

**ERA-HDHL
D7.12**

Statistical analysis of the fourth JFA

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Definitions

Consortium	Association of research groups/entities with the objective of achieving a common research project
Partners	Research groups participating in a project
Eligible Partner	A partner participating to the consortium and applying for funding
Collaborator	A partner participating to the consortium without applying for funding. Collaborators are expected to secure their own funding.
Coordinator	Eligible partner who is in charge of the coordination of the consortium
Principal Investigator (PI)	People representing a research group or entity



1. Introduction

The PREVNUT call was the fourth non-co-funded joint activity (JFA4) under the framework of the ERA-Net ERA-HDHL. The call was launched on January 20th, 2020. The call aimed to support transnational, collaborative research projects that address important research questions regarding the prevention of undernutrition in European older citizens through the consumption of appropriate nutritious food.

Two different topics were described in the call text:

- Improved understanding of how the balance between diet and physical activity can prevent undernutrition. The studies should focus on the underlying biological mechanisms of the bioavailability, assimilation and metabolism of the macro- and/or micronutrients in food or food products and show how physical activity could modify these processes.

- Development of innovative food products. The developed product should be based on new research on metabolism, on macro- and/or micronutrient bioavailability and absorption in older adults.

The following 11 countries participated in this call: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and United-Kingdom. Table 1 presents an overview of the participating countries and funding organisations including their initial committed budget.

Table 1: Participating countries, funding organisations and their committed budget

Countries	Funding organisations	Committed Budget (Million €)
Belgium	FWO	0,2
France	ANR	1
Germany	BMEL represented by BLE	0,5
Ireland	HRB	0,37
	DAFM	0,25
Israel	MOST	0,2
Italy	ISS	0,25
	MUR	0,5
Latvia	IZM	0,3
Norway	RCN	0,5
Poland	NCBR	0,4
Spain	ISCIII	0,4
United Kingdom	BBSRC/UKRI	1
	MRC/UKRI	0,5
Total		6,37

2. Evaluation procedure

The PREVNUT Call was implemented in a one-step procedure followed by a rebuttal. The closure of the call was postponed from April 7th, 2020 to May 12th, 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. In total, seventeen proposals were submitted by 97 research groups. All proposals have been declared eligible. After a remote evaluation and a rebuttal phase, the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) met digitally on September 21st. Based on the ranking list elaborated by the Scientific Evaluation Committee and on the available funding, the Call Steering Committee finally selected six full proposals for funding. The six-awarded projects represent a global success rate of 35%.

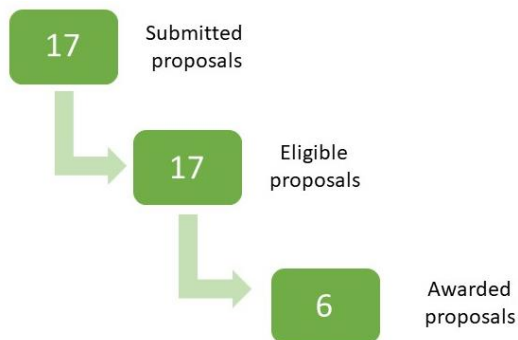


Figure 1: Flow chart of the submitted and awarded proposals.

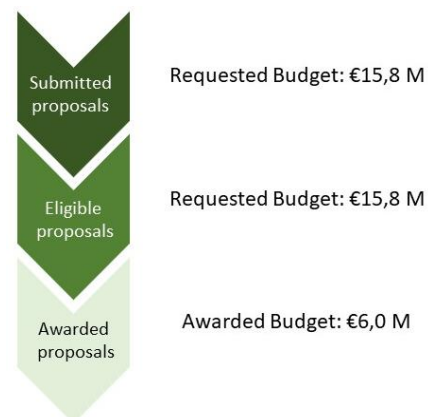


Figure 2: Flow chart of the requested and awarded budgets.

The six funded projects requested a total amount of almost 6 million Euros. This amount represents approximately 38% of the budget requested in the proposals.

