

European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA)

Department A, Health and Food Unit A1, EU4Health

Brussels, 12 October 2023

Questions and Answers related to the Call for proposals for action grants (EU4H-2023-PJ)

1. Are International Organizations / research organizations eligible for these calls? Please refer to <u>the call document</u> for details on the eligibility of the participants for each topic.

2. Is there any platform for matchmaking with entities interested on the call topics?

Please refer to the funding and tender portal. There is a <u>tab partner search</u> under 'how to participate'.

3. The call paper is very ambitious, which we praise, but if the funding of €1 million is to be split across 3 projects it is not feasible to deliver the level of work needed and expected. Can organisations apply for the full €1 million? We already have a consortium of main European respiratory organisations for this application and a clear concept so we would like to apply for the full availability.

The recommended project budget for each topic is indicated in <u>the call document</u>. However, this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

4. The 1 Million Budget is for only one proposal for NCD under the topic EU4H-2023-PJ-02? How many proposals do you plan to finance for this call? -

As per <u>call document</u>, three grant agreements are expected to be signed.

5. It was mentioned that the stakeholder consultations of EU4Health were presented to the EU parliament. Where can we find the recordings of these parliamentary sessions?

Please find more info <u>here</u>.

6. Is it required to include Artificial intelligence expertise for these topics?

Please refer to the specificities of each topic as highlighted in the call document.

7. Regarding the first call explained today (EU4H-2023-PJ-01 Call for proposals to support access to medical devices for cross border health threats) is there any

option to participate for large companies? and for mid-cap companies? or is it only possible for SME?

Please refer to the relevant section of <u>the call document</u> related to the type of applicants targeted and the specific eligibility and selection criteria applicable to the consortium composition.

8. The Annual Work Programme mentions the overall call budget, but not the budget per project/number of projects to be funded. Can you please clarify this?

Please refer to section three of the <u>call document</u>, for the specific budget information per topic, and the number of grant agreements expected to be signed per topic.

9. With reference to the call for proposals on Chronic Respiratory Diseases, where to find more information on the Joint Action or on the activities that Member States are planning to undertake?

The 2023 Work Programme (WP) includes information on POLICY CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACT on the Joint Actions. Here is the link to <u>the 2023 WP.</u>

Some additional information on the Joint Actions will be published on <u>HaDEA's website</u> as soon as possible.

10. For clarification: no preclusion of submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts, but the maximum amount granted will be 333.333 EUR per project (Chronic Respiratory Disease Call)?

Indeed, as per the <u>call document</u>, for this topic the proposed budget is 333.333 EUR. However, this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

11. In terms of aligning activities under the current open calls with the relevant complementary Joint Actions by MS as mentioned by speakers, how can applicants to the open calls best receive information/updates on the developments within the relevant JAs (i.e. also if their own country is not participating to a JA)?

Beside the information available in the 2023 Work Programme, some additional information on the Joint Actions will be published on <u>HaDEA's website</u> as soon as possible.

12. Is an organization based in Switzerland eligible for the mental health call for proposal?

Only legal entities that are established in EU Member states and third countries associated to the Programme are eligible for funding. For more details, please refer to section 6 (eligibility) of the <u>call document</u>.

13. When we present an application, the application should some how linked to previous Joint Action (JA)? You have been mention previous JA. Can you please elaborate a little bit about this.

For example, Joint Action ImpleMENTAL transfers 2 best practices on mental health reform and suicide prevention. Other projects on mental health include EAAD-Best and projects implementing best practices 'Icehearts' and 'Let's Talk about Children'.

14. For the mental health; Is the eligible consortium; 3 entities including or excluding 1 NGO and 1 patient organisation ?

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;
- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;
- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health;

This needs to be clearly highlighted in the proposal.

15. Can SMEs be part of consortia ONLY if indicated (as for the HERA medical devices call), or is there an opening for companies for other calls as well? -

Please check the section 6 of the <u>call document</u> for more information.

16. NGOs from Switzerland and the US can participate in EU4 Health projects? specifically interested in Mental Health.

Only legal entities that are established in EU Member States and in third countries associated to the EU4Health Programme are eligible for funding. For more details, please refer to the section 6 of the <u>call document</u>.

17. Does the NGO and Patient Organisation count as a 1 of the 3 legal entities required for the mental health call?

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;
- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;
- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health;.

18. How many projects do you plan to finance in the Dementia and other NeurologicalD. line? we should divide the 1 Mil EUR budget to the number of projects planned to be financed?

As per the <u>call document</u>, three grant agreements are expected to be signed. For this topic the proposed budget is 333.333 EUR. However, this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

19. Could you please provide the link to the list of third countries eligible to participate in EU4Health programs?

Please find here the link to the list of third countries eligible to participate in EU4Health programs <u>https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en#associated-non-eu-countries</u>

20. What are your criteria for activities within the framework of EU4Health qualifying for grants vs tenders?

Please refer to the 2023 Work Programme.

21. From the latest documents it's not clear if the US is the third country eligible to participate. could you please clarify?

The US is not a country associated to the EU4Health programme and therefore is not eligible to receive funding.

22. Would hospitals/sites from the UK joining the consortium be eligible to receive funding in this call?

Only legal entities that are established in EU Member States and in third countries associated to the EU4Helath Programme are eligible for funding. For more details please refer to section 6 of the <u>call document</u>.

23. Given Latin-America is not mentioned specifically in the associated countries list, does it mean LatAm legal entities are excluded, or should this be checked specifically per call / per topic ?

As per <u>Article 13 of the EU4Health programme:</u>

"2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision.

3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation"

24. In Horizon Europe, participants located outside the EU or an Associated Country can exceptionally be funded if their participation is deemed essential for the implementation of the action by evaluators (source Horizon Europe programme guide page 16). Would the same rule apply in EU4health ?

As per Article 13 of the EU4Health programme:

"2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision.

3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation"

25. Is there a minimum number of partner for the consortium under the topic EU4H-2023-PJ-05?

Applications may be submitted either by a single applicant or a consortium.

26. Which other EU-programmes provide funding for mental health?

Horizon Europe for research, Technical Support Instrument, Creative Europe, European Social Fund Plus, and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

27. Regarding EU4H-2023-PJ-03 "mental health": since Moldova and Ukraine are participating in EU4Health, are Ukraine veterans also part of the vulnerable population groups?

