

Health Programme pre-announcement of intended Open Calls for project proposals under the EEA Grants 2014-2021

The **Ministry of Finance** (Programme Operator) and the **Ministry of Health** (Programme Partner) in cooperation with the **Norwegian Institute of Public Health** (Donor Programme Partner), designated as the responsible authorities for the **Health Programme** under the **EEA Grants 2014-2021**, are pleased to announce they will be launching **Calls for project proposals in 2019**.

The calls for project proposals under the Health Programme will focus on the following special concerns and areas of support:

1. **Prevention of mental illness in children;**
2. **Prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases** with a special focus on reduction of social inequalities in health and improved access to health for vulnerable groups and socially excluded localities as well as **antimicrobial resistance;**
3. **Patient empowerment and strengthening the role of patient organizations.**

The Health Programme under the EEA Grants 2014-2021

The Programme recognises the importance of fostering prevention and health promotion by preparing and implementing relevant measures in order to achieve the Programme objective: **improved prevention and reduced inequalities in health**. The Programme will be implemented through projects promoted by entities active in the field of public health which can apply for funding through the open calls for proposals.

The Czech Republic and the Donor countries (**Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland**) share common challenges in the health sector. **Project cooperation** and **bilateral partnerships** between relevant entities in these countries are therefore encouraged in order to exchange knowledge, share best practices and values to strengthen bilateral relations between the Czech Republic and the Donor States.

Estimated Calls for Proposals

In order to timely inform potential applicants and partners and to provide more time for developing the partnerships and the projects, please find the **expected Programme outcomes and outputs** as well as the main features of the targeted areas to be addressed in the Calls for project proposals described in attachment to this pre-announcement.

The full list of requirements for proposals will be published in the official call texts. Information on the expected timeframe as well as the official call texts will be published on the website of the Programme Operator www.eegrants.cz and the website of the Programme partner www.mzcr.cz.

Indicative allocation of the Calls for proposals is **10 million EUR**, available for the three different priorities of the Programme as follows:

| Area / Special concern | Indicative allocation (EUR) | Estimated call launch |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 / Mental health promotion and prevention of mental illness with particular emphasis on children's mental health and well-being | 5 800 000 | 06/2019 - 09/2019 |
| 2 / Prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases | 2 400 000 | 06/2019 - 09/2019 |
| 3 / Civil society empowerment in the health sector | 2 000 000 | 09/2019 |

Bilateral Ambitions of the Programme

To enhance bilateral cooperation of the Czech and Donor State entities, the Health Programme will provide a platform for strengthening bilateral relations through:

1. **Open Call for proposals for bilateral initiatives:** search for partners for donor partnership projects, development of bilateral partnerships and joint preparation of an application for a donor partnership project
2. **Match-making seminar for potential project promoters and potential donor project partners**

A seed money facility through an Open Call for proposals for bilateral initiatives is expected to be established and launched in **early 2019**. The seed money shall be used for travel and meeting costs for potential partners or costs related to the development of the bilateral partnership and joint project application. Further details will be published online and provided at the occasion of the match-making seminar.

The **match-making seminar** will be organized by the Programme Operator in cooperation with both the Programme Partners to allow potential partner entities to explore cooperation possibilities. The seminar shall be held in **mid-January 2019** in **Prague** (further details including application details to be announced online by early December at the latest).

Contact details

Potential applicants and project partners interested in the Programme may reach the Programme team via following **contact details**:

| Role | Institution | Contact person | Contact details | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Programme Operator | Ministry of Finance | Lenka Šlitrová | Lenka.Slitrova@mfcz.cz | www.eeagrants.cz https://www.eeagrants.cz/cs/programy/zdravi |
| Programme Partner | Ministry of Health | Petr Čermák | Petr.Cermak@mzcr.cz | www.mzcr.cz |
| Donor Programme Partner | Norwegian Institute of Public Health | Solfrid Johansen | Solfrid.Johansen@fhi.no | www.fhi.no www.fhi.no/en/gk/international/eea-grants/ |

Attachment: Overview of Programme special concerns

1) Mental health promotion and prevention of mental illness with particular emphasis on children's mental health and well-being

The first area of support within the Health Programme under the EEA Grants 2014-2021 is focused on children's mental health promotion and prevention of children's mental illness. The main aim is to improve children's mental health and well-being by implementing measures with the greatest possible impact. Supported interventions/measures shall be targeted to the following areas:

1. Improving of parenting skills in order to prevent mental disorders in children;
2. Implementing of innovative or improved diagnostic procedures, treatment methods and/or establishing multidisciplinary teams when providing care for children with mental disorders or at risk of mental disorders;
3. Providing training and education to health professionals working with mentally ill children, to parents, school teachers and school psychologists. Implementing of education programmes in schools in order to raise awareness about mental health among children;
4. Promoting awareness of children's mental health issues among general public. Promotion activities among high school/university students in order to enhance their interest in child psychiatry and child psychology.