Ten international experts (5 women and 5 men) from eight different countries composed the Scientific Evaluation committee (Figure 3). Each proposal was independently reviewed by at least three committee members.



Figure 3: Geographic origin of the Scientific Evaluation committee members

3. Statistical analysis

3.1 Geographical distribution of the applicants

The six funded projects involve 31 funded partners from eight different countries (France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom). In addition to the funded partners, 9 additional collaborators participate to the funded projects with their own resources.

The geographical origin of the partners asking for funding is represented in Figure 4. Nine out of the eleven participating countries were represented in the submitted proposals (France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom). In those proposals, 65% of the principal investigators asking for funding came from Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland and France. 70% of the submitted proposal includes a partner coming from Italy and the United Kingdom.

Eight out of the eleven participating countries were represented in the selected proposals (France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom). Unfortunately, no applicants from Belgium, Latvia and Poland were present in the selected projects.

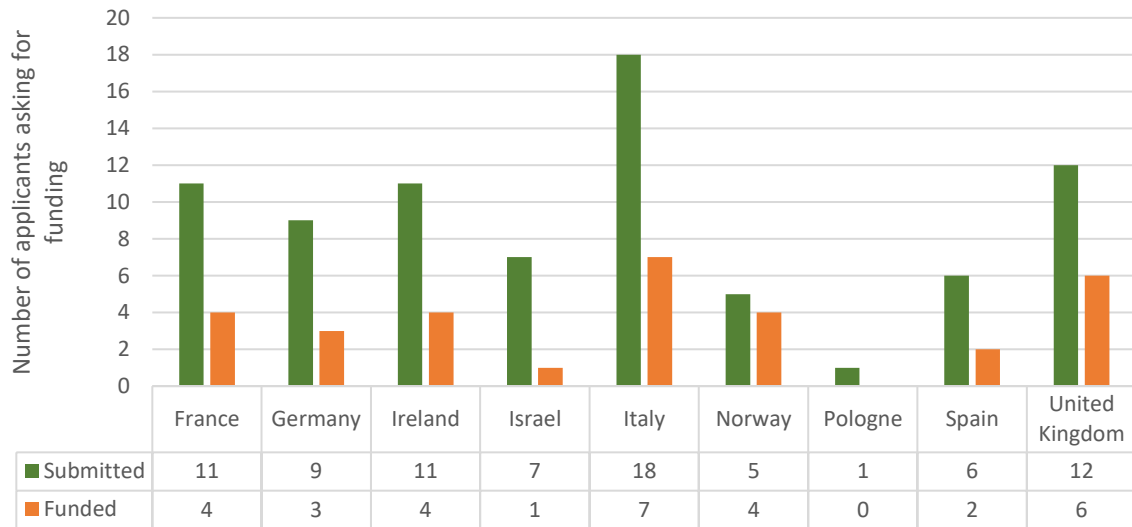


Figure 4: Geographic distribution of the partners asking for funding.

The geographical origin of the project coordinators is represented in Figure 5. Italy was the most represented country among the coordinators of the submitted proposals (41% of the submitted proposals were coordinated by an Italian researcher). Italy also has the highest rate of coordination within the applicants (Italian applicants coordinate the proposal in which they are involved in 41% of the cases, whereas Spain applicants coordinate the proposal in 33% of the cases). No applicants from Belgium, Latvia or Poland were coordinating a research proposal.

The six funded projects were coordinated by researchers coming from five different countries: France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, The United Kingdom.

