



# How to write a good Horizon 2020 project proposal ?

Kristof Vlaeminck, head of UiB Brussels office





# Structure of the presentation



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1. First step: stating the obvious
2. Topic description: use it
3. How to proceed ?
4. Structure of the proposal
5. Evaluation criteria
6. Want to know more ?
7. Exercise



**1. First step: stating the obvious**



- Checking the eligibility criteria
  - Use the (appropriate) Guide for Applicants
  - General rules: partners from 3 countries, max. pages, letter type (>11pt),...
  - Call specific: number of partners, SME involvement,...
- Yes, appearance does matter !
  - Evaluators have to read several proposal in a short period of time
  - Check for spelling errors



**2. Topic description: use  
it !**



- Top-down approach
- Topic description:
  1. Analyse it: what is expected ?
  2. Transform the text into a list
  3. Use this list as a 'shopping list'
  4. At the end: if not all 'list items' are checked, it is simply not good enough



#### SCI-PM-20-2017: Methods research for improved health economic evaluation

**Specific Challenge:** Health systems need to be resilient. They must be able to adapt effectively to changing environments, and tackle significant challenges with limited resources. Many changes are taking place including demographics and burdens of disease, advances in biomedical research, health technologies and personalised medicine, and the availability of large, population-based data sets. These changes highlight the need and potential to develop new or improved methods for economic evaluation, including in the context of Health Technology Assessment and Health Systems Performance Assessment, to support decision-making.

While health economics research has generated evidence of differences between costs and health outcomes within and across countries, our understanding of major drivers of these differences is limited. Data on costs and health outcomes are available from an increasing range of sources, underlining the need for better data integration and synthesis of evidence. The challenge is to strengthen data generation for health economic evaluation, the methodological quality of the evaluations and their use in decision-making.

**Scope:** Proposals should provide new or improved methods for one or both of the following areas:

- Understanding variations in costs and health outcomes within and across countries
- Integrating data on costs and health outcomes from different sources

In terms of understanding variations in costs and health outcomes within and across countries, proposals should address which factors on the supply and demand side of a health system have major effects on the costs and outcomes of health-related interventions. This includes methods for more robust measures of wellbeing and quality of life, patient preferences, and experience, patient-reported outcomes, as well as methods for measuring broader economic and societal impacts such as on productivity. In the development of these methods, the perspectives of different important stakeholder groups in the health system and the broader economy should be taken into account.

With respect to data integration, proposals should develop improved or new methods to integrate data on direct and indirect costs of illness and on health outcomes from various sources, such as randomised controlled trials, observational studies, registries, surveys, routine administrative databases including social service records and eHealth<sup>33</sup>. New methods should make use of the strengths of real-world data, while addressing their limitations. The development of new frameworks and models for integrating data sets from different sources should facilitate a continuous and informative assessment of health technologies, services and systems over time.

The research design should be developed by means of a multidisciplinary approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative methods and taking advantage of recent methodological developments in economics. Rigorous standards of health economic research should be applied, including the analysis of underlying assumptions. Research should consider aspects related to gender, socioeconomic status and other health determinants as well as issues related to data protection and relevant regulatory developments, as relevant. The methods to be developed should be applicable to a wide range of health-related interventions spanning prevention and treatment. Furthermore, methods to be developed should take into account the diversity of health systems within and across countries. Research proposals should establish synergies with other relevant research projects and initiatives.<sup>34</sup> Finally, methods and approaches should be validated, with a view to ensuring their applicability, including for routine use in health systems, and their suitability for addressing the above-mentioned changes and challenges faced by health systems.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 2 and 3 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.





### Expected Impact:

- Validated improved or new approaches for the collection and analysis of data for health economic evaluation, resulting in high-quality and comparable information within and across countries
- Validated improved or new approaches for integration of data from all relevant sources, to facilitate an informative and continuous assessment of health interventions and systems
- Validated improved or new indicators, measures and tools, to be used by decision-makers for resource allocation in health systems that are patient-centred, efficient and sustainable.

