
3rd EU Health Programme

Please contact the BMA's European Office – rdelis@bma.org.uk to obtain more detailed information about EU funding, including advice on how to apply.

EU Health Programme 2014-2020

This new programme – ‘Third programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020’ – simplifies access to EU funds by creating a ‘one stop shop’ with a budget of €449.394 million. The new programme will support member states’ actions aimed at encouraging innovation in health care, increasing the sustainability of health care systems, improving citizens’ health and protecting them against cross-border health threats. The four key targets of the new health programme are:

- Promotion of good health and prevention of diseases: eligible actions include the exchange of good practice for addressing risk factors, such as smoking, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity
- Protection from cross-border health threats, which might be improved via an increase of the capacities for scientific expertise
- Innovative and sustainable health systems: in this area, the new EU health programme could provide support of the voluntary cooperation between member states on health technology assessment (HTA, as part of the voluntary network on HTA established by Directive 2011/24/EU (cross-border health care)
- Increased access to better and safer health care: eligible actions include support for member states and patient organisations to help patients affected by rare diseases and the reduction of practices that increase antimicrobial resistance

The EU will cover 60% of the costs for an action under the programme or up to 80% for a joint action under special criteria. Joint actions are activities carried out by one or more member states or by the EU and the competent authorities of other countries participating in the Health Programme together. They focus on the greatest cross-border public health needs. The programme is open to non-EU countries, in particular to accession candidates, countries that are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and of the European Economic Area (EEA), neighbouring countries and other countries that have a bilateral or multilateral agreement with the EU. More specifically, the Programme is open to the following organisations:

- Legally established organisations
- Public authorities, public sector bodies (research and health institutions, universities and higher education establishments)
- Non-governmental bodies
- International organisations

The third EU Health Programme 2014-2020 was finally adopted by European Parliament on 26 February 2014 with the full text available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2014-2020/index_en.htm

The NFPs (National Focal Points) are the national experts for the EU Health Programme in member states and participating countries. NFP representatives are appointed by their national health ministries. The NHS European Office is the UK's NFP for the Programme.

The EC (European Commission) has recently adopted the [2017 work programme](#) and the list of topics available for funding available in 2017 are listed in the table below:

Grants
Supporting member states in mainstreaming health promotion and disease prevention in health and educational settings
Support to coordination and management and non-clinical activities of European Reference Networks (ERNs) through annual SGAs (Specific Grant Agreement) - only for those with an approved FPA (framework partnership agreements)
Joint Actions (mainly for national competent authorities) - member states can express their interest to join by 11 May.
Joint Action on Health Inequalities
Joint Action — Innovative Partnership on Action against Cancer
Joint Action on Vaccination
Joint Action on preparedness and action at points of entry (air, maritime and ground crossing)
Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network
Joint Action on Health Information towards a sustainable EU health information system that supports country knowledge, health research and policy-making
Financial contribution to the functioning of nongovernmental bodies (operating grants)
Prizes
Organised annually to recognise the vital role of European, national and/or subnational non-governmental bodies
Procurement – new framework contracts or specific agreements for 2017 only (i.e. not included procurement based on an ongoing framework contract)
The EU dimension of alcohol related harm

The eligibility criteria for projects are:

- Applicants must be legally established
- Only applicants from 28 EU member states plus Norway and Iceland can apply as well as countries which have a bilateral agreement with the European Union (Serbia and Moldova)
- A project proposal must be submitted by at least 3 different legal entities from 3 different eligible countries
- The only eligible activities are those listed in the work plan 2017
- The co-funding applies for a future project. Running projects cannot be supported
- Applications must be submitted in writing via the [Participant Portal](#)

Open Calls for Projects

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Supporting member states in mainstreaming health promotion and disease prevention in health and educational settings - thematic priority 1.3 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

It aims to communicate the potential of health promotion and disease prevention and health determinants in member states and to increase the commitment of public authorities to this topic. Lifestyle determinants have a major impact on peoples' health throughout the whole lifetime, on the burden on health systems and on the productivity of our societies. A workshop and a conference are planned with the participation of the main medical faculties and the Chief Medical Officers from all member states. The workshop will be preceded by the preparation of a report providing an overview of the current situation in the EU (this document will be updated after the workshop) and it will be followed by a conference.

Funding available: €250 000

Deadline: 15 June 2017

Link to further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/topics/pj-01-2017.html>

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Financial contribution to the functioning of non-governmental bodies.

Objectives:

Operating grants may be awarded to non-governmental bodies that pursue one or more of the specific objectives of the Health Programme. It is expected that these non-governmental bodies assist the EC with the information and advice necessary for the development of health policies and the implementation of the Programme objectives. It is also expected that non-governmental bodies will work on increased health literacy and promotion of healthy life styles, the organisation of science policy conferences and contribute to the optimisation of healthcare activities and practices by providing feedback from and facilitating communication with patients thus empowering them. The EC also encourages these non-governmental bodies to work together with the [European Solidarity Corps](#), where appropriate.