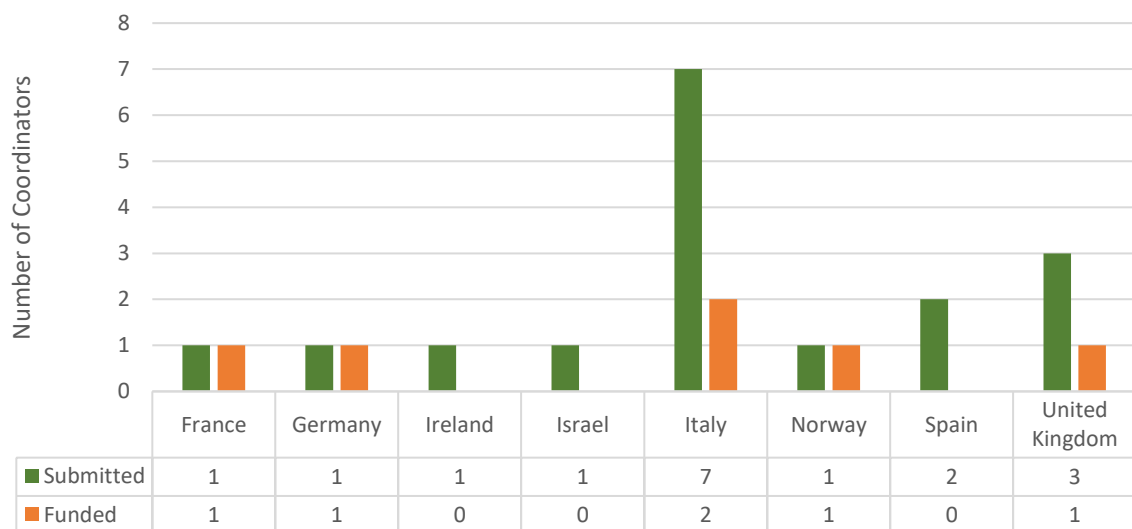


Figure 5: Geographic distribution of the project coordinators

Collaborators were present in 65% of the submitted proposals and in 83% of the selected proposals. The number of collaborators per consortia was 1 in average in the submitted proposals and 1.5 in average in the selected proposals. The geographical distribution of the collaborators is presented in Figure 6. 30% of collaborators were coming from countries that were not directly engaged in the call (The Netherlands, Switzerland), the other 70% were not eligible for a funding by the participating funders.



Figure 6: Geographic distribution of the collaborators

3.2 Size of the consortia

Each consortium includes an average number of 4.7 partners asking for funding in the submitted proposals (or 5.7 teams taking into account the collaborators). The size of the consortia is slightly higher in the funded projects. Indeed, in funded proposals, each consortium includes an average number of 5.2 partners asking for funding (or 6.7 teams taking into account the collaborators).

3.3 Gender Distribution

The gender distribution among the principal investigators involved in the submitted proposals was almost balanced (Figure 7, Figure 8 and Table 2). Indeed, women represent 54% of the principal investigators involved in a submitted proposal and 59% of the coordinators. If the percentage of female principal investigators decrease in the selected proposals (45%), it is worth noting that the percentage of female coordinators increased (67%).

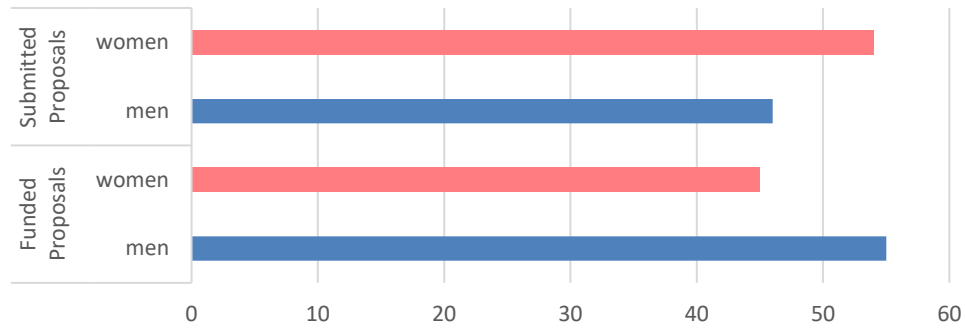


Figure 7: Gender balance (principal investigators)

