



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE NETWORK

The Methodology of Success Behind European Funding Submissions

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Section 1 Introduction

As part of a wider ‘toolkit’ of European resources and documents currently being prepared to support the Yorkshire and Humber Digital Health Ecosystem, this briefing contains the following information;

-  Section 2 will set a brief context of European funding for health;
-  Section 3 will set out key facts and figures demonstrating the success and value associated with European funding for health to the UK
-  Section 4 will describe what is needed in place to provide the optimum chances for success at local level and
-  Section 5 will give contact details for further information, advice and support

Section 2 Context of European Funding Frameworks for Health – its Not Just Horizon 2020!

2.1

It is fair to say that there is a plethora of funding programmes suitable for health related projects and proposals across the various taxonomies of health. As the purpose of this paper is not to describe the funding programmes per se, a brief overview of alternative European funding instruments is included at the end of this document within Appendix 1.

2.2

Don't restrict *your horizon* to “Horizon 2020” if you are seeking European funding for projects or R&D related to health. Horizon 2020 (the successor to FP7), whilst an attractive programme is a highly competitive field with a focus primarily on scientific and technical research proposals. By way of example, for translational medicine (ideas into health practice) you may be more suited to the topics within the Third Health Programme, or for trans-regional collaboration you may want to consider funding via the Interreg IVC Programme.

Section 3 Demonstrable Success: Key Facts and Figures

3.1

Did you know that leading, research-intensive (hereafter LRI) universities win over £275m in research funding a year from the EU, more than from six of the seven UK Research Councils?¹

3.2

LRI universities are key to UK competitiveness and success of Horizon 2020.

3.3

LRI universities were 14 of the top 50 HE participants in Framework Programme 7 (FP7, the predecessor to Horizon 2020). They also represent 17 of the world's top 100 universities and they earn 75% of UK HE research income from outside the EU.²

3.4

The 20 pre-expansion Russell Group universities earn 78% of the UK HE sector's ERC funding and over 70% of the UK HE sector's income from EU industry and charities.³

3.5

The Russell Group win 21% of all ERC (European Research Council) funding and 20% of all Marie Curie funding (an EU funding stream).⁴

3.6

The UK won more than 16% of all FP7 funding to EU member states and 27% of European Research Council (ERC) funding - far higher than the UK contribution to the EU budget (c. 11.5%) or the UK share of overall EU spending (c. 5.6%).⁵

3.7

Funding for competitiveness and innovation makes up nearly 18% of the UK's receipts from the EU, almost the same as our structural funding. FP7 alone is 13% of the UK's receipts from the EU - higher than in any Member State except the Netherlands.

3.8

The UK received €3.7 billion in research and innovation funding from FP7, 2007-2011, second only to Germany. The then 20 Russell Group universities alone won over €1.5 billion, 16% of all EU research funding to universities.

3.9

FP7 has created funded for UK participation in nearly 90,000 collaborative links across the EU, ranging from leading academics to SME's.

3.10

Economic growth and jobs depend upon world-class research and innovation: €1 of EU FP7 funding lead to an increase in industry added value (contribution to growth) of €13 on average.⁶

3.11

If Europe had not invested in FP7 the loss would far exceed the funding saved:

The long-term impact is estimated at 900,000 extra jobs and 0.96% extra GDP - a boost to growth the size of the total expenditure on all other EU budget lines combined.⁷

3.12

High quality university research attracts private investment. 22% of UK R&D funds are from abroad, higher than any large economy and double the EU average.⁸

3.13

Businesses rate UK university-industry collaboration in R&D to be second in the world.⁹

¹ - <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/uploads/HoL-EU-Select-inquiry-into-EU-research-and-innovation-evidence-from-the-Russell-Group-11-February.pdf>

² - QS World University Rankings. Fifth FP7 monitoring report.

³ - Ibid, and HEBCI 2010/11

⁴ - European Commission, FP7 grant agreements and participants database, accessed October 2011.

⁵ - FP7 grant database October 2011. Fifth FP7 monitoring report, EU Budget Financial Report 2011.

⁶ - Impact Assessment Horizon 2020.

⁷ - Impact Assessment Horizon 2020. EU total expenditure minus FP7 spending is 0.95% of GNI. EU Budget 2011.

⁸ - OECD STI scoreboard 2011.

⁹ - First in the EU and ahead of the US. The World Economic Forum Competitiveness Report 2012.

Section 4 Harnessing Success

4.1

Whilst facts and figures relating to the success of projects associated with Russell Group Universities are helpful, please bear in mind that securing European funding is part of their business plan and they employ teams of people dedicated to European funding activity. For those of us that do not have such resources to support us, here are ten top tips to shaping a healthy proposal submission.

4.2

Be strategic. Think about your organisational strategy, think about the needs of your organisation, have discussions with management and the Board, discuss how R&I and inward investment could support your organisation's goals. Don't put together a bid or partner in a bid based on what you think that the European Commission wants to fund, rather than something that supports you to achieve your strategic vision. EU funding isn't worth it if it doesn't help your organisation achieve its goals. If EU funding doesn't fit, don't try and make your organisation fit into it.

