

NHS European Office

Briefing on the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7): 2011 Cooperation (excluding 'Health' theme) Calls for Projects

Summary

This briefing is intended to inform NHS organisations of the European Union's (EU) Research Framework Programme, give an overview of potential funding opportunities for the NHS (from work programmes other than the core health theme) and advise how to apply for funding. Contact details and key website links are also provided for further information.

NHS organisations interested in participating in an EU project are advised to consult the European Commission's website and to contact the NHS European Office to discuss participation.

What is the EU's Research Framework Programme?

The research and innovation activities of the EU are grouped into an overarching Research Framework Programme. The current Framework Programme, known as the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), is the EU's main instrument for funding research and runs for the period 2007 - 2013.

It has two main objectives:

- to strengthen the scientific and technological base of European industry; and
- to encourage international competitiveness, while promoting research that supports EU policies.

The Programme has four different blocks: 'cooperation', 'ideas', 'people' and 'capacities'. These blocks cover the following areas:

- **Cooperation:** funding for projects on certain themes such as health, biotechnology, ICT and energy;
- **Ideas:** funding for the European Research Council (an independent scientific council);
- **People:** funding for actions which focus on the training and mobility of researchers;
- **Capacities:** funding for projects on research infrastructures, research for the benefit of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and initiatives aiming to strengthen the research potential of European regions.

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Cooperation

Cooperation is the core programme of FP7 and has two thirds of the overall budget assigned to it (€32,413 million).

Cooperation research is carried out across ten thematic areas:

1. Health
2. Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology
3. Information and communications technologies
4. Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies
5. Energy
6. Environment (including climate change)
7. Transport (including aeronautics)
8. Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities
9. Space
10. Security

Whilst the 'Health' theme is the core focus of NHS funding bids, there are opportunities across Cooperation. Within the 2011 work programmes, themes 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 also offer potential funding opportunities for the NHS. Please see the Annex to this document for a full list of the projects which are considered to be of greatest relevance to the NHS from these themes.

A separate briefing document has been developed to cover the 'Health' theme (see 'Innovation and EU Funding' at www.nhsconfed.org/europe), and what follows is an overview of opportunities from the other thematic areas.

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Cooperation funding in 2011 for NHS organisations (excluding 'health' theme)

A brief summary of the relevant themes follows and a full list of projects that have been identified as potentially of interest to the NHS is contained within the Annex.

1) Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology (KBBE – Knowledge Based Bio-Economy)

- A priority of this work programme is creating a socially inclusive and healthy Europe.
- Some topics address the challenge for Europe to shift from a defensive health policy in combating illness to a preventative approach promoting the health of every citizen.
- There is a focus on the needs of the ageing population and the most vulnerable (e.g. children and people on low incomes).

2) Information and communications technologies (ICT)

- ICT will be developed to respond to societal challenges such as the ageing population, sustainable health and social care, inclusion, education and security.
- This work programme sets out 8 key challenges that it seeks to address. The most relevant for NHS organisations is Challenge 5: ICT for health, ageing well, inclusion and governance.
- Challenge 5 includes a focus on disease prevention, early diagnosis, prevention, minimally invasive treatment, and overall disease management and support to healthy lifestyles. It also seeks to prolong independent living, extend active working life and provide assistive technologies for people with disabilities. A final focus is on ICT tools for governance and policy modeling.
- There are also opportunities for NHS organisations within Challenge 6: ICT for a low carbon economy.

3) Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies (NMP)

- Nanotechnology is an evolving technology which can contribute to raising living standards and improving quality of life.
- There is a specific focus in the 2011 work programme on the use of nanotechnology to benefit the environment, energy and health.

4) Environment (ENV)

- Within this work programme there are opportunities in the area of 'environment and health' with the aim of understanding the impact of the environment on human populations.

5) Socio-economic sciences and humanities (SSH)

- The objective of this theme is to develop an understanding of the complex and interrelated socio-economic challenges facing Europe.
- Two activity areas are highlighted as having potential funding opportunities for the NHS: 'Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society – the European case' and 'Major trends in society and their implications'.

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How to apply

All NHS organisations are eligible to apply for EU FP7 funding. In order for there to be a 'European' element to each project, the European Commission requests that applications should be from a consortium of several partners from different EU Member States. The minimum number of partners depends on the size of the project and the funding available for that specific topic. However, in most instances, a consortium should be comprised of at least 3 partners from different Member States, and in many cases consortium develop with a much larger membership.

The type and scale of project within Cooperation varies from Large-Scale Integrating Collaborative Projects to Coordination and Support Actions. There are different rules of participation depending on the type of project. Please ensure you review these details within the work programmes or discuss with the NHS European Office and also the relevant National Contact Point (details can be found in the Annex).

NHS bodies can submit applications as the 'lead organisation' (i.e. leading and coordinating the project proposal) or as a partner. We would recommend organisations which do not have experience with EU research programmes to initially seek participation as a partner (as opposed to a 'lead organisation') given the complexities of the application process and the size and range of projects, as well as the numbers of partners involved.

