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Developing and submitting a healthcare research or capacity building proposal to a European call for funding: lessons learned and experience gained from the University of Crete

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Outline

- Major challenges in the European Union (EU): science, research and innovation – public health perspective
- Policy and research management, and the importance thereof for: Framework Programme (FP7) and Horizon 2020 (H2020)
- Developing a research strategy:
 - Exploring resources and starting out
 - Thematic priorities and synergies
- FP7 and H2020: the CSFM experience and success
- Set of recommendations
- Q&As



Major challenges

- Relevance of research output – Market entry and commercialization
 - industry and academia “link”
- Translational aspects of research work and impact thereof
- Quality of output and reporting

Science cooperation and diplomacy – “new” driving factors for project and program work

Policy and Research Management – I

FP7 and H2020

- Understand policy and link to challenges
- Understand principles and driving factor of project, programme and overall research management
- Examine links from previous actions and programmes (e.g., FP7) and forge a relevant strategy for future options (e.g., H2020) and identify elements for:
- **Developing a “relevant” research strategy – an iterative process – and exploring funding and collaboration options**
 - Consideration should always be given to “own” capacity, resources, limitations and overall organization, local and national contexts for maximum impact

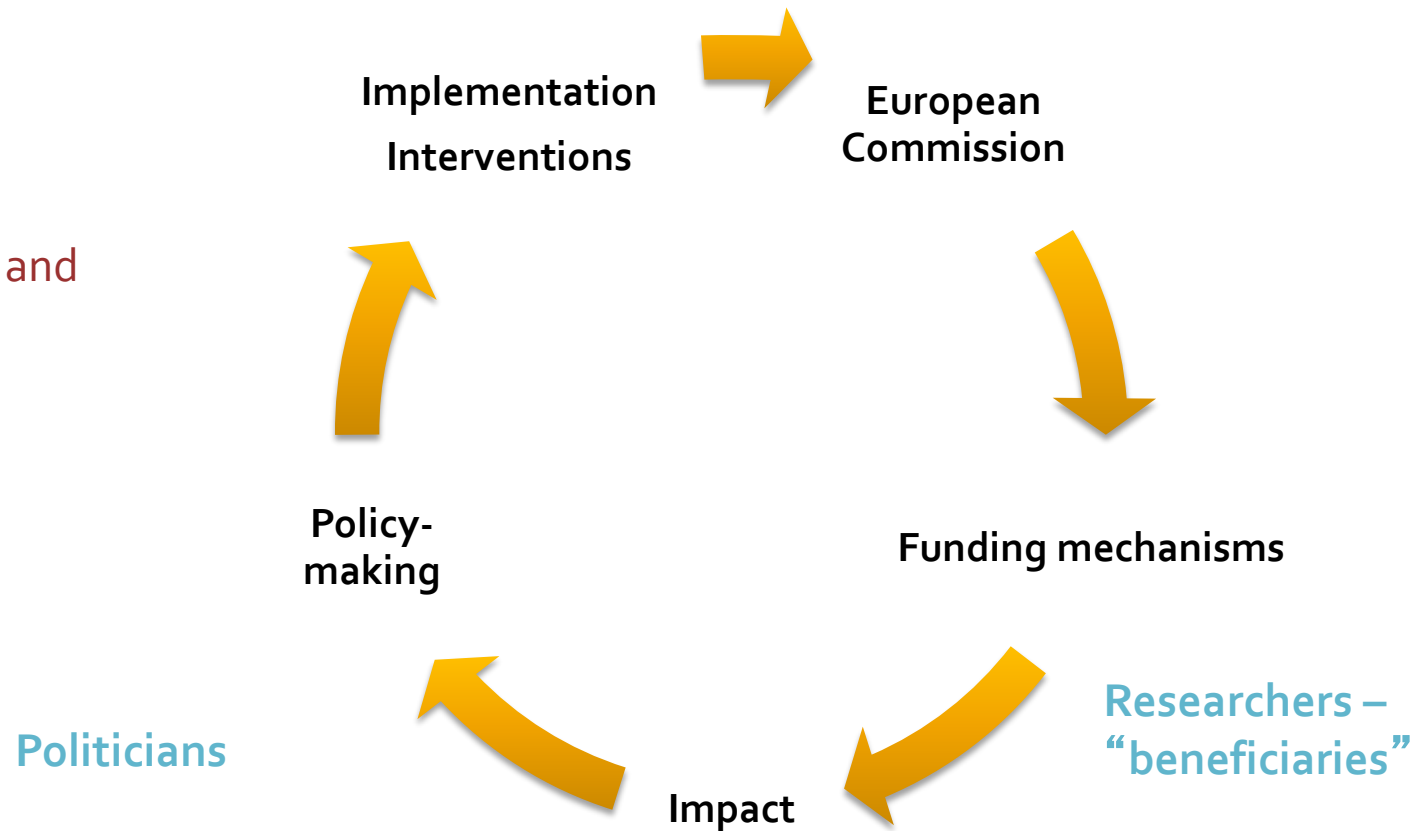
Policy and Research Management – II

FP7 and H2020

Understand policy and link to challenges...

Context:

