

NFP4Health

REPORT WORKSHOPS MODULE 2

JA NFP4HEALTH

Lisbon 25-26 2024



This presentation is part of the action "NFP4Health" which has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020) under grant agreement No 101035965.

The training edition Module 2 "EU4Health Project Design & Management" took place in Lisbon on January 25 and 26, and it was organized by [ProMIS - Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute](#), in the context of [Joint Action on Increasing the Capacity of National Focal Points \(NFP4Health\)](#).

The event was hosted in person by the [Ministry of Health of Portugal](#). Participants in the sessions were the National Focal Points (NFPs) of EU4Health from the Member States and Carl Larsson Lindqvist representing the [European Health and Digital Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#).

The training was an interactive activity dedicated to the management of EU4Health funds in order to ensure greater and more effective participation in the Program by all Member States. The objective of the event was to actively work on the management of European projects, sharing best knowledge and practices, and strengthening the network of National Focal Points (NFPs). The topics covered in detail through informative and interactive sessions are as follows: "Funding & Tenders Portal eligibility criteria, selection, and award"; project design using "Logical Framework, needs and objectives analysis, SMART methodology, impact, sustainability, implementation"; "Project cycle management"; "Grant Agreement signing and project initiation"; "Internal and external communication within the Consortium"; "Evaluation and monitoring phase (financial and project reports)".

Results/inputs from the discussions:

- After HaDEA's presentation on the Funding & Tenders Portal (eligibility criteria, selection, and award), there were many questions, which were framed within complex national contexts. The HaDEA representative had limited opportunity to respond (only procedurally and not policy-related). There was unanimous interest expressed in organizing info sessions with HaDEA, preceded by the collection of questions from NFPs and stakeholders. Considering the many questions about unit costs, a dedicated session was proposed.
- After the introduction to project planning (needs and objectives analysis), it was highlighted that Joint Actions (JAs) are unique compared to most European projects, and it is crucial to provide broader preparation alongside direct experience in JA to manage requests for information/clarity/support from stakeholders effectively.

The second day of the training focused on the Grant Agreement, Consortium activities, and the process of evaluation and monitoring of project proposals. Representatives of the Member States in the Joint Action NFP4Health conducted interactive group activities simulating the initial phases of the participation process in specific calls and had the opportunity to share their results and receive feedback. The training activities of the Joint Action NFP4Health will continue throughout 2024, for further information please consult the [official project website](#).



The participation of different NFPs is listed below:

EDITION	LOCATION	DATE	PARTICIPATION <i>(in black Beneficiaries, in red Associated Partners)</i>
UNIQUE EDITION MODULE 2	LISBON	25-26 JAN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Italy 2. Portugal 3. Latvia 4. Norway 5. France 6. Spain 7. Netherlands 8. Croatia 9. Poland 10. Slovakia 11. Czech Republic 12. Sweden 13. Hungary 14. Serbia 15. Germany 16. Iceland 17. Slovenia 18. Austria 19. Malta 20. Finland 21. Ukraine

In black JA NFP4Health Partners, in red Associated Partners JA NFP4Health



Outputs of the Working Groups

GROUPS 1-3 worked on the following call: [CALL 1 - Call for proposals for operating grants to non-governmental organisations: financial contribution to the functioning of health non-governmental bodies implementing one or more specific objectives of Regulation 2021/522 \(EU4H-2024-OG\)](#).

GROUPS 4-6 worked on the following hypothetical call: DI-g-24-76 Call for proposals on advancing the adoption of artificial intelligence in health.

GROUP 1. The group represents a coordination of 14 NGOs in 14 different countries with the goal of reducing HIV cases by decreasing stigma, increasing knowledge and information about it, and improving prevention networks. The first planned phase involves identifying gaps in the resources and capacities of the organizations, with the development of a dedicated tool. The second phase includes training and/or expert support activities to overcome the identified gaps, while the third involves the implementation of activities by the NGOs themselves to achieve the original objectives. Risks related to limitations of the impact of the involved organizations were identified, and the feedback received highlighted the added value of an in-depth analysis of mitigation measures for the identified risks. The focus was correctly placed on the specific language of the call (scope), namely on the need to design activities that specifically involve strengthening the activities of the NGOs in question.

GROUP 2. An NGO that operates in 20 countries with the goal of spreading activities for education on a healthy lifestyle in the context of reducing child obesity. Key activities include 5 types of interventions within school facilities in 4 countries: training of teachers for teaching healthy lifestyles and inclusion of the same in curricula; cooking courses and awareness of healthy and sustainable diets (risks related to implementation in different countries with different cultures, consultation panels planned for each country); training of ambassadors in the school context; daily physical activities in schools; training of health personnel in a school context (risks related to the mental health of students, monitoring by psychologists planned). The feedback received highlighted the importance of interfacing with different groups of stakeholders and different aspects of the problem addressed. Like the previous group (and as will result from the next), progress indicators were correctly identified as an integral part of the proposal.

GROUP 3. This NGO operates in 25 countries in the field of lung cancer prevention measures, promoting better respiratory health, and focusing on tobacco-based products. The goal of reducing the use of tobacco-based products and cultivating a "smoke-free" generation involves monitoring through dedicated tools. The first phase focuses on 200 secondary schools distributed in 5 Member States and includes information campaigns for young people aged 12-18. The same target group is considered in the second phase, which involves training on newer tobacco consumption products (vaping, e-cigarettes) through 200 dedicated workshops with educators. The third phase focuses on identifying young population groups particularly at risk in the context of modern tobacco consumption technologies (vaping, e-cigarettes). Multimedia materials will be used for workshops and disseminating collected information, along with three social media platforms and dedicated events that include a focus on passive smoking.

