



**Webinar on the
prepublication of draft call SC1-PM-22-2016
under H2020 Societal Challenge 1
Health, demographic change and wellbeing:**

**Addressing the urgent research gaps
against the *Zika* virus and other emerging
threats in Latin America.**

Line Matthiessen MD

Head of Unit

Fighting Infectious Diseases and Advancing Public Health

DG Research and Innovation

European Commission

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Why pre-publication?

- *Given the urgency of the situation, The European Commission has pre-published on 10 February 2016 draft call SC1-PM-22-2016 on urgent Zika research.*
- *The draft topic is being pre-published following consultation with the EU Member States, and while the adoption of the Commission Decision by the College of Commissioners is still pending.*
- *The pre-published text may be modified and its publication will be subject to the final decision by the College.*

Background:

- On 1 December 2015, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) issued an Epidemiological Alert on: 'Neurological syndrome, congenital malformations, and Zika virus infection: Implications for Public Health in the Americas'.
- On 10 December 2015 the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) noted that the likelihood of travel-related cases in the EU is increasing. Imported and autochthonous cases in the EU Overseas Countries and Territories and the EU Outermost Regions, with onward transmission in EU Member States during the summer season in areas where *Aedes albopictus* or *Aedes aegypti* (the potential vectors) are established, cannot be excluded.
- In January 2016, the CDC and ECDC cautioned pregnant women against travel in Zika-affected countries.
- On 1 February 2016 WHO declared "the recent **cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders** reported in Brasil, following a similar cluster in French Polynesia" a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern**.

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Research scope:

- i. The **evaluation of the potentially causative relationship** between ZIKV and the severe reported complications, as well as
 - **exploration of the mechanisms involved**, or
 - alternative aetiologies if needed.

Scope includes **all relevant research** (such as, but not limited to: basic research, virology, animal models, immunology, epidemiological or other clinical studies, and **diagnostics development**).

Flexibility to define relevant research tasks.

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Research scope:

- ii. If such an association is confirmed, the consortium should be ready to rapidly **launch additional studies**, such as, but not limited to:
- studies of natural history of disease,
 - **pathogen and host determinants of severity of disease**,
 - interventional trials for potential prevention (e.g. vaccines) and/or treatment strategies.

"Depending on the evolution of the outbreak, the timeline of the proposed actions, and ZIKV research efforts implemented by other stakeholders, the proposed action plan should **maintain the flexibility to address remaining research gaps** against ZIKV". This should include the **flexibility to include additional partners** depending on the specific expertise required and/or the need to **extend geographic scope**.

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Research scope:

- iii. Evolve into **a network capable of rapidly launching a research response** to future severe infectious outbreaks caused by emerging pathogens with pandemic potential or potential to cause significant damage to health and socio-economics in the region.

Provisions should be made so that this initial research platform may be further developed through a comprehensive '**inter-epidemic' action plan** addressing and fine-tuning the response to any obstacles identified during the ZIKV research response.

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Research scope:

iii. (continued)...

A **comprehensive data management framework** allowing the standardised collection, storage, analysis and **sharing of data** should be implemented, initially focusing on Zika data but eventually evolving as a critical part of the preparedness research network.

(Successful proposal(s) will be offered the option to opt-in in the Open Research Data Pilot).

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Collaboration:

Maximise synergies – avoid duplication of efforts

1. If more than one proposal is successful, **proposals should collaborate** and this should be indicated in the proposal.
2. With other relevant initiatives
 - existing or under development
 - national, regional, international level.

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Impact:

Major impact on Public Health by:

- Implementing urgently needed research on Zika and thus providing evidence to PH authorities on prevention and clinical management strategies, particularly for **pregnant women**.
- Building up overall capacity for preparedness research against important emerging pathogens → evidence for PH response
- Coordinating with relevant initiatives at a national, regional and international level (particularly within the framework of Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Diseases Preparedness, <http://www.glopid-r.org/>)
- Leveraging and facilitating additional research from other funders

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DRAFT TOPIC : **Addressing the urgent research gaps against the *Zika* virus and other emerging threats in Latin America.**

Topic identifier: SC1-PM-22-2016
single-stage

Types of action: RIA Research and Innovation action
Indicative Budget: € 10 million

Expected Timeline:

Publication date: 15 March 2016

Deadline: 28 April 2016

Evaluation: May 2016

Grant Agreement Preparation: 1 June 2016

Signing of Grant(s): July/August 2016

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FAQ1: What is the geographic scope of the topic?

1. Any affected or at risk region

- Latin America
- Caribbean
- French Polynesia/South Pacific islands
- ... and any other (e.g. Cape Verde, Europe...)

