



Webinar: EU4Health 2024 Annual Work Programme

Information session - Operating grants – Q&A

Tuesday 12 December 2023, 14.30 - 16.30 CET

Is it correct that grants are only available for a minimum of €500,000? Is there no option for smaller amounts?

There is not a minimum amount. For more information on the budget availability please refer to the project budget section in the call document page 13.

Do EU4Health envisage to organize a matchmaking event?

There is no matchmaking event organised by HaDEA or DG SANTE.

What do you mean with independence of industry?

Please check Eligible participants section in the call document at page 9-10, where exhaustive information is highlighted.

Where can we find an updated list of countries with a low GNI?

The list of counties with a low GNI for the 2024 Annual Work Programme (AWP) will be published in early January. However, as a reference you can look at the list valid for the [2023 AWP GNI per Member State.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#). Please be aware that the final assessment will be done based on the table for the AWP 2024

How should exceptional utility criteria be presented in the application and budget and what proofs should organisations provide to ensure that evaluators can access eligibility for exceptional utility criteria and funding?

At least 30 % of the budget of the operating grants is allocated to activities in (one or more) Member States whose Gross Net Income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average (see call document: Section Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount, page 18).The activities must be included in the proposal of the applicant and, in accordance with the call document, they should be related to at least one of the specific objectives laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/522.

The evaluators will assess if the criteria for the exceptional utility are met or not according to the call document.

Hi, did I hear correctly that the FPA will be in Q3 next year (and not Q1)? Also, does the 9M Euro cover only the current OPG call, or both the OPG and FPA calls?

It is envisaged that the call for FPA will be launched by Q3 of 2023, in order to be finalised by the end on 2024 and cover the period 2025-2026. In addition, the sum of 9M Euro covers the OPG for 2023. Please check HaDEA website for further info in due time.

How many projects/NGOs will be awarded?

The available total budget of the topic is 9 million EUR. Proposals will be awarded based on the evaluation results and budget will be allocated based on the evaluation. Proposals that pass the individual thresholds and the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling).

What does HaDEA mean by "Health NGO"? Also could you please provide a relevant definition of NGOs?

Health NGOs eligible for this call are defined as per the fulfilment of all the requirements listed in section 6 – Eligibility – of this call.

What kind of activities are you expecting to be funded?

The eligible activities are clearly indicated in the call document under section 6.

The eligible cost for those 8 activities shall be incurred by the applicant?

The eligible cost for those 8 activities shall be incurred by the applicant and not by its members. The applicant shall provide an “Appropriate financial proof - The activities and their related costs must be described in part B of the proposal.”

Do all the annexes have to be translated in English? (e.g.: online content, minutes from general assemblies etc)

Please refer to page 24 - Language of the call document for a reply to this question.

Can staff costs contribute to reaching the 30% for the exceptional utility?

All eligible costs can contribute to reach the 30% for the exceptional utility.

This call is funded 100%?

Please see call document section "10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements" point "Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount" on the funding rate.-

Our institution is a Belgian based organisation; however we work with our members across all EU countries, and we apply particular focus to those low income countries that have greater needs for support - do we have to have a physical presence in the country to qualify?

Please refer to 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements of the call document.

Is the proposals ranking/evaluation taking into consideration the requested budget amount? Or the ranking is independent from whether the budget requested is e.g. €100.000 or €500.000?

The evaluation is based on the content and quality of the proposal. The ranking is based on the score that each proposal receives for the 3 award criteria. The appropriateness of the budget is part of this analysis, but not a determining factor in the ranking list as such. Please see section 8 "Evaluation and award procedure" of the call document for further details.

Could you please elaborate a bit on the 12th annex, and - more specifically - how you see the link with the specific objectives. Here the description of the annex: Justification provided by the applicant organisation (free format) of the financial support need for the implementation of the one or more of the specific objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/522 as per the content of the proposal submitted

According to the eligibility criteria stated in the call document (section 6 Eligibility - page 11), any applicant must justify why the financial support of the Union is needed for the achievement of one or several of the specific objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/522. Therefore, an annex (free format) needs to be submitted with the justification(s) that the applicant would like to provide in order to have this eligibility condition fulfilled.

I would like to know if a hospital coordinating large research Infrastructure is eligible for these calls

Only Health NGOs are eligible for this call.

For how long a period the grants are given - up to 3 years?

The duration of proposals may not exceed the applicant's financial year up to 12 months.

If one NGO is not successful in the OPG 2024, they can still apply for the FPA call to be published later next year, correct?

Yes, NGOs are free to apply to FPA call if they comply with the eligibility of that call (information that will be available on section 6 of the call document when published). Framework Partnerships

Agreement (FPA) are instruments to establish a legal frame for a long-term cooperation that typically leads to several or recurrent grants. FPA follows an open call and the agreement is limited to the rules for the framework partnership sets out the action plan. Therefore, there is no link between the OPG 2024 and the FPA.

Can you provide a link to the 2023 WP GNI per Member State table?

[GNI per Member State.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Is Türkiye eligible for EU4Health programme?

No. Please refer to point 6. Eligible participants in the call document ([List of participating countries](#))

Is Ukraine as eligible country?

Norway, Iceland, Ukraine and Moldova are associated to the EU4Health Programme.

Can one organisation apply or is there a need (possibility) for cooperation among more European organisations?

The call for operating grants is open for applications by a single entity only and only health non-governmental bodies are eligible.

Can the third-party financial contribution come from industry?

