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Briefing: European Funding Opportunities under the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (2012) 6th Call for Proposals

1. Introduction

The EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) which runs from 2007 – 2013 aims to encourage greater use of information and communication technologies (ICT), assist the development of the 'information society' and promote the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiencies. It is divided into three individual programmes:

- the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- the Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)
- Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)

The detailed activities to be supported by each of these programmes are described in three specific work programmes published annually.

The Commission's ICT PSP aims to stimulate innovation and competitiveness through a wider uptake of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. In particular, it seeks to overcome existing challenges obstructing the effective widespread application of ICT in sectors of public interest such as health services, social inclusion and public administration.

2. 2012 Work Programme

The 2012 ICT PSP work programme published on 3 February describes the themes, objectives and types of actions that will be supported this year, as well as the criteria and rules for participation. The ICT PSP work programme covers five themes, of which Theme 3: *ICT for health, ageing well and inclusion* is most relevant to the NHS. This briefing only covers Theme 3 of the ICT PSP work programme for 2012.

The types of activities to be funded in this year's work programme under Theme 3 will include pilot schemes and developing thematic networks.

The 6th call for proposals to select projects under the ICT PSP work programme for 2012 is now open. [Full details on Call 6 are available here.](#)

3. ICT for health, ageing well and inclusion

The objectives proposed under Theme 3 are informed by the *European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA)* and the *eHealth Action Plan*. The work planned in this area takes into account all life cycle stages that impact on active and healthy ageing, including:

- prevention and health promotion;
- care and cure; and independent living, and
- independent living and social inclusion of elderly people.

Activities in these areas aim to:

- improve the sustainability and efficiency of health care and social systems;

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- foster the conditions to make it possible for more EU citizens to lead healthy, active and independent lives while ageing;
- boost and improve the competitiveness of the markets for innovative products and services, thus creating new opportunities for businesses.

Theme 3 will cover seven objectives and has a total budget of *EUR 24million* for 2012. These are as follows:

Objective 3.1 - wide deployment of integrated care services

Pilot type A: One pilot will be supported under this objective with up to EUR 8million of funding

The focus of the pilot is on the role ICT services and applications play in integrated care for any kind of health/living conditions, including dementia and mobility with impairment.

The aim of the action will be to unlock new services and value chains in active and healthy ageing including the involvement of new actors (such as reimbursement scheme providers, insurers, regional development planners), leading to operational deployment of new care pathways and organisational models for integrated care.

Objective 3.2 - towards open and personalised solutions for active and independent living

Pilot type B: One pilot will be supported under this objective with up to EUR 5million of funding

Pilots in this area will aim to demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of open service platforms as a basis for delivery of active and independent living services that support older people and their carers.

The provision of flexible and cost-effective ICT based solutions that are based on open standards and are interoperable has been identified as a major requirement for large scale uptake of such solutions. There is especially a need for solutions which are flexible and can be easily adapted to multiple and changing needs in differing organisational settings.

Objective 3.3 - digital capacity and skills

Pilot type B: One pilot will be supported under this objective with up to EUR 2.5million of funding

Expected activities under this pilot should cover ICT-based digital literacy training based on innovative, inclusive and creative technology solutions adjusted to and driven by end user needs (e.g. re-skilling, employability, independence) of the different target groups.

The main target group are "social inclusion agents" (public and third sector staff, formal and informal involved in health, social care and social service delivery to groups at risk of exclusion). In addition providers of trainings and coordinators of digital Inclusion initiatives could be targeted. The tools and cooperation developed by the pilot should be re-usable across the field of digital inclusion while leveraging the critical mass provided by the area of active and healthy ageing.

Objective 3.4 - fall prevention network for older persons

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Thematic network: One thematic network will be supported with a contribution of up to EUR 1million

The purpose of the network is to bring together the key national and/or regional actors to establish an innovative European fall prevention, intervention and safety initiative. The aims are: to consolidate guidelines and toolkits for deployment of innovative and ICT-based fall prevention and effective intervention solutions for elderly people; to share and compare good practices; and to disseminate information to all stakeholders across Europe.

The network should strengthen the dialogue between solution providers and the investment community (private and public actors including public authorities (at national, regional or local level) with responsibilities and budget control in the relevant area of care or supply of services) by consolidating and sharing information and shall ensure that a reliable information base is established, which can offer access to relevant information about current activities and results emerging across Europe.

Objective 3.5 - large scale deployment of telehealth services for chronic conditions management

Pilot type A: One pilot will be supported under this objective with up to EUR 5million of funding

This objective aims to strengthen the outcomes of already existing best practices and projects, and enhancing their robustness on a large-scale and on different health systems.

This pilot will: implement large-scale, real-life solutions based on innovative telehealth services by means of a patient-centred approach; validate and strengthen the evidence for chronic disease management by telehealth solutions, especially on effectiveness, cost-efficiency and transferability of the implementation of the services; and develop guidelines to identify profiles of patients who may benefit from the provision of telehealth services (for example: condition, age, severity of the condition, comorbidity, socio-economic status and any other relevant factors).

Objective 3.6 - adoption, taking up and testing of standards and specifications for eHealth interoperability

Thematic network: One thematic network will be supported with a contribution of up to EUR 1million

This thematic network will support the adoption, take-up and testing of existing eHealth standards and specifications to define an eHealth interoperability framework.

Currently, several consortia are developing standards and specifications to facilitate interoperability between eHealth systems; some are also developing testing specifications and tools used to organise interoperability testing events, and then issue interoperability quality labels. These standards and specifications will become core elements of a future eHealth European Interoperability Framework. However, to ensure an effective take up and define a complete eHealth interoperability framework it is recommended that a two-level (EU and national) interoperability testing, labelling and certification scheme is put in place. The Thematic Network is expected to contribute to this objective.

Objective 3.7 - community building on active and healthy ageing

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Thematic network: One thematic network will be supported with a contribution of up to EUR 1million

The aim of this thematic network is to increase awareness, create consensus and establish 'coalitions' of wide-scale deployment of innovative services in the area of active and healthy ageing. It should build a community for developing innovation in age-friendly environments and support sharing methodology and indicators to assess innovative services in support of active and healthy ageing.

4. Deadline for submissions

- The deadline for submissions is **15 May 2012.**

The details given above provide a summary of the key actions available under the Theme 3 of the 2012 Work Programme. For further details you are advised to consult the full text of the [ICT PSP Programme work plan for 2012.](#)

5. Useful Information

Further details of the calls for proposals published in the 2012 CIP ICT PSP work programme including the application process, and key deadlines may be found on the following links:

- [CIP ICT PSP European Commission home page](#)
- [NHS European Office CIP web page](#)
- CIP National Contact Point

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