



## **Zika Virus FAQ**

Date: 19/02/2016

*Research and  
Innovation*

## **Specific Issues Related to the scope of the call**

### **1. What is the geographical scope of the topic?**

Even though Latin America is mentioned in the topic title/background/impact as the region currently most severely affected, in the scope it is clearly stated that 'other affected or at risk regions' are eligible.

These include the Caribbean, the French Polynesia and South Pacific region, overseas territories of EU Member States, and any other affected or at risk country regardless of its geographic location. Plus, the scope clearly mentions the possibility to extend the geographic scope, depending on the evolution of the epidemic.

### **2. The list of issues that a proposal should address is quite extensive and leads to the assumption that only one project addressing the complete list will be funded. Later in the text it is mentioned that also more than one proposal could be funded. This might be misleading to applicants. Could you please give us some clarification on this?**

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. In the latter case, the funded projects will be asked to closely cooperate.

### **3. The current phrasing of the topic gives the impression of a 'Preparedness-Research-Network-Call' rather than a dedicated ZIKV call. What is the reason for the expansion of the scope to include not only the ZIKV outbreak but also "... 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 capacities 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.

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. 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?**

Yes, under point (i).

#### **6. 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 (INFRAIA-01-2016-2017), as well as by several ongoing FP7 projects on dengue, that shares the same primary vectors (*Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus*).

#### **7. 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 genetic variability is not excluded.

#### **8. 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 neither the analysis of ZIKV genetic variability (as a pathogen determinant of severity of disease) nor the analysis of co-infections with other flaviviruses (as a host determinant of severity of disease) are excluded.

**9. Are studies to monitor social media communication and scientific literature for ongoing activities in ZIKA research and communication included in the scope?**

Please see response to FAQ4.

**10. Will EU funds be available for the control of *Aedes albopictus* populations, in the same way that there were for *Phlebotomus*?**

Please see response to FAQ6.

**11. It seems that this first call will focus on basic research, aetiology etc., while antivirals and vaccine development will be contemplated in a second call. Is this correct?**

There is currently no decision on follow-up call(s) on ZIKV research in H2020.

Clinical evaluation studies of advanced candidates of antivirals and vaccines are included under point (ii) of the scope. Preclinical development of ZIKV vaccine candidates may also be addressed through the currently open call SC1-PM-06-2016 on Vaccine Development for malaria and/or neglected infectious diseases.

The topic scope allows the flexibility to address additional research gaps. Preclinical development is therefore not excluded. However, proposals should make sure that they can address all the other points included in the scope with the given budget.

**12. As 'networks' are already forming, how could a candidate participant identify and contact the relevant networks?**

Interested parties looking for partners may use the following 'partner support' tools:

Health NCP Net (HNN.2.0): <http://www.healthncp.net/health-ncp-net-hnn-20>

Fit for Health 2 (FFH2.0): <http://www.fitforhealth.eu/>

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN): <http://een.ec.europa.eu/>

**Administrative/Legal Issues**

The general H2020 Rules for Participation (Regulation no 1290/2013) and the General Annexes of the Horizon 2020 SC1 Work Programme 2016-2017 also apply for this call.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal\\_basis/rules\\_participation/h2020-rules-participation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga_en.pdf)

### **Is there any rule on the minimum number of participants in the proposal?**

Please see the general H2020 Rules for Participation.

### **Which countries are eligible for participation and EC funding?**

Eligibility for participation – Article 7 of the H2020 Rules for participation

Any applicant, regardless of its place of establishment, may participate in the action. Specific rules, e.g. financial viability checks, might restrict the participation.

Eligibility for funding – Article 10 of the H2020 Rules for participation

The following participants are fully eligible for funding:

- any legal entity established in a EU Member state or Associated country (list of associated countries below),
- any international European interest organisation or entity created under Union law,
- any legal entity established in the USA - third country identified in the work programme 2016-17 - or Brazil – specifically identified for this call topic,
- any legal entity established in a country eligible for funding, as indicated in the list below.

List of countries and eligibility for funding – WP 2016-2017 General Annexes:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-ga_en.pdf)

List of Associated countries:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf?\\_ga=58655886](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf?_ga=58655886)

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Applicants that are not eligible for funding might opt for a co-funding mechanism put in place by the respective country. This concerns primarily [China](#), [Japan](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Mexico](#), [Russia](#), [Taiwan](#).

**What is the maximum duration of the grant?**

**The indicated duration of the proposal should be in line with the work foreseen. There is no limitation in the SC1 Work Programme 2016-2017.**