

EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (HADEA)

Health and Food **EU4Health**

Q&A Session for #Webinar: EU4Health 2022 Work Programme Information Session - Second wave of open calls for Action Grants

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Q: Are companies (limited liability companies) eligible to participate?

A: Section 6 of the call document lists all the possible entities which can be considered as eligible for funding according to the EU4Health Regulation, Article 13. The applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories linked to it

(OCTs))

- eligible non-EU countries:
- listed EEA countries and countries associated to the EU4Health
- Programme or countries, which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement

As a result, companies can be listed as eligible for topics of the EU4Health Annual Work programmes.

Nonetheless, in the Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2022 and further detailed in the special conditions illustrated at section 2 of the same call document, it is indicated the type of eligible applicants targeted for each topic.

Applicants need to check the eligibility criteria of the specific topic they wish to apply for. Only applicant types mentioned in the specific call document are eligible to participate in the topic in question.

Q: Can an applicant from Ukraine be the lead applicant? According to the Annotated Model Grant Agreement, there are different roles in the grant agreement. So we are wondering if we want to submit two applications on two different calls within the EU4Health, can the same organization implement different roles or must be in the same role in both. Should there be co-financing from the side of the applicant consortium? If Yes, on what percentage? Is it allowed to purchase medical equipment for medical institutions and also medicines and expendable materials?

A: Yes, an applicant from Ukraine can participate in a project as the project coordinator. Participants should be attributed their roles according to their real contribution to the project, expertise, and capacity. For each application, the roles may be distributed as appropriate. Applications submitted for different topics are evaluated independently from one another, therefore, one applicant may apply for multiple topics with a varying role in each proposal. Please pay attention to the specific call criteria you wish to apply for and mind that insofar multiple proposals are approved for funding you will need to prove your financial and operational capacity to carry out the projects. Please make sure that you respect the no double funding rule as set out in Art. 191(3) of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Co-financing is a principle of the EU funding. If the reimbursement rate of the grant is up to 60% or, in the case of exceptional utility, up to 80% of the eligible costs, the beneficiary (-ies) must fund the remaining percentage from other sources in line with the co-financing principle.

Q: EU4health is much bigger than the 3HP. That allows different types of actions. Can you please reflect on your experience in these first years? How has this affected programming? How do you see the programme develop towards the future?

A: The EU4Health programme is not a policy instrument but supports the implementation of legislative and non-legislative priorities. The Member States and stakeholders are consulted early on in the programming to determine the strategic orientations and priorities to be included in the annual work programme.-

You can find detailed information on the EU4Health programme on this website: <u>EU4Health</u> (europa.eu)

Q: Is it possible to share the slides of the first presentation of the work programme?

A: All presentations from the info session will be available on HaDEA's website.-

Q: Are international organisations like WHO eligible for funding?

A: In line with the previous response on eligibility, applicants need to check the eligibility criteria of the specific topic they wish to apply for. Only applicant types mentioned in the specific call document are eligible to participate in the topic they wish to apply to.

Q: Will the record of the webinar be made available? If Yes, where can it be found?

A: Yes, the recording and all presentations will be available on HaDEA's website.

A survey has been sent to all participants to the event with the link to the recording of the webinar.

Q: You can offer a very different type of support with 5,5 bn compared to 450 million of the previous Health Programme. How has this affected the ways of working at DG SANTE, and the annual work programmes funded from EU4Health Programme?

A: Please contact the EU4Health Unit in SANTE on <u>sante-consult-c3@ec.europa.eu</u> to discuss this issue as it falls outside the scope of today's discussion.

Q: Is there a recommended or maximum requested budget for a proposal in the specific calls?

A: The available budget for each topic is defined in the call document for each call. Please refer to the call document of the call/topic you wish to apply for: <u>https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals_en?f%5B0%5D=oe_call_proposals_status%3Aupcoming&f%5B1%5D=programmes_programme%3A9-</u>

Q: Are India and Morocco eligible for this call?

