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Horizon Europe Cluster Health Calls 2026: From Idea to Winning Proposal

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Project: 101057279 — HNN3.0

3 March 2026

www.healthncp.net

Aim

Information and tips on how to write a successful proposal

NOT general information about Horizon Europe or open calls in Cluster Health

This Webinar

Is recorded. Recording available on the HNN3.0 website

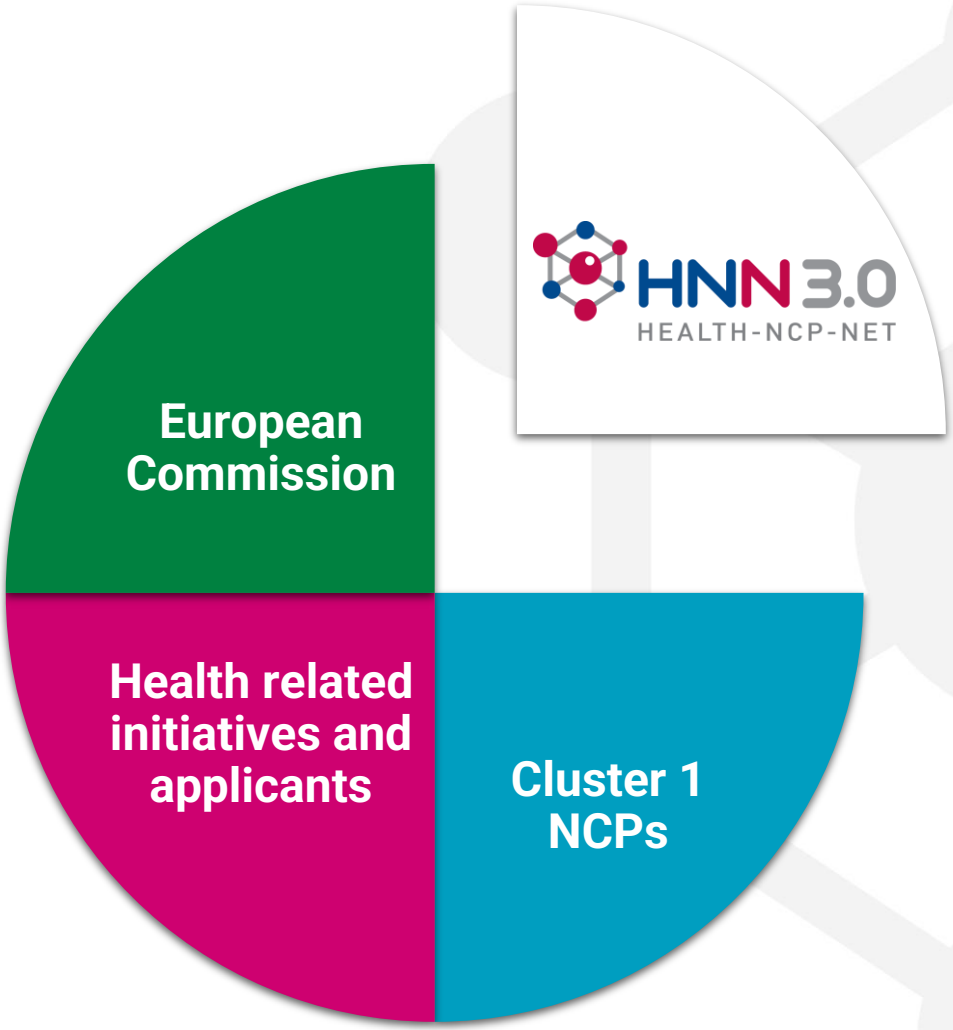
You will get the slides after the event

Please ask your questions in the Q&A. Use the chat for technical issues

Agenda

Time	Title	Speaker
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome and introduction	Nicole Wyss Anna Hapek-Sikora
14:15 – 14:30	Excellence	Nicole Wyss
14:30 – 14:45	Impact	Sasha Hugentobler
14:45 – 15:00	Implementation	Nicole Wyss
15:00 – 15:10	*Break*	
15:10 – 15:45	My experience as health project participant	Prof. Mafalda Bourbon Prof. Andras Dinnyes Prof. Przemysław Kardas
15:45 – 16:10	Panel discussion with the testimonials	Moderated by Sasha Hugentobler
16:10 – 16:20	Clinical Study Template	Sasha Hugentobler
16:20 – 16:30	Q&A and take-home message	Nicole Wyss