The call refers to activities that address vulnerable groups which include 'displaced people from Ukraine as well as people still living in Ukraine'.

28. For the conferences (EU4H-2023-PJ-12) - is there any restriction on which countries the conference could be held?

As per the <u>call document</u>, the place of implementation must be: EU Member States, listed EEA countries and countries associated to the EU4Health Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.

29. For the topic EU4H-2023-PJ-12, is EC thinking of one big event or one big event plus several satellite events?

The action will deliver at least three different high-level events. The high-level events may be part of the same conference.

30. Could you say something about these two calls openness of this call for crosssectoral initiatives in the area of arts for health? What would such projects need to make sure to be eligible/successful? Evidence on the success of such projects have been amply presented in recent publications

Please refer to the activities and mandatory deliverables of the call.

31. What is the deadline for call for the action grant to contribute to the organisation of conferences if the event should be already in 2023?

17 October 2023 (for all topics of this call)

32. About the call for proposals to organize clinical audit campaigns....(SAMIRA). The rule 3 partners , 3 EU countries is mandatory? Can you can apply individually or together with other EU partner?

As per the <u>call document</u>, applications may be submitted either by a single applicant or a consortium. In both cases (single applicants or consortium) the proposal must include one eligible applicant with expertise in at least one of the following medical specialties: radiology, radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, other medical specialties using ionising radiation. This needs to be clearly highlighted in the proposal.

33. CR-g-2319.01 : how many proposals will be accepted on Mental Health and cancer action?

As per the <u>call document</u>, seven grant agreements expected to be signed

34. When will the second wave of calls open and on what topics?

This is the only wave of open calls that is launched under the 2023 Work Programme.

35. In the call text of the topics EU4H-2023-PJ-08 and EU4H-2023-PJ-09, in the section "Type of applicants targeted" it says: Civil society organisations (professional associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities). Does this preclude consortia with partners from other backgrounds (academia and RPOs)?

According to <u>call document</u>, for topics EU4H-2023-PJ-08 and EU4H-2023-PJ-09, indeed these are the targeted applicants. However, these are not related to the eligibility criteria, which are mentioned in the section related to the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition.

36. Does the grant opportunity on the safety and quality of new Substances of Human Origin applies to transplantation only or blood transfusion coordination projects can be also eligible?

Blood transfusion projects can bring good expertise, but it needs to be for focus of this action (FMT and/or BM).

2 overall clarifications on the BM/FMT calls: (1) the topics and calls will be organised separately/1 action per topic is expected. (2) the focus here is on the collection and use of BM and FMT under the SoHO framework.

37. How do you envisage the connection of PJ-08 and PJ-09 with other JA in this field?

No direct link is foreseen with existing JA - but of course the overall practices established in the SoHO framework will be fully taken into account as they will drive the direction of work for this action.

38. What is the budget for all the proposals?

Specific budget information per topic can be found at pages 44 and 45 of <u>call document</u>. For the number of grant agreements expected to be signed, per topic, please see 45 and 46 of the same document. The indicative project budget is available at page 50 and 51. This does not however preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

39. Are the audits planned, executed and issued by HADEA or by another EU body?

Details on audits aspects are addressed in article 25 of the grant agreement.

40. Is the signature of Consortium agrrement between consortium members mandatory before the proposal sumbission?

The consortium agreement in mandatory but not before the proposal submission. This is addressed during the grant agreement preparation phase if the proposal is selected for funding.

41. Can a LEAR be blocked for signing DoH, or other documents in the Portal, because of the FCA Update?

In principle it should not be a blocking factor.

42. We have a case where for the DoH signature, the LEAR was requested to use a smart card...would that be some specific bug or what could be the reason?

It could be. REA validation is in charge of the LEAR appointment on their side. However, they do not follow the process afterwards for the LEAR at project level.

43. Whom can we address to for resolving the issue for the validation of entities? EC FUNDING TENDER SERVICE DESK <u>EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu</u>.

44. Can one organisation take part in two different calls of EU4H-2023 - one as the Consortium Coordinator /Beneficiary and in another call as Consortium's Participant /Affiliated Entity?

Multiple proposals — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for different projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them). Organisations may participate in several proposals. -BUT: if there are several proposals for very similar projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

45. May a legal entity established in UK, whose participation in a project is pivotal for the implementation of project activities, fall under the Art13 of the EU4Helth programme?

As per Article 13 of the EU4Health programme:

"2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision.

3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation"

46. Is the same reimbursement system (i.e. 60% standard rate and 80% if certain conditions are met, with incorporation of under-represented Central and Eastern European countries? Is it the same list of countries as the previous actions?

Please refer to the call document where the conditions are explained.

47. I'd like to ask if the limit of 60% of reimbursement for eligible cost is applicable for all types of beneficiaries, e.g. SME, non-profit, etc..

Please refer to the call document where the conditions are explained.

48. Regarding the equipment: we have to have it before the project and we are able only to depreciate it through the project. Am I right?

Purchases of equipment for general operations or work programme-related activities must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices. Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

If you intend to use the equipment at the very start of the project I believe you should have it by this moment. Indeed the depreciation will be done during the project duration.

49. As far as unit costs are concerned shall these be taken into account only for the estimation of project or HaDEA will apply them also at the time of the reporting period? For example if the estimated cost for a travel from rome to paris is 250(flight)+ 150 (accommodation) + 50 (subsistence) BUT the actual cost are 450 flight + 180accommodation + 65 subsistence, will the difference of €245 be considered as eligible for reimbursement from EU?

No, the 245 EUR are not eligible costs.

The amounts reimbursed to the beneficiaries will be in line with the amounts for travel unit costs established in Decision C(2021)35 and Annex 2a and not with the actual costs. No matter if the actual costs are higher or lower.

The travel unit cost to be paid is a fix amount and it depends on the distance between the place of departure and place of arrival. All unit costs are an amount to cover a return trip. However, the calculation of the distance should be done on the basis of the 1-way distance between the points. This is the one-way distance between the departure and arrival point, corresponding to the amount for the return journey -Decision C(2021)35.

Details on the amounts and the calculation are explained in Annex 2a.

