EU-LAC HEALTH

Joint Call on Health Research and Innovation

CALL TEXT

AND GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Proposal Submission Deadline:
Thursday 9th March 2017 (deadline 16.00 hrs CET)

Websites:

http://www.eulachealth.eu (for Call Text and National / Regional regulations)
Link to the Webtool: http://EU-LACHealth.org

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Applicants should check the national /regional regulations of their funding organizations before they submit their proposal (see http://www.eulachealth.eu).

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1. Role of EU-LAC Health and its Joint Call

EU-LAC Health (Defining a Roadmap for Cooperative Health research between the EU and Latin America-Caribbean countries: a Policy Oriented Approach) is a project co-funded by the EU (European Union) through the 7th Framework Programme. Its main goal is the definition of a detailed roadmap to guide policy-makers and other stakeholders on future actions to support cooperative health research between European (EU) and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries.

The project supports the political process of implementing the EU-CELAC[1] Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) and strengthens the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation. In particular, EU-LAC Health acts as technical support for its Working Group on Health. In this context, EU-LAC Health has promoted the creation of the Joint Initiative on Health Research and Innovation (JIRI-Health).

JIRI-Health is envisioned as a joint initiative between European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries with the objective of developing bi-regional joint programming in health research and innovation by using funding instruments already existing to fund projects and activities according to aligned topics jointly agreed between the EU and LAC countries, upon flexible and variable geometry. JIRI-Health is open to participation of all interested research funding organisations in both regions, Europe and Latin-America/Caribbean.

1.1 EU-LAC Health Joint Call

Once the JIRI-Health was launched (March 2016), EU-LAC Health started an operational mode in which the bi-regional initiative will be piloted by launching a bi-regional **joint transnational call** among the interested funding agencies/ministries. This joint call has been prepared in collaboration with ERANet-LAC project and will follow the methodology used in the first and second joint transnational calls launched in its framework.

Within the framework of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call, transnational research and innovation projects will be funded for a period of up to 36 months.

2. Design of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call

The design of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call is of a flexible nature to ensure that a wide variety of funding institutions can join the Joint Call – and that as many researchers as possible from European, Latin-American and Caribbean countries are eligible for funding. For this reason, each participating funding institution will apply its individual national/ regional funding regulations.

Applicants should therefore, before the submission of a proposal, check the national /regional regulations of their funding organizations (see www.eulachealth.eu). Furthermore, they are strongly recommended to contact the National/Regional Call Contact Person (listed Annex 3) for guidance.

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[1] Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

2.1 Participating countries/regions and Call Topics

The following national/regional funding organizations have agreed to participate in the EU-LAC Health Joint Call for funding research and innovation projects:

1. Argentina: Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, MINCYT
2. Belgium: Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique, FNRS
3. Bolivia**:   Ministerio de Educación, MINEDU
4. Brazil: Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo, FAPESP
5. Brazil: Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de Minas Gerais, FAPEMIG
6. Chile: Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, CONICYT
7. Costa Rica: Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social, CCSS
8. Costa Rica: Fundación Inciensa, FUNIN
9. Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología, MESCyT
10. Ecuador: Secretaría de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, SENESCYT
11. Germany: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF
12. Guatemala: Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología, CONCYT
13. Israel: Chief Scientist Office-Ministry of Health, CSO-MoH
14. Italy: Ministero della Salute, SANITA
15. Latvia: State Education Development Agencia, VIAA
16. Panama: Ministerio de Salud, MINSA
17. Peru: Consejo Nacional de Ciencia Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica, CONCYTEC
18. Poland: Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBR
19. Portugal**:   Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, FCT
20. Spain*:   Instituto de Salud Carlos III, ISCIII
21. Uruguay: Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación, ANII

*Pending on receiving the letter of commitment

**Researchers from these countries will encourage the in-kind participation of their researchers and will have a national contact point for the call. Please, note that partners of these countries participate in the consortium as associated partners

Researchers from **countries not listed above** are free to participate in all topics as **self-financed/associated partners**, the same as researchers from Bolivia and Portugal (see 2.2 for further information on self-financed/associated partners).