This call for proposals is organised for the conclusion of four-year FPA covering years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, in particular, but not limited to, the following priority areas: prevention and health determinants, chronic diseases, cancer, dementia, rare diseases, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, access to healthcare, and substances of human origin.

Funding available: €5 000 000

Deadline: 15 June 2017

Link to further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/topics/fpa-01-2017.html>

Upcoming Calls for Projects

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: ERNs (European Reference Networks) - thematic priority 4.1 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

The expected result is the establishment, coordination and management activities of the approved ERN with the aim to support the provision of highly-specialised healthcare for rare or low-prevalence complex diseases or conditions, to provide a better governance and coordination, to support development of knowledge and expertise to diagnose, follow up and management of patients. ERNs are expected to enhance a multi-disciplinary approach and increase the level of expertise and the capacity to produce good practice guidelines and to implement outcome measures and quality control as well as providing support to research coordination and teaching and training activities.

Funding available: €200 000 max per ERN, €4 600 000 available in total

Publication date: first half 2017

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Joint Action on health inequalities - thematic priority 1.1 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

It aims to develop a clear policy framework with a list of actions and recommendations for local take up and implementation at national and regional level in order to fight health inequalities and to support health systems dealing with challenges related to integrating vulnerable groups. It includes those inequalities related to high influxes of migrants and the need of integrating these particular populations in the regular health systems. The recommendations will include suggestions for improved monitoring, governance and evaluation of measures on health inequalities; identified factors of success, as well as barriers and challenges and measures proposed for tackling these issues.

The work will build on the existing evidence, including the conclusions of the [Marmot report](#) and the [recommendations](#) of the WHO (World Health Organisation) Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

Funding available: €2 500 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Joint Action on Innovative Partnership on Action against Cancer - thematic priority 1.4 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

Making use of recent scientific advances, this Joint Action is expected to reinforce prevention of cancer via population based programmes on cancer screening, further developing the principles of the [2003 Recommendation](#) on Cancer Screening that covers only 3 types of cancer – breast, cervical and colorectal cancer, giving particular attention to genetic screening and personalised medicine.

Specific recommendations for early detection and registration of cancers for which classical prevention measures are not effective are expected to contribute substantially to the fight against cancer. In addition,

the development of a road map for the use of the member states will operationalise previous work of the [CANCON](#) (Comprehensive Cancer Control Joint Action) for the implementation of the [European Guide on Quality Improvement in Comprehensive Cancer Control](#) at national and regional level.

Funding available: €4 500 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: [3rd Health Programme](#)

Call: Joint Action on vaccination - thematic priority 2.2 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

This action aims to establish cooperation of member state authorities dealing with vaccination, with a focus on cooperation on vaccine demand planning and forecasting, and other issues related to preparedness, while fully respecting member state responsibilities. The Joint Action will define commonly basic principles for vaccine demand forecasting and develop a concept and prototype of a data-warehouse for an EU-wide central repository on vaccine supply and demand data.

Funding available: €3 000 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: [3rd Health Programme](#)

Call: Joint Action on preparedness and action at points of entry (air, maritime and ground crossing - thematic priority 2.2 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

This Joint Action aims to develop catalogues of tested best practice and guidelines, including validated action plans for the use of the member states' health authorities, to be implemented at operational level through agencies and stakeholders in the field of transport. These catalogues of tested best practice and guidelines are expected to provide the basis for coordinated cross sectoral actions to control infectious disease transmission and possible vectors for pathogens on ground transportation, on ships, and in aircrafts in case of a serious cross-border threat to health affecting or inherently coming from the transport sector.

The main goal of this action is to prepare the transport sector for immediate and adequate response to serious cross-border threats to health. A network will be put in place to communicate and notify rapidly in case of cross-border risks to health including coordination of concerted actions.

Funding available: €3 000 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: [3rd Health Programme](#)

Call: Joint Action supporting the eHealth Network - thematic priority 3.2 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

This Joint Action is expected to further facilitate cross-border healthcare across the EU and overcome barriers in the implementation of digital solutions in member states' healthcare systems and provide the necessary policy support to the eHDSI (eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure) with view to implementing the EC's Digital Single Market Strategy as regards interoperability and standardisation.

eHealth and health services based on digital solutions are essential for implementing innovation in healthcare and are broadly recognised as an essential element to achieve sustainable healthcare systems.

For this reason the eHealth Network was set up by Directive 2011/24/EU on patient rights in cross-border healthcare. It works for the implementation of the objectives for EU cooperation in eHealth.