All distances to be measured using either the rail or flight calculator in the following website: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/calculate-unit-costs-eligible-travel-costs_en</u>

For further details, please refer to <u>Annotated Model Grant Agreement^[1]</u> page 78 and subsequent pages.

50. Regarding the co-financing, is it possible to exceed the 100%, meaning can the consortium provide more than 40%? What is the maximum amount that will be reimbursed per project, if the total envelop for the topic is 1M EUR (Chronic respiratory diseases call)

A project can be reimbursed up to the maximum grant amount. If the Total eligible costs are equal to 1M and the funding rate is 60% the maximum grant amount will be 600k. Even if the incurred costs for the project are above 1M the maximum reimbursement will be still 600k (of course if the declared costs are eligible).

51. May I buy equipment for the project from the project money?

Purchases of equipment for general operations or work programme-related activities must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices. Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

52. Does that mean we can use already incurred cost, we have invested in the project? How do we report those costs? thank you.

Is this question linked to the question 51? One of the conditions for the costs to be eligible is to be incurred during the duration of the project. If they the costs have been incurred before the start date of the project they are not eligible.

^[1] Please note that an updated version of the draft <u>Annotated Model Grant Agreement</u> has been published on the Funding &Tender Portal's webpage.

According to Article 6.1 (a), for actual costs, costs are eligible if they are incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards).

53. Can you please clarify if research institutes are included as type of applicants targeted for the EU4H-2023-PJ-04 Call?

According to the call document (p.22), the type of applicants targeted for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-04 are: Academia and educational institutions, civil society organisations supporting the priority areas (health professional associations, patient organisations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities).

The above are targeted type of applicants, but these are not related to the eligibility criteria, which are mentioned in the same section below for EU4H-2023-PJ-04 – proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions: Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries.

You may also refer to the eligibility criteria mentioned under section 6 of the call document. In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must be legal entities (public or private bodies) or be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (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 and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.

Finally, please also keep in mind that the main aim of the EU4Health programme is to make available instruments and solutions to support Member States in building stronger, more resilient and accessible health systems. So the main focus is not a Research programme – if you wish to explore Research & Innovation funding opportunities you could refer to the <u>Horizon Europe</u> programme.

54. Upon reading the above call we are seeking some clarification on the timeline of activities. In the call document it states that activities under this call are eligible if taking place in 2023 and/or 2024, and be a maximum of 12 months. However, given that the evaluation results will only be released in January 2024, and the Grant Agreement signed in July 2024, this would give no room for activities in 2023, and potentially allow for only 6 months of activities in 2024. Therefore, we wanted to enquire as to whether this timeline is correct, or if activities are instead allowable in 2024 and/or 2025?

We confirm that this is the correct timeline for this topic.

However, it is possible in exceptional cases to request a retroactive start of the action.

According to section 10 of the call document, normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Nevertheless, please keep in mind that, as per the topic specifications, conferences which have already been held by the date on which the grant application is submitted are not eligible.

55. Concerning the topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 / DP-g-23-32-02, the 2.36 Million € is per topic, so on average 590.000 € per consortium. The project shall last 36 month and the consortium must consist of at least three organizations, from three different and EU4Health approved member states. So 196.666€ per organization in total or 5462,94€ per Month per Organization. So roughly 3 researchers over 3 years, is this assumption correct?

As indicated in the call document, indeed the overall budget for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 is EUR 2.360.000, with 4 Grant agreements expected to be signed (i.e. EUR 590.000 per project).

This does not however preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested (p. 51 of the call document).

Regarding the specific topic eligibility (p.20 of the call document), proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;
- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;
- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health;

This needs to be clearly highlighted in the proposal.

Concerning the budget distribution among the beneficiaries, it is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed in this regard.

56. I have a question about the Call topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 - "Call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine (DP-g-23-32-02)". Can a private company be part of a consortium submitting a proposal for that call?

According to the call document (p.20), the type of applicants targeted for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 are: Academia and educational institutions, civil society organisations supporting the priority areas (health professional associations, patient organisations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities).

The above are the targeted type of applicants, but these are not related to the eligibility criteria, which are mentioned in the same section below – proposals must be submitted

by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;
- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;
- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health;

This needs to be clearly highlighted in the proposal.

You may also refer to the eligibility criteria mentioned under section 6 of the call document.

57. Is this call reserved to companies that are organisers or also to participants of fair and events? If we organized an event to promote our company, could this be accepted?

As per the call document (p. 41), the proposal should cover one or more strands of the annual work programme and have clearly defined specific objectives. The thematic areas and sub-areas to be covered may include one or more of the below mentioned topics:

- (i) health care systems and workforce including in relation to demographic changes;
- (ii) One health approach;
- (iii) pharmaceuticals;
- (iv) digital transition across health challenges; Call: EU4Health-Action Grants 2023
 EU4H-2023-PJ 42
- (v) major non-communicable diseases such as mental health, cancer, cardiovascular;
- (vi) European Health Union: what's next? Priority will be given to proposals covering several types of the above topics in several Member States, and beyond the EU where necessary.

For full details on the topic (e.g. type of targeted applicants, specific eligibility criteria etc.) please refer to the relevant section of the <u>call document</u>.

58. I am writing to you regarding the call "EU4Health". We were wondering if the Gender Equality Plan is generally required for any EU-projects or if it would also be possible to apply without one.

The Gender Equality Plan is not a requirement for calls under the EU4Health programme – therefore, it is possible to apply without one.

59. I have a few questions regarding the Health4EU call for proposals:

1. Is the duration of 36 months mandatory or is it the maximum duration that projects can have?

2. Are victims of domestic abuse an eligible target group under this priority: EU4H-2023-PJ-03 — Call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine (DP-g-23-32-02) Under section 6 (Eligibility - Duration) of the call document it is highlighted the <u>recommended</u> duration is indicated for each topic, which does not correspond to the maximum duration. Please also remember that activities within the proposal need to be aligned with duration of the action.