Proposals must be submitted by transnational consortia. Only researchers based in the countries/regions listed below each of the mentioned topics are eligible for funding through the EU-LAC Health Joint Call. Researchers from other countries / regions may also participate under special conditions (section 2.2).

Project proposals must address the description of the selected topic as described in Annex 1 (see section 4.1.2 for more information on eligibility)

The following list shows the topics and countries that are funding each topic (please see **Annex 1** for full details on the topics):

Topic 1: Neurodegeneration – Healthy aging to combat neurodegeneration

Participating countries: Argentina (MINCyT), Bolivia (MINEDU)**, Brazil (FAPESP), Brazil (FAPEMIG), Chile (CONICYT), Costa Rica (CCSS), Dominican Republic (MESCYT), Ecuador (SENESCYT), Germany (BMBF), Guatemala (CONCYT), Israel (CSO-MoH), Italy (SANITA), Latvia (VIAA), Panama (MINSA), Peru (CONCYTEC), Poland (NCBR), Portugal (FCT)**, Spain (ISCIII)*, Uruguay (ANII)

Topic 2: Infectious diseases - Research in promotion of well-being: prevention of infectious diseases, emerging food-, water-and vector-borne diseases

Participating countries: Argentina (MINCyT), Belgium (FNRS), Bolivia (MINEDU)**, Brazil (FAPESP), Brazil (FAPEMIG), Chile (CONICYT), Costa Rica (CCSS), Dominican Republic (MESCYT), Ecuador (SENESCYT), Germany (BMBF), Guatemala (CONCYT), Israel (CSO-MoH), Italy (SANITA), Latvia (VIAA), Peru (CONCYTEC), Poland (NCBR), Portugal (FCT)**, Spain (ISCIII)*, Uruguay (ANII)

> * Pending on receiving the letter of commitment
>
> **Researchers from these countries will encourage the in-kind participation of their researchers and will have a national contact point for the call. Please, note that partners from these countries participate in the consortium as associated partners

2.2 Composition of consortia

Applicants must be eligible for funding according to the regulations of their respective national Funding Organizations. They can represent public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions on national, federal or EU-LAC regional level, research active industry and NGOs and other institutions involved in research activities, as long as they are eligible for funding according to the respective national and/or institutional regulations.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each collaborative consortium should have the optimal critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific/innovation goals and should clearly show an added value from working together.

The following criteria must be taken into account:
- Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a **minimum of three eligible partner institutions from three different countries with at least one country from each region,** EU and LAC, and a maximum of six (excluding associated partners) with at least 1/3 participation of partner institutions from each region. Two additional associated partners self-financed is permitted, maximum one from each region.
- A maximum number of national partners should not exceed 50% of the consortium
- A maximum number of national partners applying for funding will be defined in the institutional rules of each funding organisation.

See the list of funding organizations in 2.2 and contact persons in **Annex 3**.

Partners not eligible for funding may also be part of consortia if they are able to clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and secure their own funding. However, the coordinator and the majority of partners in a consortium must be eligible for the funding organizations participating in this Call. The self-financed/associated partners must provide the Call Secretariat with a **signed official** letter of support from their Head of Department, Financial Director, or equivalent position,

stating the commitment of the organization/company to provide its own funding. An image-version (.jpg, .gif, .jpeg, etc.) of this letter must be included as an annex at the end of the proposal before submitting. Self-financed partners cannot assume the role of coordinator of the consortium.

There should be a principal investigator (PI) for each of the national research groups. Each PI will act as contact person for his or her national funders. One of these PIs should be selected through the project consortium as coordinator to represent the consortium, submit the proposal, and establish any further communication with the Call Secretariat.

Researchers are only allowed to participate in one proposal as principal investigator of the coordinating institution. However, one research institution – as a legal entity – is allowed to participate as a coordinator or partner in several project proposals.

NOTE: How to find partners

EU-LAC Health supports the identification of partner institutions in Latin America/Caribbean and Europe. On the project website http://eulachealth.eu/ a partner search tool helps bringing together interested applicants from countries in both regions: http://partnering.pt-dlr.de/EULACHealth
All requests will be published in the search tool and made available to all interested institutions immediately.