A: Morocco and India are not associated countries to the EU4Health programme and in consequence entities from those countries are not eligible under this call.

Q: What are the first steps to be taken to apply? We are interested in prevention and health promotion.

A: You can find all information and detailed instructions on how to apply to a specific call in the online manual:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual-

You can also visit the EU4Health (europa.eu) website to gather more details on the Annual Work Programme and the EU4Health Regulation with regards to the funding mechanism, objectives and topics for funding.

Open calls to submit proposals can be found on the Funding & tenders (europa.eu) portal and on the HaDEA website Calls for proposals (europa.eu).

You can also contact your National Focal Point (NFP). NFPs are the national experts for the Health Programme in EU countries and participating countries. NFP representatives are appointed by their national health ministries. You can find more information on NFPs at the following link: National Focal Points (europa.eu).

Q: What is the space let to prevention related to Mental health issues/neurological disorders (such as Alzheimer) in this call?

A: The Healthier Together – EU NCDs Initiative, includes five action strands for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders and a horizontal strand on health determinants. The focus of the call for proposals under EU4Health 2022 work programme is on the strands on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and health determinants. The remaining target action strands will be considered for inclusion in future work programmes.

Q: With reference to the call for proposals on cancer and other NCDs prevention – action on health determinants", is there a reason for the exclusion of International Organisations from the list of types of eligible applicants targeted?

A: Under the EU4Health Programme, cooperation with international organisations may be considered for those actions where such cooperation is needed to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of actions at EU and international level. The objective of this action on health determinants is to complement the implementation of a joint action on 'cancer and other NCDs prevention – action on health determinants' led by the Member States, and to achieve this objective, support will be given to foster partnerships with civil society organisations and academia.

The Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2022 lists the targeted eligible entities for each topic

You can find details on the procedure and actors involved here: <u>EU4Health programme 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union (europa.eu)</u>

Q: The Work Program indicates that "projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes". What does this mean exactly? Does it mean that projects must use results of other concluded and ongoing European funded projects to be eligible?

A: Implementation of the EU4Health programme should be done in synergy and complementarity with other EU funding programmes such as Horizon 2022, Horizon Europe, European Social Fund+ and Digital Europe. In order to ensure that there is overall consistency of the action funded under EU4Health, with projects and actions funded under other EU programmes or instruments, the results of projects at EU level must be considered.

You can find information on EU funded projects on <u>Projects & Results (europa.eu)</u> and <u>Project</u> databases | European Commission (europa.eu)

Q: With regards to the EU4H-2022-PJ-12 call, in the text of the document it can be read in the "special conditions applicable to both sub-topics" template that the "type of eligible applicants targeted" box does not include private companies. Does this mean that for-profit private companies cannot participate in this call?

A: In line with the previous response on eligibility, applicants need to check each topic in which they interested to apply to see if their type of entity is listed as applicants targeted. Only if listed, they are considered eligible for the specific topic.

Q: With relation to the call EU4H-2022-PJ-11 on NCDs – cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, why are projects focusing on children not eligible or not interesting and why?

A: Under the call EU4H-2022-PJ-11 on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, civil society organisations are expected to implement projects and activities to complement the Member States' efforts in reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes; activities related to specific target groups are not excluded.

Q: Are entities from the UK eligible to participate as affiliated entities or subcontractors? For example, could an association of procurement actors with a legal seat in the UK - and that has a European Hospital as a member (legal link) which is a full beneficiary in the proposal of this call – participate as an affiliated entity?

A: Affiliated entities need to fulfil the same eligible requirements as beneficiaries and in consequence UK entities are not eligible for funding under this call.

Regarding subcontracting, an applicant may consider including an entity from the UK as a subcontractor within the proposal. However, please note, that subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part of the project. Additionally, it needs to be justified. The applicants need to explain why they are not able to carry out these tasks, and, therefore, explaining why they need to be subcontracted to another entity. If the entity asking for subcontracting is a public body, it needs to follow the national procedures for tendering. National public procurement rules apply. This principle applies unless there is a monopoly situation of the provider, which will be invoked, thus no open procedure will be launched. This explanation should be also mentioned in the application.

