

NHS European Office

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

Summary

On 20 July 2010 the European Commission published the 2011 Health Work Programme. This briefing is intended to inform NHS organisations of the EU's Research Framework Programme, give an overview of the key topics for funding relevant to the NHS, 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 contact the NHS European Office to discuss your 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.

The levels of funding for the different blocks vary. The **health theme** (part of the Cooperation block) has been allocated **€6.1 billion for 2007 to 2013** and covers a range of health topics including specific disease areas such as cancer, emerging epidemics, diagnostics and delivery of health services.

NHS European Office

Key areas for NHS organisations: the focus for funding in 2011

The total budget allocation for projects funded in 2011 is approximately €682 million.

Some of the priorities of the 2011 Health Work Programme are:

- **Involvement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**

The European Commission hopes to attract research-intensive SMEs to participate in the health theme to ensure that new research and development findings are brought to the market and to patients. There are, therefore, a number of SME dedicated topics to encourage participation.

NHS organisations may wish to consider involvement of SMEs in collaborative projects to increase the attractiveness of their bid to the Commission.

- **Two pilot actions for high impact research initiatives (large-scale integrating research projects, up to €30 million funds each)**

There are two large-scale projects in 2011: epigenomics and immunisation strategies and applications.

There are likely to be consortia already developed/developing to apply for these significant projects. If you are interested in being involved, we would recommend that you contact the NHS European Office for further information.

- **Supporting innovative clinical trials to verify safety and efficacy**

The aim is to translate research into clinical practice, thereby increasing therapeutic options for patients, and to stimulate the implementation of best practice across all Member States.

- **How lifestyle affects health and how this can be mitigated**

The impact of lifestyle factors (such as nutrition, environment, smoking etc) will be considered across a range of areas including brain-related diseases, diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

- **Global health issues**

Focus is placed upon antimicrobial resistance and emerging epidemics.

Further information

- NHS organisations can access the full Work Programme for 2011 at:

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/wp/cooperation/health/a-wp-201101_en.pdf

- The Annex at the end of this note provides a summary list of research projects.
- NHS organisations may be interested in accessing FP7 funding in other work programme areas, such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Please see our website for further information: www.nhsconfed.org/europe

NHS European Office

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. In recognition of the opening of NIH programmes to European researchers, participants established in the USA are also eligible for funding.

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 health 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.

The application process for projects follows a single or two stage procedure. Single stage proposals are evaluated on the basis of three criteria: scientific/technological quality, implementation and impact. The deadline for submission is **10 November 2010** (4.00pm UK time).

In two stage proposals, only scientific/technological quality and impact are assessed initially and the deadline for these submissions is **13 October 2010** (4.00pm UK time). Proposals that pass the evaluation thresholds at this stage are invited to submit a complete proposal which will be assessed against the full set of criteria (including implementation). The indicative deadline for the second submission is **February 2011**.

All projects listed in the Annex are marked as single or two stage applications.

NHS European Office

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 this call for proposals, we would strongly encourage you to liaise with us.

Additional information on the Health Work Programme is also available via the UK's FP7 national contact point:

Jill Jones

Medical Research Council

Tel: + 44 (0)20 76705274

E-mail: jill.jones@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk

Relevant websites

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

Sally Elkes

Senior Policy Manager – NHS European Office

Tel: + 32 (0)2 227 6448

E-mail: Sally.Elkes@nhsconfed.org

NHS European Office

ANNEX

Topics from the FP7 Cooperation Work Programme: Health 2011

1. Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health

• High-throughput research

- SME-targeted research for developing tools and technologies for high-throughput research (two stage)
- Genome-based biomarkers for patient stratification and pharmacogenomic strategies (two stage)
- High-throughput proteomics for human health and disease (single stage)

• Innovative therapeutic approaches and interventions

- Regenerative medicine clinical trials (two stage)
- Tools, technologies and devices for application in regenerative medicine (two stage)
- Development and production of new, high-affinity protein scaffolds for therapeutic use (two stage)
- High impact research initiative for better immunisation (single stage)
- New therapeutic approaches in chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases (single stage)

