3rd EU Health Programme

Please contact the BMA’s European Office – rdelis@bma.org.uk to obtain more detailed information about EU funding, including advice on how to apply.

EU Health Programme 2014-2020

This new programme – ‘Third programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020’ – simplifies access to EU funds by creating a ‘one stop shop’ with a budget of €449.394 million. The new programme will support member states’ actions aimed at encouraging innovation in health care, increasing the sustainability of health care systems, improving citizens’ health and protecting them against cross-border health threats. The four key targets of the new health programme are:

- Promotion of good health and prevention of diseases: eligible actions include the exchange of good practice for addressing risk factors, such as smoking, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity
- Protection from cross-border health threats, which might be improved via an increase of the capacities for scientific expertise
- Innovative and sustainable health systems: in this area, the new EU health programme could provide support of the voluntary cooperation between member states on health technology assessment (HTA, as part of the voluntary network on HTA established by Directive 2011/24/EU (cross-border health care)
- Increased access to better and safer health care: eligible actions include support for member states and patient organisations to help patients affected by rare diseases and the reduction of practices that increase antimicrobial resistance

The EU will cover 60% of the costs for an action under the programme or up to 80% for a joint action under special criteria. Joint actions are activities carried out by one or more member states or by the EU and the competent authorities of other countries participating in the Health Programme together. They focus on the greatest cross-border public health needs. The programme is open to non-EU countries, in particular to accession candidates, countries that are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and of the European Economic Area (EEA), neighbouring countries and other countries that have a bilateral or multilateral agreement with the EU. More specifically, the Programme is open to the following organisations:

- Legally established organisations
- Public authorities, public sector bodies (research and health institutions, universities and higher education establishments)
- Non-governmental bodies
- International organisations

The third EU Health Programme 2014-2020 was finally adopted by European Parliament on 26 February 2014 with the full text available here:
The EC (European Commission) has recently adopted the 2016 work programme and its calls for proposals (described below) which has been assessed against the following criteria:

- Policy Relevance
- EU added value
- Public health relevance
- Support to implementation of legislation
- Pertinence of geographical coverage
- Balanced distribution of resources between objectives
- Adequate coverage of thematic priorities

The eligibility criteria for projects are:

- Applicants must be legally established
- Only applicants from 28 EU member states plus Norway and Iceland can apply as well as countries which have a bilateral agreement with the European Union (Serbia)
- A project proposal must be submitted by at least 3 different legal entities from 3 different eligible countries
- The only eligible activities are those listed in the work plan 2016
- The co-funding applies for a future project. Running projects cannot be supported

The number of projects awarded in 2016 depends on quality of future proposals but it is estimated to fund one or two projects per call. Submitting an application is only possible online via the Electronic Submission Service.

**Call for proposals 2016 timeline:**

- Publication of the work plan 2016 – 1 March 2016
- Launch of the calls 2016 – 4 March 2016 and 16 March 2016
- Closing of the call for projects and operating grants (SGA) – 2 June 2016 and 21 June 2016

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**Open Calls for Projects**

**Fund:** 3rd Health Programme  
**Call:** Migrants’ health: best practices in care provision for vulnerable migrants and refugees  
**Objectives:**

To support activities in view of the development of models to improve health care access of vulnerable migrants and refugees, based on cooperation, coordination and effective communication with health authorities at local, regional and, where needed, at national levels.

**Funding available:** €4 500 000  
**Deadline:** 2 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  
**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** Gathering knowledge and exchanging best practices on measures reducing underage drinking and heavy episodic drinking  
**Objectives:**

To generate and promote new and innovative good practices targeting the reduction of heavy episodic drinking, including amongst young adults, and underage drinking; should encourage EU networking and good practise exchange contributing to the objectives of the member states’ action plan on [Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking 2014-2016](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/topics/14052-pj-02-2016.html). Priority should be given to initiatives aiming at identifying good practices of measures at population level and more targeted prevention measures like brief interventions. In addition, multi-stakeholder initiatives might be included.

**Funding available:** €1 200 000  
**Deadline:** 2 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/topics/14052-pj-02-2016.html

**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** Gathering knowledge and exchanging best practises to on measures to prevent illicit drug use in line with the minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction  
**Objectives:**

To generate and promote new and innovative good practices of prevention measures (in particular measures aimed at preventing polydrug use and use of new psychoactive substances) supporting the [EU Action Plan on Drugs](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/topics/14054-pj-03-2016.html) and the implementation of the minimum quality standard in drug demand reduction. The aim of this action is to prevent and delay the age of onset of illicit drug use.

**Funding available:** €600 000  
**Deadline:** 2 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  

**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** Support to member states and stakeholders to address the chronic disease challenge  
**Objectives:**

To provide new evidence on economic and efficient means to achieve better health outcomes, including on the cost-efficiency of investments in prevention, and to alleviate the burden on health and social systems.

**Funding available:** €2 500 000  
**Deadline:** 2 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  
**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** Donor selection and protection  
**Objectives:**

To increase the safety of donation and clinical application of tissues and cells and/or blood by optimising the procedures for donor selection and protection. The call aims at:

- to explore existing practices for the selection and protection of donors, including the gathering of donor medical and behavioural history, with particular emphasis on the design of effective questions for donors or their families,
- to reach agreement on best practice for donor selection and protection procedures and questionnaires and develop tools to support its implementation.

**Funding available:** €550 000  
**Deadline:** 2 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  

**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** ERN (European Reference Networks) - Framework Partnership Agreement  
**Objectives:**

ERNs are groups of highly specialised providers, addressing a group of highly specialised and complex diseases and treatments. The objective of this call is to provide financial support to ERNs, once established. Therefore, only approved ERNs are eligible for co-funding. Expected benefits to patients and healthcare systems are improvements in services delivery, working systems, patient pathways, clinical tools, earlier adoption of scientific evidence.

**Funding available:** €2 500 000  
**Deadline:** 21 June 2016  
**Link to further information:**  

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**Upcoming Calls for Projects**

**Fund: 3rd Health Programme**  
**Call:** Rare diseases - support for new registries  
**Objectives:**

To develop 3-4 new registries on rare diseases based on existing registries in member states, while fully respecting data protection (one of the objectives of the ERN to be set up). These registries should constitute key instruments to increase knowledge on rare diseases and develop clinical research. Collaborative efforts to establish data collection and maintain them will be considered, provided that these resources are open and accessible. Registries should be built with the support and according to the standards set up by the European Platform on rare diseases registration and provide all necessary data to the Platform.

**Funding available:** €1 200 000  
**Date of publication:** 1st semester of 2016