Q: One of the cases for which the EU contribution can be extended to the 80% of the eligible costs is the following:

(b) bodies from at least 14 participating Member States participate in the action, of which at least four are Member States whose GNI per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the Union average. Does the word bodies include private companies?

A: The word 'bodies' refers to eligible entities for the topic.

Q: Is any brokerage event for networking organised in order to find the partners?

A: There is no specific event foreseen. There is the option of searching for partners in the Funding & Tenders portal.

Q: We read that the consortium must include at least one eligible applicant, working with displaced people from Ukraine, on the ground in Ukraine, or has activities linked to Ukraine. At the same time every proposal should provide for coordination, complementarities and synergies of its work with the Joint Action 'Prevention of NCDs - Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes'. As Ukraine will not be a Member State in this Joint Action, how will this work in practice?

A: The consortium will be expected to implement activities that complement the work packages under the joint action on 'Prevention of NCDs - cardiovascular diseases and diabetes'. Ukraine is associated to the EU4Health programme and can therefore participate in joint actions.

Q: Are affiliated entities that participate in the parallel JA's also eligible to apply to this call for proposals?

A: Applications submitted for different topics are evaluated independently from one another, therefore, one applicant may apply for multiple topics with a varying role in each proposal. Please pay attention to the specific call criteria you wish to apply for and mind that insofar multiple proposals are approved for funding you will need to prove your financial and operational capacity to carry out the projects. Please make sure that you respect the no double funding rule set out in Art. 191(3) of the Financial Regulation2018/1046

Q: Health determinants are mentioned as a horizontal factor in all actions, but would a project focusing specifically on health determinants and health inequalities also be possible?

A: The 'Healthier Together – EU NCD Initiative', includes five action strands on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health, and a horizontal strand on health determinants. In each of these strands, the reduction of health inequalities will be tackled. Therefore, activities must include an equity dimension and aim at reducing health inequalities. Furthermore, the call EU4H-2022-PJ-12 focuses on addressing health determinants related to cancer and other NCDs.

Q: Is international collaboration beyond EU (LATAM) part of this programme? Are there cases in which LATAM partners could be part of the consortium?

A: The proposals for an action under the EU4Health Programme must relate to activities taking place in "eligible countries". Currently, only the EU Members States, Iceland, Norway and Ukraine are eligible for funding.

Q: When are the calls due for submission?

A: For all information related to the open calls please refer to the Funding & Tenders Portal: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home</u>

Q: I would like to put myself forward as a potential partner for upcoming EU4H calls. How do can I put myself on that list where people can search for partners?

A: You can find information on searching for partners on the Funding & Tenders portal: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home</u>

Q: The promotion of education in public health and boost of public health literacy is in the scope of the call for proposals?

A: The expected activities are specified for each call. For example, under sub-topic 2 of EU4H-2022-PJ-12, awareness-raising and health literacy is included in the possible activities.

Q: Is there any presentation/diagram briefly explaining how the EU4Health program is structured?

A: Please visit the following two websites for detailed information: <u>EU4Health programme 2021-</u> 2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union (europa.eu) and <u>EU4Health (europa.eu)</u>

Q: I have seen the budget for each call, but I was talking about the maximum budget for a proposal. The estimated number of proposals which will be funded in each call is published?

A: The call document also has the information on the expected number of proposals to be funded under each topic.

Q: Are state hospitals allowed to participate in this call?

A: In line with the previous response on eligibility, applicants need to verify in each topic in which they are interested to apply if their type of entity is listed as applicants targeted. Only if it is listed, they are considered as eligible for the topic.

Q: Regarding the impact of Health Determinants in Cancer, should the projects focus on cancer types included in the new EU Approach on Cancer Screening or can we consider other types of cancer such as Oral or Head and Neck cancer?

A: Also other types of cancer such as Oral or Head & Neck cancer can be addressed .