2.2.1 Consortium Agreement

Each consortium selected for funding must provide a Consortium Agreement (CA), signed by all participants, to clarify the potential Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) matters (such as licensing in, licensing out, patent and exploitation strategy). The consortium agreement must be sent to the joint call secretariat before 30th April 2018. It must address (as a minimum), the following points:

- Common start date and duration of the research and / or innovation project

- Organization and management of the project

- Role and responsibilities of each partner resources and funding

- Confidentiality and publishing

- Intellectual Property Rights

- Decision making within the consortium

- Handling of internal disputes

- The liabilities of the research partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract)

Any issues regarding funding are a bilateral matter between each project partner and the relevant funding organization and should be specifically excluded from the CA. The CA, together with any other information required by national regulations, must be made available upon request to the national funding agencies.

Standard documents that can be used as templates and modified according to the specific needs of the consortium can be found at: http://www.desca-2020.eu/ . Further instructions will be provided by the Call Secretariat to the coordinators of the projects selected for funding.

2.3 Eligible costs and duration of funding

Since funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the responsible funding organizations the concrete costs that can be financed through the project may vary for individual partners in a given project consortium. It is therefore important to check the national rules of the Funding Parties and to contact the respective national Call Contact Person. Both can be found in **annex 3 and at http://eulachealth.eu**

The duration of a project can be up to **36 months** (check national regulations). Approved projects **should start between December 2017 and April 2018**.

2.4 Call budget and funding principle

The EU-LAC Health Joint Call follows the *juste retour* **principle**. It means that the national and regional financial contributions to a "virtual common pot" that will be assigned to project partners of the respective country and region only, in accordance with national and regional regulations.

The overall budget of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call is the sum of the individual budgets allocated by each participating funding institution. If more than one funding institution from a given country participates in the Joint Call, the added amount of these institutions is considered as the country's overall Joint Call contribution.

An overview of the contribution from each funding institution to each of the call topics is given in **Annex 2**.

Some funding institutions may decide to set an **upper limit for the budget that can be requested per project partner** from their country. The upper funding limits may thus vary from one country to the other**. Applicants should therefore thoroughly check the national and regional regulations stipulated at http://eulachealth.eu** and are strongly recommended to contact their National Call Contact Persons (annex 3) before submitting their proposal.

3. Proposal submission

Project proposals must address the description of the selected topic as described in Annex 1 and be submitted electronically using the webtool which is accessible directly at http://EU-LACHealth.org and through a link given on the EU-LAC Health Website www.eulachealth.eu. The only currency to be applied in the proposal is EURO, and **decimals are not allowed in the tool**.

The coordinator should fill in the webtool on behalf of the whole consortium and submit the proposal. Thus, only one online proposal per project is needed. The coordinator must confirm that the proposal is endorsed by all project partners. A printed version of the proposal should not be sent to the Call Secretariat, but may be required by some national funding agencies (see National regulations).

The Online Submission Form is structured in four different pages, each one including various sections (described below) to be filled in by the applicants. Additionally, there is a fifth page for checking and submitting the proposal.

1ˢᵗ page: PROJECT

The general information of the project is requested on this page.

- **Section 'Project data'**:
  Topic: Here, the 2 call topics are listed; the applicants must select the topic where they wish to address their proposal to.
  ALL other fields must be filled with the relevant technical project data before continuing with the 2ⁿᵈ page:
  - Project acronym
  - Project full title
  - Keywords
  - Please, specify the focus of research address in the proposal (e.g. diagnosis, treatment)
  - Please, specify the type of infectious agent or neurodegenerative disease
  - Other e-mail contact
  - Expected start date (dd/mm/yyyy)
  - Project duration (months)
  - Total requested funding (€)

- **Section 'Executive summary'**: Brief text summarizing the aim of the proposal, its specific objectives, expected results (research and/or innovation potential, economic benefit, commercialization, etc.). Maximum length: ½ page.
  Note: Other than the below mentioned publishable summary (3ʳᵈ page, technical description), the Executive Summary addresses only the evaluators and may have some content which shall not be dedicated to the public.