2. Translating research for human health

• Large-scale data gathering

- High impact research initiative on the human epigenome (single stage)
- Proteins and their interactions in health and disease (two stage)
- Large-scale genomics approaches to identify host determinants of infectious diseases (two stage)
- Population genetics studies on cardio-metabolic disorders in EU/AC and EECA populations (single stage)

• Brain and brain-related diseases

- Investigator-driven clinical trials for childhood-onset neurodegenerative diseases (two stage)
- Understanding the role of neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative diseases (two stage)

NHS European Office

- Addictive and/or compulsive behaviour in children and adolescents: translating pre-clinical results into therapies (two stage)
- Creating clinical and molecular tools for experimental therapy of paediatric neurodegenerative disorders causing childhood dementia in Europe and India (single stage)
- ERA-Net on disease-related neurosciences (ERANET-2011)
- **Human development and ageing**
 - Investigator-driven clinical trials for therapeutic interventions in elderly populations (two stage)
 - Linking human development and ageing (two stage)
- **Anti-microbial drug resistance**
 - Investigator-driven clinical trials of off-patent antibiotics (two stage)
 - Multi-disciplinary research on the evolution and transfer of antibiotic resistance (single stage)
 - Management of Gram negative multi-drug resistant infections (single stage)
 - Development of multi-analyte diagnostic tests (two stage)
 - Development of tools to control microbial biofilms with relevance to clinical drug resistance (two stage)
- **Potentially new and re-emerging epidemics**
 - Identification of factors promoting the emergence of pathogens with human pandemic potential from pathogens with a zoonotic background and related prevention strategies (two stage)
 - Comprehensive control of Dengue fever under changing climatic conditions (single stage)
 - Development of an evidence-based behavioural and communication package to respond to major epidemic outbreaks (two stage)
- **Translational research in other major disease**
 - Cancer:**
 - Investigator-driven clinical treatment trials for rare cancers (two stage)
 - Translational research on cancers with poor prognosis (two stage)
 - Epidemiology and aetiology of infection-related cancers (single stage)
 - CVD:**
 - Investigator-driven clinical trials for the management of cardiovascular diseases (two stage)

NHS European Office

- Evaluation and validation studies of clinically useful biomarkers in prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases (two stage)

Diabetes and obesity:

- Investigator-driven clinical trials to reduce diabetes complications (two stage)
- Development of novel treatment strategies based on knowledge of cellular dysfunction (two stage)
- Molecular and physiological effects of lifestyle factors on diabetes/obesity (two stage)
- Genetic and environmental factors in obesity and/or diabetes in specific populations (two stage)
- ERA-NET on diabetes prevention and treatment (ERANET-2011)

3. Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens

• Health promotion

- Developing methodologies to reduce inequities in the determinants of health (two stage)
- Analysis of integrated strategies for sustainable behaviour change (two stage)
- Developing and implementing methods for the transfer of research into policy in the fields of health promotion and disease prevention (single stage)
- A road-map for mental health research in Europe (single stage)

• International public health and health systems

- Development and assessment of comprehensive and integrated interventions and programmes to improve reproductive health and health equity (single stage)
- Building sustainable capacity for research for health and its social determinants in low and middle income countries (single stage)
- Multilateral cooperation between Europe, Africa and Latin America on public health and health services research (single stage)

4. Other actions across the health theme

• Coordination and support actions

- Networking of major research institutions to coordinate communication actions aimed at the media and the general public (single stage)
- Targeting publication bias (single stage)
- Linking EU and Latin American policy making institutions in the field of health research (single stage)

NHS European Office

- Organisation of supporting actions and events related to the Presidency of the European Union (single stage)

- **Responding to EU policy needs**
 - Investigator-driven clinical trials on off-patent medicines for children (single stage)
 - Adverse drug reaction research (single stage)
 - New methodologies for clinical trials in personalised medicine (single stage)