- Services and products for **NCPs**
- Services and products for **Applicants**
- Fruitful cooperation with the **European Commission** and other **health-related initiatives**



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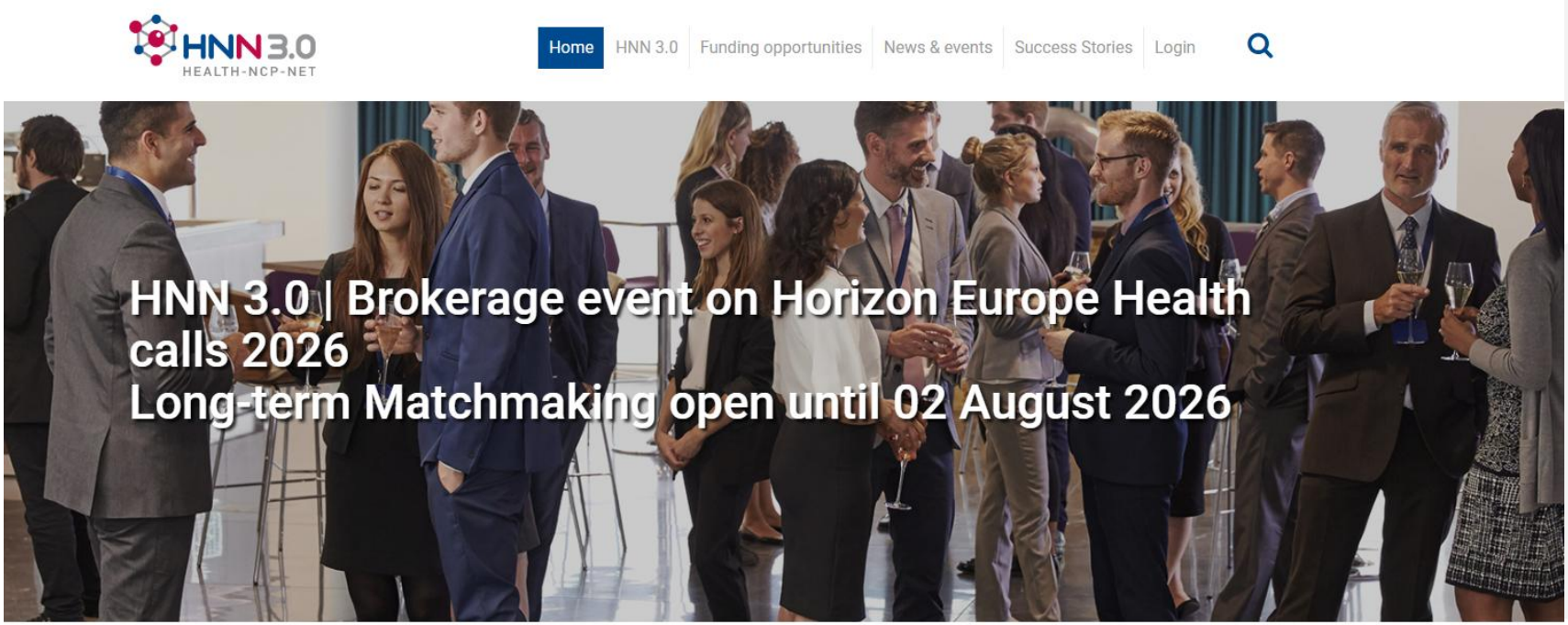

Welcome to Health-NCP-Net 3.0 (HNN 3.0)

We are a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) in the area of "Health" enhancing transnational cooperation between NCPs for Cluster 1 Health in Horizon Europe to increase the support for those interested in research funding.