2ⁿᵈ page: PARTNERS

The page Partners compiles the full list of project partners. Click on the "Add partner" button to start the listing.

For every partner included in the list, there are 4 sections:

- **Section 'Partner data'**:
  Please fill the table fields below with the relevant financial technical partner data:
  - Click if this partner is the Project Coordinator
  - Organization/Institution*
  - Acronym
  - Center*
  - Department*
  - Group/Laboratory/Unit
  - First name (Group leader)*
  - Family name (Group leader)*
  - Title (Group leader) (Prof, Dr, Ir, Ing...)*
  - Position (Group leader)*
  - Members of the group
  - Address*
  - City*
  - Post code
  - Country*
  - Telephone*
  - e-mail*
  - Web site
    * Compulsory fields

- **Section 'Financial data'**:
  Please fill the table fields below with the relevant financial project data:
  - Type of partner (beneficiary or associated/self-financed)
  - Funding agency
  - Activity type (Higher education, research, industry, SME, others)
  - Total effort (person months)
  - Total costs (€)
  - Total requested funding (€)

- **Section 'Project costs'**:
  - Personnel costs: average monthly salary (€), person-months, total costs (€), requested budget (€).
  - Equipment: description, total costs (€), requested funding (€).
  - Materials: description, total costs (€), requested funding (€).
  - Subcontracting: subcontractor, description, total costs (€), requested funding (€).
  - Travel and subsistence costs: description, total costs (€), requested funding (€)*.
  - Other costs: description, total costs (€), requested funding (€).
  - Overheads: percentage overheads, total costs (€), requested funding (€).

  *If needed, travel and allowance cost to attend mid-term seminars should be accounted within the budget for the coordinator or a project partner

- **Section 'CV and professional experience'**: brief CV of the group leader (principal investigator) including the five more relevant publications of the last five years.

3rd page: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

This page includes the following sections:

- **Publishable summary of the project**: for publication purposes. <u>Maximum length ¼ page</u>.

- **Scientific and technological challenge**: applicants are requested to describe the relation and relevance of the project to the topic, and the international competitiveness, novelty and innovation potential of the proposal. <u>Maximum length 1 page.</u>

- **Technical and scientific description of the project**: applicants are requested to describe the state of the art; technical milestones and expected results; methodologies and technologies proposed to obtain goals; recent research relevant to the project undertaken by the project partners; brief CV of each partner, emphasizing the scientific/technical expertise which is crucial for the success of the project. <u>Maximum length: 6 pages.</u>

- **Work plan**: applicants are requested to describe the project structure; individual work package description (milestones, deliverables, time schedule) and partners involved; risks assessment (including scientific/technology, management and commercial risks); viability and feasibility of the proposal, emphasizing the relevant expertise of the partners, and the existing and requested resources (equipment, manpower, etc.); monitoring and management of the project. <u>Maximum length: 6 pages.</u>

- **Transnational/EU-CELAC related benefit & added value:** applicants are requested to describe the relevance of the proposal in terms of transnational cooperation, and importance of complementary of the expertise of EU and CELAC partners; added value of the transnational cooperation (e.g. future potential to participate in other transnational

collaborative activities such as EU Framework Programme, extent of knowledge between partners including exchange of personnel, etc.). <u>Maximum length: ½ page.</u>

- **Exploitation of results and (if applicable) economic impact**:
  Scientific and technological impact of the project: Explain the relevance and importance of the project proposed, in terms of concrete applications (scientific, technological, innovative) and in terms of economic and societal impact.
  If applicable, include publications, management of intellectual property issues, commercial exploitation and/or impact, implementation of projects results, future strategy, etc; other valorisation potential. <u>Maximum length: 6 pages.</u>

- **Main facilities and equipment**: applicants are requested to describe, if applicable, any significant facility or large-scale equipment that is available to the consortium in order to fulfil the aims of the project. <u>Maximum length: ½ page.</u>