4.3

Start small and work your way up. Don't be over ambitious. Starting small and being successful will go a long way to improving your confidence as you navigate the EU funding waters. A possible tip for 'first timers' would be to partner with an organisation which has a track record of successful grants funded by the EU. Use the experience to learn from them and decide if you would have the capacity in the future to lead a bid.

4.4

Do not underestimate the amount of time and energy required to complete a submission - from start to finish. If you or your organisation does not have the capacity (either time or staff) to apply yourself to the process your proposal will suffer in its rigour. You can give yourself optimum chance by negotiating the benefits of your proposal with decision makers within your organisation, full "buy in" brings you the time and the resources required to shaping and submitting your proposal.

4.5

Remember that when it comes to Brussels and the European Commission, the universal language is English. All documents relating to European funding proposals and bids are submitted in English so do not be put off by the concern that you do not speak another European language.

4.6

Decide which funding programme(s) best suits your project, idea or proposal. Don't try and fit a square peg into a round hole.

4.7

Once you have chosen your funding programme, make sure that you are kept up to date with calls as they come out. You can do this by registering at the funding programme website.

4.8

Build your partner consortium early; don't wait for a relevant call to come out within the programme you are watching before you start to create your partner consortium. Depending upon the funding programme and call you may need many domestic as well as international partners. Use your networks; set up meetings and telephone calls with like-minded colleagues to share with them your topic of interest and to establish if they would like to collaborate with you.

4.9

Create a project fiche. A project fiche is a document on which you provide a synopsis of your proposal and is a handy way to communicate your ideas and methodology as you undertake your partner search. For an example project fiche template please see Appendix 2 at the end of this document.

4.10

Be sure to check the participation eligibility rules within the programme/call that you are interested in. The different programmes can vary in their rules but generally speaking, as a minimum, you are usually required to partner up with organisations in at least another two European member state countries (or associated countries – which are listed separately in the call documents). Any legal entity can participate so this means that CCG's, provider trusts, SME's and research institutions are all appropriate for inclusion in your domestic partner consortia. All information relating to the variance in eligibility criteria can be found on the individual programmes' websites.

4.11

Similarly, familiarise yourself with the funding rules of the programme that you are interested in. There is a variance within programmes as to the exact amount of funding that is available can be required. This effectively means that the higher percentage of funding is provided by the EC and the lower percentage has to be provided by your consortium. Your match-funding figure can often be made up "in kind", but in some cases it is made explicit that the contribution has to be "in cash". "In kind" essentially means through staff time or other organisational resources. All information relating to the variance in funding and match funding required can be found on the individual programmes' websites. It should be noted here that most of the Horizon 2020 topics are funded at 100% of eligible costs, and 25% of your project budget can be charged to overheads. So it is financially more viable to be involved in Horizon 2020 grants. Anecdotal evidence we have from Trusts who were involved in clinical trials funded by FP7 grants was that they would leave it to universities to be partners and they would be subcontracted (as subcontracts means 100% of costs – so they didn't have to worry about budgeting 'match funds') now, as full partners in Horizon 2020 grants they can get 100% of costs covered, plus 25 % overheads.

4.12

The two most important documents are the work programme (and topic) of the funding programme you are going for – which will set out the strategic direction the EU wants to take, and the annotated model grant agreement. Make sure you have shown that agreement to your finance / admin department and get them to see if there are any organisational hurdles or problems in participating in EU grants. Try and find solutions before entering into the bid.

4.13

If you have never had experience of completing a European bid document and the submission process ensure that you have a partner within your consortium that does. Learn from them; shadow them through the submission process so that next time you can take a more active role within the actual submission process.

4.14

For collaborative European projects, one of the big challenges for a lot of bids is demonstrating European added value. You need to have a clear idea from the start why you want to conduct the project with European partners as opposed to conducting the research or initiative nationally or locally. You need to demonstrate very well what value added you get from conducting the project at international level.

Section 5 For Further Information and Assistance

Please contact info@yhahsn.com who will be happy to assist and advise and can put you in contact with European health funding specialists. You might also like to look at these further links:

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/regions-and-eu/nhs-european-office/innovation-and-eu-funding/horizon-2020>

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/regions-and-eu/nhs-european-office/innovation-and-eu-funding/european-structural-and-investment-funds>

Appendix 1 – Overview of European Funding Programmes/Instruments for Health

- ◆ **The Active and Assisted Living Programme (AAL)** The aims of which are i) to give older adults access to more and better products and services for ageing well. Products that will help them to keep living independently in their own homes and to contribute to the economy and society for more years; ii) to create a larger market for industry and especially SME's at European level and improve EU competitiveness in ICT based products and services for ageing well; iii) to facilitate researchers' benefit from collaboration with other experts at European scale; iv) to help governments gain cost efficiencies and increased sustainability of health and social care, while tackling the societal challenge of demographic ageing.
Website - <http://www.aal-europe.eu>

- ◆ **Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI 2).** The ongoing public-private partnership (PPP), which builds on and expands the existing Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) in biopharmaceutical research, will be expanded to include areas such as imaging and medical devices and have the goal of supporting next generation vaccines, medicines and treatments, such as new antibiotics.

