

# CEF TELECOM – 2020-2 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### eHealth – 29 October 2020 version

*All information in blue has been added since the previous version.*

Commonly used abbreviations in this FAQ

<b>CPMS</b>	Clinical Patient Management System
<b>ERN</b>	European Reference Network
<b>HCP</b>	Health care provider
<b>eHDSI</b>	eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure

#### **1. What is the difference between this call and the previous eHealth calls?**

This new call will fund additional activities that are expected to enhance the performance of the ERNs by building upon the activities of the previous 2017-2 and 2018-4 calls.

#### **2. Can you please confirm that beneficiaries can only be European Reference Networks?**

Only proposals submitted by the coordinator of one of the ERNs designated under Directive 2011/24/EU will be supported under this call. Any other ERN member may participate as a consortium member in any proposal submitted by its coordinator. See section 6.1 of the call text for more information.

#### **3. Which eHealth Core Services will be maintained and provided by the European Commission? How and when will these services be provided?**

Please see section 3.11 of the Multi-Annual Work Programme which provides information about the core services and what will be funded in this area. Please note that the current eHealth call only concerns generic services as specified in section 2 of the Call for Proposals.

#### **4. Would the work for harmonising and extracting data among ERN members' databases, to feed into the Clinical Patient Management System (CPMS), be eligible under the call? (For example, paying services provided by data managers.)**

Yes, these types of activities may be covered under the activity 2 of section 2.1 of the call text if it complies with the requirements of this section.

#### **5. As an ERN Coordinator, do we need to provide the 25% co-funding not covered by the grant (assuming we would receive the maximum of 75% co-funding) or can it be provided by the various members of the consortium?**

It is up to the ERN coordinator and consortium to decide on the final contribution towards the 25% of costs not covered by the CEF grant, as well as the ultimate distribution of the 75% of CEF funds among the applicants.

The consortium may wish to draw up a written agreement that will be used to regulate relations between beneficiaries in the consortium during the implementation of the project, if the application is selected for funding. This agreement should include all internal aspects related to the management of the beneficiaries and the financial and technical implementation of the proposed Action. Although not required at proposal submission, having this type of agreement in place may help to demonstrate a proposal's maturity during the evaluation. In addition, it will help the coordinator to prevent potential problems that could arise during the project implementation.

There is also no obligation for the consortium coordinator to receive any amount of the CEF grant for itself, even if the coordinator must establish the payment requests and ensure that all of the appropriate payments are made to the other members in the consortium as indicated in Article II. 1.3 of the model grant agreement. Please note however that applicants that do not request any funding still must submit all of the necessary documents/approvals with the application. See Q11.6 of the [CEF Telecom General FAQ](#) for more information.

***6. Can the co-funding be a contribution via staff time, i.e. are activities covered by the Work Programme carried out by a person employed by a consortium member considered to be an eligible cost?***

No, this would be an in-kind contribution. In-kind contributions are not possible in CEF Telecom.

***7. Our private company would like to assist an ERN by providing consultancy (staff/personnel costs) to it. Would these services be covered under the calls?***

It would be up to the ERN member applying to the call to decide whether it has a need to subcontract certain tasks to third parties and for what reason. The rationale for subcontracting tasks, as well as other information relating to any selected subcontractor, cost basis, activities to be performed would need to be included in application form part D. See section 13 of the [CEF Telecom General FAQ](#) for more information about subcontracting.

***8. Section 6.1 of the call text indicates that "Only proposals submitted by the coordinator of one of the ERNs designated under Directive 2011/24/EU will be supported under this call." What is meant by the "coordinator of one of the ERNs"?***

Please refer to Article 4 of the Commission Delegated Decision (2014/286/EU) of 10 March 2014 setting out criteria and conditions that European Reference Networks and healthcare providers wishing to join a European Reference Network must fulfil (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014D0286>). It states:

*"Networks shall be composed of healthcare providers identified as Members of the Network. For each network, one Member will act as Coordinator."*

***9. We are an ERN coordinator applying for this call. In our application, who should be listed as a participant in our proposed Action: just ourselves (as the***

***ERN coordinator), ALL of the members of our ERN, or only those of our members who will be actively involved in this proposed Action?***

The ERN coordinator (and coordinating entity of the network) must be included as an applicant in the proposed Action, in order for the proposal itself to be eligible. The other members of the ERN that should be listed as applicants should only be those participating in the proposed Action and incurring costs for the purposes of the proposed Action, even if they are not requesting EU funding. Depending on the proposed Action's activities and aim, this could be all members or only a selected few. See also FAQ 11 and FAQ 12.