Regarding the specific activities to be funded under EU4H-2023-PJ-03, we may kindly invite you to refer to the detailed section in the <u>call document</u> (page 16), where it is also mentioned that activities shall address vulnerable and socio-economically disadvantaged population groups whose mental health has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including the elderly, young people, people with less secure employment, and people with less education or a lower income and particularly migrants, refugees, Roma people, displaced people from Ukraine as well as people still living in Ukraine. Activities will also take into consideration socio-economic and environmental determinants as established risk factors for mental health and behavioural problems (e.g. poverty, unemployment, financial instability, a low educational level, violence, air pollution and climate crisis, homelessness, and social isolation).

60. I have a few questions on the eligibility of Switzerland both as main applicant and/or project partner for the calls DP-g-23-31-02 and the DP-g-23-31-02. Can we be the main applicant? Can we be part of a consortium and therefore also receive the corresponding amount? What is the external scope of this call? Can we involve our members outside EU/Europe?

As per the call document, section 6 (Eligibility – Eligible participants) in order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:

- EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (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 and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.

Unfortunately, Switzerland is not eligible for funding under the EU4Health programme, so it cannot be part of the consortium as a coordinator or beneficiary.

However, it is possible that legal entities not eligible for funding participate as:

- subcontractors (see Article 9.3 of the Model Grant Agreement);

- associated partners, which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions (see Article 9.1 of the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>).

61. I am contacting you concerning the following call : EU4H-2023-PJ-03 — Call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine (DP-g-23-32-02).

As mentioned in the call, "the aim of this action is to complement the implementation of the joint action "DP-g 23-32- 01 'Healthier Together' EU NCD Initiative – Mental Health" led by the Member States". By complementing the implementation of the joint action, do you mean that our activities must by directly aligned to the activities established and financed in the previous call? Do our activities must be directly linked to results of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects? Hence, is this call favoring entities which have already received funding to complement their previously established activities? is there a way we can have access to the previously funded projects which need to be complemented for this call?

The Joint Action *"DP-g 23-32- 01 'Healthier Together' EU NCD Initiative – Mental Health"* is not a previous call – it is part of the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2023, and will be launched this year.

As indicated in the call document, indeed the aim of topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 is to complement the activities of this Joint Action which will be led by Member States' authorities. The activities of EU4H-2023-PJ-03 will run in parallel to the Joint Action.

In addition, the action will implement projects on health promotion and disease prevention, **taking into account** relevant results of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects, and is expected to support the Member States' efforts to reduce the burden of NCDs.

This does not in any way imply that entities which may have previously received funding under EU programmes will be funded in this call or future calls. As per the footnote in the call document (p.19), the results of previously funded projects are publicly available on the CORDIS database: <u>CORDIS | European Commission (europa.eu)</u>

We would like to reiterate that this is an open competitive call for proposals, which respects the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

62. We would like to receive some clarifications with regards to the funding rate of the call, which is described as follows in the call document: 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 or

- actions with bodies from at least 14 Member States and where at least four are from Member States whose GNI per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. Our understanding is that (provided that our consortium complies with all the eligibility criteria described in the call document) if we allocate 30% of the overall project budget to partners based and implementing the action in countries such as Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Slovakia (among many others whose GNI per capita is below 48613, i.e. 90% of the European average of 54015, according to <u>World</u> <u>Bank most recent data</u>), our project could be considered *of 'exceptional utility'*, and therefore a funding rate of 80% would be accepted. Is this correct? And secondly, would the request for a funding rate of 80% have an impact on the overall evaluation of the proposal, in comparison to proposals applying for a lower funding rate?

Yes indeed, we confirm that if the proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria for exceptional utility as outlined in the call document, then the 80% co-funding rate will apply.

The applied funding rate of a proposal is independent of the evaluation procedure – for more details on the evaluation and award procedure, as well as the award criteria, please refer to sections 8 and 9 of the <u>call document</u>.

63. Would the Commission be the only funder for the conference/events the actions will support or could there be others such as pharmaceutical industry?

The conference/events action may be supported in a fair and transparent manner by other relevant organisations than the European Commission with the exception of those with vested interests, a matter to be assessed by the contracting authority together with the European Commission on the basis of the application received and of the relevant legal framework.

64. Following the application to EU4H-2023-PJ-12: Action grants to contribute to the organisations of conferences and events of the EU4 Health Programme, we were left with the question regarding the time of execution of the project. In this sense, the events contemplated in call 12 must be carried out during 2024 or the project can go until 2025. Do the 12 months of implementation count from the signature of the GA? If yes, the project can be implemented until July 2025.

As per the call document, the *duration of the action must not exceed 12 months and will be organised in 2023 and/or 2024.*

In addition, according to section 10 of the call document, *normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.* Nevertheless, please keep in mind that, as per the topic specifications, *conferences which have already been held by the date on which the grant application is submitted are not eligible.*

65. I am writing to request clarification on the definition of a patient organisation working in the field of mental health, as outlined in the eligibility criteria for the

current call for proposals. While reviewing the application requirements, it became apparent that there is no legal description or standardized definition of a patient organisation in the context of mental health. What criteria should an organization meet to be considered eligible for this funding opportunity?

In this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges.

Regarding eligibility of entities, as per the <u>call document</u>, section 6 (Eligibility – Eligible participants) in order to be eligible, 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 (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 and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.
- 66. With the regard of EU4H-2023-PJ-12 Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events (OA-g-23-89), I need to know if documentations to grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events (OA-g-23-89) are the same, since due to the different kind of project (e.g. conference)- it is very difficult to fill appropriately them. In the file-guide it is written: Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file Annexes (see section 5). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

We confirm that the templates (part B and detailed budget table) are indeed the same for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-12.

As indicated in the call document, you can download them from the Submission System and upload as part of your application.

67. We are going to apply for EU4H-2023-PJ-02 Call for proposals to support stakeholders on the prevention of NCDs in the area of chronic respiratory diseases EU4H-2023-PJ-02 on chronic respiratory diseases. The topic budget is 1m euro, however, the call states that the maximum budget per project is 333.333Eur because the full amount will be split in 3 grant agreements. Does this mean that we cannot present a budget proposal beyond 333.333Eur? We are a bit confused because the call also states that "*This does not however preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.*" Considering the above, would we be discarded if we present a higher budget proposal?

As per the <u>call document</u>, indeed for this topic the proposed budget is 333.333 EUR. However, this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Please keep in mind that HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit. We would like to remind you that all Q&As related to the open call are published and updated regularly on <u>HaDEA's website</u> and the <u>F&T portal</u> (under Call updates).