NHS organisations wishing to join a project proposal or who are looking for a European partner can visit the following websites which have partner-search facilities:

- European Commission partner-search mechanism:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html
- SMEs Go Health partner-search mechanism:
www.smesgohealth.org/common/Participate.asp

We advise NHS organisations to look at previous projects in order to have an idea of the type of work already funded by the European Commission and to see the range of participants from the public sector, universities and industry.

Previous projects funded under FP7 can be found at the website below:

- http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

Please note that most FP7 projects are based on a principle of 'co-funding' and therefore the EU may expect participants to contribute towards some of the costs.

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Next steps and further information

The NHS European Office can assist NHS organisations wishing to access EU funding. In particular, the NHS European Office can help NHS organisations in:

- obtaining further information on FP7 and its calls for proposals, as well as the organisation of relevant information events;
- liaising with the European Commission to discuss possible plans for a project proposal and whether the ideas correspond with the Commission's priorities for funding;
- seeking a consortium that is currently being established around a specific topic of interest;
- seeking to identify a European partner to cooperate with in developing a project proposal.

If you are interested in finding out more, or are planning to get involved in one of these calls, we would strongly encourage you to liaise with us.

Additional information on the different Cooperation themes can be obtained via the UK's national contact points (NCPs). There is a different NCP for each thematic area. The Annex lists the contact details of the NCPs.

Relevant websites

- NHS European Office:
www.nhsconfed.org/europe
- FP7 home page:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
- MRC website:
<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Internationalopportunities/index.htm>

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ANNEX

Topics from FP7 Cooperation: Themes other than Health 2011

1. Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology

- European interprofessional network addressing zoonotic diseases transmitted via companion animals (Call: FP7-KBBE-2011-5)
- New technologies and tools and their potential application to nutrition research (Call: FP7-KBBE-2011-5)
- Long-term influence of early nutrition on health (Call: FP7-KBBE-2011-5)
- Pan-European Total Diet Study (Call: FP7-KBBE-2011-5)

Deadline for submissions 25th January 2011 at 16:00 (UK time)

- Coordination action in support of the implementation by participating States of a Joint Programming Initiative on 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' (Call: FP7-JPROG-2011-RTD)

Deadline for submissions 5th October 2010 at 16:00 (UK time)

UK National Contact Point: Mr Tim Willis

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

Polaris House

North Star Avenue

Swindon

SN2 1UH

Telephone: 01793 413 247

2. Information and communications technologies

- Personal Health Systems (PHS) for remote management of diseases, treatment and rehabilitation, outside of hospitals and care centres (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)
- Virtual Physiological Human (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7 and FP7-ICT-2011-9)
- Patient Guidance Services (PGS) for personalized management of health status (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)
- ICT for ageing and wellbeing (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)
- ICT for smart and personalised inclusion (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)
- ICT solutions for governance and policy modeling (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)
- ICT systems for energy efficiency (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-7)

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- Future and emerging technologies (FET) proactive: Neuro-Bio-Inspired Systems (NBIS) (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-9)
- Ensuring more efficient, higher quality public services through pre-commercial procurement (Call: FP7-ICT-2011-8)

Deadline for submissions 18th January 2011 at 16:00 (UK time)

- ICT for energy-efficient buildings and spaces of public use (Call: FP7-2011-NMP-ENV-ENERGY-ICT-EeB)

Deadline for submissions 2nd December 2010 at 16:00 (UK time)

UK National Contact Point: Mr Peter Walters

TUV/NEL

Management Consulting

Napier Building

East Kilbride

G75 0QF

Telephone 08701 910 112

3. Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies

- Nanotechnology based implantable and interfaceable devices (Call: FP7-NMP-2011-SMALL-5)
- Biomaterials for tissue engineering for age-related cancer and sensory organ diseases (Call: FP7-NMP-2011-SMALL-5)

Deadline for submissions 4th November 2010 at 16:00 (UK time)

NB These are both two-stage procedure calls. Only a brief proposal is required for the first deadline and, if successful, a more detailed submission is required for the second-stage which has an indicative deadline of 28th April 2011.

UK National Contact Point: Dr Alastair McGibbon

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Management Consulting

Napier Building

East Kilbride

G75 0QF

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4. Environment

- Environmental change and its effects on atopic diseases (allergies, asthma, eczema) in Europe (Call: FP7-ENV.2011)
- Combined exposures to environmental agents: integrated approaches to evaluate environment-health relationships in children (Call: FP7-ENV.2011)
- Exposure to electro-magnetic fields (EMF): investigations of mechanisms to support risk assessment and reduce uncertainty (Call: FP7-ENV.2011)
- Positive effects of natural environment for human health and well-being (Call: FP7-ENV.2011)

Deadline for submissions 16th November 2010 at 16:00 (UK time)

UK National Contact Point: Mr Chris Barker

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Nobel House

17 Smith Street

London

SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020 7238 1629

5. Socio-economic sciences and humanities

- Social platform on innovative Social Services (Call: FP7-SSH-2011-3)

Deadline for submissions 2nd February 2011 at 16:00 (UK time)

- Drug demand and supply reduction (ERA-Net) (Call: FP7-ERANET-2011-RTD)

Deadline for submissions 22nd February 2011 at 16:00 (UK time)

UK National Contact Point: Ms Samantha McGregor

Economic and Social Research Council

Polaris House

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