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Questions and Answers on "Advancing active and healthy ageing with ICT"

Document history	
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Horizon 2020 – Societal challenge Health, demographic change and wellbeing - **Personalising Health and Care workprogramme 2014-2015** (H2020-PHC-2014-2015) contains the following 4 topics related to active and healthy ageing with ICT:

- PHC-19-2014: Advancing active and healthy ageing with ICT: service robotics within assisted living environments
- PHC-20-2014: Advancing active and healthy ageing with ICT: ICT solutions for independent living with cognitive impairment
- HCO-01-2014: Support for the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- HCO-02-2014: Joint programming: Co-ordination action for the joint programming initiative (JPI) 'more years better lives the challenges and opportunities of demographic change'

The questions received by the "Digital Social Platform" unit of DG CONNECT related to these topics will be answered in this document. It will be updated regularly when new questions are received.

European Commission

DG CONNECT

Unit H2 – Digital Social Platforms

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/policies-ageing-well-ict>

Contents

Have the evaluation criteria changed in H2020?.....	3
Do we submit proposals in one stage or in two stages?	3
Can you give a definition of service robotics (related to PHC-19-2014)?.....	3
If cognitive impairment also causes physical disabilities, can both aspects be addressed in a proposal? (related to PHC-20-2014).....	3
Clarification of the scope of PHC-20-2014.....	4
Scope of PHC-20-2014: Should the pilots be the same at all sites?.....	4
What is an "open ICT solution" (related to PHC-20-2014)?.....	4
What type of "evidence" is requested to comply with the impact requirements of PHC-19-2014 and PHC-20-2014?	4
Do you expect to fund one project to support the whole EIP-AHA or one project per action group? (related to HCO-01-2014)	5
Are the actions related to HCO-01-2014 meant mainly to support the existing EIP-AHA action groups?.....	5
What period is the coordination concerned by HCO-01-2014 meant to cover? The period 2014-2020 or a shorter period of time?	5
Is it necessary to be a member of the EIP-AHA in order to submit a proposal towards HCO-01-2014?.....	5
Where can I find additional documents related to the topic of HCO-01-2014?.....	6
It is necessary to form a consortium to submit proposals to HCO-01-2014 or HCO-02-2014, or can single partner proposals be submitted?.....	6
What are the conditions of participation of Canadian partners in H2020?	6
What are the conditions of participation of partners of the United States of America in H2020?.....	6
Is it possible to know if there are any consortia being created for the above topics and it is possible to know how to find European partners?	7
What about ethical issues?	7

Have the evaluation criteria changed in H2020?

Answer: Yes, they have changed. They are described in [part H of the General Annexes](#) to the Work Programme 2014-2015, with the following exceptions:

For PHC-19-2014: The thresholds for "Excellence" and "Impact" will be 4, and for "Quality and efficiency of the implementation" 3. The cumulative threshold will be 12.

Please also note that PHC-20-2014 is an Innovation action and therefore to determine the ranking, the score for the criterion 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.

Do we submit proposals in one stage or in two stages?

Answer:

Many of the call topics of the Personalising Health and Care Work Programme 2014-2015 indeed have a two stage proposal process, but the four topics concerned by this FAQ (PHC-19-2014, PHC-20-2014, HCO-01-2014 and HCO-02-2014) all have a 1-stage proposal submission with a deadline 15/04/2014.

Can you give a definition of service robotics (related to PHC-19-2014)?

Answer:

We do not give an exact definition of service robotics, but we do specify what type of service robotics we expect: "Proposals should focus on service robotics in assisted living environments which can help an ageing population to remain active and independent for longer. Proposals should build on advances in this domain, and should combine multi-disciplinary research involving behavioural, sociological, health and other relevant disciplines. Characteristics of the solutions developed should be their modularity, cost-effectiveness, reliability, flexibility in being able to meet a range of needs and societal expectations, applicability to realistic settings, safety and acceptability to end-users. Gender and ethical issues should be paid due attention."

Each proposal will be evaluated by independent experts according to the evaluation criteria given in [part H of the General Annexes](#) of the General Work Programme. They will judge (among other things)

- whether the proposed concept is sound, including trans-disciplinary considerations;
 - The extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)
- Proposals which are considered sound service robotics proposals by the experts will receive a higher score than the ones which they consider not to be service robotics.

If cognitive impairment also causes physical disabilities, can both aspects be addressed in a proposal? (related to PHC-20-2014)

Answer:

Yes, in case of a cognitive impairment which also causes physical disabilities, the solution may address both aspects.

Clarification of the scope of PHC-20-2014

The call text states that four pilots in four different countries are expected, while involving a large enough group of users to ensure statistical significance. How is this possible with an expected EU budget of 2-3 million EUR.

Answer:

The budget is realistic based on experience from previous projects, since it is expected that the pilot sites build on already planned or existing national/regional deployment plans, which means that not all the costs incurred are expected to be put on the H2020 pilot project.

Examples of previous ICT-PSP pilot projects can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/results-cluster-eu-funded-deployment-projects-area-ict-ageing-well>

Scope of PHC-20-2014: Should the pilots be the same at all sites?

Answer:

You should strive to a good degree of commonality across the pilot sites in order to ensure that there is a good chance to aggregate the findings, but as in reality there can also be some specific needs for each site. The proposal should clearly present these aspects and how you will derive common findings across the sites.

What is an "open ICT solution" (related to PHC-20-2014)?

In the first sentence under scope it says "Pilots should build on common, flexible and open ICT solutions which can be adapted to specific users' needs, allowing them to live independently for longer while experiencing cognitive impairment." What do you mean with "... open ICT solutions ..."?

