



canSERV

Call for Service Provision for Early Career Researchers



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The **canSERV Consortium** is pleased to announce the launch of its 4th Challenge Call
"Training the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers"

Early Career Cancer Researchers, for example first-stage researchers (PhD students, junior researchers without PhD), or recognised researchers (postdocs, assistant professors, young investigators) world-wide are invited to apply for free access to cutting-edge transnational services. The primary objective of this call is to empower early career scientists through access to research services and training in order to advance their scientific merits and careers.

The **indicative overall budget** for this call is EUR 500.000.

The Call is planned to **remain open until 17 December 2024, 2pm (CET)**.

Your research project:

- Should address any topic of cancer research and can vary from discovery science to translational science, translation into personalised oncology or clinical research.
- Should address at least one of the four strategic goals of the **Cancer Mission**¹ ((i) understanding of cancer (ii) prevention and early detection (iii) diagnosis and treatment (iv) quality of life for patients and their families).
- Your requested services timeline should fall within the canSERV project's duration.
FAQ Section "Time frames for the service provision".

Projects supported through this call will play a significant role in furthering the overarching objectives of the Cancer Mission.

If granted, you will benefit from:

- Free of charge access to canSERV service(s) (equipment, expertise, resources) offered by the **canSERV consortium**.
- Transnational services comprising the following fields: disease models, advanced cutting-edge imaging and structural biology technologies, biomarkers research and development, novel therapeutics developments, complex clinical trial design and support, personalised oncology implementation pipelines and recommendations, and regulatory support and tools to analyse the socioeconomic dimension of research activities. A detailed service list is available in the **canSERV Service Catalogue**.

For this Call, you should:

- Be a **early career scientists** in the career stage 3 and 4, for example first-stage researchers (PhD students, junior researchers without PhD), or recognised researchers (postdocs, assistant professors, young investigators) as defined in Frascati 2015 manual².
- Choose only services that are provided in a different country where you, or the majority of your research group, are based.
- Agree that data generated from the chosen services will comply with FAIR principles making it available to other researchers while allowing for IP protection (in line with the EU's open science policy). This will enable rapid execution of cross-European federated analyses of cancer-related data.
- We recommend that you select trainings that can complement the other requested services from our **extensive list of trainings available**.

¹ More information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer_en

² **Career Stage 3.** "Recognised researcher": the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited. Examples: 'assistant professor', 'investigator' or 'post-doctoral fellow'. **Career stage 4.** "First stage researcher." Either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree. Examples: 'PhD students' or 'junior researchers' (without a PhD).

Please note, applications are continuously evaluated starting from submission date. The evaluation process takes 8-14 weeks, based on the complexity of the services requested. The evaluation criteria are based on excellence, impact, and quality of the submitted proposal.

How do you gain access to your service?

All communications are conducted through our easy-to-use platform: the canSERV Common Access Management System (CAMS [link](#)).

- 1. Selection:** Enter CAMS, and select the services you are interested in.
- 2. Submission:** After the selection step, you will be asked to fill in and submit our short application form describing your research proposal. Please check the additional [service guidelines](#) for Field 1 - 4, Field 7 and Field 8 and consider these guidelines when submitting your application.
- 3. Evaluation:** An independent review panel (IRP) will evaluate submitted applications. The final decision will be taken by the canSERV Scientific and Management Board for approval or rejection based on the IRP evaluation outcome and available budget.
- 4. Service provision:** If approved, the service provision may start either immediately or as agreed with the service provider/TNA manager. Enquiries related to your application and the offered services can be addressed any time using calls@canserv.eu (please add subject: "Early Career Researcher Call").

What is Transnational Access (TNA)?

Transnational Access allows researchers (users, applicants) free of charge access to specific research services (equipment, expertise, resources) offered by the canSERV consortium members' research infrastructure facilities.

Transnational access can be:

- **In person** (physical access), with users visiting the research infrastructure facility/installation and receiving the service "hands-on", including the advantage of direct collaboration.
- **Remotely** (remote access), with research infrastructure resources and services offered online/remotely. This can span from just sending requested sample materials, to more comprehensive research tasks done by the research infrastructure staff on your behalf.

canSERV services are free of charge only when you (or most of your research group) are based in a country other than where the services are rendered. As an exception from this transnationality requirement, international organizations, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) or EU level multinational research infrastructures (ERICs or similar legal entities with international membership) are considered transnational actors and hence their service providing installation may be in the same country where the applicant researcher is based but not the same institution as the applicant. If you are not sure if the services you are requesting are included in the exception³, please check the [FAQ section](#) "Transnational Access" or contact us at calls@canserv.eu.

This opportunity is open to all European and non-European researchers.

³ More information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-3-research-infrastructures_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

Eligibility

Applications can be submitted by those individuals, who meet **ALL the following criteria**:

Who can apply?

Early career researchers in the career stage 3 and 4 (e.g., first-stage researchers (PhD students, junior researchers without PhD), recognised researchers (postdocs, assistant professors, young investigators) as defined in Frascati 2015 manual² based in European and non-European countries affiliated to public or private entities.

Affiliation

Applicants must be affiliated with an organisation in or outside the European Union.

Dissemination

Results and/or data obtained from using the services provided under the canSERV Call must comply with the FAIR principles and might be shared initially with other ongoing initiatives within the EU Cancer Mission, EOSC4Cancer and, when established, UNCAN.eu, for the development and improvement of further services. Furthermore, the results and/or data will be reused within the canSERV project or other EU Cancer Mission initiatives at a certain time after service provision according to the canSERV user agreement. The data generated will then be included in the canSERV service list to support the canSERV Catalogue of Open Digital Research Services. If the results and/or data are published, canSERV must be acknowledged in publications. Only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results they have generated may be eligible for access (unless the users are working for SMEs).

Transnationality

This grant only supports TNA as described above in point one.

Evaluation criteria

Scientific evaluation will take into consideration the following **three criteria**:

1. Scientific merit and/or clinical impact of the research proposal
2. Justification to the solicited service
3. Feasibility of the proposal

Your support

Please visit our webinar on **Thursday, 19th September at 15:30 CEST** providing information on accessible TNA services and training, and guidance to the application process.

Registration details are accessible here: www.canSERV.eu/events

Information

Information about the Call, proposal submission and evaluation is available on request from calls@canSERV.eu.

Submission deadline
17 December 2024, 2pm CET

canSERV Consortium