



CoVetLab

CoVetLab joint research: Call for proposals 2026

CoVetLab is a partnership of national veterinary public health institutes from Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. All the members of CoVetLab carry out research and surveillance and act as national and international reference laboratories for various animal diseases. Together they advance high quality veterinary science by the dissemination of knowledge, sharing of experience and the transfer of skills and technology to safeguard animal and public health.

Since CoVetLab started, there has been a growing strategic cooperation between the five partners (APHA, ANSES, WBVR, SSI/UCPH and SVA) in the field of animal and veterinary public health. Over this period, we have shared expertise in areas such as diagnostics, reagents and control materials and quality standards.

In 2008, it was decided to form a CoVetLab research committee and to initiate joint translational research projects to support our responsibilities in the surveillance and control of animal diseases. The first call for proposals was in April 2009 and this far we have been able to fund more than 73 projects!

We are pleased to announce the 2026 call for joint research.

The call is a “**Open call**” where all subjects will be considered.

It is very important that proposed projects clearly state:

- The problem or research question and the relevance of the project
- What is the specific contribution and expected value is for CoVetLab partners
- Why it is important to have the proposal financed by CoVetLab
- The potential of the project to become an input to a future EU project, or a different funding source, application.

See also criteria for assessment in the addendum.

Rules for joint research

General

- Research and development activities; mainly applied and/or translational.
- Duration from 6 to 18 months, but in general 12 months (to be completed within 12 months).
- Joint research projects must include **all CoVetLab partners**. Collaborative project within the 5 institutes is our main priority.
- Non-CoVetLab partners can participate with own financial contribution. However, CoVetLab partners should be the majority.
- Exchange of personnel (short-term visits) is highly encouraged.

Financial



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Partners will try to work with equal contributions. Budgets will be based on standard working and financial procedures within each partner; Comparison of 'input' contribution will be mainly based on time resources made available to the project.

Exchange of budgets between partners should preferably be limited to max 10% of the budgets and mainly in the form of invoices to /for 'services' and not specific labour costs (*we intend to keep the number of transactions and administrative burden as low as possible*).

In general, contribution per partner is limited to a maximum of 20 k€ per project.

All the partners have expressed a willingness to participate subject to financial considerations. **Before planning a proposal, you should contact your institute's representative to agree on the scientific priority of the project and that financial support that can be offered by your organisation** if selected by the research committee.

Publication is encouraged and the CoVetLab collaboration should be acknowledged in these, e.g. by "This study was funded through the framework of CoVetLab partner institutes; *grant number(s)*"

Time schedule:

Announcement of call for proposals	16 th April, 2026
Deadline for submission	16th June 2026
Evaluation by Research Committee	At annual meeting July, 2026
Approval by Annual Meeting	July, 2026
Start	September - December, 2026

For more information:

Composition of research committee:

- Hakan Andersson, SVA, hakan.andersson@sva.se
- Eric Cardinale, ANSES eric.cardinale@anses.fr
- Anthony Fooks, APHA Tony.Fooks@apha.gov.uk
- Matthijn de Boer, WBVR Matthijn.deboer@wur.nl
- Thomas Bruun Rasmussen, SSI tbru@ssi.dk
- Mattia Pirolo, IVH/UCPH mapi@sund.ku.dk

Submission

Submit your proposal to your institute contact person from the research committee. They will collect the proposals and send these to the organizing partner (ANSES, eric.cardinale@anses.fr / christophe.cordevant@anses.fr) of the annual meeting, at the latest **16th June, 2026**.

You will receive an e-mail confirmation within a couple of days.



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Addendum

Criteria for assessing the research proposals in CoVetLab for 2026

Scope

To support applied and/or translational research by the CoVetLab agencies, and to share costs for developing new diagnostic and surveillance methods.

Criteria will be

1. Scientific quality and inventiveness
2. Feasibility and management of critical success factors
3. Importance usefulness to the diagnostic agency
4. Added value for the society and/or industry and emerging issues in Europe
5. The potential of the project to become an input to a future EU funded project, *e.g.* Horizon Europe or different funding source, application.

The quality level of each project is specified as excellent, high, medium or low.

A prioritisation is given from each partner for the projects the institute is a partner of, 1 for the first prioritisation, 2 for the second and so on.

1. Scientific quality and inventiveness

Excellent – the project is of a breakthrough character – represents a major advance or innovation. Should result in publications in peer review and high rated journals;

High – the project is of high scientific quality and should result in publications in peer-reviewed journals;

Medium – the project is acceptable i.e., based on sound science;

Low – no material scientific achievement or innovation.

2. Feasibility and management of critical success factors

Excellent – the project is practical and feasible within the time period (max 18 months), full control over all critical success factors;

High - the project should be feasible within time period, all critical success factors identified and most important controlled;

Medium – the project ought to be feasible, but questions remain on the control of success factors; Low – it is not possible to determine whether the project has identified and controlled the critical success factors.

3. Importance usefulness to the diagnostic agency

Excellent – breakthrough for veterinary diagnostic laboratory procedures; High – major improvement in the vet diagnostic laboratory;

Medium – useful or incremental improvement; Low – no material improvement.

4. Added value for the society and/or industry and emerging issues in Europe

Excellent – value added of project results very high, major improvement in risk management;



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High – value added high e.g., the project results if successful would either save considerable amounts of money, improve animal welfare, public health, environmental or food safety;

Medium - value added is foreseen to be positive for society or industry; Low – no material change for society or industry from this project.

5. The potential of the project to become an input to a future EU funded project (e.g. Horizon Europe), or different funding source, application

Excellent – there is a reference to an already existing or planned call and the proposed participation is described;

High – ideas are given about upcoming calls where the project could be an input and how this should be done;

Medium – there is a potential, but for the moment there are no relevant known calls

Low – no such potential can be anticipated.