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3 Golden Rules for Proposal Writing

1. Fit to the topic information
2. Address evaluation criteria
3. Follow the proposal template

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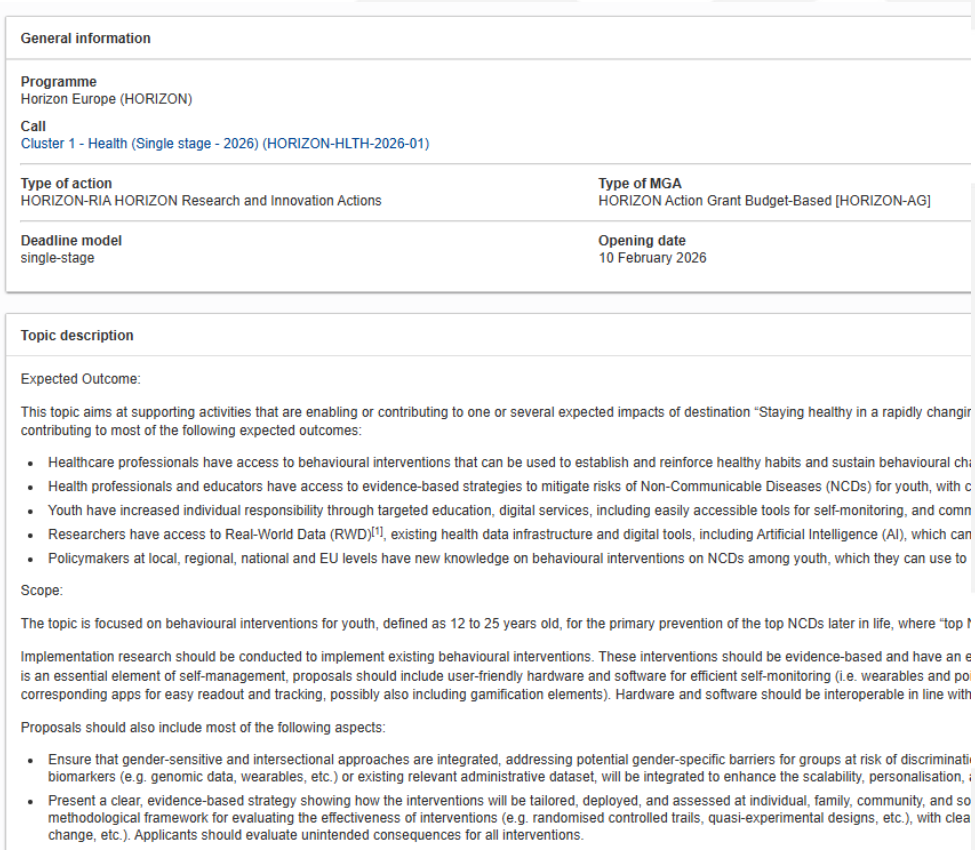
Fit to the topic information

Read the Topic Text

- Every sentence is important
- Also read
  - Expected Outcome
  - Scope
  - Special Conditions
  - References
  - Relevant policies
  - FAQ
  - Expected Impacts in the destination



General information

Programme
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call
Cluster 1 - Health (Single stage - 2026) (HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01)

Type of action
HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions

Type of MGA
HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]

Deadline model
single-stage

Opening date
10 February 2026

Topic description

Expected Outcome:

This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing to one or several expected impacts of destination "Staying healthy in a rapidly changir
contributing to most of the following expected outcomes:

- Healthcare professionals have access to behavioural interventions that can be used to establish and reinforce healthy habits and sustain behavioural cha
- Health professionals and educators have access to evidence-based strategies to mitigate risks of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) for youth, with c
- Youth have increased individual responsibility through targeted education, digital services, including easily accessible tools for self-monitoring, and comn
- Researchers have access to Real-World Data (RWD)[1], existing health data infrastructure and digital tools, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), which can
- Policymakers at local, regional, national and EU levels have new knowledge on behavioural interventions on NCDs among youth, which they can use to