***10. Can the activities of existing staff of an ERN already receiving funding from other EU funding schemes (e.g. Horizon 2020 Joint Programme on rare disease research, SANTE Health programme ERN actions) be considered as eligible costs in our proposed Action?***

No, this is double funding. Pursuant to Article 129 of the Financial Regulation, an action may only receive one grant from the EU budget. Under no circumstances will the same costs be financed twice by the EU budget.

To ensure this, applicants must indicate in the application [Part A3.2] the sources and amounts of EU funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action, as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action.

***11. Are there any concerns in terms of eligibility for a proposal presented by an ERN coordinator together with one or more UK members of the same network?***

As specified in section 6.1 of the call text, following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, UK applicants are eligible to participate under this call.

***12. Our ERN is expected to change coordinator after the submission of the proposal. Should we refrain from applying?***

No. The newly designated ERN coordinator (even if it is not among the initial applicants) may take over the tasks of the original applicant/beneficiary if the new coordinator meets all the admissibility/eligibility requirements.

If you are aware that such a change may occur, please describe it under section 2.5 of application form Part D ("pending legal issues") even if at proposal submission stage the entity to be chosen as the new coordinator is not yet known.

***13. Is the use of the eDelivery building block mandatory to connect healthcare providers to ERN Core Services?***

No. The integration of the eDelivery building block is not part of the requirements of the current eHealth call. Furthermore, the connection of healthcare providers to ERN Core Services does not make use of the eDelivery building block.

***14. If we include the development of disease-specific data sets in our application, will the actual building of the data sets in CPMS be done by the European Commission?***

Yes, the new data sets will be integrated into the CPMS by the external software provider under the request and direct supervision of the dedicated services of the European Commission. Nevertheless, as indicated in the call text, proposals should clearly describe how the ERN intends to establish new data sets or optimise the existing ones, in terms of quality criteria, selection of data elements, (specialised) resources, etc.

***15. Is it possible to request funding for adaptations of hospital e-information systems of ERN member HCPs for interoperability with rare disease registries?***

No. The CEF funding is not for ERN member HCPs internal development needs, but only for the operational needs of the established networks themselves. Moreover, the CEF funding does not support development efforts, but only operational needs.

***16. Is the CEF eHealth call suitable to proceed with the CPMS-related work of the ERNs or is there a specific call coming later?***

No, there will be no future call for the CPMS. This call addresses the operational needs of the established networks, including CPMS operational needs.

***17. Does the eHDSI promote private actors who provide centralised digital solutions that enhance patient self-empowerment and optimise health actors' performance?***

No. This call does not address the external actors, but only the operational needs of the already established networks.

***18. The CEF 2018 grant ends in November 2020. Will there be an additional call for CPMS activity continuity between that and the beginning of the CEF 2020-2 grant?***

No, there will be no additional call. Please refer to section 11 of the General FAQs on the eligibility of costs, in particular FAQ 11.18 and 11.25.

***19. Can the registry activities include the incorporation of external registries into an ERN-based registry?***

The CEF funding does not support development efforts, but only operational needs. This means that only operational costs of already deployed registries are eligible under objective 4.c. It should be kept in mind that the available funding is very limited and priority should be given to the mandatory activities of this call (objectives 1 and 2.a).

***20. If members of the ERN can be added to the project proposal as consortium members, does it mean that this is now a multi-beneficiary setting? With regard to the consortium, can both full members and affiliated partners be included in the consortium as beneficiaries?***

Yes. Please refer to section 6.1 of the call text which specifies that *"only proposals submitted by the coordinator of one of the ERNs designated under Directive 2011/24/EU7 will be supported under this call. Any other ERN member may participate as a consortium member in any proposal submitted by its coordinator."*

Affiliated partners of the networks cannot participate in the consortium. The call addresses only coordinators and full members of the ERN, but not affiliated partners.

**21. Could the integration of electronic clinical data of a HCP into the registry be funded?**

It could be funded only if that is an operational need and would contribute to the population of the already existing registry (objective 4.c). No development efforts can be funded under this call. As the available funding is very limited, priority should be given to the mandatory activities of this call (objectives 1 and 2.a).

