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## Briefing: European Funding Opportunities under the EU Public Health Programme (2012)

### 1. Introduction

The Public Health Programme, is a key element in the delivery of the European Union's Public Health Strategy runs from 2008 to 2013. This Programme aims to complement initiatives being undertaken by Member States and add value to European health policies. It provides co-financing for innovative projects, conferences, joint actions, and specialised networks or bodies in the field of public health. Its objectives are to:

- improve citizens' health security
- promote health: including the reduction of health inequalities
- generate and disseminate health information and knowledge

The budget for the whole Programme is €321.5million. The priorities, financial allocation, and details of particular actions which the European Commission aims to support each year are set out in an annual work plan.

### 2. Financing Mechanisms

Proposed activities funded under the 2012 work plan will include projects, tenders, joint actions, operating grants and conferences. This year, there will be a shift away from funding joint actions, which were prioritised in 2011, with a much increased budget for project proposals and tenders. This change is particularly welcome as the project proposals element of the Public Health Programme is most relevant to NHS organisations.

#### Projects

- The proposed budget for projects under the 2012 work plan is €13.17m.
- Projects should not exceed 3 years in length, must emphasise EU added value, and have a minimum of 3 partners from 3 different Member State.
- Projects can receive up to 60% of the project value in co-financing from the European Commission (EC). (This can be increased to up to 80% in exceptional circumstances). At least 40% of a project's co-financing must therefore be funded from other sources.
- There are *eight* topics open for project proposals in this year's work plan.
  - Response coordination in the face of chemical events
  - The impact on air transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological threats
  - Support to the European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing

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- Local community including school based initiatives to prevent overweight and obesity in children and adolescents
- Action to prevent and reduce harm from alcohol
- Benchmarking comprehensive cancer care
- Preventing chronic diseases
- Support for rare diseases

## Joint Actions

- The proposed budget for joint actions under the 2012 work plan is €8.95m.
- Joint actions enable the competent authorities of the Member States participating in the programme and the European Commission to take forward work jointly on identified issues. Public or non-profit bodies may participate if they have been mandated to do so by their Member State.
- Joint Actions are jointly funded between the EC and the Member States in question. EC contributions cannot exceed 50%. In exceptional circumstances 70% EC funding will be available.
- *Five* joint actions are proposed in this year's work plan:
  - The impact on maritime transport of health threats due to the biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases
  - Improvement of HIV prevention in Europe
  - Facilitating collaboration on organ donation between national authorities in the EU
  - Forecasting health workforce needs for effective planning in the EU
  - Mental health and well-being

## Conferences

- The proposed budget for conferences under the 2012 call is €0.8m, of which €0.2m is allocated to EU Presidency conferences and €0.6m to other conferences.
- Public and not for profit bodies with relevant experience can apply.
- EC contributions cannot exceed 50% of the budget, up to a maximum amount of €0.1m.

## Tenders

- The proposed budget for tenders under the 2012 call is €14.4m.
- The deadline for submission of applications is likely to vary given the different publication dates for the various actions.
- Calls for tenders will be published throughout the course of 2012.

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## 3. Priorities in the 2012 call

The work plan for 2012 focuses on three main areas. These are:

- The Pilot European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing;
- The European platform against poverty and social exclusion; and
- The Agenda for new skills and jobs which provides the framework for work on the healthy workforce.

## 4. Key areas for NHS organisations

Actions under the themes identified in the 2012 work plan are divided under the Health Programme's three core objectives.

An outline of key actions in the 2012 work plan under each objective of relevance to NHS organisations is set out below.

- **Improve citizens' health security**

- I. Protect citizens against health threats

- *Public health preparedness and response training and exercises (Tender)*

- Objective:** to improve and reinforce the EU's preparedness to respond to potential risks. This action seeks to increase Member State officials' knowledge of cross-border risks and management of the public health response to these, and the effective use of related IT tools.

- *Public health response coordination in the face of chemical events (Project €0.45m)*

- Objective:** to ensure an efficient response to serious cross-border events caused by chemical agents through the setting up of an EU-level pilot network. The network will ensure that best practices adopted by one Member State following an incident benefit all Member States, and will enable an efficient and coherent EU-level response to potentially devastating cross-border events.

- *The impact on air transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents (Project €0.6m)*

- Objective:** to ensure an efficient response at EU level to serious cross-border health threats on aircraft. This action will support Member States in implementing the new *International Health Regulations*.

- *The impact on maritime transport of health threats due to the biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases (Joint Action EU co-funding €1.8m)*

- Objective:** to create an integrated and sustainable strategy at EU level for safeguarding the health of travellers and crew of passenger and cargo ships and preventing the cross-border spread of diseases.