- **Related proposal submitted to other funding agencies**: applicants are requested to indicate whether the project (as a whole or parts of it) has been submitted to other funding agencies. If so, please indicate the funding agency, the final outcome, and any potential overlapping (complementarity, synergy) with the present proposal. <u>Maximum length: ½ page.</u>

4th page: ANNEX

Any additional information relevant for the proposal can be added here (e.g. technical drawings, diagrams, charts, etc.), including the signed official letter of the self-financed / associated partners. <u>Maximum length: 10 pages.</u>

5th page: SUBMISSION

- **Section 'Check'**: before sending the proposal, it is possible to check the format and compliance with the application requirements. This revision is done automatically when the complete proposal is submitted but it can also be done at any time during the preparation of the proposal.

- **Section 'Draft'**: before submitting the proposal it is possible to generate a draft pdf document in order to detect and correct possible mistakes, and to check that all the information required is being provided in the proposal.

- **Section 'Submit'**: this section allows the final submission of the proposal. The data will be saved and the applicant will be able to generate a .pdf file for saving or printing purposes. **Once the proposal has been submitted, it is not possible to modify it**.

Proposals sent by post, e-mail, fax, telex or facsimile will be rejected. **All proposals must be written in English.**

Once the proposal is submitted the webtool sends a confirmation by email.

The webtool will be open for proposal submission from 2nd December 2016 16.00 hrs CET to 9th March 2017 (deadline 16.00 hrs Central-European Time). Note that access to the online submission system will be closed after the deadline.

Some funding organizations may ask the applicant to submit a parallel proposal to the funding organization in line with the national/regional requirements. These additional proposals submitted to the national/regional funding organizations may be evaluated or may not be evaluated by the funding organization, according to the rules and regulations of the funding organization. For further details about each funding organization's requirements with regard to proposal submission, please see http://eulachealth.eu

4. Proposal evaluation and funding decision

4.1 Evaluation and Selection Procedure

4.1.1 Evaluation Procedure

The fundamental principles governing the evaluation of project proposals are:

- **Transparency.** The process for reaching funding decisions will be clearly described and available to any interested party.

- **Fairness and Equality of treatment.** All proposals shall be treated alike, irrespective of where they originate or the identity of the applicants.

- **Ethical and Legal considerations.** Any proposal that contravenes ethical principles and legal regulations of a Funding Party may be excluded from being evaluated and rejected at any time.

The evaluation process involves four steps:

1) Eligibility check: Will be done by the Call Secretariat, in cooperation with the national partner representatives.

2) External written peer review: Will be done remotely by at least three experts covering the specific fields of the research topics addressed in the EU-LAC Health Call. Each evaluator fills in an individual evaluation form whereby s/he assigns a score to each evaluation item. The evaluator also assesses the alignment of the Proposal with the objectives and scope of the call.

3) Ranking of proposals according to the external evaluation results, selection of the best proposals and funding recommendations: Will be done by the Scientific Evaluation Committees (SECs) in a consensus meeting, organized by the Call Secretariat. Each SEC should have at least three experts.

4) Selection of the proposals recommended for funding: Will be done by the GFP (group of Funding Parties) in the Final funding decision meeting taking into account the evaluations and the budget allocated, and all applicable national regulations.

The Scientific Evaluation Committees will formulate a short consensus report for each proposal (strengths and weaknesses) that can be forwarded upon request to the coordinators of the proposals after the evaluation and decision by the Group of Funding Parties has been completed.

4.1.2 Eligibility Check / Eligible beneficiaries

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Call Contact Persons in due time before submission to check their national eligibility. **The list of CCPs is provided in annex 3 and also on the call website (www.eulachealth.eu).**

A proposal must:

- conform to the scope of the topic as described in Annex 1;

- meet the consortium composition requirements as specified in section 2.3;

- comply with the maximum allowed duration (36 months);

- comply with the funding principles as specified (see section 2.5 and National Funding Regulations listed at http://www.eulachealth.eu);

- comply with the terms of the submission procedure as specified in section 3 of this document (proposal submission);

- be complete according to the rules and in line with the required proposal structure described in section 3;

- be submitted in English;

- be submitted electronically using the online tool at **http:// EU-LACHealth.org**

- meet the submission deadline (**9**^th **March 2017**).