**22. What is the relationship between this call and "Develop Artificial Intelligence for diagnosis and treatment of paediatric cancer"?**

There is no reference to this topic in the CEF eHealth call text. This call does not fund research and development activities, but only operational needs of the ERNs.

**23. Could you shed some more light on point 2a of the CEF2020 call text? If our understanding is correct, this part does not refer to CPMS data, but rather to the patient data collected from each centre as part of the monitoring. As per the call text, what exactly is "the online system"; does it refer to the portal? Or should an online system be developed as part of the proposal/project?**

Your interpretation is correct: the collection and validation refers to data collected from each centre or by the network as part of the monitoring exercise. The data from CPMS will no longer be collected; it will be automatically pre-filled in the online data collection form and, as such, does not require any validation either. The "online system" is just the data collection platform the networks have been using, developed by the EC and used by the ERNs to provide their feedback during the data collection, which takes place every 6 months.

**24. The call seems to be addressed to individual ERNs to enable continuation of their Operational Helpdesk activities and/or to promote training of the new members and affiliated partners. Nevertheless, how would you perceive an application from a member state (e.g. Ministry of health)?**

This call is limited to the operational needs of the already established ERNs. Applications from national authorities are not eligible. Please refer to the eligibility criteria specified in section 6.1 of the call text and FAQ 20 above.

**25. When applying as an ERN consortium, would it be possible to request funding for the customisation of electronic health records of individual member HCPs in order to incorporate datasets appropriate for rare disease data collection and HCP (ERN) monitoring? Export of the data that would not contain any patient identification should not then be a problem. It is obvious that any kind of separate web-based platforms that require logging in and transcribing data from hospital records is and will be cumbersome and highly erroneous.**

The available CEF funding is not for ERN member HCPs internal needs, but only for the operational needs of the established networks themselves.

**26. Under Activity 3, would each ERN have its own instance of the Moodle platform, and replace some sections of its current websites for the purpose of sharing educational materials (e.g. past/future webinars + materials)?**

Activity 3 is an optional activity with the purpose of producing, adapting and/or maintaining online educational content. The European Commission is working to provide a centralised Moodle-based learning environment where all the networks who want to participate will be able to upload their educational materials and conduct their educational events. This platform is expected to be available by mid 2021 and includes a virtual classroom/web conferencing tool.

**27. We are currently looking into the possibilities of integration of Moodle with our current website, which is running on Wordpress platform. Could this possible integration be funded as a part of Activity 3?**

The creation of new independent instances of Moodle and their integration in the current websites of the networks is not eligible for funding as efforts should be directed towards the creation of new educational content and adaptation/maintenance of already existing educational content and not to the adaptation of IT systems and infrastructures.

In the special case of networks with a third party learning management system already in place, the costs for using and maintaining that system are eligible until the moment the centralised platform will be available; the costs for migrating those contents to the centralised platform, once it is available, are also eligible.

**28. Due to the current Covid situation, Moodle could help replacing some educational events in case that they are cancelled and could not be attended in person, moving their content online in synergy with an online meeting/webinar platform. Could this also be a part of the proposal under Activity 3?**

Yes, costs for managing learning activities uploaded to the centralised Moodle-based platform and for conducting online or blended learning events on that platform are eligible under activity 3. The platform will integrate virtual-classroom/web conferencing tools to facilitate educational events that cannot be attended in person due to COVID (or other) limitations.

**29. We are currently using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party webinar platform for broadcasting our educational content. We then present the recordings on our website and YouTube. Is it possible to continue with this as part of the activity 3 of the new call, in particular operation costs for organising new webinars and the license for the 3<sup>rd</sup> party platform?**

Please refer to question 27 above. The operational costs of your third party solution are eligible while the centralised learning management system (LMS) is not available. Once the centralised solution will be up and running, you can still use other solutions, but costs will no longer be eligible. Please also note that the web conferencing platform linked to the centralised LMS will be independent of Moodle. It can be used to implement virtual classrooms, meetings or webinars, inside or outside Moodle.

***30. Further development of our network requires better coding of "our" diseases in order to identify them in various patient datasets. Within this call, under Activity 4, we would like to address this issue. This would include specifying the methodology and working on the health professionals' part of the coding revision for immune-mediated diseases in order to make them compatible with the current disease classification systems. Would this activity be eligible for funding within this call?***

No, this activity is not foreseen in this CEF call and cannot be funded.