

Health as a priority

Health is a major theme of the specific programme on Cooperation under the Seventh Framework Programme, with a total budget of € 6.1 billion over the duration of FP7.

The objective of health research under FP7 is to improve the health of European citizens and boost the competitiveness of health-related industries and businesses, while addressing global health issues.

The Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union (EU) for research and technological development and demonstration activities (FP7 - 2007 to 2013) is made up of 4 specific programmes plus a fifth activity on nuclear research.

The specific programme on 'Cooperation' supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in transnational cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas.



European-funded health research will focus on three pillars:

Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health

High-throughput research

- Detection, diagnosis and monitoring
- Prediction of suitability, safety and efficacy of therapies
- Innovative therapeutic approaches and interventions

Translating research for human health

- Integration of biological data and processes
- Research on the brain and related diseases, human development and ageing
- Research on infectious diseases
- Research on major diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes/obesity, rare diseases, other chronic diseases

Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens

- Translation of clinical outcome into clinical practice, including better use of medicines
- Quality, efficiency and solidarity of health care systems
- Enhanced health promotion and disease prevention

Other actions across the theme include

- Support for health research
- Responding to EU policy needs

Opportunities for SMEs in Health Research

Research-intensive SMEs are the main economic drivers of healthcare, biotechnology and medical technologies.

Recognising their innovative potential, EU-supported research actively seeks their participation.

SMEs providing a service, e.g. management or intellectual property expertise, are also eligible to participate.

Funding opportunities

FP7 'rules of participation' allows funding of up to 75% for research and development activities of SMEs, rather than the 50% for larger industrial participants. Management and training activities are funded up to 100%.

Protection of intellectual property

The rules governing intellectual property in EU-funded projects have been greatly improved in the last framework programmes, with more attention to the special needs of SMEs.



Reduced need for financial checks and bank guarantees

In FP7, a guarantee fund replaces the 'collective financial responsibility'. This fund is set up to cover the financial risks of defaulting project participants.

Support structures

Networks of experts are in place to help SMEs to participate in FP7 Health proposals and projects (see health website). Contact them, they are there to help you!

Further information

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm

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



Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking

Under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), **Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs)** have been introduced to achieve Public-Private Partnerships in research at European level.

The **Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI JU)** implements a JTI between the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the pharmaceutical industry, represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) with a total budget of € 2 billion. The IMI JU has been set up by the Council Regulation EC N° 73/2008 which came into force on 7 February 2008.

The IMI JU aims to accelerate the discovery and development of better medicines by removing bottlenecks in the drug development process. It supports research activities open to all research actors and focusses on creating better methods and tools to improve the drug development process.

Any legal entity performing research in the Member States and Associated Countries is eligible to participate in projects.

The IMI JU research activities are expected to be carried out by multi-stakeholder research consortia comprising e.g. pharmaceutical companies, SMEs, public institutions, selected following open calls for proposals and a peer review process.

The IMI calls are published by IMI JU, which is an autonomous Union body.

Further information

<http://www.imi.europa.eu>

Further information on International Cooperation

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/international-cooperation_en.html
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm>

International Cooperation in Health Research

International cooperation is an integral part of the Health theme and project consortia in all areas are encouraged to include organisations from third countries, especially from the International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC) and from countries with Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreements with the EU.

Funding can be provided to participants from the ICPCs, whereas funding for organisations from industrialised third countries may be provided on a case by case basis if considered essential for carrying out the project or if a provision is made in the work programme.

International cooperation will be implemented via 3 mechanisms

- **General opening** of all topics to participation by entities from any country in the world.
- **Specific International Cooperation Actions**, addressing distinct issues relevant for cooperation with particular countries or regions.
- **Programme level cooperation on coordinated topics with certain countries**
The cooperating country collaborates by financing complementary projects within its own research programmes.



How to apply

Consulting the Health work programme

To prepare a proposal, several documents must be consulted and instructions should be followed carefully. The first step is to consult the health website for news (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html) and the Health work programme, which is published each year. The applicant should check whether there are appropriate openings for applications. Only then, should the other documents be downloaded and read carefully. Furthermore, any specific conditions for the Health theme, as well as for the different funding schemes are also set out in the Health work programme and its annexes.

Following the guide for applicants

The relevant guide for applicants (there is one guide for each funding scheme) should be followed. Special attention needs to be given to page limits of the different sections of the proposal as additional pages will be disregarded during evaluation. Proposals must describe planned activities, information on who will carry them out, and specify how much they will cost. Proposals must identify and list all the **ethical issues** that they may involve.

These issues must be described and addressed fully in the appropriate section (Annex 4, section 4 'ethical issues').

Submitting a proposal

Proposals must be submitted electronically using a special web based service (EPSS) before a strictly enforced deadline. Further information for electronic proposal submission is available under: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/epss_en.html

Proposal evaluation

A proposal will have to pass several steps successfully to be retained for funding. Only eligible proposals will go to scientific evaluation.

Eligibility criteria

A proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following conditions:

- It is received by the Commission before the deadline given in the call text;
- It involves at least the minimum number of participants for the distinct funding scheme and topic as given in the call text;
- It is complete (both the requested administrative forms (part A) and scientific proposal description (part B) are present);
- It respects the limits for requested EU contribution;
- The content of the proposal is clearly related to the topic(s) and the right funding scheme has been used, including any special conditions, set out in those parts of the relevant Health work programme.

Evaluation process

The evaluation process is a peer review and will be carried out by a panel of external independent experts (each proposal will be reviewed by at least 3 experts). Following the evaluation applicants will be informed of the outcome. A number of applicants with highly ranked proposals will be invited by the Commission to negotiate a grant agreement providing an EU financial contribution, subject to budget availability.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the specific programme on 'Cooperation' are :

- Scientific and/or technological excellence;
- The quality and efficiency of the implementation and management;
- The potential impact including the development, dissemination and use of project results.

Contact

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Find further information

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/>
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7>

Funded projects in health research

<http://www.healthcompetence.eu>

Get support

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

Contact your NCP

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

In each Member State and Associated State, the National Contact Point (NCP) provides guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in the Framework Programmes.

Find FP7 contacts in third countries

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html

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Health Research in FP7

The basics



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



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