Q: Are there any foreseen obstacles that may discourage Member States to apply to these calls for funding?

A: Each call provides a list of eligible applicants. For EU4H-2022-PJ-14 — Call for proposals to support the roll-out of the second cohort of the inter-speciality cancer training programme, we have not identified any obstacles.

Q: Could you provide more information on the engagement with Ukraine/Ukrainian refugees for all action grants?

A: As specified in the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium, it must include at least one eligible applicant working with displaced people from Ukraine or has activities linked to Ukraine, in order to provide support on the prevention of NCDs or to provide specific training of health

specialists who have left Ukraine and are displaced in EU Member States and neighbouring countries.

Q: Where can we find the full list of associated countries to the EU4H programme?

A: Currently only Norway, Iceland and Ukraine are associated countries to the EU4Health programme. Further detailed information can be found here: <u>EU4Health programme 2021-2027 – a</u> vision for a healthier European Union (europa.eu)

Q: If there is to be a best practice implemented as part of action grant - NCD/Cancer etc, should this be distinct from those being implemented through the relevant joint actions. Or is it possible to enhance the implementation of a given best practice through these calls?

A: The proposal must provide for the coordination of its work with the joint action, to complement and to make synergies with it, and must aim to foster partnerships with civil society organisations.

Q: What is the number of required partners per each call? And to what extent sport organisations are eligible applicants? In general, which calls are most relevant for sport?

A: Please refer to the call document for the specific action you would like to apply for.

Q: Can organizations from Ukraine apply for the Call for proposals 'To support structured dialogue at national or regional level on public procurement in the health sector – HERA' (EU4H-2022-PJ-4)?

A: Ukraine is associated to the EU4Health Programme as of the 1st January 2022, and is therefore eligible to receive funding.

Q: Do we have to apply for just one grant for the organization, or must it be a consortium?

A: Please refer to the relevant call document(s) - the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition are set out under each specific topic.

Q: During the presentation for EU4H-2022-PJ-11 and EU4H-2022-PJ-12 there were references made to coming updates in mid-November concerning Joint Actions. Can you please repeat where this will be announced and also specify if the information also be available in the Funding and Tender Portal.

A: As indicated in the presentation of the information session, publicly available, the information will be shared mid-November, available information on the planned activities of the joint action will be published on HaDEA website <u>https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/info-session-second-wave-</u>

<u>eu4health-calls-recordings-now-available-2022-10-17_en</u> and on the Funding and Tenders Portal (in the page of the publication of the topic of the call for proposal, under the call updates section)

Q: About budget flexibility. It is possible to move budget from subcontracting costs to other costs? (after the project has started?)

A: According to the model grant agreement there is budget flexibility and it describes the rules on this flexibility setting out the cases when an amendment is necessary to implement budget changes. It says:

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers (**between participants and budget categories**), as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1.

However:

- changes to the budget category for volunteers (if used) always require an amendment

- changes to budget categories with lump sums costs or contributions (if used; including financing not linked to costs) always require an amendment

- changes to budget categories with higher funding rates or budget ceilings (if used) always require an amendment

- addition of amounts for subcontracts not provided for in Annex 1 either require an amendment or simplified approval in accordance with Article 6.2

- other changes require an amendment or simplified approval, if specifically provided for in Article 6.2

Changes after a Grant Agreement has been signed are subject to granting authority approval and amendment.

Q: Could you please tell us if you plan to organize a separate info meeting regarding the operating grants anytime soon?

A: Please note that Operating Grants launched under AWP 2022 have been already launched and signed For AWP 2023 please visit the following website:

https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-11/wp2023_annex_en.pdf

Q: Will there be a focus or tips on the consortium structure?

A: Please refer to the relevant call document(s) - the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition are set out under each specific topic.-

Q: What action grant is possible for neurodegenerative diseases, frailty, intrinsic capacity?

A: Please refer to the topic descriptions in the relevant call document(s), to determine whether any of the topics may fit your needs.