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- *Improvement of HIV prevention in Europe (Joint Action EU co-funding €1.5m)*  
**Objective:** to promote the integration of quality assurance (QA) and quality improvement (QI) practices into HIV prevention programmes with the aim of improving the effectiveness of HIV prevention programmes.
- II. Improve Citizens' safety
  - *Monitoring the implementation of EU legislation on blood, blood components and tissues and cells (Tender)*  
**Objective:** to assess Member States' implementation of EU legislation with regard to blood and blood components and tissues, and produce related reports on the state of play regarding key EU legislation in this area.
  - *Facilitating collaboration on organ donation between national authorities in the EU (Joint Action EU co-funding €1.15m)*  
**Objective:** to support Member States in organising optimal allocation and use/transplantation of donated organs through multilateral and bilateral arrangements and through transplantation in other Member States.
- **Promote health**
  - I. Increasing healthy years and promoting healthy ageing
    - *Support to the European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing (Project €0.4m)*  
**Objective:** to contribute to active and healthy ageing, a priority under the *Europe 2020 Strategy*. This action will support the implementation of the *European Innovation Partnership in the field of active and healthy ageing* set out in Commission Communication COM(2010) 546 final of 6 October 2010 on *Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative — Innovation Union*.
  - II. Identifying the causes of, addressing and reducing health inequalities, within and between member states in order to contribute to prosperity and cohesion; supporting cooperation on issues of cross-border care and patient and professional mobility
    - *Identifying best practices in tobacco control to reduce health inequalities (Tender)*  
**Objectives:** to analyse the consumption of tobacco in various groups in society and the role of tobacco use as a contributor to the current and future gap in health outcomes, and analyse the impact of the interventions taken by the EU Member States and third countries to reduce tobacco-related inequalities. These measures aim to target in particular lower educational, occupational and income groups, different gender and age groups and specific socially disadvantaged groups.
    - *Forecasting health workforce needs for effective planning in the EU (Joint action EU co-funding €3m)*  
**Objectives:** to provide a platform for Member States to work together on forecasting health workforce needs and workforce planning methodologies and to find possible solutions to the shortage of the health workforce in Europe.

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III. Addressing health determinants to promote and improve physical and mental health and taking action on key factors such as nutrition and physical activity, and on addiction related determinants such as tobacco and alcohol

- *Mental health and well-being (Joint Action EU co-funding €1.5m)*  
**Objective:** to establish a process for structured work on mental health involving Member States, stakeholders in the health and other relevant sectors, and international organisations, in particular the WHO and the OECD.
- *Local community including school-based initiatives to prevent overweight and obesity among children and adolescents (Project €1.2m)*  
**Objective:** to contribute to the reduction of overweight and obesity-related diseases among young people.
- *Action to prevent and reduce harm from alcohol (Project €0.5m)*  
**Objectives:** to protect children and young people from harmful alcohol consumption, and to raise awareness of lower-risk consumption patterns.
- *Communication campaign aimed at encouraging smoking cessation (Tender)*  
**Objectives:** to raise awareness about tobacco damage, and to encourage people to quit smoking, targeting young adults and different gender groups, groups within society where smoking prevalence is higher than average, and disadvantaged groups.

IV. Prevention of major and rare diseases

- *Providing information on cancer and pursuing efforts towards better cancer prevention and control (Project €0.5m)*  
**Objectives:** to obtain the latest available information on the cancer burden in the EU and to advance work on cancer prevention and control on the basis of the latest scientific developments and knowledge. This action will directly contribute to achieving the aims of the *European Innovation Partnership in the field of active and healthy ageing*.
- *Preventing chronic diseases (Project €1.4m)*  
**Objective:** to help Member States develop and implement more cost-effective policies on chronic disease prevention.
- *Support for rare diseases information networks (Project €4.5m)*  
**Objective:** to support the setting up of new rare disease registers or rare disease information networks.

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- **Generate and Disseminate health information and knowledge**

- I. Analysis and reporting

*Provisions of comparable evidence-based data and information to support policy measures (Tender)*

**Objective:** to provide analysis, comparable information and independent, high-quality scientific data for the evidence-based development, implementation and evaluation of action for health at EU level and within Member States, including for the *European Innovation Partnership in the field of active and healthy ageing*.

## 5. Deadline for submissions

- The deadline for calls for project proposals, joint actions, conferences and operating grants is **9 March 2012**.
- The deadlines for submission of applications for tenders will be published throughout 2012.

The details given above provide a summary of the actions available under the 2012 Work Plan and are not an exhaustive list. For further details you are advised to consult the full text of the Public Health Programme work plan for 2012.

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2012_en.pdf)

## 6. Relevant websites

Further details of the calls for proposals for projects, joint actions, conferences, and operating grants published in the 2012 Public Health Programme work plan including the application process, and key deadlines may be found on the following links:

- Public Health Programme 2008 -2013: Call for Proposals 2012

[http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/calls\\_for\\_health\\_programme.html](http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/calls_for_health_programme.html)

- Call for proposals for projects

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/projects.html>

- Call for proposals for joint actions

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/actions.html>

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- Call for proposals for conferences

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/conferences.html>

- Call for proposals for operating grants

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/grants.html>