

1. Introduction

The NEUROAGE network's mission is to accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into real-world impact. To support this mission, the network launches the NEUROAGE Valorization Call 2026, opened to NEUROAGE members only.

This call funds support for researchers who want to take their findings further — whether that's a new biomarker, treatment approach, digital tool, a methodology.... You can apply for help mapping out your options, or for a specific service you already have in mind, like a market study, patent advice, a business plan, or a market analysis.

2. Program Description

The NEUROAGE Valorization Call 2026 is an innovation-support program intended to identify research projects within the network with the greatest potential for societal, clinical, or commercial impact, and to provide them with the expert support needed to move closer to that impact.

Applications will be evaluated by the NEUROAGE Board of Directors. Projects will be ranked according to the evaluation criteria described in Section 8. Funding will be allocated in order of merit until the total program budget is exhausted.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this call, applications must meet all of the following criteria:

- The project must fall within the thematic scope of the NEUROAGE network: aging and neurodegenerative diseases.
- The project must be based on original research results generated within a NEUROAGE member institution.
- Established commercial companies are explicitly excluded from participation.
- Multiple applications from the same member institution are permitted, provided each application corresponds to a distinct research project.
- The services requested must correspond to one or more of the eligible service categories listed in Section 5.

You do not need to already have a patent, a company, or even a clear commercial idea. What matters is that your research has some potential to be useful outside the lab, and that you are

willing to explore how. More than one team from the same institution can apply, as long as they are working on different projects.

4. Program Budget

The total budget available under this call is €43,000. There will be no direct economic transfer to applicants or their institutions. Grants are awarded exclusively in the form of valorization services, delivered by qualified third-party providers contracted by the program.

5. Eligible Services

Applicants must select the service(s) they wish to apply for from the catalogue below. Services are grouped by category. Applications may include one or more services, provided the combination is justified by the needs of the project. Please note that the evaluation committee may determine that a different service is a better fit for you. If that is the case, you will be offered that service and can choose whether to accept it.

Service	Description
A. Technology & Scientific & Financial Viability	
Scientific / Technological Viability Study (TRL Roadmap)	Assessment of the maturity of a technology (data-driven innovation, know-how, formulations or compounds, methodologies and processes, software and digital tools, devices,...), identification of development gaps, and a roadmap of steps needed to advance it along the Technology Readiness Level scale.
B. Intellectual Property & Patent Services	
Patentability Analysis & Study	Assessment of novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability of a research result, with strategic recommendations for protection .
Patent Application Drafting (National)	Professional preparation and filing of a national patent application, including claims drafting and technical description.
PCT International Patent Application	Preparation and filing of an international patent application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
Freedom to Operate (FTO) Report	Analysis of the patent landscape to assess freedom to develop or commercialise a technology without infringing third-party rights.
IP Legal Advisory	Expert legal advice on industrial and intellectual property matters, including infringement, protection strategy, and contractual clauses.



Service	Description
C. Business & Market Consulting	
Commercialisation plan: Go-to-market strategy, Market Study & Transfer Strategy	Definition of market entry : customer segments, pricing, distribution channels, communication, and key commercial milestones. Analysis of market landscape , target segments, competitive positioning, and recommended technology transfer routes (licensing, spin-off, co-development, etc.).
Business Plan / Feasibility Plan	Structured plan covering market opportunity, value proposition, operational and financial projections, and funding needs . Useful for spin-off creation or grant applications.
Economic Valuation of Assets	Quantitative assessment of the economic value of a technology or IP asset . Relevant to licensing negotiations and transfer decisions.
Regulatory Roadmap	Analysis of the regulatory pathways and approval processes applicable to the development and use of medicines and medical technologies.
Health Economics Study	Assessment of the economic value of a health intervention, including cost-effectiveness and budget impact modelling.

6. Participation Process

Applications must be submitted by a representative of the research group or institution. To apply:

1. Download and complete the application form, available on the NEUROAGE network website
2. Send the completed form by e-mail to: NEUROAGE@vhir.org
3. Use the following subject line: **NEUROAGE VALORIZATION CALL 2026**

[The deadline to apply is 31 July 2026.](#)

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. There is no limit on the number of applications per member institution, provided each application corresponds to a distinct project.

7. Selection Process

All applications will first be reviewed by the NEUROAGE team to verify that they meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 3. Applications that do not meet these criteria will not proceed to evaluation.