- Organizational (micro- and meso-)
- Local
- National
- European
- Global

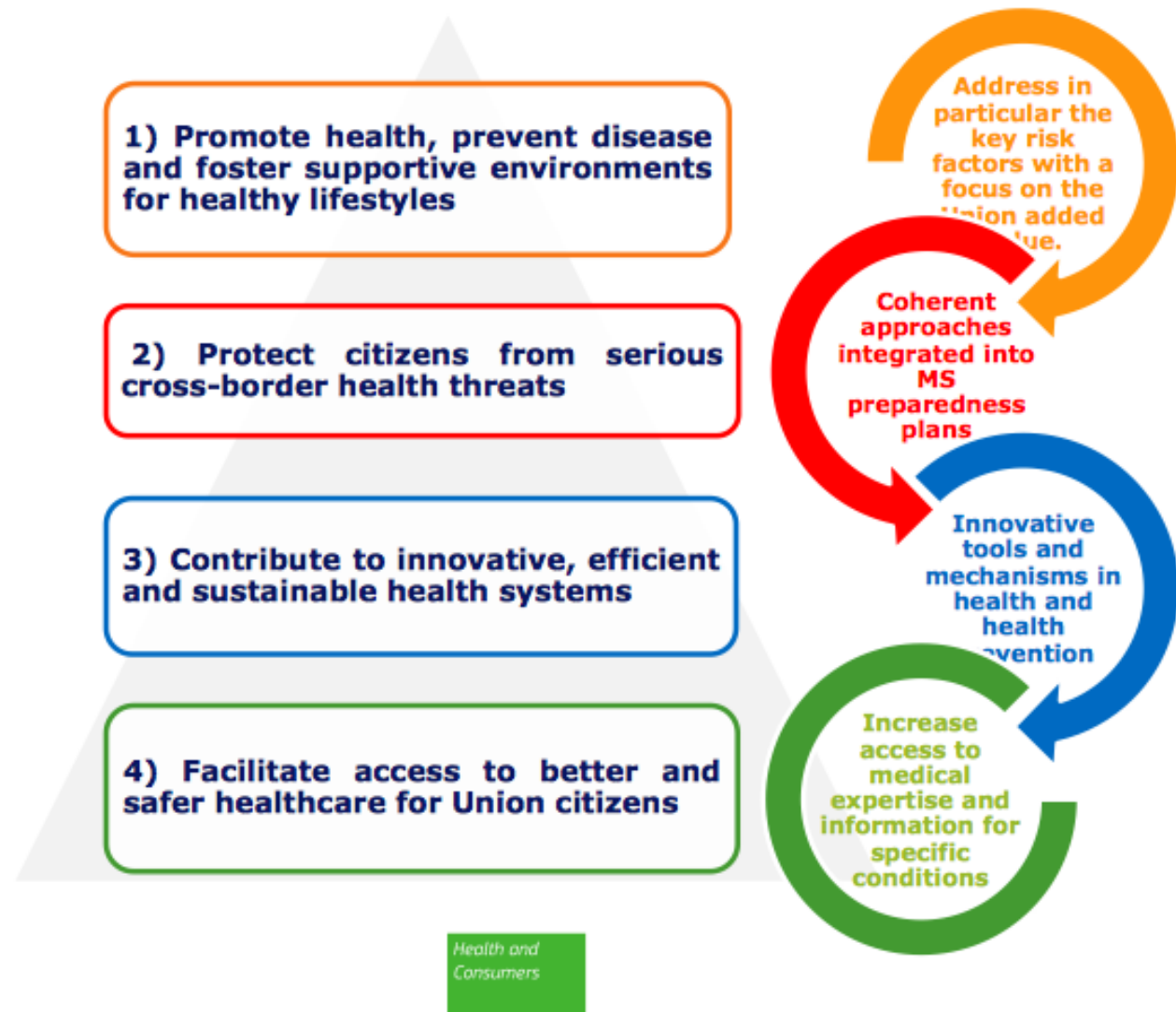


Developing a research strategy – I

Thematic priorities and synergies

4 SMARTly-defined Objectives

21 thematic priorities
– linked criteria,
progress indicators
and **long-term policy planning**