Following submission, proposals will be subjected to an eligibility check.

First, the Call Secretariat will check the eligibility of the proposals against the criteria agreed by the Group of Funding Parties.

It will then inform the Group of Funding Parties about the results, providing the rationale for non-eligibility of individual proposals (if relevant) and ask the members of the GFP to check and confirm the eligibility of applicants from their country, according to their national regulations (see **http://eulachealth.eu for National Regulations)**. Note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner in a proposal leads to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review.

Finally, the Funding Parties will approve the list of eligible proposals from their national applicants to the Call Secretariat.

The Call Secretariat will then inform the Group of Funding Parties (GFP) about the results providing the rationale for non-eligibility of individual proposals (if relevant).

> **Only proposals meeting all the above-mentioned eligibility criteria will be processed by the Call Secretariat. Non-eligible proposals will be rejected. The applicants will be informed by the Call Secretariat.**

Decisions about eligibility of proposals by the GFP are final.

4.1.3 Evaluation criteria

Before starting the evaluation, the evaluator should respond to the initial frame question: **Does the proposal adjust to the topic addressed?** (see Annex 1 for the detailed description of topics)

In case the proposal does not fit the topic, the evaluator <u>should not proceed</u> with the evaluation and inform the Call Secretariat.

The evaluation procedure will be done according to the criteria defined in the following:

1.   Excellence

Note: The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description:

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;

- Methodology and Credibility of the proposed approach;

- Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant;

- Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).

2.   Impact

Note: The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent to which the outputs of the project should contribute at the EU-LAC and/or global level:

- Added value for the EU-LAC health research: the potential impact in the regions and the necessity of EU-LAC cooperation to reach this impact

- The expected impacts listed in the topic description under the relevant topic;

- Enhancing research and innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;

- Any other societal and socially important impacts;

- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant.

- In case of industry and SME participation: Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of global markets, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets

3.   Quality and efficiency of the project execution implementation

Note: The following aspects will be taken into account:

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;

- Complementarity of the participants within the project consortium (when relevant);

- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

4.1.4 Rating Scores

Each of the mentioned evaluation criteria will be measured through categories and on the below 5 - 0 scale.

EXCELLENT = 5 points **The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.**
VERY GOOD = 4 points **The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.**

GOOD = 3 points The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
FAIR = 2 points The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
POOR = 1 point The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
0 points The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

No additional criteria will be used for evaluation and selection of the proposals.

4.2 Priority Ranking through of the Scientific Evaluation Committees

The Scientific Evaluation Committees (SECs) approved by the GFP and constituted by experts or scientific experts, will rank the proposals based on the online evaluations and internal discussions and **recommend to the GFP a list of proposals to be funded.**

4.3 Funding Organizations' Meeting

The GFP will take the **final decision on the proposals** to be recommended for funding on a consensus basis, based on the recommendations of the Scientific Evaluation Committees. It will discuss and approve the recommended projects according to the ranking list and available budget. The formal funding decisions are made by the national funding organizations. The funding will be administered according to the terms and conditions of the participating national and regional funding institutions, taking into account the applicable regulations and available funding.

All decisions are final: no rebuttal phase will be allowed. All applicants will be informed about the outcomes of the evaluation within one month after the funding decision.

5. Funding contract

Following the funding decision, all applicants will be informed by the Call Secretariat about the results of the evaluation process and the next steps to be taken. From then, the national phase will start in each participating country or region. The project partners of each proposal to be funded will conclude an individual funding contract with their respective national/regional funding institution. This may mean that partners of a successful proposal will have to submit an additional application to their national/ regional funding institution to receive their funding.

Before the project starts, the Call Secretariat will send all partners a fact sheet with EU-LAC Health regulations applying to all projects.

Project consortia may be requested to submit an annual or intermediate scientific report and a final scientific report.

