



Memorandum of Understanding

BETWEEN

Health NCP Net 3.0 (HNN 3.0),

represented by APRE, Caterina Buonocore

And

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Sector Group (SG) Health,

represented by Madrimasd, Reyes Sansegundo

Exchange expertise on the funding programmes, identify synergies, as well as to better support applicants by providing a full overview of EU health-related opportunities

1. Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) expresses the intention of both Parties to define and conduct a joint line of actions in order to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts in the relevant activities each Party carries out. It also identifies a number of joint activities and means of interaction to foster a smooth and mutually beneficial cooperation, ultimately leading both Parties to provide high-quality services to potential Horizon Europe applicants (notably researchers, enterprises, research centers, NGOs etc.) in their respective field of competence and national systems.

2. Description of Concerned Parties

The Parties committing themselves to implement this MoU are the following:

1. Health NCP Net (HNN 3.0)

APRE is the Coordinator of the HNN3.0 project funded under Horizon Europe, which was concluded with the Funding Authority as Grant Agreement No. 101057279. The partners of the HNN3.0 project have accessed to the Grant Agreement, concluded a Consortium Agreement and have authorized its Coordinator to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding, hereafter MoU, with EEN SG Health.

HNN 3.0 is a Coordination Action funded under the Horizon Europe programme for European Health and Digital Executive Agency. The Action aims at aligning and enhancing the services that National

Contact Points (NCPs) for Cluster “Health” (CL1) within the pillar "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness" of Horizon Europe provide to applicants of European funding for Health research across Europe and worldwide.

The objective of HNN 3.0 is to facilitate the transnational co-operation between National Contact Points (NCPs) for the CL1 in order to achieve a consistent and harmonized level of NCP support. Next to developing support for the facilitation of daily challenges for all NCPs, the focus is put on lowering the entry barriers for new NCPs and offer particular support services for Widening Country NCPs and applicants. Moreover, NCPs are getting organized in international networks, thus contributing to best achieve EC R&I and outreach objectives.

The implementation of HNN 3.0 includes the following activities relevant for this agreement:

- Matchmaking events organized in conjunction with other support networks in order to facilitate interdisciplinary & intersectoral collaborations and bring together all stakeholders (universities, research institutions, hospitals, SMEs, large industry, patient organizations and any other entity acting in CL1) to meet potential coordinators and partners in a networking environment.
 - o Brokerage events (5 in total) will be organized back-to-back to the EC Horizon Europe Info Days targeting Cluster Health calls. Other health related topics present under HE pillar 2 and Euratom might be targeted as well. Special attention will be given to the social sciences and humanities areas. Cooperation with WIDERA.NET project, the network of National Focal Points and the Enterprise Europe Network will be sought.
 - o 2 thematic matchmaking events will be organized (one on-site and one virtual) during the time course of HE, with the aims of gathering potential applicants around calls for proposals on the same theme but across different programmes (e.g. cancer calls published in the cancer mission, the health WP or the ERANET Transcan).
- Trainings in order to create highly skilled NCPs with knowledge on all new aspects of Horizon Europe that will help innovation and academia-business partners create partnerships and submit better quality proposals that will ultimately lead to a most efficient use of the EU Research & Innovation (R&I) funding.
 - o 6 on-site trainings & 12 webinars for NCPs contributing with e-modules to the e-learning facility developed by BRIDGE2HE project.
 - o Workshops involving stakeholders. 5 short workshops for applicants will be organized back-to-back to Brokerage/Thematic matchmaking events or at any other period of the project HNN3.0. Among those, 3 Workshops should help applicants to create excellent proposals for Horizon Europe calls including partnerships and Cancer mission calls. These events will be open for interested NCPs as well.
- “Meet and exchange” workshops are hands-on seminars for NCPs jointly organised with relevant health stakeholders in order to have access to complementary knowledge & develop new skills in key areas (e.g. as innovation, ICT health...) to offer an enhanced and wider support to potential applicants.
 - o At least 2 workshops with NFPs supporting the implementation of EU4Health programme will be organized.
 - o At least 2 workshops with EEN Advisors member of Sectorial Group Health will be organized.

- At least 1 workshop with other thematic NCP Networks (e.g. WIDERA, INFRA, CL2, in synergy with WP6), DEP NCPs, etc. will be organized.

2. Enterprise Europe Network Sector Group Health

The **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** is funded under the EU Single Market Programme (SMP) and comprises close to 600 partners in more than 60 countries.

EEN aims at helping small companies make the most of the business opportunities in the European Union. This is realized by providing support for SMEs in sustainability transition, technology transfer (focused on innovation), access to finance, advice on EU law and standards, help with IPR issues, internationalization and guidance on research funding. Increasing the participation of SMEs in Horizon Europe as main research funding programme of the EU is subsequently an important task. EEN services such as transnational “brokerage events” are key for bringing SMEs into Horizon Europe consortia. Building an international consortium is the first step to take part in Horizon Europe. Within evaluations SME participation is considered an added value in Horizon Europe proposals.

Different Sector Groups (SGs) / Thematic Groups (TGs) have direct link in their activities with HNN 3.0 amongst others the EEN SG Health.

EEN SG Health is a grouping of members’ organisations from Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) with special interest in the Health sector. It is made up of highly competent specialists who help SMEs exploit commercial, technological and research opportunities in their sector. The Network’s main focus is to provide services to small - and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and help companies maximise their opportunities in the European marketplace and across the world.

