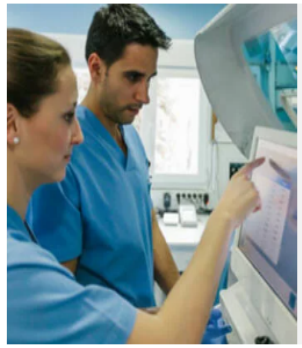
- Innovative projects and measures with a model character that directly benefit patients
- Largest private third-party funder in the field of oncology
- Funding programmes and Funding Newsletter



Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie

Krebs-Prävention und -Früherkennung

Klinische Forschung & kliniknahe Grundlagenforschung



Versorgungsmaßnahmen und -forschung

Onkologische Spitzenzentren

Translationale Onkologie

Medizinische und wissenschaftliche Nachwuchsförderung

Krebs-Therapiestudien

Funding through Foundations

ELSE-KRÖNER-FRESENIUS-STIFTUNG (EKFS)

Focus: Medical research and humanitarian aid

Funding

- Allocated to individual projects (without deadlines) and annual calls for proposals towards young scientists
- Over €200 million across 1,300 projects

Groundbreaking Key projects (Schlüsselprojekte) → most relevant funding line

- Aim: support projects that have the potential to lead to fundamental discoveries for an entire field of research
  - Proof of a previously missing causal relationship
  - Testing of an unprecedented or unworkable hypothesis
  - Questioning of a previously generally accepted theory
  - "proof of principle" or a "first in man" investigation of an innovative intervention approach
  - Clinical study that has the potential to significantly change guidelines (with the exception of pharmaceutical phase III studies)
  - Answer to a new, fundamental question in an already established cohort
- Applicants: scientists with gained international recognition in their area of research and outstanding publications in relevant fields
- Deadline: submissions any time

Funding through Foundations

Further Foundations in Germany Funding Health-Related Research

Robert Bosch Stiftung
bosch-stiftung.de
- **Focus**: Public health, healthcare system innovation
- **Funding**: €1.6 billion since 1964

Volkswagen Stiftung
volkswagenstiftung.de
- **Focus**: Interdisciplinary research, including health sciences
- **Support**: Research projects, international collaborations

HEKTOR Stiftung – Medizinische Forschung
hektor-stiftung.de
- **Focus**: Medical research, especially in Baden-Württemberg
- **Support**: Biomedical innovation, academic research centers

Felix Burda Stiftung
felix-burda-stiftung.de
Focus: Prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer

Roland Ernst Stiftung
rolandernststiftung.de
- **Focus**: Medical research and education, particularly in Saxony
- **Support**: Clinical research, university hospital projects

Wilhelm Sander-Stiftung
wilhelm-sander-stiftung.de
- **Focus**: Medical research, especially cancer research
- **Funding**: Approximately €190 million since inception

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de
- **Focus**: Medicine, natural sciences, and biomedicine
- **Support**: Research projects, postdoctoral fellowships, conferences

Do‘s and Don‘ts for applications

- ✓ Be sure to follow **templates, guidelines**, and **formal requirements** (!)
- ✓ Choose your partner wisely (SME if needed, reliable partner, **balanced** origin and budgets of the partners)
- ✓ Have your **application reviewed** by critical experts from your field (preferably with experience in third-party funding)
- ✓ **Involve the research service** for formalities and budgeting (SAB, NKS…)
- ✓ **Calculate adequately but** remain modest with initial applications (→ budget constraints are everywhere!)
- ✓ Be careful with **own contributions**!
- ✓ Be able to get to the **heart of the matter** and highlight your **unique selling point**: the right person at the right time for the right project
- ✓ Pursue **multiple avenues**, if the funding body allows
- ✓ **Plan ahead, allow for review times** and, if necessary, a second attempt

Kontakt

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Next Sessions

SaxoCell Pipeline Talks – Financing options along the value chain of CGT

- April 30, 10 a.m. Preliminary research - Sindy Schug (University of Leipzig)
- June 11, 10 a.m. Early phase: Research and preclinical development -Ilka Henze (Fraunhofer IZI),

  Dr. Stefanie Riedel (SAB)
- **August 13, 10 a.m. Late phase: Preparing for spin-off, commercialization, and market**

  entry - Dorit Teichmann (TU Dresden)
- September 24, 10 a.m. Clinical development and scaling - Alexander Funkner (Fraunhofer IZI)

Register here: