



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Health & Consumer Protection
Directorate-General

Health Programme

2008-2013

Together for Health



HEALTH PROGRAMME 2008-2013

HEALTH PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL	3
FIRST OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE CITIZENS HEALTH SECURITY	4
SECOND OBJECTIVE: PROMOTE HEALTH AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES	5
THIRD OBJECTIVE: GENERATE AND DISSEMINATE HEALTH INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE	6
HEALTH PROGRAMME BUDGET	7
CAN I PARTICIPATE?	8
WHAT ARE THE FUNDING SCHEMES?	10
CALL FOR PROJECTS	11
OPERATING GRANTS	12
CALLS FOR TENDER	13
OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS	14
PUBLIC HEALTH EXECUTIVE AGENCY	15
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS	16
HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PROJECT?	17
HEALTH IN OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	18

HEALTH PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

The full name for the Health Programme is the **Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health 2008-2013**.

It came into force on 1 January 2008 and lasts for six years until 2013. The Health Programme has a **total budget of 321.5 million euros**. For the most part, the Health Programme budget is intended to finance projects and other actions which contribute to increased solidarity and prosperity in the European Union by protecting and promoting human health and safety and by improving public health. The Health Programme 2008-2013 is managed by the **Commission and the Public Health Executive Agency** (PHEA).

Each year, a work plan is published which sets out priority areas and the criteria for funding actions under the Programme. Actions under the Programme are intended to complement national policies of the Member States with a European added-value. This means that they should involve actors from different participating countries and the results should be able to be applied in other countries and regions across Europe.

The Health Programme is part of a broader strategy aimed at improving and protecting public health.

The Health Strategy: **“Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013”** was published in 2007 and aims to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues.



For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

FIRST OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE CITIZENS' HEALTH SECURITY

- **Protect citizens against health threats** developing the capacity of the EU community to respond to communicable and non communicable diseases and health threats from physical, chemical and biological sources, including bio-terrorism; for example with emergency planning and preparedness measures
- **Improve citizens' safety** promoting actions related to patient safety through high quality and safe healthcare, scientific advice and risk assessment, safety and quality of organs, substances of human origin and blood



For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

SECOND OBJECTIVE: PROMOTE HEALTH AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- Actions on **health key factors** such as nutrition and physical activity, drug consumption, sexual health, focusing on key settings such as education and the workplace
- Measures on the **prevention of major diseases** and focus on **Community added-value action** in areas such as gender issues, children's health or rare diseases
- Promote healthier ways of life and the reduction of health inequalities thus **increasing healthy life years and promoting healthy ageing**
- Promote and improve **physical and mental health**
- Address the health effects of **social and environmental determinants**



For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

THIRD OBJECTIVE: GENERATE AND DISSEMINATE HEALTH INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

- **Exchange knowledge and best practice on health issues** supporting European reference networks
- **Collect, analyse and disseminate health information** focusing on health monitoring system with appropriate indicators and ways of disseminating information to citizens such as Health Portal, conferences and regular reports on health status in the EU



For more information see http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

HEALTH PROGRAMME BUDGET

The total budget for the Health Programme is **321.5 million euros**.

There is no specific budget for each objective of the Programme. Instead, a balance is sought across the different areas of the Programme, with the aim to ensure that all objectives are appropriately covered.



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total 2008-2013
Operational budget for actions	45,2	47	45,7	47,3	49,7	51,5	286,4
Administrative budget for support actions	1,4	1,5	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,6	8,9
Functioning of the Public Health Executive Agency	4,1	4,3	4,3	4,4	4,5	4,6	26,2
Total	50,7	52,8	51,4	53,2	55,7	57,7	321,5

The figures are in millions of euros.

CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Participation in the Health Programme is open to a wide range of organisations, including:

- **Research institutes and universities**
- **Public administrations**
- **Non-governmental organisations**
- **Commercial firms**

Different participation rules apply, depending on the funding scheme of the initiative in question. These are specified in the annual work plan and call for proposals published each year of the Programme. More details can be found in the section on funding schemes.

All organisations wishing to participate in the Health Programme must comply

with the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules. A link to these is in the SANCO website in the section on Programmes.

(see http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm)



CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The Health Programme is primarily intended to support the European Union's internal policies. They are action programmes designed primarily as means of achieving objectives set by the EU and the Member States.

The EU Member States enjoy full rights to participate in the Health Programme. Organisations from any EU Member State can participate in the Programme.

Organisations from the EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) also enjoy full participation in the Programme within the context of the EEA Agreement.

The Health Programme is also open to organisations based in **accession and candidate countries, European Neighbourhood countries and western Balkan countries** included in the stabilisation and association process, provided agreements establishing the principles for their participation have been signed with the authorities of each country concerned. As this may change over the course of the Programme, potential applicants should check the status of such countries in the Call for Proposals published each year.

The Programme encourages the involvement of all other countries not participating in the Health Programme, where this helps to

achieve the Programme objectives. Partners from participating countries can invite such organisations to participate, if their contribution is considered useful. However, such organisations cannot contribute financially or receive any funding from the Programme.



WHAT ARE THE FUNDING SCHEMES?

The overall aim of the Health Programme is to finance actions which contribute to improving and protecting human health. There are different types of funding schemes available under the Health Programme, depending on the type of action to be financed.

Each year the Work Plan details which type of funding scheme is to be used for each action. The aim is to ensure that

the objectives are achieved in the most efficient way possible and with the full collaboration of stakeholders interested in the aims of the Programme.

Except for specific tenders, the basic principle of the Programme is co-financing. This means that the Commission gives grants to projects, thus contributing a certain percentage to overall costs.

The maximum reimbursement given for an action depends on the funding scheme in place, but is usually up to 50 or 60%. If the action is deemed to be of "exceptional utility" funding can be higher, up to 80%, although co-financing is still required. The annual work plans set out the circumstances for which exceptional utility applies.

Financing mechanisms

- Cofinancing of projects and conferences intended to achieve a Programme objective;
- Tendering actions to achieve a Programme objective;
- Joint actions by the Community and one or more Member States;
- Cofinancing of the operating costs of a non-governmental organisation or

a specialised network in the field of health;

- Joint actions with other Community pro-grammes, which will generate coherence between this instrument and other Com-munity programmes.



CALL FOR PROJECTS

Project co-funding forms the main funding for the Health Programme.

Any organisation (public, non-governmental or private) registered in one of the participating countries can participate.

Following the call for proposals, interested organisations should submit project proposals and an application for funding in line with the objectives of the annual work

plan. All projects should provide high European added value, be innovative in nature and their duration should not normally exceed three years.

As the projects should have a cross-national aspect, successful projects always involve different organisations from across participating countries. Projects are submitted in the form of “work packages”. The lead applicant (or “main partner”) takes charge of the overall co-ordination;

other organisations (or “associated partners”) are responsible for one or more work packages.

For **conferences in the field of public health and risk assessment** a specific call will be published. In this case, the Community contribution may be offered as a lump sum.

See the specific section ‘Call for proposals’ on http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm



OPERATING GRANTS

Under the Health Programme, the Commission can offer support to finance some of the core operating costs for organisations which promote a health agenda in line with the Programme. It gives them financial support so as to sustain their existence and growth, to underpin and encourage development of health policy at European level, and to defend and promote the health interests of European citizens.

Financial contributions for operating grants can only be given to organisations which are non- governmental, non-profit making, independent of industry, commercial and business or other conflicting interests, and have as their primary objectives one or more goals of the Programme.

Organisations applying for operating grants **must have members in at least half of the Member States with a balanced geographical coverage across the EU.** Grants can be given to new organisations, provided their member organisations have financial accounts for the year preceding their application.

Each year the work plan will detail the main areas of activity for which operating grants will be offered. In the call for proposals, interested organisations will be invited to submit their work programme and proof of their financial and operational capacity. Applications are then evaluated and grants offered on a competitive basis.

See the specific section 'Operating grants' on http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

CALLS FOR TENDER

Some of the objectives in the annual work plan are awarded by a call for tender. These can be awarded by open procedure (addressed to everyone who wants to participate in the tender procedure) or restricted procedure (addressed to firms that have qualified under the selection criteria of a Call for Expression of Interest).

The contractor is chosen at the end of a specific selection and award procedure.

The work plan specifies the general actions for which tenders will be awarded. The specific objectives and award criteria are published for each tender individually for each action as part of the "contract notice".



See the specific section 'Calls for Tenders' on http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS

Some other types of funding schemes may be specified in the Programme, for which certain organisations are eligible to apply. These include the following:

Joint Actions

For actions designated as “Joint Actions” participating countries will be asked to submit proposals for actions which could be jointly financed by the Commission and one or more Member States. Contributions from the Commission can only be given to public or non-profit making bodies designated by participating countries. Invitation letters (which are published) will specify the award criteria and the number of Member States expected to participate. See the specific section on http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

Funding for international organisations

Some international organisations have unique capacities needed to tackle identified public health priority areas for the EU. This may be due to their global reputation, geographical coverage or high concentration of technical skills. Direct grant agreements may be offered to such organisations for actions specified in the work plan. As these organisations cannot apply separately for project funding, applicants to the call for proposals should not include these international organisations as potential partners.

PUBLIC HEALTH EXECUTIVE AGENCY



Applications made under the Health Programme are handled by the Public Health Executive Agency (PHEA), based in Luxembourg.

The public health experts in PHEA provide logistical, scientific and technical support for the Programme. This means not just handling the applications, but also organising working groups, preparatory studies and seminars with the explicit purpose of advising potential applicants on the call for proposals. Notice of these events is published on the PHEA website at <http://ec.europa.eu/phea>.

In addition, the participating countries have designated **National Focal Points** to provide local support to potential applicants. They disseminate information on the calls for proposals and tenders, distribute documentation and provide advice on contractual issues. The NFPs together form a Europe-wide network, through which they can help applicants find project partners in other countries.



GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

To submit a proposal, applicants should consult the Guide for applicants published each year with the Work Plan and Call for Proposals.

These documents can be downloaded from the PHEA website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/phea>

All grants must comply with the following criteria:

- They must receive financing from another source in addition to the Commission;
- No profits may be generated by the grant;
- All expenditure from the project must be incurred after the agreement is signed;
- Only one grant can be given for an action by a project partner each year.

In addition, all applications must comply with the implementing rules of the financial regulations set by the Commission.



HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PROJECT?

All projects must cover one or more of the specific objectives set out in the annual work plan. They will be assessed on the basis of:

- **Policy and contextual relevance** projects should provide added value at European level and support developments at European level in the field of health. Applicants should consider the number and geographical relevance of the Countries involved in the projects and should ensure that broader social and policy context has been considered. Projects' results should be transferred and reproduced across a wider population.
- **Technical quality** projects should be innovative, avoiding duplication

with existing activities at EU level. Projects should have a clear evaluation and dissemination strategy. Applicants should also consider how to report lessons learnt, both throughout the project and on completion.

- **Management quality and budget** - the projects should be properly planned in terms of setting a realistic timetable, with an analysis of risks. Work packages should be adequately distributed among partners who should have clear reporting lines to each other. The budget should be appropriate and consistent.

The relevant principles and criteria may change throughout the Pro-

gramme and it is important to check these every year in the Work Plan.

Evaluation process

Independent experts will assist the Commission and the PHEA with the evaluation process.

Applicants of highly ranked proposals will be invited to negotiate a grant agreement providing for a financial contribution.

HEALTH IN OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

The Health Programme is one of several Programmes to implement health policy at EU level. Those interested in the Health Programme should look at activities from other relevant Community programmes to ensure their intended projects build on – but do not overlap – actions from other Programmes. They may also serve as possible other sources of funding, although applicants should note that projects cannot be funded from two separate Programmes unless this is explicitly stated in the Call for Proposals. Examples of such Programmes include:

Research Framework Programmes.

Health research is an important objective in the Seventh Framework Programme: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/health_en.html

The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community 2002-2012 tackles environmental concerns and improving quality of life overall: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

ICT Policy Support Programme and previous ICT programmes which aim to stimulate innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT including for health: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp

PROGRESS - Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity supports gender equality, social protection and social inclusion, anti-discrimi-

mination and employment incentive measures: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/

Justice, Freedom and Security funding programmes have an important aspect on health security preparedness: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/



USEFUL INFORMATION

The Second Health Programme 2008-2013 follows several previous Community programmes in the field of health:

- eight separate action programmes (1993-2002) which financed projects and actions concerning health promotion, cancer, drug dependence, AIDS and other communicable diseases, health monitoring, rare diseases, accidents and injuries, pollution-related diseases
- the first Programme of Community action in the field of Health 2003-2008 which financed over 300 projects and other actions relevant

to its three strands Health Information, Health Threats and Health Determinants.

- Projects' results and reports are available at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/partners/index_en.htm

Useful information on a wide range of health-related topics can be found visiting the **Health-EU Portal**, the official public health portal of the European Union. Health-EU was launched in May 2006 and is intended as a single point of reference for reliable and easily accessible information on health. Since September 2007, the **e-newsletter** complements the

portal and provides twice a month with a selection of the latest news and activities at European and international level. Both the Portal and the e-newsletter are available in 20 languages.

To visit the portal and subscribe to the e-newsletter go on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/>



The Public Health Portal of the EU
<http://health.europa.eu>



The Public Health Portal of the EU
<http://health.europa.eu>

ISBN 978-92-79-08417-1
DOI 10.2772/13461