68. I would like to ask you whether a project that aims to develop a support facility (in a rural area run by a non-governmental organisation in collaboration with local municipalities) with professionals that will support in the prevention, and intervention of mental health issues for vulnerable populations including persons with fewer opportunities, migrants, refugees, Roma people, and displaced persons from Ukraine would be appropriate for this call.

Please be aware that HaDEA is not in a position to give you a definitive answer about the preparation or structure of your proposal – any potential project application must be assessed in its full complexity.

For full details on the topic, please refer to section 2 (p. 16 for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03) of the <u>call document</u>.

69. with reference to EU4H-2023-PJ-12 Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events (OA-g-23-89), it is required if a new submission (single stage) will be planned for the second part of 2024. To FIND a public qualified hospital, into the EU, that could accept the proposed budget and to avoid any kind of financial speculation, it is necessary time and the need for a secrecy agreement approved by all parties. Otherwise... it is NOT possible to guarantee the compliance with the requirement "Priority will be given to proposals covering several types of health challenges in several Member States and beyond the EU. "
Otherwise ... it is NOT possible to propose an ethic pragmatical solution for the european need: "timely identify upcoming health challenges and priorities and involve all interested parties such as citizens, patients, health practitioners, scientists, policy makers from local, regional, national and EU level, in finding possible solutions and alternative ways to address such challenges;".

Please be aware that the call EU4H-2023-PJ is part of the <u>EU4Health 2023 Work</u> <u>Programme</u> – the EU4Health 2024 Work Programme has not been adopted yet, and therefore currently we do not have any further information on this.

Regarding topic EU4H-2023-PJ-12, please refer to the relevant section of the <u>call</u> <u>document</u> (p. 40) which contains all details and necessary information.

70. I would be grateful if you could give us some further details about the Call for proposals for the EU4Health-Action Grants 2023 (EU4H-2023-PJ).

1. We understand that national NGOs/networks are eligible to apply. Are other aspects important for the evaluation, such as the members of the network/NGO, support by public organizations (e.g., ministry of health)? Would you recommend partnering with other national or European NGOs/networks to increase the likelihood of a successful application?

2. In page 43 of the call, it is mentioned that 'the events will not focus on a specific condition or disease but will focus on current cross-cutting Union policy issues'. Would a conference on obesity best practices, which is a disease of global interest and linked to multiple health conditions, be eligible? Of course, the conference would include high-level events covering several related aspects (e.g., digitilisation, mental health, pharmacotherapy, data) that are of interest to the European Health Union.

3. The call mentions that each funded action will deliver at least three different high-level events. Please clarify whether you mean at least three events in addition to the conference, or the conference would count as one high-level event.

4. Among the deliverables 'dedicated sessions to Commission policy priorities' are mentioned. It would be great if you could elaborate a bit further on what is expected for this.

5. The grant covers 60% of the estimated budget. Is there any restriction on how the remaining 40% will be covered (e.g., funding from industry, registration fees)?

6. With regards to the exception of the grant covering 80% of the estimated budget

a. Is there a list with the GNI per inhabitant for the Member States to compare with the EU average?

b. By actions with bodies from at least 14 Member States, you mean including these bodies/organisations as partners in the application or that the event could involve stakeholders from at least 14 Member States?

Please find below the replies to your respective questions:

1&2. Regarding these questions, please be aware that HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

3. As per the call document (p.43), the action will deliver at least three different highlevel events that will promote and contribute to the development and implementation of the European Health Union. The high-level events may be part of the same conference.

4. The expectation is that these sessions will either be co-organised with the European Commission, or alternatively the Commission will be invited to speak as a key note speaker in the sessions.

5. The conference/events action may be supported in a fair and transparent manner by other relevant organisations than the European Commission with the exception of those with vested interests, a matter to be assessed by the contracting authority together with the European Commission on the basis of the application received and of the relevant legal framework.

6. a) Please find the link to the GNI per capita to be used as reference for the determination of the exceptional utility: <u>https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/table%20of%202023%20calculation%20of%20MSs%20GNI%20per%20inhabitant%20and%20EU%20average%20for%20EU4Health%20AWP.pdf</u>

b) Indeed this refers to the partners of the application, since as per the call document (p. 43), *applications may be either by a single applicant or a consortium (no minimum requirement).*

71. I have a query regarding the currently open EU4 Health call, particularly the theme "Call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine (DP-g-23-32-02)". The call document specifies that one of the consortium partners must be a "patient organisation". I have not been able to find a definition of a patient organisation in the call documents. Would you be able to provide such a definition? Does this refer only patient interest organisations, or do you understand this more broadly? E.g., does a patient organisation need to have patients and/or carers in its governing bodies?

In this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges.

Regarding eligibility of entities, as per the <u>call document</u>, section 6 (Eligibility – Eligible participants) in order to be eligible, 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 (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 and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.
- 72. I'm contacting you as regards the call: EU4H-PJG EU4H Project Grants EU4H-2023-PJ-10 — Call for Proposals: action grants on Facilitating Organ Paired Exchange (HS-g-23-51). We are concern about the participation of a UK partner or other countries as full member in our consortium.

We have read this condition:

The FAQs the nº 45 indicates the following:

May a legal entity established in UK, whose participation in a project is pivotal for the implementation of project activities, fall under the Art13 of the EU4Helth programme? <u>As per Article 13 of the EU4Health programme</u>: "2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision. 3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation"

So we are assuming that is correct that UK receives funding. But we want to have a confirmation on your side of our interpretation please.

We have a potential partner from UK, can you please confirm that they <u>can receive</u> <u>funding</u>?

Also, we have a potential partner in Chile and that is a potential source of a good case for pilots, is that eligible? A university/partner from Chile? If not, is there are way to engage them?

We can confirm the UK entities, being from a third country, cannot receive funding from the EU in a EU4Health project.

Please see specifically FAQ 45:

45. May a legal entity established in UK, whose participation in a project is pivotal for the implementation of project activities, fall under the Art13 of the EU4Helth programme?

As per Article 13 of the EU4Health programme: "2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision. 3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation"

Regarding Chile, please see FAQ 23:

FAQ 23:. Given Latin-America is not mentioned specifically in the associated countries list, does it mean LatAm legal entities are excluded, or should this be checked specifically per call / per topic ?