Type of Action: Research and Innovation action

## SC1-HCO-03-2017: Implementing the Strategic Research Agenda on Personalised Medicine



- ERA-NET Cofund
- 1 project of 5 million €
- Implementing the [PerMed's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) and be complementary with other funding programmes and activities at European and international level. The proposal should pool the necessary financial resources from the participating national (or regional) research programmes.



## SC1-HCO-07-2017: Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD)

### prevention and management of mental disorders

- Research and Innovation Action
- 1-3 million €/project – 24 million € in total
- Deadline 11 April 2017
- The call will focus on implementation research proposals on child, adolescent and adult age onset mental disorders including, but not limited to, dementia, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, alcohol- and drug-use disorders, etc., in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and/or in vulnerable populations in high income countries.



## SC1-HCO-08-2017: Actions to bridge the divide in European health research and innovation

- Coordination and support action
- 1 project for 1 million €
- Deadline 11 April 2017
- The European Union sees significant internal disparities in terms of research and innovation performance. The action should demonstrate good practice on how synergies between the Structural Funds and Horizon 2020 can be exploited in the health R&I domain.



**3. How to proceed ?**



1. Idea: The research idea fits into the topic description



1. Idea

2. Form Consortium:

- Use your network
- Use Local contact points and the Research Advisors at the university
- Contact the National Contact Points
- Matchmaking events



1. Idea

2. Form Consortium

3. Write Proposal

You can get help from:

- Research administration of the university
- Horizon 2020 website
- Colleagues with experience on the matter





# 4. Structure of the proposal



- 1) Excellence: description of your project  
=> What will you do ?
- 2) Impact: dissemination, exploitation and communication  
=> How will you let the world know what you are doing ?
- 3) Implementation: work plan, finances, management structure, consortium  
=> Who will do what ?



- 4) Members of the consortium: description of the partners  
=> Who is part of the consortium ?
  
- 5) Ethics and Security



## 4.1. Excellence

1. Objectives: see “Specific challenge” of the topic description
2. Relation to the work programme: see “Scope” of the topic description
3. Concept and approach: TRL, (inter)national activities linked to the project,...
4. Ambition: beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation potential



## 4.1. Excellence - Advice

1. Use your “shopping list”
2. Is everything clear, also for an ‘outsider’ ?



Ask someone who is not involved in your research to read it: if the ‘outsider’ understands it, the evaluators will do as well



## 4.2. Impact

1. Expected impacts: see “Expected impact” of the topic description
2. Measures to maximise impact
  - Dissemination and exploitation
  - Communication activities



## 4.2. Impact - Advice

- Don't underestimate this part !
- Communication  $\neq$  Dissemination
- Think further as peer-reviewed article
- Don't forget the general public
- Sort out the IPR before the start of the project
- Why not taking an IPR specialist on board ?



## 4.3. Implementation

1. Work plan — Work packages, deliverables and milestones
2. Management structure and procedures
3. Consortium as a whole
4. Resources to be committed





## 4.3. Implementation - Advice

- Work package list: KISS-principle !
- Work plan and management structure has to be in line with the chapter “Excellence”
- Is the coordinator also the most important partner ?
- Is it clear what the project will deliver and how it will achieve that ?
- Are the appointed person months appropriate ?



## 4.4. Ethics and Security

### 1. Ethics

- Submit an ethics self-assessment
- Provide the documents that you need under national law

### 2. Security



# 5. Evaluation criteria



Up to 3 criteria:

- **Excellence:**

To which extent corresponds the proposed work with the topic description ?

- **Impact:**

What is the impact of the outputs ?

- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation:**

What is the quality of the management part, work plan, etc. ?



## Scoring from 0 to 5:

- 0 — The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 — Poor
- 2 — Fair
- 3 — Good
- 4 — Very Good
- 5 — Excellent



**6. Want to know more  
?**



- Horizon2020 website

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

- Example of administrative forms and template for the technical annex for proposals

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call\\_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-pt-ria-ia_en.pdf)



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