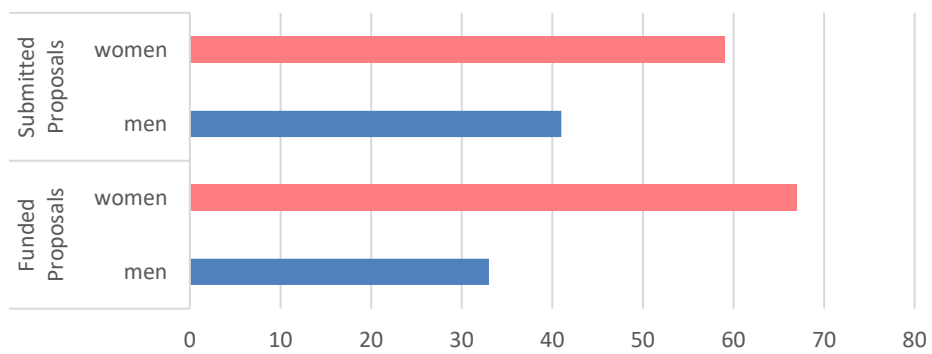


Figure 8: Gender balance (coordinators)

Table 2: Women’s representation by country in the submitted proposals

	Coordinator			Partners Eligible for funding (Coord. Excluded)		
	Total Number	Number of Women	Women's representation	Total number	Number of Women	Women's representation
France	1	1	100%	10	6	60%
Germany	1	1	100%	8	3	38%
Ireland	1	0	0%	10	6	60%
Israel	1	1	100%	6	4	67%
Italy	7	3	43%	11	7	63%
Norway	1	1	100%	4	1	25%
Poland	0	0	/	1	1	100%
Spain	2	0	0%	2	2	100%
United Kingdom	3	3	100%	9	4	44%

3.4 Budget

Figure 9 is a graphical representation of the requested funding by country and by funding organisation.

The initial committed budget was about 2.5 times over-subscribed (Table 3). 94% of the initial committed budget was allocated to the funded projects. Ireland (DAFM and HRB), Italy (MUR), Norway (RCN) and the United Kingdom (BBSRC/UKRI and MRC/UKRI) increased their budget for this call in order to finance the awarded projects.