Developing a research strategy – II

Exploring resources and starting out



DG Sante Health Programmes including the Commission proposal for the new Programme

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

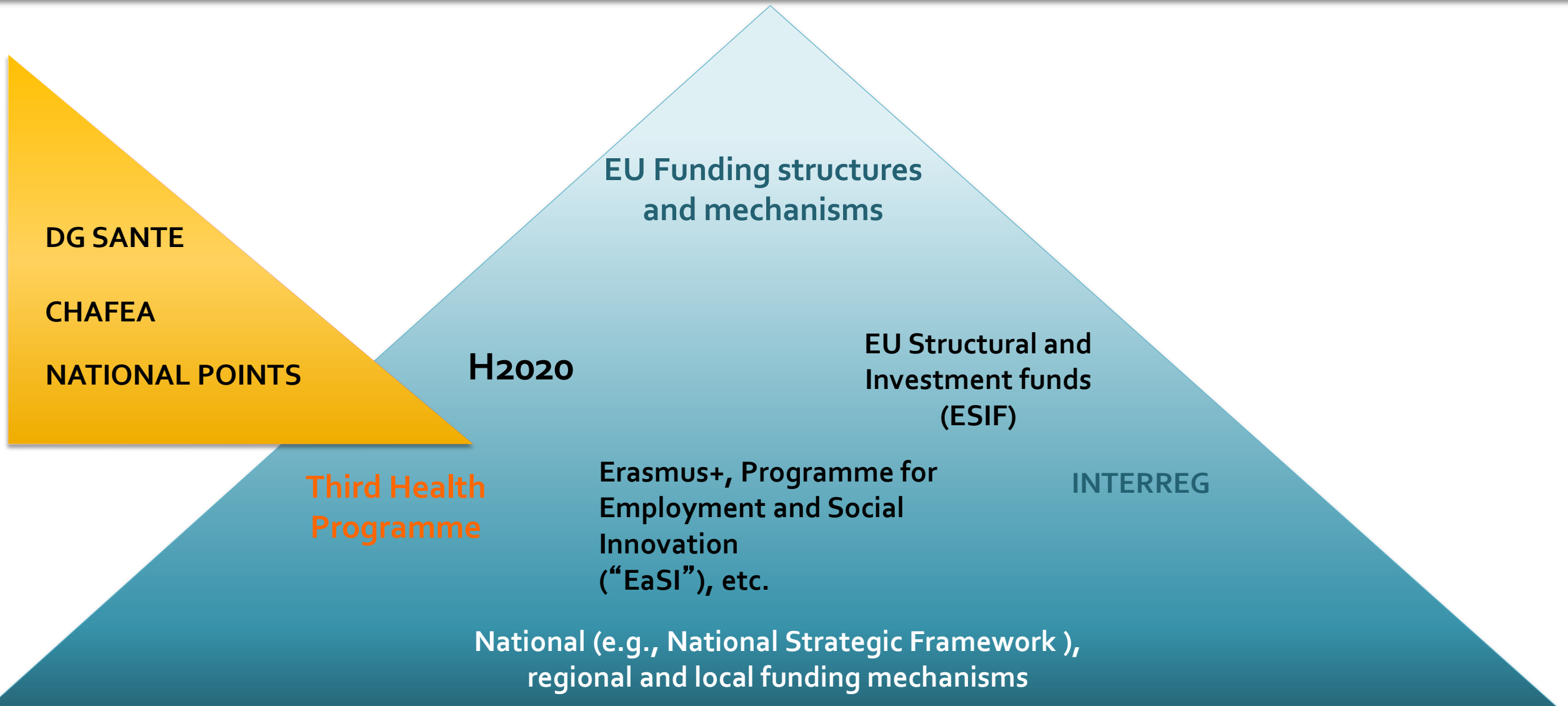
CHAFEA Database for the results of previous Health Programmes