Using their extensive knowledge and experience, the Health Sector Group members offer high-quality, added value services such as:

- Tailor made information and hands-on support in sector-specific EU legislation, funding opportunities, business intelligence, innovation and technology transfer.
- Business-to-business matchmaking for commercial, technological and research opportunities within a specific sector or across sectors.
- Organisation of and participation in sectoral trade fairs and brokerage events.
- International company missions.
- Advising companies on how to participate in EU-funded projects.

3. Areas of cooperation

Given that both Parties are funded by the European Commission and their cooperation can add value and foster support to their clients, and the synergies between the activities of the EEN SG Health and HNN 3.0 can be mutually advantageous, both parties agree on the present agreement which paves the way for an operational cooperation.

The cooperation activities between the parties may include:

- Information sharing and signposting about the activities of both networks including participation in meetings and mutual links on the respective websites.
- Mutual support of the according partner search activities and other requests for collaboration including profiles of organisations interested in participating in EU Health-related programmes.
- Awareness raising/Promotion or co-organization of events such as Information Days or brokerage events. The Health NCPs will among others receive on a regular basis the Health SG rolling plan of events and EEN advisors will be given the possibility to access b2match platform and better support their clients, alongside validate their profiles based on NCPs guidelines and criteria.
- Awareness raising, promotion, cross-participation or co-organization of capacity-building events (from simple exchange of speakers to delineation of a common event agenda): Information Days, Webinars, Training Sessions, Workshops (such as “Meet & Exchange” workshops).
- Encourage as a best practice cooperation between Health SG members and Horizon Europe Health NCPs at national and regional level for the benefit of their clients who are interested in participating in Horizon Europe Health-related R&I programmes & calls including close-to-market funding instruments.

HNN 3.0 representatives and the EEN SG Health will serve as task force and ensure that general communication and information exchange will be established and kept. They will in particular make sure that:

- An annual cooperation plan is prepared and approved by each party, including participation in each other’s meetings, events joint promotion and organization etc.
- A list of relevant EEN SG Health and HNN 3.0 activities (for example rolling plan with planned events, partner search, brokerage events, information guides, training) is exchanged at least every 3 months via email.
- At least one of the HNN 3.0 partners entrusted with the task “cooperation with EEN” may attend EEN SG Health meetings (every 6 months) to discuss upcoming opportunities for collaboration.
- An EEN SG Health representative may be invited to relevant meetings related to the HNN 3.0 task 5.2 “cooperation with EEN.”
- Representatives belonging to both parties, wearing the double hat of Health NCP and EEN SG Health active member, should participate at the early activities of the task force (first 6 months), bringing closer both parties and foster synergies.

If new tasks are identified, both parties can agree on additional joint activities.

The Task Force will communicate once per month virtually to monitor the ongoing joint activities and will adapt the joint rolling plan or implement corrective actions when and if necessary. At the same time, the task force will ensure the communication with EISMEA assigned sector group project advisor and with HNN 3.0 project officer.

4. Cost of the joint activities

Unless otherwise agreed in writing by both Parties, each party will bear its own costs to participate in the joint activities and maintain the intended cooperation (information exchange, dissemination or informal liaising).

5. Data protection

Parties agree to share relevant information necessary to implement the collaboration actions as per described in section 3 of the current MoU and other actions carried out under Horizon Europe programme.

When sharing information, Parties agree to follow the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 about General Data Protection.

Where process of personal data is needed within the Parties the implementation of this MoU, Parties agree and warrant:

- a. To comply with all privacy and data protection law and regulations applicable to them;
- b. To process Personal Data only (i) on behalf and for the benefit of the Parties, (ii) for the purpose authorized by this MoU, and (iii) insofar necessary for the collaboration activities carried out jointly by the Parties;
- c. To maintain the security, confidentiality, integrity and availability of the Personal Data;
- d. To implement and maintain appropriate technical, physical, organization and administrative security measures, procedures, practices and other safeguards to protect the Personal Data against (i) anticipatable threats or hazards to its security and integrity and (ii) loss unauthorized access to, or acquisition or use of unlawful Processing; and
- e. To promptly inform the Parties of any actual or suspected security incident involving the Personal Data.

6. Administration matters

This agreement will come into force with the date of signature. It will be terminated when one the projects comes to an end or when one project gives notice of termination to the other, in which case a minimum notice of one month will be given.

7. Legally binding provisions

Each party is an independent contractor and has no authority to represent or bind the other party.

Neither party may assign this MoU without the prior written consent of the other party.

No legal obligation for either of the parties can be derived from this Agreement. In particular, there is no obligation to conclude the contracts or the activities specified in the previous sections. In case of failure to materialize the activities listed in the previous sections or to comply with the time schedules agreed upon, the parties shall not bring forward any claim against one another, irrespective of the legal basis. This shall apply, in particular, to claims for damages or the reimbursement of costs due to failure to implement the aforementioned activities. The parties, moreover, shall not be liable for information not being provided at all, or not in good time, or being provided in a faulty manner.

Either party shall treat the negotiation and the contents of the MoU confidentially, unless the other party has given its prior written consent to a publication.

Confidentially received information shall only be used for the purpose it has been obtained. Confidentially received information shall not be disclosed to third parties and shall be protected its own trade secret.

The exclusive place of jurisdiction for all disputes arising from this Agreement shall be Brussels, Belgium.


Signatures

For Health NCP Net (HNN 3.0)

Caterina Buonocore

Coordinator of HNN 3.0

APRE – Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea

Date: 28th of April 2023


For Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Sector Group (SG) Health

Reyes Sansegundo

EEN SG Health Chair

Isabelle Pottier

EEN SG Health Co-Chair

Date: 28th of April 2023

Isabelle Pottier