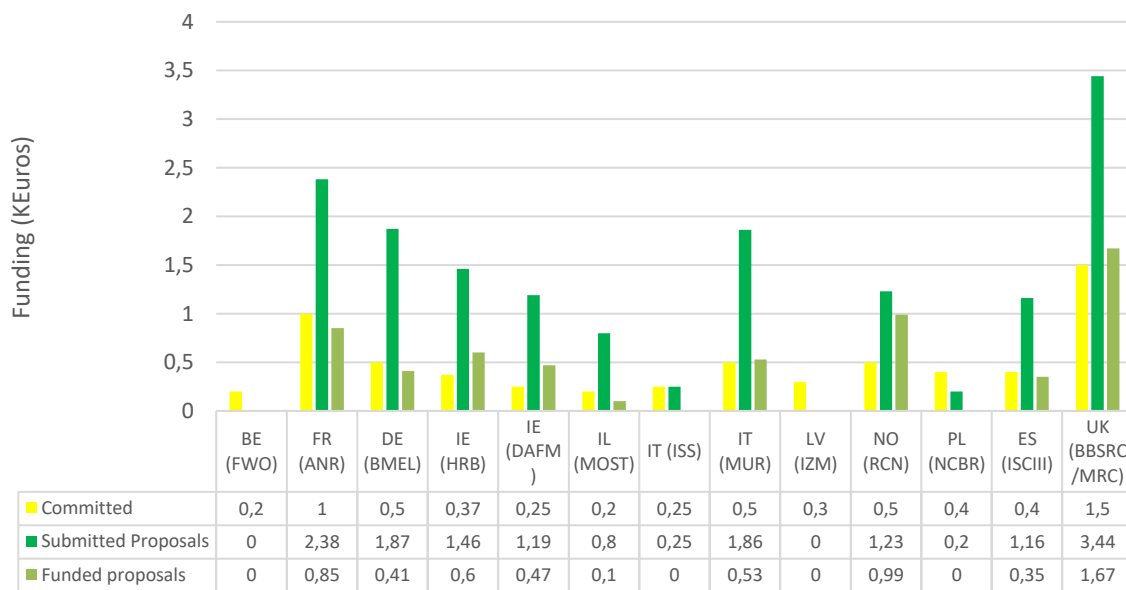


Figure 9: Budget distribution (in M€) by country and by funding organization

Table 3: Over-subscription factor

Funder	Committed funding (M€)	Requested funding (M€)	Oversubscription
FWO	0,20	0,00	N/A
ANR	1,00	2,38	2,4
BMEL represented by BLE	0,50	1,87	3,7
HRB	0,37	1,46	4,0
DAFM	0,25	1,19	4,8
MOST	0,20	0,80	4,0
ISS	0,25	0,25	1,0
MUR	0,50	1,86	3,7
IZM	0,30	0,00	N/A
RCN	0,50	1,23	2,5
NCBR	0,40	0,20	0,5
ISCIH	0,40	1,16	2,9
BBSRC/UKRI and MRC/UKRI	1,50	3,44	2,3

3.5 Topics of the proposals

The following two topics were described in the call text:

- Improved understanding of how the balance between diet and physical activity can prevent undernutrition. The studies should focus on the underlying biological mechanisms of the bioavailability, assimilation and metabolism of the macro- and/or micronutrients in food or food products and show how physical activity could modify these processes.

- Development of innovative food products. The developed product should be based on new research on metabolism, on macro- and/or micronutrient bioavailability and absorption in older adults.

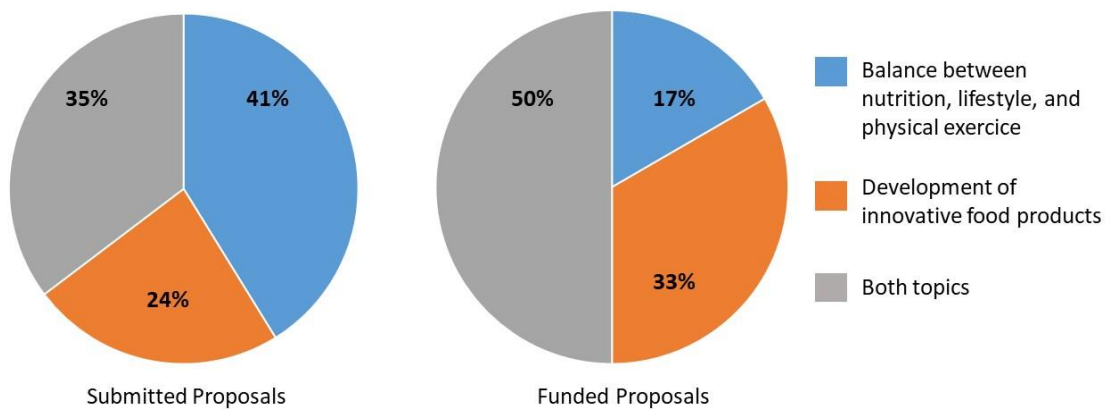


Figure 10: Topic of the proposals

59% of the submitted proposals were exclusively (24%) or not exclusively (35%) focused on the second topic of the call (development of innovative food products) (Figure 10 and 11). This prevalence increased during the evaluation process since 83% of the funded projects are focused exclusively (33%) or not exclusively (50%) on this topic.