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html>

A sound starting point is the main funding portal of the EU

Developing a research strategy – III

Funding structures and mechanisms



Developing a research strategy – IV

The concept of synergies and regulatory considerations

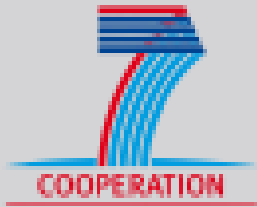
- The Commission services identified synergies between different funds as **amplifying the research and innovation investments and their impact**, combining different forms of **innovation and competitiveness support** or carrying innovative ideas further along the innovation cycle or value chain to bring them to the market.
- **Synergies are about obtaining more impacts on competitiveness, jobs and growth in the EU by combining ESIF, H2020, and other EU instruments in a strategic and cohesion-oriented manner.**
- To achieve such synergies, the commission has developed strategies and involved various authorities across territories and **strongly encourages bringing together H2020 and ESIF money in the same project.**
- The Regulations of 2014-2020 EU programmes contain a number of novelties that enlarge the possibilities for synergetic use of the EU funds; refer to the relevant guide to understand sources synergies:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf
- Article 15(1)b(i) on Partnership Agreements (ESIF and other sources with the European Investment Bank)
- Article 65(11) on cumulating grants from different EU funds/instruments
- Article 67(5)b and 68(1)c for alignment of cost models
- Articles 70(2), 96(6)a and 96(3)d on EDRF, EMFF and Cohesion Fund support plus various aspects of coordinating EU and national mechanisms, with **arrangements for interregional and transnational actions**

ESIF

Art. 65(11) CPR: "An **operation** may receive **support** from one or more European Structural and Investment Funds or from one or more programmes and from other Union instruments, provided that the **expenditure item** included in a request for payment for reimbursement by one of the ESI Funds does not receive support from another Fund or Union instrument, or support from the same Fund under another programme."

Horizon2020

Article 37 Rules for Participation:
"Cumulative funding:
An **action** for which a **grant** from the Union budget has been awarded may also give rise to the award of a grant on the basis of Regulation [Horizon 2020] provided that the grants do not cover the same **cost items**."



Healthcare research project – FP7; Cooperation

- Alignment of **objectives** to the **key priorities** of the call and of the EU
- Anchoring the **methodological framework** in a **robust theoretical framework**
- **Interdisciplinary approach, qualitative and quantitative approach**
- Sound partner selection, previously developed collaboration network, **sound consortium** to ensure realistic expectations, good collaboration, convince on feasibility and sustainability of efforts, ensure alignment on dissemination and **maximum impact**

OTC SOCIOMED

- 8 countries

(Greece-Sweden-Netherlands-France-Cyprus-Czech Republic-Turkey-Malta)

- 24-month duration

- 2 theories

(Health Care Utilization Model,
Slikkerveer, 1990; Theory of Planned
Behaviour, Ajzen, 1991)

- 3 target groups

(primary care patients-general
practitioners-community pharmacists)

- 3 target behaviours

(OTC consumption-OTC prescription-
OTC dispense)

The CSFM experience and success – II





Publications

General Practitioners' intention to prescribe and prescribing patterns in selected European settings:

1. The OTCSOCIOMED project.

Tsiantou V, Moschandreas J, Bertias A, Papadaki M, Saridaki A, Agius D, Alper Z, Faresjo T, Klimkova M, Martinez L, Samoutis G, Vlcek J, Lionis C.