With an ageing population and increasing global competition, Europe's future economic growth and jobs will increasingly depend on our ability to drive innovation in products, services and business models. The initiative directly addresses the challenges and opportunities of active and healthy ageing as one of the key goals of the Innovation Union by fostering innovation in biopharmaceuticals, medical imaging, medical information technologies and other health-related industries.

Website - <http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/imi-2>

- ◆ **Interreg IVC Programme** provides funding for interregional collaboration across Europe to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments. Typically funded activity includes (but is not limited to) typical tools for exchange of experience are networking activities such as thematic workshops, seminars, conferences, surveys, and study visits. Project partners cooperate to identify and transfer good practices. Possible project outcomes include for example case study collections, policy recommendations, strategic guidelines or action plans.
Website - <http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/>

- ◆ **Third Health Programme (2014-2020).** Strengthens and emphasises the links between economic growth and a healthy population to a greater extent than the previous programmes. The Programme is geared towards actions with clear EU added value, in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and current policy priorities. It contributes to finding and applying innovative solutions for improving the quality, efficiency and sustainability of health systems, putting the emphasis on human capital and the exchange of good practices.

The Programme will further support better forecasting, planning of needs and training of health professionals.

Website - http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm

 **Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI, includes the Progress Programme).** The Programme helps to identify and to analyse innovative solutions through social policy experimentation, which allows the gathering of evidence on the feasibility of social innovations. Social policy experimentation is to assist member states to further improve their labour markets and their social protection and inclusion policies. EaSI will devote around €100 million to launch experiments in the most critical policy areas such as youth employment, inclusion of disadvantaged groups, occupational wellbeing and mental health.

Together with the ESF, the Fund for the European aid for the most deprived and the European globalisation adjustment Fund, EaSI forms the fourth pillar of the EU initiative for employment and social inclusion 2014-2020.

Website - <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>

 **Horizon 2020.** H2020 is the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, brings together the successor of the 7th Framework Programme for Research, the successor to the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP, comprising the innovation-related parts of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), the Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP), and the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)), and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The general objective of H2020 is to contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and to the completion of the European Research Area. For the societal challenges pillar, H2020 is on 6 themes:

- (i) **health, demographic change and wellbeing;**
- (ii) **food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy;**
- (iii) secure, clean and efficient energy;
- (iv) smart, green and integrated transport;
- (v) climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; and
- (vi) **inclusive, innovative and secure societies.** Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing

Website - <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/health-demographic-change-and-wellbeing>

 **Erasmus+** Erasmus+ is the new umbrella programme for education, training, youth and sport from 2014 to 2020. **It brings together all the existing education and training programmes** as well as the **Youth in Action Programme**, and adds **sport**, for the first time in an EU programme.

More than four million young people will be eligible for funding to study, train, carry out volunteer work or take part in youth or sports activities in an EU country other than their own during the programme's seven-year period.

Young people from the age of 13 to 30 will be able to go abroad to study at university, take up a traineeship or an apprenticeship or work as an assistant. They will also be able to teach or gain professional experience in another EU country.

Website - http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

- ◆ **Life Programme for Environment and Climate Action.** The proposed new programme will build on the success of the existing LIFE+ Programme but will be reformed to have a greater impact, be simpler and more flexible and have a significantly increased budget. The Commission decided to address environment and climate action as an integral part of all the main instruments and interventions and in addition to the “mainstreaming” approach; it proposes to continue the LIFE Programme currently regulated by the LIFE+ Regulation. Combining mainstreaming with a specific instrument is designed to increase the coherence and added value of the EU intervention.

Website - http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life/faq_en.htm [2020/rec/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life/faq_en.htm)

- ◆ **Joint Programming Initiative – Neurodegenerative Diseases.** It is the largest global research initiative aimed at tackling the challenge of neurodegenerative diseases. JPND aims to increase coordinated investment between participating countries in research aimed at finding causes, developing cures, and identifying appropriate ways to care for those with neurodegenerative diseases. Priority areas:

Genetic, epigenetic & environmental risk factors; Cell and animal models for the identification of mechanisms underlying ND; Cross-disease analysis of pathways; Preventive strategies; Evaluating healthcare policy strategies and interventions; Systematic Review(s) of ‘pathways to care’; Palliative and end-of-life care.

Website - <http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu>

Appendix 2 – Sample European Project Fiche Template

European Project Fiche

1. European Programme, Topic and Indicated Budget	
2. Submission Deadline	
3. Partner Search Deadline	
4. Project Contact	
5. Lead Partner	
6. Call Objectives	
7. Project Context (rationale) and Summary (what will be undertaken)	
8. Proposed Project Structure (list of proposed WP's)	
9. Partners (existing and sought)	
10. Budget	
11. Proposed Project Duration	



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