6. Project implementation and reporting

Each consortium funded in the frame of EU-LAC Health Joint Call must sign a **Consortium Agreement** listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner (section 2.3.1). Depending on the nature of the funded project, special regulations should be included in the Consortium Agreement regarding **Intellectual Property Rights**. Scientific and technological results and any other information derived from the project can be announced, published or commercially exploited with the agreement of the partners of the funded projects and according to the national/regional regulations as well as international agreements concerning intellectual property rights.

The following regulations will apply to all projects that are funded in the frame of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call:

- In any publication of results, mention must be made of the support received in the frame of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call ("This work was supported by EU-LAC Health project and [national/regional funding agencies]"). EU-LAC Health logo and internet address http://www.eulachealth.eu/ should also be shown on the publication.

- Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of funded projects include a proper acknowledgement of EU-LAC Health and the respective national/regional funding partner organizations.

The coordinators of the funded projects will be requested to send the consortium agreement to the EU-LAC Health Call Secretariat, latest 30th April 2018.

Individual reporting to the national/regional funding institutions might be necessary depending on national/regional regulations.

The progress and final results of each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national/regional funding organizations.

7. Time schedule for the EU-LAC Health Joint Call

Publication of the Call for Proposals	Friday, 2nd December 2016 (16.00 CET)
Deadline for proposal submission	Thursday, 9th March 2017 (16.00 CET)
Results of the evaluation	Mid July 2017
Preparation of national/ regional funding contracts/funding decisions	September - November 2017
Start of projects	December 2017 – April 2018
Provision of Consortium Agreement to the Call Secretariat	Before 30th April 2018
Maximum duration of projects	36 months

Annex 1: Topics for the EU-LAC Health Call

Topic 1 Healthy aging to combat neurodegeneration

Specific challenge:

Population aging represents a significant burden for developed and developing countries alike. The population over 65 years old in LAC countries is expected to increase to more than 130 million by 2050. Currently, 16% of the EU population is over 65, and this figure is expected to rise to 25% by 2030. This tendency poses a major threat in terms of socioeconomic burden as neurodegeneration is mostly associated with aging. LAC populations are usually classified as a single ethnic group by researchers despite their cultural, socioeconomic and genetic diversity. The same holds for EU populations. With the advent of genetics and biomarkers, there is a window of opportunity for research focused on aging across the different ethnic groups and cultures. There is an urgent need to prevent neurodegeneration and slow down its progression.

Scope:

Project proposals shall address inter/multidisciplinary research in neurodegeneration related to ageing.

Research may focus, but not solely, on the development of models to study the relationship between healthy aging and neurodegeneration based on populations with different genetic and environmental/cultural backgrounds.

Data for study might include information about health, functional ability, cognitive function and social support networks.

Material may include blood samples as well as biological samples.

Observational studies may be included, whereas clinical trials are out of the scope of this call.

Expected impact:

Project proposals must clearly demonstrate the potential health and/or economic impact as well as the added-value of transnational and regional collaboration by e.g. gathering a critical mass of patients/biological material, sharing of resources (models, databases, diagnosis etc.), comparison and harmonization of data and clinical practice, sharing of specific know-how and facilities and/or innovative technologies, etc.

Projects should deliver:

➢ Evidence that can be applied to the understanding of neurodegenerative process related to aging
➢ New knowledge, key to develop new strategies to fight age-related neurodegeneration, including prevention
➢ Contribution to improve the quality of life of aging population

Topic 2 Research in promotion of well-being: prevention of infectious diseases, emerging food-, water- and vector-borne diseases

Specific challenge:

Despite the spectacular progress of modern medicine, infectious diseases remain a global threat for public health. Poverty-related and neglected diseases are of high relevance to the present call due to their high burden in the LAC region. Emerging food, water and vector-borne diseases still have high rates of morbidity and in specific cases high mortality rate. They often are associated to difficulties for early detection of the infection, therapeutic limitations, areas without adequate resources, and patients suffering from underlying conditions such as immunosuppression, chronic or debilitating illnesses.