The applicant must, at submission stage, demonstrate that is financially independent by:

- a) submitting proof that not more than 30% of the core funding of the applicant organisation is received from private sector donors; or
- b) if the above core funding threshold is exceeded, but is below 50%, demonstrating that private sector donors do not exercise influence on the decision and regular activities of the applicant organisation. Core funding means financing required for the basic structure of an organisation, including salaries of fulltime staff, facilities, equipment, communications and direct expenses of its day-to-day work.

Private sector is described to cover 'for-profit' companies/enterprises/corporations, business organisations or other entities irrespective of their legal nature (registered/not registered), ownership (wholly or partially privately owned/State owned) or size (large/small), if they are not controlled by the public.

What is the exceptional utility criteria?

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (60%).

You can apply for a higher project funding rate (80%) if your project is of 'exceptional utility', i.e. concerns actions where at least 30 % of the budget is allocated to Member States whose GNI per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average.

What are the exceptional utility criteria? Where can we find these?

Please check page 18 of the call document.

Is it allowed to apply to 2 operating grants at the same time, even if it means giving up on one of them in the end? (based on the non-cumulative rule)

It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants.

The reimbursement of incurred costs happens at the end of the financial year? or what is the mechanism?

Yes, there is no interim payment. You will have to declare your costs at the end of the project-

How travel costs (e.g. flights) allocated to MS for exceptional utility? Does the location of the event e.g. a training count?

Travel costs and also accommodation and subsistence costs must be declared using unit costs set out in [Annex 2a](#) of the grant agreement and in [Decision C\(2021\)35 as amended by C\(2023\) 4928](#). The unit costs take into account the location/ country. Travel costs also depends on the distance.-

Is a contract of mandate (Polish umowa zlecenie) an acceptable form of employment in the EU4Health projects? Will the costs incurred be eligible expenses?

Please refer to section A.2-A3. Natural persons with direct contract and seconded persons in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement pages 57- 60.

If this type of contract complies with the eligibility conditions listed in point 3.2.3 of this section, the related costs may be declared under this budget category. If the costs do not fulfil all the conditions indicated, they may be eligible as purchase of services (Article 6.2.C.3) or subcontracting (Article 6.2.B).

If financial support to 3rd parties is not allowed, what kind of costs can be allocated to the "subcontractor" category?

You should not confuse financial support to third parties with subcontracting. Financial support to third parties (see budget category D) is not allowed but subcontracting costs for work programme-related activities to a third party (budget category B. Subcontracting) is allowed. Financial support is

a donation in the form of grant, prize or similar form of support that is given to a third party, the recipients of this support are not involved in the action. Subcontracting are contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks/ work programme-related activities, the subcontractors charge the beneficiary with a price for the goods, works or services that they provide to the beneficiaries.

Under financial contribution to a third-party, can you pay a specialist supplier to undertake part of the action. For example a specialist micro-learning provider to record and edit content as part of an education action?

This task may be included under budget category C2 Subcontracting. They are not financial contribution to a third party (see previous question).

Do you assess/consider at all how the proposed budget is divided over the different titles (e.g., by percentages as cut off values for red flags when too big of a part is in a single title)?

The beneficiary must record all costs incurred for the activities that are covered by their operating grants (i.e. personnel, general running costs and other operating costs linked to the work programme of activities). The allocation of the costs must be done in a way that leads to a fair, objective and realistic result.

Can you please provide the links to these documents?

The call document and templates can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/eu4h-2024-og?closed=true&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43332642>

What about lump sum planning while budgeting?

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were actually incurred for your project (NOT the budgeted costs). This is not a lump sum grant agreement and there are no lump sum elements in the grant.

Is the funding awarded only related to costs to the specific work programme activities or are general personnel and running costs included? If funding includes general admin running costs, should we include the full running costs and personnel of the entire organisation for the 12 months?

The budget may cover costs of personnel that are part of the general management and common service (administration & finance, accounting, HR, training, documentation, IT) and the personnel assigned to the specific work programme activities (see different chapters available in Title 1 Personnel of the detailed budget table). In principle, the budget may cover full running costs and personnel that are incurred during the duration of the action.

If it is only for 12 months, and it might start the 1st January 2024 how do you imagine one should manage hiring staff and organising conferences within this short period and only for 12 months?

Operating grants provide general financial support to organisations whose statutory activities serve the strategic objectives of EU policies (mainly non-profit organisations, voluntary associations, foundations, NGOs or similar). They do not support a specific project (like action grants), but the annual operating budget of the organisation (or part of it).

Please be aware that costs incurred as of the beginning of the financial year, from 1st January 2024, can be eligible before the starting date of the grant for duly justified reasons (it should be reflected in the proposal and requested to HaDEA). The cost eligibility conditions should be fulfilled, and grants applications should be submitted by 31 December 2023.

If the organisation's financial year starts in July, when should the agreement be signed?

In case the applicant's financial year does not follow a calendar year, and the application for an operating grant will be submitted before the beginning of its new financial year, the eligibility period of activities will start at the earliest at the beginning of the affected by the proposal financial year and will cover up to 12 months as far it is not beyond the end of applicant's financial year. The grant agreement can be signed before with a starting date corresponding to the beginning of the financial year.

Is it a rule that 50% pre-financing is given at the beginning? Or more of an exception?

Yes, all actions selected for funding will receive the 50% pre-financing, it will be paid 30 days from entry into force of the grant agreement or 10 days before starting date - whichever is the latest. However, if the financial capacity of the applicant is not satisfactory, we may paid the prefinancing in instalments or propose no prefinancing (see section 7 of the call document- page 13).

Where can we find the link to the detailed budget table applicable for operating grants?

The document is available on the [call document page \(Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)\)](#) and under the Reference documents of the EU4 Health programme (see Detailed Budget table (EU4H OG) under Templates & Forms – Application forms on [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)).