Scope:

The topic is focused on behavioural interventions for youth, defined as 12 to 25 years old, for the primary prevention of the top NCDs later in life, where "top N

Implementation research should be conducted to implement existing behavioural interventions. These interventions should be evidence-based and have an e
is an essential element of self-management, proposals should include user-friendly hardware and software for efficient self-monitoring (i.e. wearables and poi
corresponding apps for easy readout and tracking, possibly also including gamification elements). Hardware and software should be interoperable in line with

Proposals should also include most of the following aspects:

- Ensure that gender-sensitive and intersectional approaches are integrated, addressing potential gender-specific barriers for groups at risk of discriminati
biomarkers (e.g. genomic data, wearables, etc.) or existing relevant administrative dataset, will be integrated to enhance the scalability, personalisation, a
- Present a clear, evidence-based strategy showing how the interventions will be tailored, deployed, and assessed at individual, family, community, and so
methodological framework for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions (e.g. randomised controlled trails, quasi-experimental designs, etc.), with clea
change, etc.). Applicants should evaluate unintended consequences for all interventions.

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Address evaluation criteria

Communication with Evaluators

Horizon Europe Proposal Evaluation Standard Briefing

standard-briefing-slides-for-experts_he_en.pdf

Communication with Evaluators

- Be concise, but comprehensive
- Use culture-neutral language and well-known universal concepts
- Use visuals, when possible
- Make it interesting
- Create a consistent story

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Follow the proposal template

Application Form – Part B

1. EXCELLENCE	2. IMPACT	3. IMPLEMENTATION
What What is the project about?	**Why** Why should we do the project? What evidence do we collect and measure to demonstrate the projects value?	**How** How to achieve the objectives?

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Excellence

Application Form – Part B

1. EXCELLENCE

What

What is the project about?

- Your main goal: get the reviewers' attention
- Excellence sub-sections
  - 1.1 Objectives and Ambition
  - 1.2 Methodology

1.1 Objectives and Ambition

- **State of the art** – thorough review literature, current projects, patents, etc.
- **Show** how your **objectives** are related to **each gap** in the state of the art you identified
- **Highlight** the **main objectives** in a clear way:
- easy to find for evaluators (e.g., list, bullet points)
- **Structure** your project around your **objectives**

1.2 Methodology

- Integration of **social sciences and humanities**

factsheet on good SSH integration practices – examples

- **Gender dimension** in R&I content

guidance on methods of sex / gender analysis and the issues to be taken into account: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/33b4c99f-2e66-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

- **Open science practices**

DMP; guidance in the HE Programme Guide

Gender Dimension in R & I

This section is **not** about the gender balance in the team carrying out the project!

- Reflect on why sex and/or gender could matter

  (How gender dimension provides added value in terms of creativity, excellence, and return on investment, both from public and private perspectives)

- Consider the production of new knowledge on gender

Evaluators' Comments

Lack of sufficient in-depth descriptions on individual objectives

Measurable KPIs are missing

The strategy for patient engagement is not sufficiently clear

DOs and DON'Ts

- ✓ Design quantified objectives with clear metrics
- ✓ Address all topic requirements
- ✓ Make the structure logical and clear
- ✓ Describe in detail how to engage with stakeholders

- ○ Don't have too many objectives
- ○ Don't omit reference to relevant publications, patents

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Impact

Application Form – Part B

2. IMPACT

Why

Why should we do the project?

What evidence do we collect and measure to demonstrate the projects value?

1. Project's pathways towards impact
   Provide quantified estimates when possible and relevant

2. Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication

3. Summary/Canvas (not compulsory)

What is Impact?

Wider long-term effects on society, the environment, the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments.

- Impact must be measurable, quantifiable.
- What evidence do you collect and measure in the project to demonstrate impact?
- How do you engage with target groups? What role do you give them? How do you measure their engagement?