Feedback received has emphasized the importance of planning project sustainability, especially in measuring the actual impact of actions, particularly given their concentration within an extremely limited timeframe. Separately, attention has been drawn to the impact of proposals perceived as overly ambitious, which may penalize a project if the proposed structure cannot compensate.

GROUP 4. This group of experts in Artificial Intelligence from the Portuguese Ministry of Health aims to increase the use of AI systems in clinical contexts in Portugal. The first phase involves training personnel on the basics of the involved technological tools. The second phase involves creating a community of experts to



identify key obstacles and propose implementation models, pilot projects, and digital tools. The third phase includes informing and training policymakers based on the collected information. Potential partners have been identified for creating a consortium, and criteria for identifying needs have been established. The key deliverable is the collection and processing of data on healthcare deserts in a report, in preparation for the implementation of AI tools. Potential ethical and practical risks in the application of technologies, including biases, have been identified in diverse logistical and social contexts. The use of a dedicated digital tool in mapping AI usage in remote areas of Portugal is planned, and workshops for interaction with stakeholders are being organized, which can also serve as a verification tool. As a result, guidelines are expected, taking into account concerns expressed by the European community on this topic, which require specific and measurable tools.

GROUP 5. Group of Artificial Intelligence experts identified the significant slow pace of AI implementation in healthcare systems. They highlighted deficiencies in the legal framework, the lack of a suitable environment, and the low trust in these technologies, related to their lack of transparency. The focus of this project revolves around the second and third conditions: how to develop appropriate environments and levels of trust. They emphasized the importance of connecting different organizations and encouraging data exchange among stakeholders for algorithm development, as well as the importance of enhancing effective cooperation among various companies involved in the development of these technologies. The creation of expert communities and the organization of meeting spaces and networking events are key steps in this process. Limitations in creating the framework were also highlighted. The feedback received emphasized the importance of presenting extremely "pragmatic" deliverables when implementing a highly focused call in a volatile context.

GROUP 6. The project's objective is to reduce mortality related to potentially identifiable conditions using Artificial Intelligence in screening and early detection processes, aiming to lessen the impact on healthcare systems and improve the quality of life. Part of the process involves identifying added value aspects in the use of AI, with the cross-use of healthcare and social data (including data from existing databases) processed through available tools. In this regard, the creation of a network of experts for the development of dedicated data collection and utilization tools is planned. This project would require a duration of three years considering the structural needs. A certification system is also planned to support standardization in the use of the involved technologies. The importance of reusing existing infrastructures to activate new projects and integrate new technologies into the healthcare ecosystem has been emphasized. Challenges in the project's sustainability objectives have been expressed (especially considering existing projects), and the use of dedicated apps and webinars to measure patient engagement, as well as professional training, has been proposed. Additional long-term options, including the use of significantly more ambitious technologies, have been considered but are not the primary focus. In terms of sustainability, attention has also been placed on the importance of transitioning from managing immediate crises (the current status quo in many systems in this context) to a more stable long-term environment.

DECISION/Additional Feedback

GROUP 1: Solid background and skills positively evaluated the capacity development process.

GROUP 2: (Winner of Call 1) Highly praised for the in-depth involvement of a variety of stakeholders.

GROUP 3: Targeted KPIs and multiple communication channels stand out as key features.

GROUP 4: Well-defined with good KPIs. However, insufficient focus penalizes the proposal.

GROUP 5: Excellent objective tree but an incomplete proposal (the elaboration process was interrupted due to lack of time).



GROUP 6: (Winner of Call 2) Very concrete proposal, appreciated the focus.

Take Home messages from the workshop

Here are some key take-home emerged from the discussion and that can help the NFP to advise the stakeholders through the process:

- **Understand the Call's Objectives and Requirements:** Thoroughly assess the call's guidelines, objectives, and evaluation criteria. Help the stakeholders to tailor the proposal to directly address the identified needs and priorities outlined in the call).
- **Create a Clear and Convincing Narrative:** Help the stakeholders to craft a compelling story that clearly articulates the project's purpose, goals, and anticipated outcomes. Use a structured approach with a logical flow to make it easy for evaluators to follow and understand the proposal.
- **Demonstrate Innovation and Impact:** Try to showcase innovative elements that set the proposal apart from others. Clearly outline the potential impact and benefits your project will deliver, emphasizing how it aligns with the overarching goals of the funding program.
- **Build a Strong Consortium:** Assemble a diverse and capable consortium that brings together relevant expertise, skills, and resources. Clearly define roles and responsibilities within the consortium to demonstrate a collaborative and well-coordinated effort.
- **Incorporate Stakeholder Engagement:** Highlight strategies for engaging key stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle. Emphasize the importance of involving end-users and beneficiaries in project design, implementation, and evaluation (i.e. NGOs).
- **Address Risks and Mitigation Strategies:** Identify potential risks and challenges the proposal may face and outline robust mitigation strategies. Demonstrating a proactive approach to risk management enhances the feasibility and credibility of the proposal.
- **Emphasize Sustainability and Long-Term Impact:** Clearly outline how the project will be sustained beyond the funding period. Help the stakeholders to articulate the potential long-term impact of the proposal on the target community, sector, or broader societal context.

In summary, a successful EU4Health proposal requires a strategic and thoughtful approach, aligning closely with the call's objectives while demonstrating innovation, impact, and a well-organized plan for execution.