2. **Flexibility** to extend geographic scope.

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FAQ2: Which countries are eligible for EC funding?

- For EC funding, the H2020 rules apply. For a clear overview, the list of non-EU applicant countries eligible for funding is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-a-countries-rules_en.pdf (page 2). Most of the affected countries (as of January 2016) are expected to be automatically eligible for funding.
- Exceptions to this funding list:
 - **USA** applicants: are eligible for funding, as indicated in the Societal Challenge 1 work programme 2016-2017.
 - **Brazil** applicants: are eligible for funding, as indicated in the call text.
- Applicants that are not automatically eligible for funding should check whether their country has put in place a co-funding mechanism for their participation. This concerns primarily China, Japan, Republic of Korea, **Mexico**, Russia, Taiwan, Switzerland.

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FAQ3: How many proposals will be funded?

- *We cannot make assumptions on the grant amount requested by proposals.*
- *It is up to the external experts to assess if a proposal sufficiently addresses the topic scope with a reliable budget.*
- *It is possible that only one proposal might be funded with the available topic budget, but we cannot exclude the possibility of more than one, and in this case we request that they closely cooperate.*

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FAQ4: What is the reason for the expansion of the scope to include not only the ZIKV outbreak but also “... a network against future severe outbreaks caused by emerging pathogens ...”?

- *The topic scope clearly emphasises the importance of the immediate research response to the ZIKV outbreak, addressing it as points (i) and (ii) of the scope.*
- *Given that in order for these points to be addressed a wide network has to be formed (with emphasis on a robust data collecting/sharing system), point (iii) then aims to capitalise on and maintain the preparedness research network already formed.*
- *As the human and infrastructure/ICT capacity for this network will already be developed for the first 2 points, point (iii) is feasible without significant additional resources.*
- *As stated in the scope, it is only during the project's implementation that the consortium will have to explore and develop a sustainability strategy that would enable the continuation of the network beyond the timeline of the EU grant.*

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FAQ5: *Are studies of the sociological aspects of this epidemic included in the scope?*

- *Studies of the social dimensions of the ZIKV epidemic are not excluded (i.e. as additional studies to be launched under point (ii) of the scope).*
- *The topic also requests that proposals should include the flexibility to address remaining important research gaps.*

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FAQ6: *Are studies of the pathogenesis of ZIKV-related neurological complications through the development of relevant in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo animal models included in the scope?*

- *These points (understand the underlying mechanisms of the neurologic complications, and the use of animal models) are all included under point (i) of the scope.*

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FAQ7: *Are studies of ZIKV evolution and genetic variability included in the scope?*

- *The topic specifically includes virology studies (under point (i) of scope), therefore analysis of ZIKV evolution and genetic variability is not excluded*
- *The topic also requests that proposals should include the flexibility to address remaining important research gaps.*

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FAQ8: *Are studies of co-infections (or sequential infections) with other flaviviruses included in the scope?*

- *The topic specifically includes pathogen and host determinants of disease severity (under point (ii) of the scope), therefore it does not exclude the analysis of co-infections with other flaviviruses (as a host determinant of severity of disease).*

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FAQ9: *Are studies addressing the identification of high risk regions through studies of vector competence, competence of other mosquito genera, modelling etc included in the scope?*

- *These studies are not excluded as under the scope ii) it is clearly stated that the proposal may address remaining research gaps. Proposals should make sure though that they also address all other points included in the scope.*
- *Concerning vector physiology/control it is also relevant to recall that this is also being addressed in an open call on vector control infrastructures ([INFRAIA-01-2016-2017](#)), as well as by several ongoing FP7 projects on dengue, that shares the same primary vectors (*Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus*).*

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Other relevant calls:

Under H2020:

- **SC1-PM-06-2016**: Vaccine development for malaria and/or neglected infectious diseases
(€40 million, deadline 13 April 2016)
- **INFRAIA-01-2016-2017**: Vector Control Infrastructures
(€ 10 million, deadline 30 March 2016)

Under FP7:

- ERANet LAC **2nd Joint Call**: Topic 8 HEALTH: Research in prevention of infectious diseases (PRDs and NIDs) and promotion of well-being
(> € 1.5 million, deadline 10 March)

Useful links !

- **[EC Zika Research response \(+webinar and FAQs\):](https://ec.europa.eu/research/health/index.cfm?pg=area&areaname=zika)**

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/health/index.cfm?pg=area&areaname=zika>

- **FAQs will be regularly updated!**

- **H2020 SC1 InfoDay: Presentations and Recordings**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/index.cfm?pg=newspage&item=151030>