Health Policy. 2015 Sep;119(9):1265-74. doi: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2015.06.006. Epub 2015 Jul 4.

PMID: 26188356

[Similar articles](#)

2. Irrational prescribing of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines in general practice: testing the feasibility of an educational intervention among physicians in five European countries.

Lionis C, Petelos E, Shea S, Baglartaki G, Tsiligianni IG, Kamekis A, Tsiantou V, Papadaki M, Tatsioni A, Moschandreas J, Saridaki A, Bertias A, Faresjo T, Faresjo A, Martinez L, Agius D, Uncu Y, Samoutis G, Vlcek J, Abasaeed A, Merkouris B.

BMC Fam Pract. 2014 Feb 17;15:34. doi: 10.1186/1471-2296-15-34.

PMID: 24533792 **Free PMC Article**

[Similar articles](#)

3. Eliciting general practitioners' salient beliefs towards prescribing: a qualitative study based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour in Greece.

Tsiantou V, Shea S, Martinez L, Agius D, Basak O, Faresjo T, Moschandreas J, Samoutis G, Symvoulakis EK, Lionis C.

J Clin Pharm Ther. 2013 Apr;38(2):109-14. doi: 10.1111/jcpt.12037. Epub 2013 Jan 27.

PMID: 23350825

[Similar articles](#)

Statements for policy implementation - Example item for Policy makers/Health policy planners

RECOMMENDATION

In order to ensure that patients receive medicines appropriate to their clinical needs and in doses that meet their own individual requirements, policy makers and health policy planners should focus their interventions among other on GPs and especially the young GPs (in Malta, Sweden and Turkey) and the female GPs (in Czech Republic, Greece and Malta).

SUGGESTED POLICY INTERVENTIONS

Continuous medical education should target certain groups of GPs.

Undergraduate medical education and residency programs could include training on rational prescribing.

OTC SOCIOMED

The CSFM experience and success – IV



EUR-HUMAN

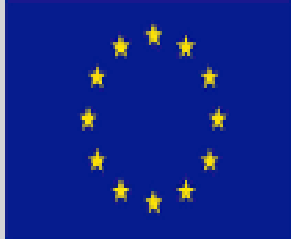
The CSFM experience and success – V



Capacity building

- Understand essence of “capacity” and coupling to priorities
- Anchoring the **methodological framework** in a **robust theoretical framework**
- Emphasis on **feasibility** aspects given very tight timelines
- Reinforced coordinator support and planning for alignment of consortium members to work packages, tasks, etc.
- Continuous monitoring to supplement **Description of Work (DoW)** and roadmap for **Roles & Responsibilities (R&Rs)**

EUR-HUMAN



[University of Crete](#) (Coordinator)

[Stichting Katholieke Universiteit](#)

[University of Liverpool](#)

[Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research](#)

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)

[Medizinische Universität Wien](#)

[Univerza V Ljubljani](#)

[European Forum for Primary Care](#)

[Local Health Authority of Empoli](#)

[Arq Psychotrauma Expert Group](#)

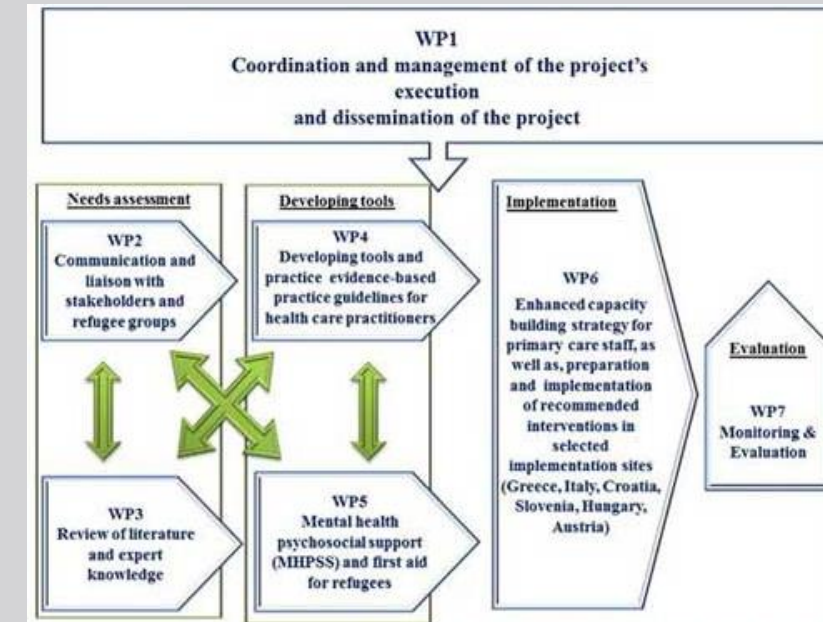
[University of Debrecen](#)