You can also contact EU4Health Unit in SANTE on <u>sante-consult-c3@ec.europa.eu</u> to discuss this issue.

Q: Please could you specify which tasks could be subcontracted?

A: Subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part of the project. Additionally, it needs to be justified (give reasons). The applicants need to explain why they are not able to carry out these tasks, and, therefore, they are needed to be subcontracted to another entity. If the entity asking for subcontracting is a public body, it needs to follow national procedures for tendering. National public procurement rules apply. This principle applies unless there is a monopoly situation of the provider, which will be invoked, thus no open procedure will be launched. This explanation should be also mentioned in the application.

Q: If the proposal will request for 100,000 and EU will finance only 60,000 ad max - we need to request 40,000 from another granting body (local government, etc). Do you need a confirmation from co-founding organisation that will provide the 40% of the budget?

A: If the reimbursement rate of the grant is up to 60% or, in the case of exceptional utility, up to 80% of the eligible costs, the beneficiary (-ies) must fund the remaining percentage from other sources in line with the co-financing principle. It will be explained in the budget proposal.

Q: Where can we find projects that have been funded in the past? Thank you.

A: You can find information on EU funded projects on <u>Projects & Results (europa.eu)</u> and <u>Project</u> databases | European Commission (europa.eu)

Q: Is it usual coordinators ask each partner for an invoice with the exact amount of the pre-financing to proceed with its payment?

A: In our view, the signed grant agreement is already sufficient as a supporting document for the coordinator to distribute the pre-financing. The maximum grant amount will be clearly stated, the share of the grant per beneficiary is also listed and the pre-financing has a fixed percentage, so the individual pre-financing amount per beneficiary can be easily deducted. But the grant agreement will not contain these individual pre-financing amounts. We recommend that the coordinator's accountant checks the need of additional payment request / debit note from the co-beneficiaries, with explicit amounts, in line with its national / own rules.

Q: When submitting the financial reports, do we need to also submit any supporting documents or keep originals for eventual audit?

A: Please refer to the Model Grant Agreement – (MGA) – Art 25.4

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/201330 and No 2185/9631

- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939

- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations. To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6 – please see page 15 of the MGA) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

Q: Seconded persons - under the personnel category. Do they need to work in the same premises as the beneficiary for the cost to be eligible?

A: Seconded Staff (general rule)

'Seconded' means the temporary transfer of an employee from a third party (the employer) to the beneficiary. Seconded persons are still paid and employed by the third party, but work for the beneficiary. They are at the disposal of the beneficiary and work under its control and instructions. A secondment normally requires the seconded person to work at the beneficiary's premises, although in specific cases it may be agreed otherwise in the secondment agreement. The model grant agreement says that

" ... seconded persons by a third party against payment are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

(a) **work under conditions similar to those of an employee** (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and

(b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise)"

The work does not necessarily have to be carried out at the premises of the beneficiary, but we highly recommend that the secondment agreement describes the working arrangements in detail and set out those cases when the tasks can be performed outside the premises of the beneficiary.

Q: Is there a number of required partners per each call? It varies from call to call?

A: Please refer to the relevant call document(s) - the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition are set out under each specific topic. –

Q: I am registered as Expert Reviewers; I would like to know how I can get enrolled to review proposals etc. Thank you

A: You can register yourself as an expert through the <u>Funding & Tenders Portal</u>.

Q: Good afternoon, Red cross EU office, what space will be let for proposals on mental health prevention for the call NCDs prevention action on health determinants?

A: Every proposal should clearly indicate the priority or action of the Health determinants strand (Healthier Together – NCDs Initiative) it will implement (lifestyle, social, commercial, environmental, etc.) and take stock of actions funded under the EU4Health 2022 Work Programmes already implemented or ongoing. The Healthier Together – EU NCDs Initiative, includes five action strands for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disoderes and a horizontal strand on health determinants. The focus of the call for proposals under EU4Health 2022 work programme is on the strands on cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and health determinants. The remaining target action strands will be considered for inclusion in future work programmes.