Funding available: €2 700 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Joint Action on Health Information towards a sustainable EU health information system that supports country knowledge, health research and policy-making - thematic priority 3.7 of Annex I to the Programme.

Objectives:

The Joint Action is expected to build on previous projects and initiatives on EU health information and lead to the establishment of [ERIC](#) (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) on Health Information. ERIC consists of two pillars - research and policy – acting as a facilitator of existing systems and data networks providing support to member states via distributing platform – co called ‘House of Networks’ with a group of experts covering the whole EU. It would operate under strict member state governance benefiting from relevant EU funding opportunities at a relatively low cost to its members. The four core activities includes:

- generate knowledge - health data and indicators: definitions and standards; methodology; collection; analysis
- manage knowledge - centralised virtual documentation; access; data protection and privacy
- exchange knowledge - best practices; capacity building; networks and communities
- translate knowledge – tailored; research outcomes; expert advice

It will coordinate all expert networks on health information developed by the [BRIDGE](#) (Bridging Information and Data Generation for Evidence-based Health Policy and Research Project) ensuring their transition to an ERIC on Health Information. It will also facilitate member states’ involvement in the ERIC and will liaise with member states who are not currently part of the process. Finally, the Joint Action would support the start-up phase of the ERIC once established.

The main objectives are:

- Supports prioritisation of health-information activities, and the reduction of duplications and data collection burden on member states
- Prepares transition to a EU Health Information System by putting in place some of its core components

The major impact expected is a sustainable solid infrastructure on EU health information (ERIC) facilitating research and evidence-based health policy-making across member states through improving the availability of comparable, robust and policy-relevant health data and information. This will strengthen the basis for monitoring the health status of EU citizens and the performance of EU health systems, such monitoring being of key importance for effective and efficient policy-making and evaluation.

Funding available: €4 000 000

Publication date: second half 2017

Fund: 3rd Health Programme

Call: Procurement – new framework contracts or specific agreements for 2017 only (i.e. not included procurement based on an ongoing framework contract).

Objectives:

Procurement covers activities such as the evaluation and monitoring of actions and policies; studies; provision of advice, data and information on health; scientific and technical assistance; communication,

awareness raising and dissemination of results; and information technology applications in support of policies. These activities are implemented through service contracts based on existing framework contracts, service contracts or new framework contracts.

Topics:

- Pilot on reformulation support and monitoring
- Support to the design and implementation of public procurement guidelines for food
- Support to the design and implementation of measures to reduce the exposure of children to marketing of foods high in fat, sugar or salt
- The EU dimension of alcohol related harm - Based on the results of the 2014-2016 Joint Action to reduce alcohol related harm, this initiative will scale up and reinforce the Joint Action outcomes, and at the same time substantially increase support to member states through a specific framework contract covering the period 2017-2020. The initiative will strengthen the EU dimension of the efforts tackling alcohol related harm by covering a wide range of specific topics identified by the EC and the member states. It will increase the knowledge base and provide tools that can effectively support the member states' activities in this area. The specific contract within this Annual work programme 2017 covers the following activities:
 - Targeted activities on alcohol contributing to the WHO target of a 10 % reduction of alcohol related harm will be carried out in form of a framework service contract to support specific objectives established by the CNAPA (Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action). The activities will include support to addressing the main challenges on alcohol related harm, lowering alcohol consumption and preventing alcohol abuse.
- Action plan to fight inactivity and promote physical activity
- Feasibility of a European expert network for rare communicable diseases and other rare pathologies linked to globalisation/migration
- Analysis of collected health information regarding health status of refugees
- EU Health Policy Platform
- Provision of technical and scientific input to support the implementation of the new Tobacco Products Directive and further development of existing tobacco control measures on the EU level
- Workshops and table-top exercises to support the implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border health threats and of the core capacities under international health regulations
- Conduct of a comprehensive analysis of vaccination schedules and on the development of technical guidance on financial planning of national vaccination programmes
- Workshop on best practices on entry and exit screening
- EU market access paths for medical technologies with a focus on health technology assessments
- Stakeholders forum on EU cooperation on health technology assessment
- Health innovation — eHealth
- Scientific and technical assistance for the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health
- Development of the future Eudamed, the European medical devices database, following the adoption of new Regulations on medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic medical devices by the legislators
- Maintenance and required developments of the existing Eudamed
- Translations, info campaigns, publications — on medical devices
- Clinical Trial EU Portal and Database
- Study on the impact of the incentives provided in the EU legislation on innovation — accessibility of medicinal products
- Study of centralised and decentralised procedures for pharmaceutical products
- Support to the implementation of health systems performance assessment
- Assessment of healthcare providers wishing to join established ERNs by Independent Assessment Bodies

Funding available: €14 341 585
Publication date: first half 2017

