

Before your next grant application, check:

1. Stage fit

- ☐ Does your actual TRL match the call's expected maturity level?
- ☐ Are you applying because the call fits, not only because the budget is attractive?
- ☐ Is your evidence appropriate for the stage: concept, validation, demonstration, or deployment?
- ☐ Will the grant help you reach the next meaningful proof point?
- ☐ Would a smaller grant now position you for a stronger application later?

2. Team and capacity

For single applicants

- ☐ Does the leadership fit the project's purpose and stage?
- ☐ Are all key roles covered: technical, clinical, regulatory, commercial, financial, business development and project management?
- ☐ Are missing skills addressed through recruitment, advisors, subcontractors, or partners?
- ☐ Do the budget, FTEs, tasks, and timeline match available capacity?
- ☐ Are hiring or growth plans credible?

For consortia:

- ☐ Does each partner have a clear and necessary role?
- ☐ Are work packages, responsibilities, budget, and deliverables logically distributed?
- ☐ Are collaboration, data-sharing, IP, logistics, and decision-making agreed early?
- ☐ Do all partners understand the goals, commitments, reporting duties, and financial implications?

3. Commercialisation and adoption

- ☐ Can you clearly define the problem, the user, the customer, and the decision-maker?
- ☐ Do you understand the current workflow, standard of care, or market practice you want to replace or improve?
- ☐ Have you engaged with relevant stakeholders, such as customers, clinicians, patients, users, hospitals, regulators, insurers, procurers, or industry partners?
- ☐ Have you addressed competing solutions?
- ☐ Is your business model, pricing, reimbursement, procurement, or implementation logic realistic for the project stage?
- ☐ Can you show how the project brings the solution closer to adoption, market entry, or scale-up?

4. Route beyond the grant

- ☐ Do you know what the project must prove to unlock the next step?
- ☐ Is your IP position clear: ownership, licensing, freedom to operate, know-how, or protection strategy?
- ☐ Is the regulatory or clinical path understood at the right level?
- ☐ Is follow-up funding credible: from whom, when, and based on which milestones?
- ☐ Will dissemination and exploitation reach the right stakeholders, not only conferences and papers?

5. Realistic work plan

- ☐ Is the timeline realistic for dependencies, approvals, recruitment, validation, and delivery?
- ☐ Is the budget justified and linked to the activities?
- ☐ Do FTEs and person-months match the work?
- ☐ Are risks specific, with credible mitigation plans?
- ☐ Do deliverables and milestones show real progress?