



Funders Network Workshop Summary

27 June 2024 – online

Attendees

34 individuals, including representatives from 17 funding organisations.

Aim of the meeting

To learn about the funding landscape for drug repurposing & discuss opportunities for (longitudinal) co-funding.

Updates surveys and think tank meetings

Heleen van der Meer (ZonMw) presented the insights on funders' needs and funding strategy that were shared through online surveys and think tank meetings between March '24 and June '24.

Funders needs

Funder's needs included guidance on how to:

- best support projects
- perform co-funding
- set-up joint-calls for repurposing
- better understand the repurposing funding landscape
- collaborate with other funders and involve industry partners
- share learnings and best practices
- work on policy issues such as available routes to on-label repurposing with/without the market authorisation holder
- gain training and education on e.g. regulatory needs of projects.

These needs provide important input into REMEDI4ALL tasks and deliverables, including self-help resources, the REMEDI4ALL marketplace, funders network meetings, training and work on policy recommendations.

Funders network map

A first visual mapping of funders based on their funding scope was presented. The map shows the funding gaps and where there is overlap in funding scope, thereby it can be used to identify opportunities for collaboration and co-funding between funders.

Exercise on how to perform longitudinal co-funding

Don Lo (EATRIS) presented and discussed with the attendees four examples of 'longitudinal co-funding'. In this funding model the entire preclinical and clinical path through market entry gains funding commitment at the beginning of the project. This model entails that:

- Early- as well as late-stage funders to not commit until satisfied with entire end-to-end plan;
- Successive tranches of funding are provided if and only if pre-set milestones are met;
- Early-stage funders gain confidence that their investments can lead to marketed drugs;
- Later-stage funders see improved pipeline projects because they have an integral role in development project plans.

RARE-NL: Hub for rare diseases and drug repurposing

Saco de Visser (Centre for Future Affordable and Sustainable Therapies, FAST) presented the initiative for rare diseases and drug repurposing: RARE-NL. RARE-NL is a collaboration hub of the national expertise centre for therapy development (FAST). The goal of RARE-NL is to work on real case studies and subsequently integrate experiences and implement learnings from the field at national level: from case to system. De Visser explained how in RARE-NL projects will be co-funded through both public and private funding through a fund. RARE-NL aims to fund 5-6 drug repurposing projects and could act as a pilot fund for REMEDI4ALL if other funders are interested to join.

Next stepsUpcoming deliverables

Heleen van der Meer presented the timing of upcoming deliverables from REMEDI4ALL, such as the following self-help resources for funders: guide for creation of joint calls (expected Q4 '24), training programme (expected Q3 '24), assessment criteria for funding drug repurposing projects (expected Q1 '25).

Marketplace

REMEDi4ALL is creating a real marketplace that connects funders and investors with drug repurposing projects, expertise and project management. Don Lo presented the key focus points of this marketplace:

- Project proposals are sorted by disease areas and also by translational stage and readiness.
- Proposals are presorted/curated by drug repurposing experts to match funding/investment strategies.
- Project plans are optimized to build towards key translational milestones and value-inflection points.
- Opportunities to partner with other funding/investment groups to build seamless support from discovery to patient and for commercial returns.

While the marketplace is being developed, the [Repurposing Concierge](#) provides a 'soft opening' for drug repurposing projects. Already over 120 requests by different stakeholders from all over Europe and beyond have been received and project meetings held. Services provided for these requests include one-time advice, follow-up calls and engagements as 'miniprojects'. The next step will be onboarding of larger-scale projects as official 'User Projects' in REMEDI4ALL.

About REMEDI4ALL

REMEDi4ALL will build a sustainable European innovation platform to enhance the repurposing of medicines for all. The platform has the potential to bring down times and costs of drug development by focusing on already approved, discontinued, shelved or investigational therapeutics.

The REMEDI4ALL consortium brings together a unique combination of expertise to address the complexities of drug repurposing. Under the leadership of [EATRIS](#), the European infrastructure for translational medicine, 24 organizations in the fields of clinical and translational research, clinical operations, patient engagement and education, regulatory framework, funding, governance, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and pricing and reimbursement will closely collaborate to make drug repurposing mainstream. More information at remedi4all.org