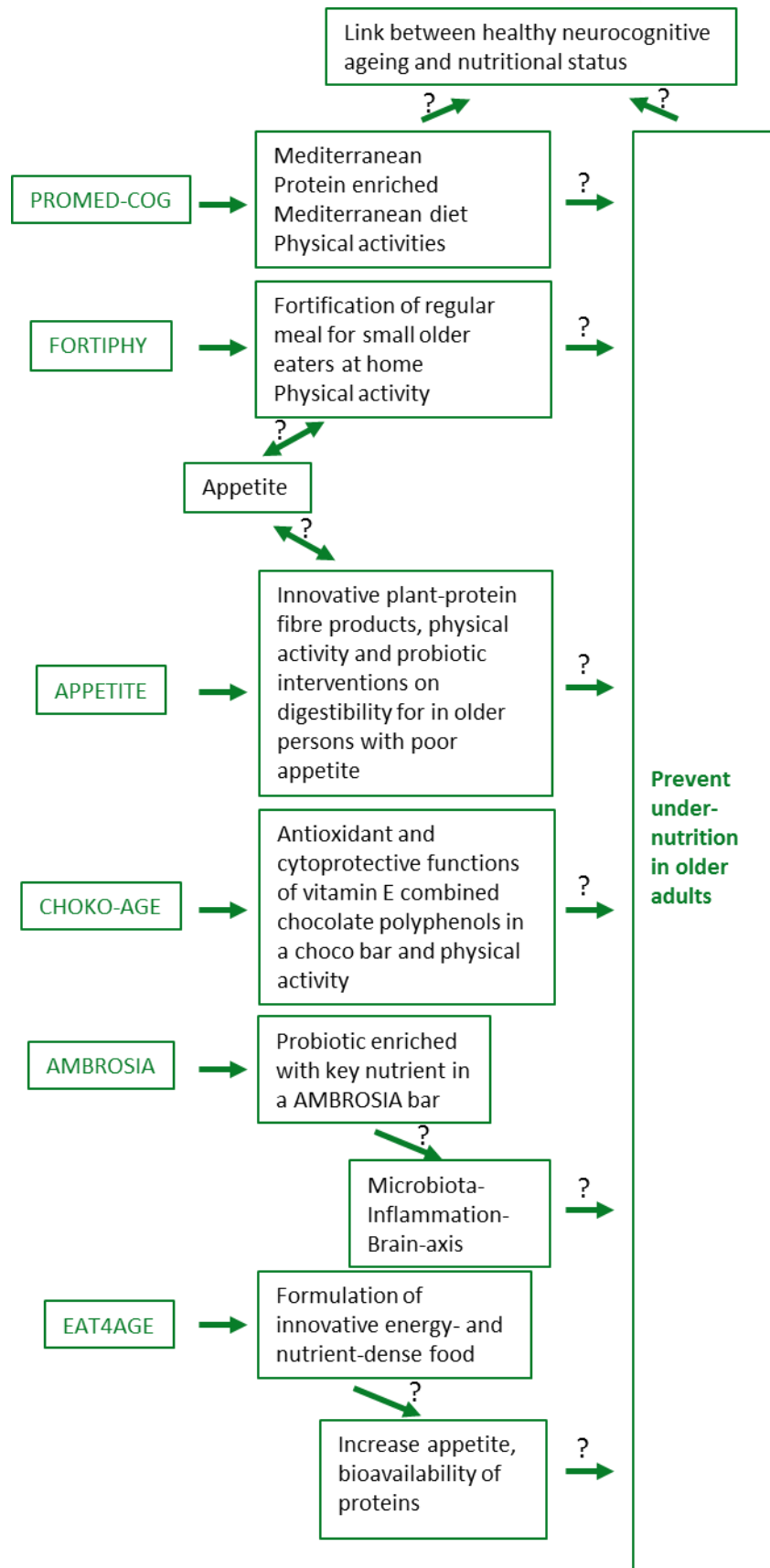


Figure 11: The different approaches proposed by the awarded projects to prevent undernutrition in the older adults

3.6 Organisation type

Applicants are mainly coming from universities, academic research centres, and public entities such as hospitals (Figure 12). Nevertheless, 12% of the participants in the submitted proposals and 18% of the participants in the funded projects are working in private entities (such as SME and Large enterprises). The percentage of applicants working in private entities is higher in the PREVNUT Call compared to what has been observed in previous calls for projects launched in the framework of the ERA-NET ERA-HDHL. Indeed, in the call for Biomarkers launched in 2016 only 3.5% of the applicants in the funded projects were working in a private entity, while in the “Nutrition and Epigenome Call” launched in 2018, no private entities were included in the funded projects. In consequences, 66% of the funded projects lay on a collaboration between private and public sectors. The topics of the PREVNUT call can explain the great interest of private entities for this call. Indeed, the topic focused on the development of innovative food products was particularly suitable for a cooperation between public and private sectors (80% of the funded projects on this thematic include at least a private entity in their consortium).

