



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON HEALTH SERVICES AND MEDICAL CARE**

<b>Document:</b> Information on possibilities for funding from the current and future health programmes	
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## 1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to provide basic explanation of the possibilities for funding under the current Public Health Programme (2003-2008) and to inform about the Commission's proposal of the Programme for Health and Consumer protection (2007-2013). More detailed information about the applications for funding under the Public Health Programme can be found on the SANCO website at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_programme/programme\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/programme_en.htm).

## 2. Public Health Programme 2003-2008

On 23 September 2002, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Community action programme for public health.<sup>1</sup> This Public health programme runs for a 6 year period (from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2008). The programme seeks to create self-sustainable mechanism which will enable the Member States to coordinate their health related activities. The programme is based on three general objectives:

- health information,
- rapid reaction to health threats
- and health promotion through addressing health determinants.

Some actions related to health services and medical care can be funded under the programme, principally under the health information strand as activities contributing to the exchange of information and good practice, as well as contributing to other related activities such as health impact assessment and health technologies.

The total budget of the public health programme for the period 2003-2008 is € 353.77 million. An important part of the programme budget is implemented through annual calls for proposals. Measures under the public health programme are eligible for funding through project subsidies and public contracts. The period for submitting applications normally ends around 15 April each year. The Financial Regulation<sup>2</sup> and its Implementing Rules<sup>3</sup> are the reference documents for the implementation of the Public health programme. These two documents make the granting and monitoring of subsidies subject to specific provisions. Grants must comply with the following principles: having co-financing, being non-profit-making; not being retroactive; and not being cumulative with respect to other grants.

To be eligible for financial support, projects must contribute to a high level of health protection and be consistent with one or more of the specific objectives set out in the programme. Priority is given to projects which:

- provide European added value: proposals which yield relevant economies of scale at European level, involve as many eligible countries as possible and are capable of being applied elsewhere. Proposals which offer something new in relation to the existing situation and are not of a recurrent nature;

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 adopting a programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008), OJ L 271, 09.10.2002

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 248, 16.09.2002

<sup>3</sup> Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 357, 31.12.2002

- support policy developments at Community level in the field of public health;
- devote appropriate attention to an efficient management structure, a clear evaluation process and an understandable description of the expected results;
- include adequate diffusion of results at European level to appropriate target audiences.

The running period of any grant-funded project should normally not exceed three years.

## **2. Proposal of Community Programme for Health and Consumer protection 2007-2013**

On 6 April 2005 the Commission adopted a Health and Consumer protection Strategy and a proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision creating the Community Programme for Health and Consumer protection 2007-2013.<sup>4</sup> The strategy and programme proposal bring together and extend the current EU Public Health Programme and the current programme in support of EU consumer policy. In consolidating two programmes into one, the Commission aims to exploit synergies between health and consumer policies.

The programme has a much broader scope than the existing programmes. It provides a comprehensive, consistent policy response to the challenges facing Europe as regards health and consumer issues. As regards Health actions, as a response to the open consultation launched in July 2004, the programme reinforces the three strands of the existing Public Health Programme which aim to gather and provide information, to monitor threats and to tackle key health determinants. In addition, the new programme creates three new strands to:

- deliver an efficient response to health threats
- help prevent diseases
- foster co-operation between health systems

Bridging health inequalities, addressing ageing and children's health will be priority themes. The budget envisaged for the programme is 1203 million euro of which 969 million for health action and 235 for consumer action. The programme proposal foresees the following funding possibilities:

- Community co-financing of projects notably involving NGOs.
- Operational grants to NGOs pursuing an aim of general European interest or implementing key objectives of the programme. Such operational grants are not possible under the existing Public Health programme.
- Joint financing by the Community and one or more Member States (public body or NGO designated by the Member State).

Finally, third countries can participate in the programme, in particular candidate and acceding countries, those in the European neighbourhood, and the western Balkans.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Communication "Healthier, Safer, more confident citizens: a health and consumer protection strategy" and Proposal for a Decision establishing a programme of Community action in the field of Health and Consumer Protection 2007-2013, COM (2005)115