

Call Title: HEALTH-2009-Two-Stage

Call identifier: FP7-Health-2009-two-stage

Proposal submission and evaluation: two-stage procedure. Collaborative Projects (large-scale integrating projects)

Date of publication: 3 September 2008

Deadline for stage 1 proposals: 3 December 2008 at 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Indicative budget: EUR 115 million from the 2009 budget¹

- The budget for this call is indicative. The final budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of proposals, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

Table 1

ACTIVITY/AREA	FUNDING SCHEME	Indicative budget (EUR million)
1. BIOTECHNOLOGY, GENERIC TOOLS AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR HUMAN HEALTH 1.1. HIGH-THROUGHPUT RESEARCH 2. TRANSLATING RESEARCH FOR HUMAN HEALTH 2.1. LARGE-SCALE DATA GATHERING AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY	<i>Collaborative Project (Large-scale integrating project)</i>	115

Table 2: Topics called:

Area	Topics called	Funding Scheme
1.1 High-Throughput Research	HEALTH-2009-1.1-1: Computational tools for genome annotation and genotype/phenotype data integration	Collaborative project (Large-scale integrating project)
1.1 High-Throughput Research	HEALTH-2009-1.1-2: High throughput tools and technologies to analyse samples in large-scale human biobanks	
1.1 High-Throughput Research	HEALTH-2009-1.1-3: Tools, technologies and resources for the characterisation of protein functions	
2.1.1 Large-scale data gathering	HEALTH-2009-2.1.1-1: Large-scale functional genomics effort in multi-cellular organisms to elucidate the function of human genes products	
2.1.1 Large-scale data gathering	HEALTH-2009-2.1.1-2: Large-scale functional genomics efforts to identify molecular determinants of cancer	

¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

2.1.1 Large-scale data gathering	HEALTH-2009-2.1.1-3: Characterisation of human genetic variation in Europe	
2.1.2 Systems Biology	HEALTH-2009-2.1.2-1: Systems biology approaches for basic biological processes relevant to health and disease	

Eligibility conditions (stage 1 and stage 2):

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 of the work programme. In addition, specific criteria apply to this call as set out below.

Eligibility criteria for each proposal are checked by Commission staff before the evaluation begins. Proposals which do not fulfil these criteria will not be included in the evaluation. For this call a proposal will only be considered eligible if it meets all of the following conditions:

- It is received by the Commission via the electronic proposal submission system respecting the deadline (date and time) as set out above.
- It is complete (i.e. both the requested administrative forms and the proposal description are present)
- The content of the proposal relates to the topic(s) and funding scheme(s), including any special conditions set out in the relevant parts of the work programme
- It involves at least the minimum number of participants as set out in the table below.

It is important to note that the following upper and lower limits for the EU contribution will be applied as an additional eligibility criterion and that proposals (stage 1 and stage 2) which do not respect these limits will be considered as ineligible:

- For large-scale integrating projects the requested EC contribution **shall be over EUR 6 million and not exceed EUR 12 million.**

The minimum number and type of participating legal entities for all funding schemes is set out in the FP7 Rules for Participation and summarised in the following table for the funding scheme used in this call.

Table 3: Eligibility conditions

Funding scheme	Minimum participation conditions
Collaborative project	At least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC, and no two of which are established in the same MS or AC.

Evaluation procedure:

The basic principles of the Evaluation criteria for proposals are described in Annex 2 of the work programme. However, for this call, the priority order for proposals with the same score will be determined in the manner described under 'Proposal ranking' (see below).

For all proposals submitted to this call the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. The proposals will be evaluated by external experts.

Stage 1 proposals

Stage 1 proposals must be submitted by the deadline mentioned above.

Stage 1 proposals should follow the instructions set out in the Guide for Applicants and in the proposal part B template available through EPSS. Proposals should focus on the overall scientific and technological content and on clear identification of the milestones to be reached (intended results), their intended use and the expected impact (scientific, economic, social, environmental, etc.) in a maximum of 5 pages (excluding the cover page and the required tables). Applicants may also provide an additional 1 page (maximum) to describe the consortium and the estimated financial resources involved. The maximum page limits of each section must be respected. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages in excess of these limits. A minimum font size of 11 is required.

Stage 1 proposals will be evaluated remotely and at consensus meetings of evaluators in Brussels.

Stage 1 proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following two criteria: **Scientific/technological quality** and **Impact**. For each criterion, marks from 0 to 5 will be given, with the possibility of half-point scores. Proposals must pass the minimum thresholds as follows:

Table 3: Thresholds for evaluation criteria for first stage

Criterion	Minimum threshold
S/T quality	4/5
Impact	3/5
Overall threshold	8/10

Coordinators of proposals retained at stage 1 (proposals passing the evaluation thresholds) will be invited to submit a complete proposal (stage 2 proposal) that will then be evaluated against the entire set of evaluation criteria.

Proposals will be retained at stage 1 (proposals passing the evaluation thresholds) to a total budgetary value of maximum 3 times the indicative budget for this call.

Stage 2 proposals

The proposers are requested to follow the page limitation instructions as set out in the Guide for Applicants and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS, respecting page number limitations and a minimum font size of 11. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages in excess of these limits.

The deadline for submission for stage 2 proposals will be specified in the invitation to submit. The **indicative deadline** for stage 2 proposals is: 22 April 2009.

Stage 2 proposals will be evaluated remotely and at consensus meetings of evaluators in Brussels.

Stage 2 proposals are evaluated on the basis of the following three criteria: **Scientific/technological quality** and **Implementation** and **Impact**. For each criterion, marks from 0 to 5 will be given, with the possibility of half-point scores. Proposals must pass the minimum thresholds as follows:

Table 4: Thresholds for evaluation criteria for second stage

Criterion	Minimum threshold
S/T quality	4/5
Implementation	3/5
Impact	3/5
Overall threshold	12/15

Proposal ranking at stage 2: A priority list will be prepared by the panel of external experts. The aspects taken into account for establishing a priority order for ranking of proposals will be as follows:

- First, overall score;
- Second, proposals with the same overall score will be ranked based on the score for the Science and Technology (S/T) quality criterion;
- To avoid prioritising any proposals of similar content to those proposals with higher scores already on the list
- Then also to be taken into account: coverage of the work programme (the overall balance of proposals to be funded), provided proposals of sufficient quality have been submitted, and any strategic objectives and/or community policies specified in the work programme.
- For the topics of this call, which are all for Large-scale Integrating Projects, **one or more proposals** can be selected for funding for any given topic.

However, there may be topics for which no proposals are of sufficient quality to be selected for funding, as there will be competition within topics and between topics on the basis of the quality of the proposals

The Commission ranked list of proposals to be retained for negotiation will be based on the priority list established by the panel of external experts taking into account the budget available (as indicated in this call for proposals). A number of proposals below the indicative budget cut-off line on the Commission ranked list may be kept on a Commission reserve list to allow for eventualities such as the failure of negotiations on grant agreements, the withdrawal of proposals, budget savings agreed during negotiation, or the availability of additional budget from other sources.

Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable: The first stage evaluation should be finalised at the end of January 2009. The evaluation of the second stage is expected to take place in May 2009. Overall evaluation results: estimated to be available within 3 months after the closure date for stage 2 proposals. It is expected that contract negotiations for short-listed proposals would begin in July 2009.

Consortium agreements: Participants in large-scale integrating projects are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

Forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates for projects funded through the Cooperation work programme are given in Annex 3.