Answer:

"Open" is meant to indicate that the solution is based on open standards, allows for multi-vendor implementations and promotes interoperability of software and data as far as possible. This is part of the innovation expected compared to current state of the art, because it will then be possible to add the specific functionality to the solution that the user needs or to adapt a products or service to specific regional needs. In case there is an alternative for the solution that is based on the same standards, it is also possible to replace the original solution by the alternative. In other words, the solution is interoperable and does not cause a lock-in. In case there is no solution based on open standards, it is required that the proposed solution uses publicly available API's in order to keep the solution as open and interoperable as possible. The use of open source is not mandatory, but it is welcomed. In that case it is also important that there is a community around the open source.

What type of "evidence" is requested to comply with the impact requirements of PHC-19-2014 and PHC-20-2014?

Answer:

PHC-19-2014 requests for evidence for the benefits of service robotics developed, based on proof of concept and involvement of relevant stakeholders. It doesn't give any numbers on how many trials or how many stakeholders. However, it also requests that the service robotics solution contributes to a reduction of admissions and days spent in care institutions, and prolongation of time spent living in own home when ageing with emerging functional impairments, and improvement in quality of life of older persons and of their carers.

Therefore, every proposal should include sufficient user involvement, clear indicators and a realistic trial activity to be able to conclude on the likely impact in line with expected impact in the call text.

In PHC-20-2014, where the overall aim is to do large scale validation of already existing solutions, numbers are mentioned: The number of users involved should be sufficient, combined with the appropriate methodology, to ensure statistical significance in impact analysis, with a minimum of 4 pilot sites in 4 countries. It is thus not mandatory to do randomised control trials of the scale that the pharmaceutical industry needs to do before drugs will be admitted to the market.

Do you expect to fund one project to support the whole EIP-AHA or one project per action group? (related to HCO-01-2014)

Answer:

The call text states "Proposals should provide coordinated support to the activities of the EIP-AHA as follows: Support the existing action groups in implementing their action plans....". Therefore, it is intended that a proposal should cover support to all action groups under the EIP-AHA.

The call text mentions that the Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 1 and 2 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts. Given the scope of activities that the proposals are asked to pursue and that the indicative EU budget for HCO-01-2014 is EUR 2 million, it is not unlikely that only one project will be funded.

Are the actions related to HCO-01-2014 meant mainly to support the existing EIP-AHA action groups?

Answer:

The call text requires the Coordination and support actions in HCO-01-2014 to pursue a variety of activities in support of the EIP-AHA. Supporting the existing action groups of EIP-AHA in implementing their action plans is indeed one of these activities, but not the only one.

What period is the coordination concerned by HCO-01-2014 meant to cover? The period 2014-2020 or a shorter period of time?

Answer:

There is no formal minimum or maximum duration for the Coordination and support actions in HCO-01-2014. Proposers can choose any duration they deem suitable for the purpose of the action they propose, taking into account the proposed scope and available budget.

Is it necessary to be a member of the EIP-AHA in order to submit a proposal towards HCO-01-2014?

Answer:

It is not required to be a member of the EIP-AHA in order to submit a proposal towards HCO-01-2014. But proposers need to demonstrate in their proposal their ability to carry out the proposed work and the methodology to effectively execute the tasks, based on competences and experiences relevant to the scope and expected impact of HCO-01-2014.

Where can I find additional documents related to the topic of HCO-01-2014?**Answer:**

Information about the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) can be found on the website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing

The Strategic Implementation Plan and the Operational Plan of the EIP-AHA, with the priority action areas and specific actions can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=implementation-plan

The Action Plans of the 6 existing Actions Groups can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=commitment#action_plans

It is necessary to form a consortium to submit proposals to HCO-01-2014 or HCO-02-2014, or can single partner proposals be submitted?**Answer:**

According to the General Annex C of the H2020 work programme, there is no legal requirement for forming a consortium for a Coordination and support action (CSA). CSA proposals can be submitted by a single legal entity established in a Member State or associated country.

What are the conditions of participation of Canadian partners in H2020?**Answer:**

The rules for participation for third countries are explained here:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm

Entities established in industrialised countries (as well as those from China, Russia, India, Brazil and Mexico under the H2020 rules) may participate (using their own national funding). However, they can also be eligible for EC funding in exceptional cases, e.g. if their participation is deemed essential for carrying out the project or if provided for under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other agreement.

In case a proposal wants to include a Canadian partner and ask for funding from H2020, the respective proposal will have to provide sufficient evidence that the participation of the partner (in this case from Canada) will be essential for the project. The funding decision will be made on a case by case basis at the evaluation stage. It will be based on the assessment of independent experts.

What are the conditions of participation of partners of the United States of America in H2020?**Answer:**

In recognition of the opening of the US National Institutes of Health's programmes to European researchers, any legal entity established in the United States of America is eligible to receive Union funding to support its participation in projects supported under all topics in calls under the Societal Challenge 'Health, demographic change and well-being'.

Is it possible to know if there are any consortia being created for the above topics and it is possible to know how to find European partners?

Answer:

The Commission services cannot provide any information on whether consortia are formed for any of the topics addressed by this FAQ. Networks and facilities for partner search can be found on the pages of the Research & Innovation Participant Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-phc-2014-single-stage.html#tab3>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-hco-2014.html#tab3>

What about ethical issues?

Answer:

These topics are dealing with people. Careful attention therefore needs to be paid to privacy, safety, security, informed consent and other ethical issues that are important when dealing with sensitive information and (sometimes frail) people. Also any ethical approvals required at national level when implementing pilots should be duly taken into account in the project plans. Proposers should consider these aspects as an integral part of the proposal. Proposers should submit "ethics ready" proposals supplying all relevant background needed for the evaluation of this aspect.