2.1: Project's pathways towards impact

Project results → Outcomes → Impact

When	During your project	Shortly after the end of your project	Some time after the end of your project
Where	Defined in your proposal	Defined in the Topic	Defined in the Destination
What	e.g. know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, prototypes, databases and datasets, trained researchers, etc	e.g., uptake, diffusion, deployment, and/or use of the project's results by direct **target groups**	Wider effect on **Society** (e.g. more effective treatments, cheaper therapies), the **Economy** (e.g. new products or services) and **Science** (e.g., advances in your field or more broadly)

EC video: Key Impact Pathways: The importance of assessing the impact of R&I projects

2.1: Project's pathways towards impact

- Contribution of project results towards the outcomes and wider impacts convincing?

- Requirements and potential barriers described?
  (eg. Lack of acceptance-end user in consortium)

2.2: Measures to Maximise Impact (not part of 1st stage)

- Does the proposal contain a first version of the "plan for the dissemination and exploitation" including communication activities?
- Is it explained how the target group engagement is measured?
- Is a strategy for the management of intellectual property and exploitation existing?

Definitions

- **Results**: Output generated by project
- **Dissemination**: To bring the project results to the attention of targeted communities that can further utilise them
- **Exploitation**: The use of results in further research and innovation activities (eg. commercialisation for example a product, service, or in standardisation or policy making)
- **Communication**: All activities promoting the actions and its results to various audiences (incl. Media and the public)

Plan for the DEC

- Plan for the **dissemination** and **exploitation** including **communication** activities. A plan is a strategy, meaning provide a table with info to whom, with which method you provide what and how much of it

Communication - Dissemination - Exploitation

<table>
<tr><th>Informing about project</th><th>Informing about results</th><th>Making results available for use</th><th>Facilitating further use of results</th><th>Making use of results</th></tr>
<tr><td>Newsletter</td><td>Project website</td><td>Scientific publication</td><td>Innovation management</td><td>Spin-off/Start-up</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Press release</td><td>Policy brief/ roadmap</td><td>Copyright management</td><td>Standards</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project factsheet, brochures</td><td colspan="3">Training, workshops, demonstrators</td><td>Products</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Social media (blogs, LinkedIn, …)</td><td>Videos, interviews</td><td rowspan="6">Sharing results on online repository (research data, software, reports)</td><td>Data Management Plan</td><td>Services</td></tr>
<tr><td>Articles in magazines</td><td colspan="2">Patents</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td>Exhibitions/ open days/ guided visits</td><td colspan="2">PhD thesis</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Conference presentations</td><td colspan="2">Further research</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Open licenses</td></tr>
<tr><td>Active stakeholder engagement</td><td>Societal activity</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Policy change</td></tr>
</table>

2.3: Summary (not part of stage 1)

- Canvas

Provide a summary of this section by presenting a **canvas** with **quantitative impacts.**

The canvas breaks the impact down into its component parts.

Specific needs, expected results, D & E & C measures, target groups, outcomes, impacts

Evaluators' Comments

The exploitation of the produced software is not enough detailed

A more detailed and targeted plan is lacking in order to generate acceptance for this approach and adoption in the specific community

The impacts are addressed only at a generic level, and insufficient quantitative, measurable indicators are provided to assess the stated impacts and to monitor progress

Building on Their Digital Research, They Will Set Up a Spin-off Company

- Measurable Impact?
- NO
- Why?
- Does it employ anyone? Has it sold anything?

When comparing pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions in the elderly with multimorbidity, we improve therapies and reduce hospital admissions by 15%. This means 10% less health care expenditures.

- Measurable Impact?

- Yes

- Because numbers are provided and the effect is quantifiable. Direct effect on health care costs.

DOs and DON'Ts

- ✓ Be as concise and precise as possible
- ✓ Address impact short term (duration of project) and long term (10 years from now)

- ○ Don't define impact in qualitative terms only
- ○ Don't omit explaining the means of delivery of end results to users
- ○ Don't be vague regarding targeted stakeholders

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Quality & Efficiency of the Implementation

Application Form – Part B

3. IMPLEMENTATION

How?