"As per Article 13 of the EU4Health programme: "2. the Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme may in exceptional cases be eligible to participate in the Programme where such participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of a given action. The assessment of that necessity shall be duly reflected in the funding decision. 3. Legal entities that are established in a third country which is not associated to the Programme shall bear the cost of their participation""

73. In relation to the call for proposals EU4H-2023-PJ-12. Is it a requirement of the organiser to partner with another European application?

As stated in the call document, the "Applications may be either by a single applicant or a consortium (no minimum requirement)".

74. We are currently assembling a consortium to submit a proposal for the organization of conference and events (OA-g-23-89). As the indicative budget (150 000 €) is insufficient to cover the costs of the activities we would like to propose we would like to know whether co-funding by non-profit organizations (e.g. philanthropic foundations) would be acceptable.

We can confirm that applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the Eu4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the call document, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

75. A question is if an action grant has following listed as applicants for the call: Civil society organisations (professional associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities) with expertise in the field of gastroenterology. Does "similar entities" cover a university hospital, university or a Region?

The type of applicants that you are mentioning are highlighted in the call document as 'targeted'; therefore they are not part of the eligibility criteria for the topic you would like to prepare and submit a proposal.

Depending on the specific topic, we would advise to check the 'Specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition'.

- 76. We would like to express our keen interest in participating in the call for proposals regarding action grants dedicated to organizing conferences and events (OA-g-23 809). In this context, we kindly request detailed information about the necessary application procedures and required documentation. To this end, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in addressing the following points:
- 1. Insights into the prerequisites and eligibility criteria for submitting an application.
- 2. A comprehensive overview of the application process, including the steps involved.
- 3. A clear list of the documents and supporting materials required for the proposal.

4. Important dates, including submission deadlines, evaluation timelines, and potential event dates.

We would like to inform that all necessary information related to topic EU4H-2023-PJ 12 are included in the call document which is uploaded on the Funding & Tender Opportunities (FT) portal at the following <u>link</u> (page 40).

In order to submit a proposal, please check the following <u>link</u>, for some general information and the section 11 of the call document (page 60), link above. All proposals must be submitted directly online via the FT portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted. Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation. To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to create an EU Login user account. Once you have an EULogin account, you can register your organisation in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal. Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section.

Any proposal consists in 3 parts:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal.

- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal.

- Annexes (see section 5).

Finally, the deadline for application is set on 17 October 2023 at 17:00 Central European Time. The evaluation is scheduled for November-December 2023 and the information on evaluation results is scheduled for January 2024.

77. If a civil society or NGO applies are they then the sole beneficiary or do associated experts involved with the NGO also need to give their PIC and names of their related organisations? The doubt is if should be a consortia that can apply or if it is only the NGO with one PIC.

With reference to your question, the call document (p. 35) highlights that civil society organisations (professional associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities) with expertise in the field of Gastroenterology are the type of applicants targeted. Therefore, this is an indication of the expertise needed in the proposal.

However, this differs to the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition – in this case the call document states that applications may be either by a single applicant or a consortium (no minimum requirement).

In addition, before submitting a project proposal, all organisations involved in the project must first be registered in the Funding & Tenders Portal <u>Participant Register</u> and have their 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number). As a general principle, an organisation should have legal personality in order to be registered. If an organisation does not have legal personality, its representatives must prove that they have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on its behalf and that the organisation has financial and operational capacity equivalent to that of legal persons.

78. We are considering applying for the EU4Health Call and have some questions. Regarding funding rate, the call states (p. 56). 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. Can you please direct us how we can check (if there is a list) where we can verify that our countries are among the qualifying countries, i.e. GNI less than 90% of EU average? Regarding the consortium, the Third priority where we want to apply states the following requirements? "Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;

- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;

- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health; This needs to be clearly highlighted in the proposal"

How will the latter two requirements be specified? Is there a specification/definition/criteria somewhere where we can consult? Can the criterion be satisfied by an NGO? What is the definition of a "patient organization"? One working for the rights of patients? One having a certain number of patients in its board?

Please find the link to the GNI per capita to be used as reference for the determination of the exceptional utility:

https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-

05/table%20of%202023%20calculation%20of%20MSs%20GNI%20per%20inhabitant%20a nd%20EU%20average%20for%20EU4Health%20AWP.pdf

In this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges. As per the call document, indeed the consortium must comply with the conditions highlighted in your email:

- Minimum 3 entities from 3 different eligible countries;
- At least one NGO working in the field of mental health;
- At least one patient organisation working in the field of mental health;

79. I have a question about fundings. If we get an award with our proposal, who will have ownership rights to the project after its implementation?

As per Article 16.2 (Ownership of results) of the EU4Health Model Grant Agreement:

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

'Results' means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

For further information or clarifications please consult in detail the EU4Health <u>Model</u> <u>Grant Agreement</u>. 80. I would like to know if it would be possible to include scholarships for master's and doctoral students in the budget. The project we are going to submit would benefit from integrating students from schools and universities to work on the project during their training. Can you help me clarify if this is possible? If it is possible, which cost item should I include: A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries?

Regarding the specific eligibility conditions for each budget category, please refer to **Article 6.2** of the **EU4Health** <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>.

More specifically, section A. Personnel costs mentions:

A.1 **Costs for employees (or equivalent)** are eligible as personnel costs if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

A.2 and A.3 **Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract** other than an employment contract and costs for 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:

- 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

- the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

A.4 The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

81. My organization wishes to apply for the call-in object, we are actually finalizing the consortium and we'd need to know if it would be possible to cover part of 40% co financing with other public funds.

We can confirm that applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the EU4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the <u>call document</u>, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

82. We are interested in applying for EU4HEALTH call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine. While I understand the partnership requirements (three entities, three countries), I wanted to clarify the definition of a "patient organisation". The FAQ mentions that "In this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges." Would an NGO providing Mental Health and Psychological Support to refugees count as a patient organisation? More specifically, would consortium of three NGOs providing MHPSS support be eligible for funding?

Indeed in this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges.

In addition, further details on the activities to be funded under topic EU4H-2023-PJ-03 are mentioned in section 2 of the <u>call document</u>, as well as the specific eligibility criteria applicable to the consortium composition.