Scope:

Project proposals shall address inter/multidisciplinary research in infectious diseases (including those of zoonotic origin) and food, water and vector-borne diseases. Each project proposal must seek the translation from basic scientific findings to intervention and/or implementation.

Research should focus on one or more of:

- early detection, including both screening and diagnosis tools
- facilitating new therapeutic strategies led to decrease antimicrobial resistance or other complications related to infectious diseases
- molecular epidemiological studies leading to clinical trials or prediction and prevention tools/strategies
- Specific programs for prevention of endemic infections
- Better control of imported infections
- Research challenges related to food safety infectious risks
- observational studies

Vaccine studies and clinical trials are excluded.

Expected impact:

Project proposals must clearly demonstrate the potential health and/or economic impact as well as the added-value of transnational and regional collaboration by e.g. gathering a critical mass of patients/biological material, sharing of resources (models, databases, diagnosis etc.), comparison and harmonization of data and clinical practice, sharing of specific know-how and facilities and/or innovative technologies, etc.

Projects should deliver:

➢ New insights of scientific evidences for better diseases prevention, diagnosis and care of the persons and population affected
➢ Knowledge related to regional differences in prevalence, molecular epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance in order to develop better control programs
➢ Knowledge to assure that food safety regulations about processing, storage and handling are rooted in scientific risk assessment
➢ Early warning systems and methods for rapid control of community effectiveness
➢ Solid evidences of effectiveness as best-value-for-money interventions

Annex 2: Overview of contributions by the participating funding organizations to each topic

	Topic 1 Neurodegeneration	Topic 2 Infectious diseases	SUM per FA
Argentina, MINCYT	x	x	150.000 €
Belgium, FNRS		x	100.000 €
Brazil, FAPESP	x	x	400.000 €
Brazil, FAPEMIG	x	x	200.000 €
Chile, CONICYT	x	x	1.234.026 €
Costa Rica, CCSS	x	x	94.000 €
Costa Rica, FUNIN		x	75.000 €
Dom. Rep., MESCYT	x	x	180.000 €
Ecuador, SENESCYT	x	x	200.000 €
Germany, DLR	x	x	500.000 €
Guatemala, CONCYT	x	x	160.000 €
Israel, CSO-MoH	x	x	300.000 €
Italy, SANITA	x	x	1.000.000 €
Latvia, VIAA	x	x	300.000 €
Panama, MINSA	x		91.470 €
Peru, CONCYTEC	x	x	600.000 €
Poland, NCBR	x	x	280.000 €
Spain, ISCIII*	x	x	150.000 €
Uruguay, ANII	x	x	50.000 €
SUM			**6.684.496 €**

* Pending on receiving the letter of commitment

Annex 3: Contact information, Call Contact Persons

EU-LAC Health Joint Call Secretariat and the National and Regional Contact Persons

The **EU-LAC Health Call Secretariat (CS)** is entrusted with the overall operational management of the EU-LAC Health Joint Call. It is the general contact point for first questions related to the Joint Call, the application process and the use of the webtool.

The **Call Contact Persons (CCPs)** are located in each country which participates in the EU-LAC Health Joint Call. One of their main tasks is to advise the potential applicants from their countries/regions on the applicable national/regional regulations during the proposal submission process.

Country	Funding org.	Contact person	Contact details
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Argentina	MINCyT	Ignacio Ibáñez	iibanez@mincyt.gob.ar +54 11 4899 5000 (interno 4120)
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		Teresa Corral	tcorral@eu-isciii.es Tel: +34 918 22 22 55
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Call Secretariat			
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ERANet-LAC is a Network of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Joint Innovation and Research Activities. It strengthens the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation by planning and implementing concrete joint activities and by creating a sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities.

One of the key tasks of ERANet-LAC is the organization and implementation of two transnational joint calls. In the 1st joint call 20 funding organizations from 16 countries have participated, the 2nd joint call counted on 28 funding organizations from 25 countries.

The ERANet-LAC funding parties are presently developing a concept for an EU-CELAC interest group in order to continue the successfully implemented bi-regional activities following the life-time of the ERANet-LAC in March 2017.