How to achieve the objectives?

3.1 Work plan and resources

3.2 Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole

Evaluation Criteria

- **Quality** and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks**, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to **work packages**, and the resources overall

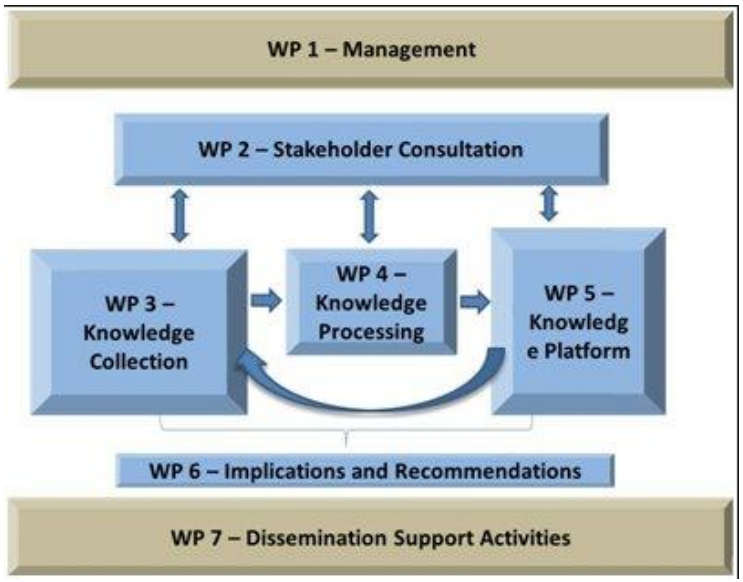
- **Capacity and role of each participant**, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

Work Plan Structure

PERT Chart

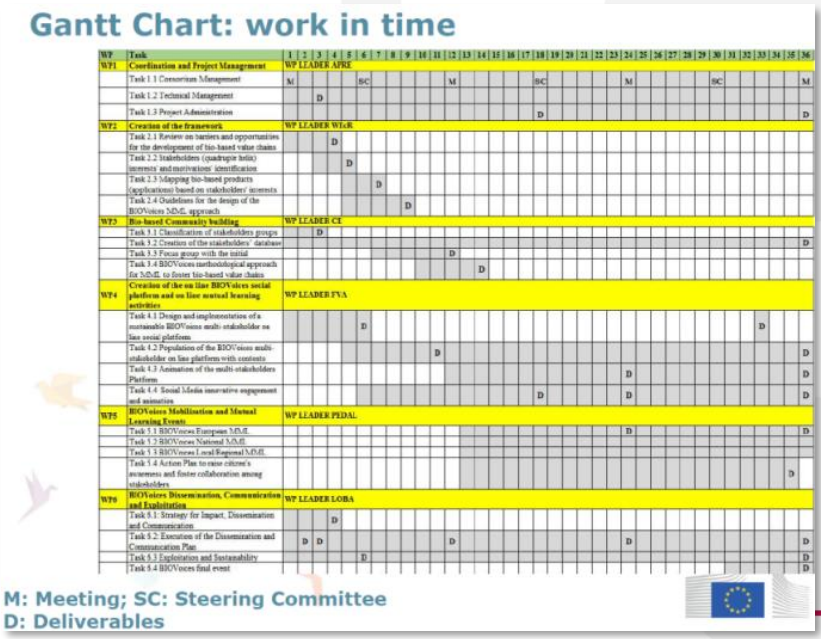
(Project Evaluation and Review Technique)

Links among WPs and to the relevant objective(s) and main methodological aspect(s)



GANTT Chart

- Identify dependencies between tasks
- assign resources for each task
- identify start and end dates
- work out the overall project duration



Work Packages

Table 3.1a: List of work packages

Work package No	Work Package Title	Lead Participant No	Lead Participant Short Name	Person-Months	Start Month	End month
				Total person-months		

Table 3.1b: Work package description

For each work package:

Work package number	
Work package title	

Participants involved in each WP and their efforts are show
date of each WP are shown in table 3.1a.)