It is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed regarding the inclusion of potential beneficiaries in the proposal. HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

83. I'm contacting you as regards the call: EU4H-PJG EU4H Project Grants EU4H-2023-PJ-10 — Call for Proposals: action grants on Facilitating Organ Paired Exchange (HS-g-23-51) and would appreciate if you could clarify some questions related to this call

• Subcontracting cost are fully funded they are limited to the 60% funding as the rest of personnel cost?

• As part of the EU4health program, funding rate of 60% will be applied, although it is also mentioned a higher rate of 80%, if this is the case subcontracting cost will be also funded at a 80% (if they were previously funded at a 60% rate)

• There is need to detail each person`s rate or and the average per organization is sufficient?

• Effort % (time) of grants/ scholarship personnel is the same as a standard employee employee?

•Regarding travel expenses, may the coordinator or the dissemination leader have all the budget of the consortium and distribute it upon request of the partners?

For further details on eligibility of costs please refer to section 10 of the <u>call document</u>, and **Article 6** of the **EU4Health** <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>. We would also draw your attention to the presentations given during the info day, which can be found <u>here</u>.

84. Regarding the Call EU4H-2023-PJ-12 Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events (OA-g-23-89): we would like to knowif is it possible to obtain the value outside the funding rate (60 or 80 %) by sponsorships or charging for the participation of companies and other commercial entities.

We can confirm that applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the Eu4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the call document, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

85. I note that UK-based entities are ineligible to benefit from the grant directly but can join as an associate entity. Would an EU-based entity (whether this is a parent company or a subsidiary of a UK-based parent entity) satisfy the call's eligibility requirements such that the entity can participate as a beneficiary and receive a portion of grant funding? Would the activities for which grant funding is awarded need to take place

within the EU, or can an EU-based entity receive funding but subcontract work out to employees/entities based outside the EU?

For the time being the entities established in the UK are not eligible for funding. They could become eligible in the future, if they fulfil the eligibility conditions set in the programme for third countries, i.e. having signed an association agreement, where such agreement enters into force before the grant signature. At the moment there is no association agreement in place

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action. Subcontracting to affiliates or subcontracting of the coordinator's specific coordination tasks (e.g. distribution of funds, review of reports) is not allowed. In principle, a subcontractor can be based in a third country, not associated to the programme, provided that the choice of the subcontractor fulfils the criteria for eligibility of costs, as defined in the grant agreement. In particular, the choice should be made based on a competitive selection, while avoiding any conflict of interest.

86. EU4H-2023-PJ-12 — Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events (OA-g-23-89). In order to look for alternatives to co-finance the rest of the budget (60%-80% cofinancing), we would like to know if it is eligible to charge registration for the event (e.g. to

commercial and for-profit entities) and/or if we can ask for support from external sponsors?

We can confirm that applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the EU4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the call document, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

87. We are in the process of applying to the Call for proposal for the organization of conference and events. I just wanted to make sure that the events/conferences can be organized in 2025 (as the fiche of the call states the following: The work programme will support the organisation of conference and events which will meet the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/522 during 2023, 2024 or both and contribute to the implementation of legislative and non-legislative initiatives of the Union through actions described in the annual work programmes). But as the grant agreement signature is foreseen in July 2024, it does not seem feasible to organize the events in 2024. Could you please clarify this?

As per the call document, the *duration of the action must not exceed 12 months and will be organised in 2023 and/or 2024.*

In addition, according to section 10 of the <u>call document</u>, normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date. Nevertheless, please keep in mind that, as per the topic specifications, conferences which have already been held by the date on which the grant application is submitted are not eligible.

We would also draw your attention to the FAQ for this call, which can be found under this <u>link</u> as well as the presentations given during the info day, which can be found <u>here</u>.

88. I am writing regarding the EU4H-2023-PJ-02 — Call for proposals to support stakeholders on the prevention of NCDs in the area of chronic respiratory diseases (DP-g-23-31-02). We are getting ready for the submission of our project proposal, and we would like to know whether we can involve industry to support our project. We are looking at if it is permitted to include input from the industry and if so how.

Regarding the eligibility criteria of participants, please refer to section 6 of the call document.

For any specific eligibility criteria applicable to the relevant topic, please also refer to section 2 of the call document.

It is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed regarding the inclusion of potential beneficiaries in the proposal. HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

89. Is it possible to request more than the published amount/budget for a call or is there a risk that the proposal could be deemed illegible if the budget requested goes over the amount indicated for individual projects in a call?

The indicative project budget per topic is mentioned under the relevant section of the <u>call document</u> (p.50). However, as also highlighted in the call document (p. 51), *this does not preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts.*

- 90. I am writing to you regarding EU4H-2023-PJ-12 *Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organisations of conference and events* (OA-g-23-89). I have read the call document and FAQ but I need to ask for further clarification.
 - 1. Can the conference/event be organized in 2025?
 - 2. Is the same call for proposals planned for 2024 or 2025?
 - 3. Can the conference organizer charge a fee from its participants?

Please find below the clarifications to your questions:

1. As per the <u>call document</u>, the conference *will be organised in* **2023 and/or 2024.** Only the project may run until 2025 (e.g. follow-up after the conference, final payments/reports etc).

In addition, according to section 10 of the call document, normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Therefore, if a retroactive starting date is granted, it is possible to claim costs as from the requested date.

Nevertheless, please keep in mind that, as per the topic specifications, conferences which have already been held by the date on which the grant application is submitted are not eligible.

- 2. The EU4Health 2024 Work Programme has not been adopted yet, and therefore currently we do not have any further information on this.
- 3. As per the call document, the objective of this action is to support the organisation of not-for-profit, EU-wide high-level science-policy-society events that bring together all interested parties such as citizens, patients, practitioners, academics and scientists, policy makers from local, regional, and EU level.

Applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the EU4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the call document, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

91. Regarding the partner's budget: It is possible to allocate in the budget an amount to a subcontracting company during the proposal time and then modify the company (e.g. if they are no longer available to provide the service)if required during the project phase? Regarding travel/accommodation costs: Can the organizer (project partner) who host the GA meeting pay the travel /accommodation cost of other participants

(e.g. experts, advisory board, associate partners)?