Add 1)

Supported activities: Implementation of Parenting programmes to improve mental health of children and youth that are potentially applicable to all families as well as to the highest risk groups, in which parents have severe mental health problems, suffer from drug or alcohol misuse or abuse their children etc. Programmes shall offer means to intercept behaviour problems in childhood and youth before mental disorders occur. Activities targeting families with already established child mental disorders will also be supported.

Add 2)

Supported activities: Introduction of improved forms of interventions, rehabilitation and diagnostic programmes for children and adolescents with mental health problems or at risk of developing mental illnesses and their families (e.g. structured, semi structured diagnostic tools and methods of assessment, use of modern technologies including electronic applications, diagnosis, specific evidence based treatment programs, coordinated work of multidisciplinary teams etc.).

Add 3)

Supported activities: Initiatives focused on education of children (e.g. workshops and seminars at schools) in order to increase their awareness of mental health issues, promote their resilience and self-supporting skills in understanding and management of emotions, effective communication and stress management. Initiatives focused on training and education of parents, caregivers and family members in order to improve the chances for children and adolescents to avoid mental disorders. Initiatives focused on training of both health and other relevant professionals to enhance their capabilities and professional development with regard to their knowledge, skills and values in mental health practices.

Add 4)

Supported activities: Initiatives promoting awareness of children's mental health and well-being in order to prevent problems that undermine mental health of children.

2) Prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases

The second area of support within the Health Programme under the EEA Grants 2014-2021 is focused on implementation of prevention measures related to communicable and non-communicable diseases with the main aim to decrease the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases of Roma living in socially excluded localities. Measures focusing on early detection of dementia and measures focusing on the decrease in trend of antibiotics consumption will also be supported.

1. Measures focused on the decrease of the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases of Roma living in socially excluded localities

People living in socially excluded localities lack information about diseases, symptoms, treatment and follow-up care. In order to reduce inequalities in health and the burden of diseases, interventions focused on securing improved access to healthcare for marginalized groups, mainly Roma, living in deprived areas shall be implemented. Interventions focusing on secondary prevention and early detection of communicable and non-communicable diseases in marginalized populations will be supported.

Secondary prevention within the target group shall be enhanced by creation and distribution of information materials including information about particular communicable and non-communicable diseases. Created materials (info sheets, handouts, videos, etc.) shall provide information about early symptoms of such diseases and how to proceed when these initial symptoms are recognized. These measures shall increase the health literacy on secondary prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases among Roma population, helping them to identify the illness or other health problems in early phase and react appropriately and effectively in such situations.

In order to improve the health status of people living in socially excluded localities, mainly Roma, general practitioners who provide care in such areas shall be trained and educated as well. The guidelines for GPs providing them with information, training and education focused on treatment and care of patients from socially excluded localities shall be developed.

2. Measures focused on diagnosis and early detection of dementia

Activities shall improve the diagnosis and early detection of dementia in order to tackle increasing number of patients suffering from dementia. Therefore, activities aiming at education and training of family members and non-healthcare carers to improve their skills in early recognition of dementia symptoms will be supported.

Following the training of family members and non-healthcare carers the general practitioners shall increase their knowledge regarding the diagnosis and management of dementia as well. Therefore, guidelines on diagnosis procedures and follow up care for general practitioners improving the diagnosis and management of dementia shall be developed and disseminated.

3) Civil society empowerment in the health sector

Activities supported within the area of civil society in the health sector shall aim at strengthening capacities of patient organizations to reinforce their role as equal partners in the healthcare environment. Organizational structure of patient organizations and activities these organizations perform shall be also improved through the establishment of the Patient Hub proposed as a pre-defined project. Focus on capacity building and cooperation of patient organizations will dominate the agenda of the Patient Hub, but will also be emphasised through the direct support of patient organizations.

To strengthen the position of patient organizations in order they become stronger players in the health care field, following activities will be supported:

- Provision of financial resources in order to strengthen personal capacities of patient organizations;
- Education and training of patient organization staff to increase their knowledge and skills in certain areas such as management, financial issues, negotiation, etc.;
- Development of activities and services of patient organizations towards patients they represent (e.g. creation of helplines, enhancement of counselling activities, etc.);

Awareness raising activities focused on patient rights and responsibilities as well as promotion of information in connection with the development and implementation of policies, strategies and services in the area of user involvement.