Objectives

Description of work (where appropriate, broken down into
Deliverables linked to each WP are listed in table 3.1c (no nee

Objectives are the **goals** of the work performed within the project, in terms of its research and innovation content.

This will be translated into project **results**.

Deliverables

A deliverable is a **report** that is providing information to ensure effective **monitoring** of the project

You must include deliverables for:

- Data management plan (DMP) (M6)
- Plan for dissemination and exploitation (M6)
- Other compulsory deliverables?

Tips:

- Meaningful and feasible
- At least one deliverable per organisation
- Evenly distribute them during time

Milestones

Milestones are **control points** in the project that help to chart the progress

- May be a critical decision point
- Can be an achievement of a key deliverable
- Become contractual obligation and will be monitored

Tips:

- The achievement of a milestone needs to be **verifiable**
- Not every WP needs a MS, only indicate when necessary

Critical Risks

A critical risk is a plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives.

Answer to possible concerns of the evaluators:

- **What harms the project implementation?**

Name an appropriate number of risks and show that you are prepared for these risks:

- **What kind of measures can reduce risks?**
- **Is there a contingency plan?**

Tips:

- Avoid fake risks of low likelihood and low severity
- Pick meaningful ones and show that you are prepared

Risk or Barrier

Risk

A plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives

Implementation section

Barrier

Issues arising from factors beyond the scope and duration of the project - that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved

Impact section

Example 1

- During a phase II clinical trial, a key partner hospital withdraws due to resource limitations, causing delays in patient recruitment and data collection.

- RISK OR BARRIER? → risk

Example 2

- A new digital tool for cardiac monitoring is developed. However, patient skepticism about its perceived utility slows market adoption, despite regulatory approval.

- RISK OR BARRIER? →barrier

3.2 Consortium

Source: www.harmless-project.eu

Role	Partner	Event planinnig and logistics	Training material preparation	Environmental issues assessemnt	Communication	Expertise in SSH	Expertise in Open Science	Exploitation of results
Coordination and C&D	HMGU	•			•		•	•
Pilots	SU		•					
	DTU		•					
	ERS		•					
Knowledge transfer	CEA			•			•	
Quality Assurance	CIT			•		•		
Role X	….					•		
Role Y	….						•	

Key elements to include

1. Do the partners complement each other's strengths? – Ensure no overlaps or gaps in expertise, no redundancies
2. Demonstrate consortium's capability to address **objectives** of the project
    - Each partner has an unique expertise and a valid role
    - Expertise in open science practices, gender aspects, SSH (if applicable)

Evaluators' Comments

Effort distribution among partners is rather imbalanced

Nearly all partners contribute to each work package. This raises concerns on targeted allocation of competences

The risk mitigation plan is not sufficiently described

DOs and DON'Ts

- ✓ Plan work in a concrete and precise way
- ✓ Provide self-explanatory PERT diagram and Gantt chart
- ✓ Demonstrate that the consortium have all the necessary competences
- ✓ Assess the risks and suggest how you will overcome them

- ○ Don't plan too many deliverables and milestones
- ○ Don't be vague when describing the tasks
- ○ Don't include partners with no significant role and tasks
- ○ Don't have an unrealistic timeline in the project and when recruiting patients

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Clinical Study Template

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Clinical Study Template

Sasha Hugentobler | Euresearch

3 March 2026

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Ethics Self-Assessment

- Mandatory for all proposals
- Included in part A of the proposal
- Applicants describe the ethics dimension of their proposal and the compliance with ethics principles
- Depending on the call: possibility to submit additional information with the clinical template as annex to part B

Ethics Self-Assessment

- Human embryonic stem cells and embryos
- Human participants
- Human cells/tissues
- Personal data
- Animals
- Non-EU countries
- Environment & health and safety
- Artificial intelligence
- Other ethics issues

Clinical Studies – Definition in Horizon Europe

- Definition: Clinical study covers clinical studies/trials/investigations/cohorts and means any systematic **prospective or retrospective collection and analysis of health data obtained from individual patients or healthy persons** in order to address scientific questions related to the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, monitoring or treatment of a disease, mental illness, or physical condition.

