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NHS European Office

European funding for health research

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Overview

- Introduction to NHS European Office
- Why access EU funding for health research
- Main EU health funding programmes
- Key considerations for accessing EU funding
- Getting started
- Examples of NHS EU funded health projects
- Key links and further information

NHS European Office

- Established 2007
- Nationwide resource for the NHS
- Funded by the 10 English SHAs
- Part of the NHS Confederation
- Represents all NHS organisations in England to EU decision-makers
- Based in Brussels and London

NHS European Office - Role

Broad mandate dealing with European Affairs

- Monitoring EU developments relevant to the NHS
- Keeping NHS organisations informed
- Assessing impact of key EU legislative policy proposals
- Influencing EU decision-making process
- Informing NHS bodies of EU funding opportunities

NHS European Office - Remit

Key EU policy priorities for 2012 include:

- Clinical trials
- Medical devices
- Energy efficiency
- Procurement and competition
- Ehealth,
- Research and innovation
- Working time directive
- Mutual recognition of professional qualifications,
- Health professionals and MRIs

Why access EU funding

Several reasons

- Complement your initiative with EC match funding,
- Improve service delivery through sharing information & best practice
- Develop specialist pan-European research networks
- Benchmark and compare NHS practice with partners from other EU member states
- Showcase the organisation's achievements in a specific field or topic to international partners
- Profile local NHS innovations at international events
- Attract & retain world-class researchers to/in the organisation

Accessing EU funding

Criteria for EU funding

- Has to be a solution to a European issue
- Must be '*new*' – can build on past funding projects but not replicate
- Must have partners from other EU countries
- May be administratively challenging, but support and expertise is available at national level
- Is a long process, projects delivered over period of years
- Is not about making a profit, with costs covering work-time, travel, etc and rigorously accounted for
- Is essentially a competition originality & innovation are key

Key funding programmes

EU funding programmes relevant to the NHS include:

- *Research Framework Programme (FP7)*
- *Public Health Programme*
- *Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)*

Other EU funding programmes

- *Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)*
- *Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL)*
- *Progress*
- **Common themes across all programmes - A&HA
2012+**

Activities funded

Types of projects funded include:

- Collaborative research
- Developing networks
- Exchanging expertise and best practice
- Testing the use of new/existing technology
- Pilot studies

FP7

- FP7 is the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)
- EU's main instrument for funding research in
- Europe 2007-13 **EUR 50bn**
- Supports research in health and other priority areas
- Opportunities for health related research in non-health areas
- **Current call reopened, priorities for 2012 still open.**
- 2013 call will open July 2012 (TBC)
- Successor programme *Horizon 2020* commences 2014 - 2020



FP7 key programme areas

10 areas for funding **EUR 5bn**

- Health
- Food, agriculture, fisheries and biotech
- ICT
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate change)
- Transport (including aeronautics)
- Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
- Space
- Security

Public Health Programme



- 2008-2013, EUR 321.5m
- Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing of EU citizens and reduce health inequalities
- Support for public health initiatives, with a particular focus on preventative actions and health promotion

Current call opened December 2011, closes 9 March 2012. (topics include health information and advice; cancer and rare diseases; health determinants; health systems; and legislation on products and substances, organ donation and transplantation)

Competitiveness and Innovation Programme

- 2007-2013, EUR 3.6bn
- Created to support the competitiveness of European industry through innovation activities



Two relevant strands:

- Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP) – use of ICT in the public sector
- Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) – energy efficiency
- **Current call opens 1 February 2012, closes 15 May 2012**

Other key EU funding programmes

- **Innovative Medicines Initiative:** aims to promote more efficient discovery and development of medicines by supporting research into the drug development process
- **Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme:** aims to enhance the quality of life of older people through the use of ICT
- **Progress:** the EU's employment and solidarity programme and supports employment, social inclusion and positive working conditions

Understanding the process

- Each EU funding programme has its own process, starting with a call for proposals
- Some calls annual, some more frequent
- Once a call is open, you have a fixed period within which to apply – absolute deadlines

In practice the process for a successful application starts earlier through:

- Informal conversations
- Information days
- Partner searches

Support - what the NHS European Office can do

- Strategic advice and early intelligence on funding opportunities
- Briefings on topic areas of importance for the NHS
- Identifying links between national/NHS priorities and opportunities at EU level
- Promote NHS priorities in forthcoming calls
- Help with partnerships and communication with the European Commission

Other sources of support

Other sources of information/help, include:

- National Contact Points (NCPs), for each EU funding programme, funded by UK government
- Other actors with experience of EU funded programmes , e.g. NHS organisations, Universities, Local Authorities, AHSCs, SMEs
- EU websites with cases studies of former EU funded projects
- Consultants

Key links

FP7

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

Public Health Programme

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

CIP

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

IMI

<http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/5th-call-2012>

AAL

<http://www.aal-europe.eu/calls>

Key links contd.

Progress

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=754&langId=en&furtherCalls=yes&callType=2>

Case studies

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

<http://www.healthcompetence.eu/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html>

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