The overall aim of the EUR-HUMAN project is to:

- Enhance the capacity, knowledge and expertise of European member states who accept refugees and migrants in addressing their health needs
- Safeguard them from risks, while at the same time minimize cross-border health risks

The project will focus on addressing both the early arrival period and longer-term settlement of refugees in European host countries.



EUR-HUMAN

Third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)

Specific Call HP-HA-2015

Project Proposal number: 717319

Duration: 12 months

Grant Amount: 1,320,113 Euros

Co-ordination by the **University of Crete** (UoC)

Participating countries:

Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands Slovenia, UK 8 countries

(University of Crete, Stichting Katholieke Universiteit, University of Liverpool, University of Zagreb, Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Medizinische Universität Wien, Univerza v Ljubljani, European Forum for Primary Care, Local Health Authority of Empoli, Arq Psychotrauma Expert Group

The CSFM experience and success – VII



Other projects



The CSFM experience and success – VIII

The CSFM has been active in supporting its overall research strategy with an agile approach on topic selection and in identifying funding sources and mechanisms.

We have, progressively, built a strong interdisciplinary team, with continuous effort on skill transferability to young and new researchers, allowing more experienced members to develop in new areas and stay well informed on new techniques, methodologies and topics

Success result with high visibility projects at pan-European and national level, as for example:

QUALICOPC, RESTORE, EU-WISE, SPIMEU, FRESH AIR,
multiple NSRF actions, etc.

A set of recommendations – I

- Realistic expectations and commitment when proposing work with long-term horizon in projects with a large consortium
- Each partner should have a clear understanding of the aim and structure of the proposal, so as to be able to develop the Work Packages, matched to the overall DoW, and to perform tasks for which they carry the responsibility effectively during the project
- Partners should have a comprehensive understanding of their obligations under which funding is secured and its continuity ensured, not excluding, diligent performance of task as described and reporting thereof in a timely manner
- Regularly monitor information and train personnel to develop strategic and research priorities that are relevant for your organization, national and local context, ideally, matching these to EU objectives, priorities, etc.
- Parallel to these steps read previous reports and project descriptions, familiarize the team with previous work that received funding and is of relevance
- Read calls identified paying particular attention on verbiage, expectations, matching of aims to overall objectives, innovative collaboration and network building and expansion

A set of recommendations – II

- Pay particular attention to expected impact (see next slide too), scaling up, feasibility and sustainability concepts, as well as dissemination activities in a manner sufficient to ensure informed decision- and policy-making
- Identify theoretical models and interventions of relevance and train personnel on methodology that can be of relevance in different context; it is important to remember there is an expectation to contribute with highly skilled personnel and to have already systematically examined bibliography to submit proposals with high originality and relevance for the thematic priorities identified
- Understand your limitations, leverage your strengths, invest in developing research managers and information officers:
 - The success of the funding-seeking effort heavily relies upon establishing a continuous flow of up-to-date information, including assessing the needs of researchers and practitioners seeking funding, not only regarding funding opportunities and requirements, but ,also, about project and research management tools, wider EU priorities and how to, respectively, utilize and embed these in any proposal.

A set of recommendations – III

- Never forget... impact!

Clearly describe all relevant impact aspects ensuring link to policy priorities (feeding into the project work) and informing policy-making for all project endpoints

- **direct** (e.g., outcomes) and **indirect** (e.g., sectoral growth) –
- **short-term** (e.g., research positions, project output (i.e., actual results)) and **long-term** (e.g., breakthrough discoveries, new translational platform)



Q&As

Thank you for the kind invite and your attention

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