- **It includes but it is not limited to clinical studies** as defined by Regulation 536/2014 (on medicinal products), clinical investigation and clinical evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/745 (on medical devices), performance study and performance evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/746 (on in vitro diagnostic medical devices).

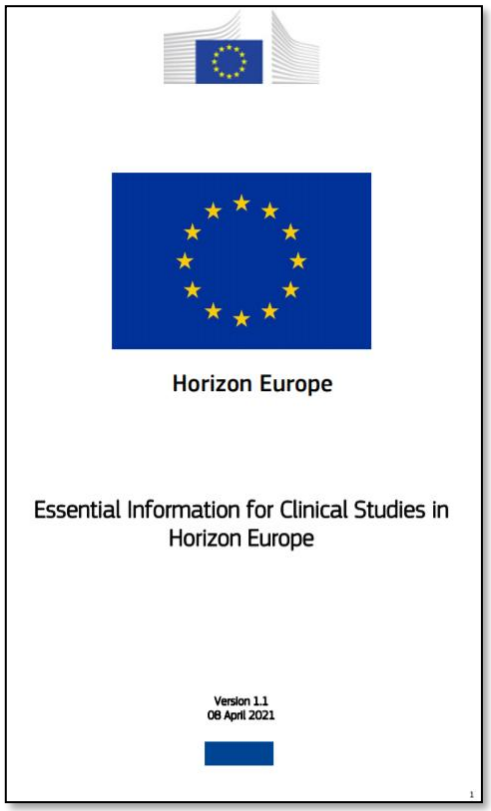
- **This includes interviews, surveys- all projects that collect or analyze data of humans (also not linked to any medical studies)**

Fill in this template when

You plan to collect human data or biological samples for

- Phase 1 trial of a vaccination
- New analysis of blood samples of a closed trial
- Clinical investigation of a medical device
- Survey on well-being
- Interviews on specific behaviours/habits
- Retrospective analysis of patient data

Template Essential Information on Clinical Studies



- Mandatory for certain topics/calls always if a clinical study is included.
- One template for each study planned.
- Stick to the structure and address each section.
- Giving applicants the chance to provide detailed information about clinical studies without page limitations.

Mandatory Deliverables for Each Clinical Study

- Study Initiation Package
- Midterm recruitment report
- Report on status of posting results in the study registry(s)

Recruitment: Be Careful and Describe it Well

- Mention the possibility of recruitment lagging behind schedule and/or insufficient number of people/patients giving consent.
- Report on average patients per clinic with this symptom/disease to prove that planning is sound.
- A detailed account of the selection of people/patients, patient categories, and inclusion and exclusion criteria.

How is the Information in the Template Scored?

- It impacts the Excellence score (methodology, objectives..)
- It impacts the Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation score (operational feasibility)
- It impacts the Impact score (barriers, KIP, target groups)

Annotated Template for Information on Clinical Studies

HNN3.0 (The Cluster 1 Health consortium of NCPs for Horizon Europe) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number 101057279

- For more information go to the Health NCP Website.

Conclusion

Horizon Europe Cluster Health Calls 2026: From Idea to Winning Proposal – Fill out form

Checklist for a strong proposal

- ✓ Clear, pertinent and measurable objectives
- ✓ Sound methodology
- ✓ Beyond the state-of-the-art and innovation

- ✓ Credible pathways to impact
- ✓ DEC strategy for YOUR project

- ✓ Detailed work plan
- ✓ Consortium capacity
- ✓ Resource allocation

- ✓ Consistence across sections
- ✓ Clear and logic structure → easy language for non-English speakers
- ✓ Use graphics

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Swiss guide to European research and innovation

Thank you

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