In the case of subcontracting, the beneficiary needs to ensure that it complies with the obligation to ensure the best value for money and institutional rules for subcontracting, and if the beneficiary is a public body, with national and EU legislation on public procurement. Subcontractors would not usually be named in a proposal given the necessity to undertake the processes required to ensure compliance with the conditions described above. If however such processes have been undertaken in advance, subcontractors may be named in a proposal.

It is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed regarding the budget distribution in the proposal. HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

92. With reference toEU4H-2023-PJ-12 — Call for proposal: action grants to contribute to the organization of conference and events, I would appreciate your comments and clarifications regarding the project duration (12 months) and the project start. The work program will support the organisation of conference and events; the duration of the action must not exceed 12 months and will be organised in 2023 and/or 2024. According to the call Timetable and deadlines (p.46): Information on evaluation results will be available January 2024, GA signature is foreseen in July 2024, and Starting date and project duration (p.56): The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 1). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Having in mind the above mentioned, it seems that the project could start in July 2024 and the conference (or other event) will take place by the end of 2024,

which gives about 5 months for its preparation. My questions are : (1) would it be acceptable to envisage the start of the project in February 2024 (if case a notification for approval is received), which is before the signature of the GA (July2024), but will allow the have a period of about 9 month to prepared the conference ? (2) Could the project activities to continue in 2025, after the conference takes place in 2024 ?

As per the call document, indeed the conference *will be organised in* **2023 and/or 2024.** Only the project may run until 2025 (e.g. follow-up after the conference, final payments/reports etc).

In addition, according to section 10 of the call document, *normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.*

Therefore, if a retroactive starting date is granted, indeed it is possible to claim costs as from the requested date.

Nevertheless, please keep in mind that, as per the topic specifications, *conferences which have already been held by the date on which the grant application is submitted are not eligible.*

93. I have two questions about the EU4Health program, under EU4H-2023-PJ-03 — Call for proposals on the prevention of NCDs in the area of mental health including actions supporting vulnerable population groups, such as migrants, refugees, Roma people and displaced people from Ukraine (DP-g-23-32-02):
1. One of the eligibility criteria is to have at least one patient organization in the partnership. Is it mandatory that they are registered officially as a patient organization or is it enough if the organization was founded by people with past experience of mental health illnesses, but this is not officially in the organization status?

2. Is it possible to cover part of beneficiaries' own contribution through voluntary work? If so, where could we find the rates to use in calculating the value of voluntary work?

Please find below the clarifications to your questions:

- 1. In this context a patient organisation would refer to an organisation that represents in its activities, the needs and concerns of individuals or patients with mental health challenges.
- For details on eligibility of costs please refer to section 10 of the <u>call document</u>, as well as **Article 6** of the **EU4Health** <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>. It is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed regarding the budget allocation and the beneficiaries' own contribution in the proposal. HaDEA is not in a position to give

advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

- As per section 6 of the <u>call document</u> (Eligibility Eligible participants,) in order to be eligible, 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 (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 and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature (<u>list of</u> <u>participating countries</u>)
 - 94. I am requesting your interpretation of the following fragment from the Call regarding " Call for proposals: grants for activities contributing to the organization of conferences and events (OA-g-23-89)" The text states that: "Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organizations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount"

Shall we take this as meaning that we can have tickets for the event if their total amount does not exceed our contribution?

As per the call document, the objective of this action is to support the organisation of notfor-profit, EU-wide high-level science-policy-society events that bring together all interested parties such as citizens, patients, practitioners, academics and scientists, policy makers from local, regional, and EU level.

Applicants are free to seek additional funding from other sources than the EU in the context of the EU4Health programme, under the condition that this does not generate profit. In case the additional funding produces profit, the EU grant contribution would be reduced accordingly by the generated profit. We would refer you to the <u>call document</u>, Sections 6. "Eligibility" – sub-section "Eligible participants" and section 13. "Important" for further details.

95. We are in the process of preparing a proposal for the call titled "EU4H-2023-PJ-05 - Call for Proposals to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA18) – Organization of Clinical Audit Campaigns as a Tool to Improve the Quality and Safety of Medical Applications of Ionising Radiation (CR-g-23-44-01)." I have two main questions.

1. Regarding the participation of Third Parties with seconded personnel, if there is a research institute linked to a hospital. Is it correct for the research institute to participate as a Third Party, providing resources in the form of seconded personnel? It will be a Third party against payment, as I read that the figure of Third party free of charge is not allowed in this program.

Just to be sure, the Research institute could never be the beneficiary if it does not have any cofunding, coudn't it?

2. Regarding the budget: Our NCP informed us that the project budget (€375,000 for this call) represents the contribution from the European Commission. Does this mean that the total project budget could amount to €625,000?

Please find below the replies to your questions:

 Please note that, as per the definition of in-kind contribution in the <u>Model Grant</u> <u>Agreement</u>, in-kind contributions are for example non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties. In-kind contribution is allowed, but not eligible (see Article 9.2 of the Model Grant Agreement). In-kind contributions refers only to the case where a third party makes available some of its resources to a beneficiary, for free (i.e. without any payment). In this case, the beneficiary itself makes no payment and there is therefore NO cost incurred by the beneficiary. If there is any payment between the third party and the beneficiary, the beneficiary can declare the costs in the appropriate cost category: – personnel costs for seconded persons (see Article 6.2.A.3) – renting costs for equipment (see Article 6.2.C.2) or – purchase costs for other goods, works and services (see Article 6.2.C.3).

For further details you can refer to page 140 of the <u>Annotated Model Grant</u> <u>Agreement</u>.

Regarding the consortium roles, please refer to section 13 of the <u>call document</u>.

It is the applicant's responsibility to decide how to proceed regarding the inclusion of potential beneficiaries and the budget distribution in the proposal. HaDEA is not in a position to give advice on the preparation or structure of your proposal for competitive calls – any proposal must be assessed on its own merit.

2. As per the call document, the total budget for topic EU4H-2023-PJ-05 is EUR 1.500.000, and 4 grant agreements are expected to be signed. Therefore, the total budget per proposal could in principle be EUR 375.000. This does not however preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested (p.51 of the call document). Indeed, the topic budget refers to the maximum EC contribution for that particular topic.