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Eligible applications will be evaluated by the internal evaluation committee, ratified by NEUROAGE Board of Directors, using the scoring rubric described in Section 8. Projects will be ranked in order of their final score. Services will be allocated in descending order of merit until the total program budget of €43,000 is exhausted.

The internal evaluation committee reserves the right to request clarification from applicants, either in writing or in a brief online meeting, before finalizing scores.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in October 2026.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be scored on six criteria. Each criterion is described below.

8.1 Unmet Need (20 points)

How significant and well-documented is the problem this research addresses? Is there a genuine gap in current treatments, diagnostics, or approaches, methodologies, societal needs? Is there evidence that this gap causes real harm or inefficiency?

8.2 Proposed Solution (20 points)

How well does the research result address the identified need? Is the proposed solution novel, scientifically robust, and differentiated from existing approaches? What is the current stage of development (TRL level)?

8.3 Development Plan (20 points)

Does the applicant have a clear and credible plan for how the requested services will advance the project towards impact? Are the requested services well-justified and proportionate to the project's stage?

8.4 Team (15 points +5 bonus points)

Does the team have the expertise and capacity to execute the Valorization activities? Additional points are awarded for applications that include collaboration with one or more other NEUROAGE network members.

8.5 Gender Perspective & Inclusivity (10 points)

Has the project considered sex and gender dimensions in its research design, outcomes, or target populations? Does the proposed solution consider the needs of underserved or vulnerable groups?

8.6 Expected Impact (15 points)

What is the realistic breadth and depth of impact this project could achieve? All types of Valorization outcome are considered equally valid — a well-defined patent strategy carries the same weight as a training program, a clinical practice guideline, or a licensing



agreement. Projects are scored on the credibility and scope of their impact pathway, not on the type of output.

We do not privilege one type of output over another. Filing a patent is not 'better' than developing a training program for clinicians, or producing an evidence-based clinical guideline. What matters is that your expected impact is realistic, significant, and that you have thought about who will benefit and how.

9. Timeline

Milestone	Date
Call opens	June 2026
Application deadline	31 July 2026
Eligibility review	August 2026
Board evaluation	September 2026
Notification of results	October 2026
Start service execution	October 2026

The NEUROAGE team reserves the right to adjust dates with prior notice.

10. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in this program constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Participation Rules. Any application found to be in breach of these rules may be disqualified at any stage of the process.

11. Assignment of Image Rights

In the case of being selected for the call, with your consent, we may use your personal data (name and image) for promotional, informational, and communication purposes. In view of this, applicants may consent to grant the NEUROAGE network and its coordinating institution, royalty-free authorisation to use their name and, where applicable, image for promotional, informational, and communication purposes related to this program, through NEUROAGE's social media platforms (Linkedin and Instagram) and the NEUROAGE website, for the maximum period permitted by applicable law.

Selected projects commit to acknowledging the support of the NEUROAGE Valorization Call 2026 in any future communication, publication, or marketing activity related to the funded project.



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12. Processing of Personal Data

Personal data provided in the context of this call will be processed by the NEUROAGE program for the purpose of managing participation, communicating outcomes, and administering the award of services. Data will be treated in accordance with applicable data protection regulations (GDPR and national legislation).

Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, and objection in accordance with current [data protection law](#). Data will not be shared with third parties except as strictly necessary for the delivery of the awarded services.

13. Modification, Extension, or Suspension of the Call

The NEUROAGE Management Team reserves the right to modify the terms of this call, extend the application deadline, or suspend the call in cases of justified cause or force majeure, without incurring liability. Any such changes will be communicated to applicants with reasonable notice.

14. Disclaimer of Liability

The NEUROAGE network is not responsible for losses, delays, data breaches, or other circumstances attributable to third parties arising from participation in this call. The network does not guarantee the uninterrupted availability of its digital platforms and excludes, to the maximum extent permitted by law, liability for damages arising from technical failures beyond its control.

15. Industrial and Intellectual Property

Applicants retain ownership of their research results and associated intellectual property. Participation in this program does not transfer any intellectual property rights to the NEUROAGE network or its members.

16. Contact

For any questions regarding this call, please contact the NEUROAGE team at:

NEUROAGE@vhir.org

Subject line: NEUROAGE VALORIZATION CALL 2026



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