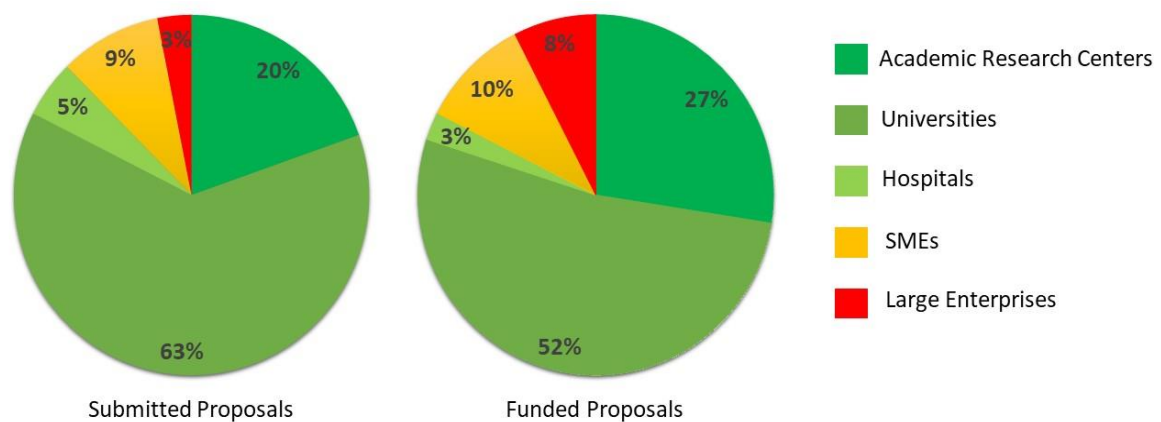


Figure 12: Organisation type distribution during the selection process

Private companies, not always eligible for funding by the participating funding organisations, are generally financed by their own funds (Figure 13).

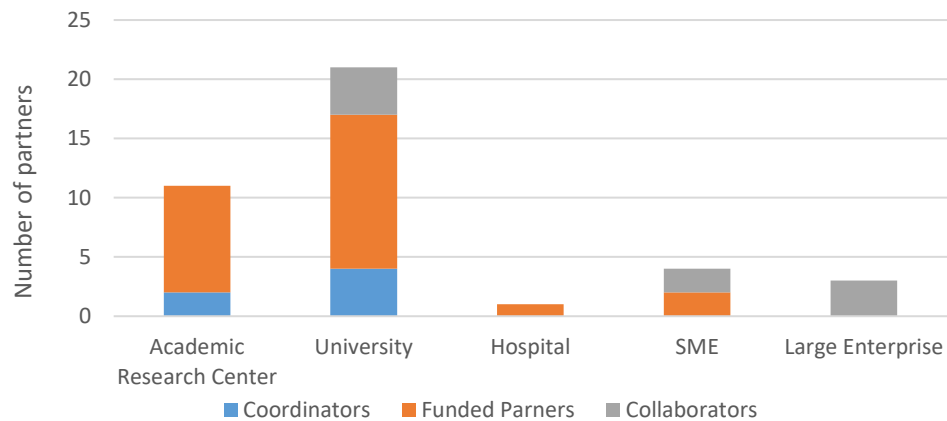


Figure 13: Organisation type distribution (funded projects)

Universities involved in this call are covering a wide spectrum of expertise: medicine, physiology, physical education, biochemistry, molecular biology, nutrition, food science. Different technical universities were also present among the applicants.