

# Fit for Health Newsletter

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## FP7 Simplification for SMEs and Researchers



Based on the simplification plan of 2010, aiming to make the participation in FP7 more attractive for researchers and SMEs by facilitating administrative processes in research projects, the European Commission (EC) has made some changes. These new simplification rules will allow researchers and SMEs to save time and effort on administrative tasks and to concentrate on the research itself.

The EC has adopted three concrete measures with immediate effect on the management of EU research grants in the current EU research programme (FP7).

Each of these steps responds to concerns repeatedly expressed by participants and would-be participants in FP7:

- More flexibility for the calculation of personnel costs

This new simplification measure allows research grant holders to apply their usual accounting methods when requesting reimbursement for average personnel costs. Consequently, there is no further need to set up a parallel accounting system simply for this purpose.

- Simplification for SME-owners

SME owners without a formal registration of their salaries in their accounts can now be reimbursed. They can use flat-rate payments that are based on the Marie-Curie actions (part of the PEOPLE Programme in FP7) for their contribution to work on research projects.

- Establishment of a new "Research Clearing Committee"

The Commission will establish a new group of senior officials from all departments and agencies involved in FP7 in order to remove inconsistencies in the application of the rules on research funding.

[Press Release](#) of the European Commission

[Full text of the April 2010 Communication on Simplification](#)

[Report of Interim Evaluation expert Group](#)

## Fit for Health Trainings: Targeted Group-specific Trainings on FP7



The experience from our previous EU initiative, SMEs go Health, has demonstrated a strong and increasing demand by SMEs and researchers for high quality, hands-on training on all aspects of FP7.

Preparing the road to the FP7-2012-Health Call for Proposals, our first International training for FP7 Newcomers has taken place in Budapest (Hungary) on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011. This training day was addressed to all companies, research institutes, universities and hospitals involved in the fields of health, life sciences, genomics and biotechnology. We offered a broad overview on FP7, participation issues, finding appropriate project partners and how to get support. Presentations provided during this training will soon be available at our website.

A second International training, addressed to health-related proposal writers, will take place in Athens on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011, just before the announcement of the next Health Call in summer 2011. Detailed information on this event will be provided through our website shortly.

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## Tips on the FP7 Negotiation Process



On the basis of the presentations held by the officers of the European Commission during the information day for successful coordinators of the FP7-HEALTH-2011-single-stage call it is possible to define some useful tips to be checked during the negotiation phase of the proposal. For more detailed information please refer to the following link: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/past-events\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/past-events_en.html)

### What is the negotiation process? Who is invited to participate?

The negotiation process kicks off with the letter of invitation to negotiations (sent to the coordinator) together with:

- The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
- The Negotiation Mandate
- The Ethical Review Report (if needed)

The coordinator leads and represents the applicants in the negotiations with the Commission. Only one of the applicants can be the coordinator. The representative of the coordinator is responsible for ALL contacts between the consortium and the Commission. If meetings are planned, he/she attends all meetings.

The purpose of the negotiation is to finalise, within the set deadlines, the details of the work to be carried out under the grant agreement within the associated budget and to establish, within the set deadlines, the legal and financial information needed to conclude the grant agreement.

The negotiation will contribute to the definition of two main aspects of the proposal:

- Technical (scientific) negotiations, which will be led by the EC Scientific Officer
- Financial and legal negotiations, which will be conducted by the Administration and Finance Unit of the EC

### Improving the use of the participant negotiation portal (NEF)

The Participant Portal is the single-entry point to interact with the research programmes of the European Commission. It offers the possibility to use a great variety of tools that facilitate the monitoring and the management of the proposals and projects throughout their lifecycle. The Participant Portal currently allows to register each organisation through the Unique Registration Facility (URF), get a PIC (Participant identification code) which can be used in proposal submissions, search for FP7-related support documents, view/search for FP7 calls and view/manage ongoing projects. At an early stage of the negotiation process the NEF identifies the validated / non-validated participants.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=faq#wlp\\_faq](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=faq#wlp_faq)

DO's
Follow the deadlines clearly stated in the negotiation mandate
Address all the comments made in the ESR
Involve a small number of partners in the negotiation process (WP leaders)
Prepare a Consortium Agreement among the partners
Pay particular attention to the subcontracts and other third parties
DONT's
Do not underestimate the necessary time for the validation of PIC/LEAR
Do not leave any unclear aspect in the budget
Do not assign commitment to too many partners (try to keep the lead of the whole process)
Do not underestimate the necessary time for the approval of the Consortium Agreement by each partner
Do not underestimate the necessary time for the reception of form A 2.5 (Grant Preparation Forms) in original copy, signed by each partner.

## FP7-Health Information Day & Partnering Event - Brussels June 2011



The EC is once again organising an Open Information Day on the upcoming Health Call for Proposals, taking place on 9 June 2011, shortly before the expected official publication of the call. The event aims to highlight the novelties in the planning of the 2012 Work Programme and background information on the specific Call topics. Sessions will be offered, for example, on opportunities for SMEs, explanations on clinical trials and international cooperation. Experience reports on challenges and opportunities of participating in EU funded projects and guidance on proposal preparation will complement the programme.

While the Open Information Day focuses mainly on the provision of first-hand information, the Partnering event on the following day (10 June) will be dedicated fully to finding project partners and consortium building. This event is jointly organised by the projects "Fit for Health" and "Health-NCP-Net" and will be your only major opportunity to very efficiently enhance your network in view of participation in the upcoming Health Call.

The main part of this day is dedicated to bilateral meetings between persons interested in the same Call area. A comprehensive programme will provide information on what makes a good consortium and give researchers from SMEs and academia a platform to present their project ideas in 5-minute presentations. Bilateral meetings will be arranged automatically by a sophisticated, user-friendly match-making tool following an expression of interest in specific call areas by participants.

Don't miss this invaluable opportunity to get first-hand information directly from the EC and meet potential project partners from all over Europe and beyond! For those successful in setting up a consortium and deciding on the project's focus, "Fit for Health" is offering a "Training on proposal writing for Applicants" on 21 June 2011 in Athens, Greece (for more information, see relevant article in this newsletter).

For more information on the Open Information Day, please consult the EC's Health event website: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-05\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-05_en.html). For further information and instructions for registration on the Partnering event, please check the Fit for Health website.

## EC Consultation: Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding



The College of Commissioners has adopted a Green Paper that launches an open consultation on proposals for a future "Common Strategic Framework" to improve EU research and innovation funding programmes: to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact, and maximise value for money.

The proposed Common Strategic Framework will cover the Framework Programme for Research, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This will create a coherent set of instruments along the whole innovation chain starting from basic research.

The consultation will conclude with a major event in Brussels on 10 June.

There is a number of ways to contribute through the relevant website:

- Online questionnaire
- Written responses
- Interactive blog
- Events

Other related links

[Innovation union web-site \(with main info\)](#)

[Innovation union facebook page](#)

[Innovation unlimited blog](#)

## Latest news & Health-related Events on our Website

- [Fit for Health - International Training for Negotiation & Project Management in FP7](#): Brussels, 11 May 2011
- [FP7 Health Partnering Event](#): Brussels, 10 June 2011
- [Fit for Health – International Training for FP7 Health Proposers](#): Athens, 21 June 2011 (draft agenda & registration soon available at our website)



***Your comments and feedback for the improvement of the Fit for Health Newsletter are more than welcome.***

***Please [contact us!](#)***



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