

Fit for Health Newsletter

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FP7 Health Partnering Event – 10th June 2011 - Brussels, Belgium



Shortly before the official publication of the 2012 Health Calls for Proposals, the EC organised an Open Information Day in order to convey first-hand information on the novelties in the planning of the new Work Programme to researchers from SMEs and academia. This event took place on 9th June 2011 in Brussels.

The following day (10th June 2011), the projects "Fit for Health" and "Health-NCP-Net" jointly organised an FP7 Partnering event. This Partnering event was dedicated to consortium building. The main part of the day consisted of bilateral meetings between persons interested in the same call areas. During the first part of the meeting information was provided on what makes a good consortium. Researchers from SMEs and academia interested in SME-targeted topics and those from countries outside Europe were given the opportunity to present their project ideas in 5-minute presentations.

Bilateral meetings were arranged automatically by a sophisticated, user-friendly match-making tool following expressions of interest in specific call areas by participants. Additionally to bilateral meetings among potential project partners, participants had the option to meet with representatives of other support initiatives (such as the "KAPPA-Health" and "Access4EU" projects) and members of the organising projects for personalised support and information.

Please find more information about the event on the [agenda](#) and the [presentations](#).

[Photo gallery](#) is also available.

“Fit for Health” - International Training for Negotiation & Project Management in FP7 – 11th May 2011 - Brussels, Belgium



On 11th May 2011, “Fit for Health” held a training workshop for new coordinators of FP7 Health projects, addressing all issues that are related to the upcoming negotiation process. During this training workshop we could assist more than 120 coordinators, with representatives from SMEs, universities and research institutes as well as from other organisations. They took the opportunity to get hands-on information to be well prepared for the negotiation process and the project start. The training was combined with the information event organized by the European Commission for coordinators, who successfully submitted projects for the FP7-HEALTH-2011-two-stage call (“Coordinator’s Day”).

During the “Coordinators Day” the European Commission provided information about administrative and financial issues, such as the negotiation facility tool (NEF), the validation process, amendments, reporting and auditing issues as well as issues related to third parties, subcontracting and clinical trials. In addition, coordinators had the opportunity to discuss scientific-related questions with their project officers in bilateral meetings.

On the second day of this combined event, the “Fit for Health” training complemented the information provided by the EC, comprising two parts: the first one focused on information about challenges in negotiating the grant and consortium agreements. In the second part, project implementation and project management was presented, providing additional information for reporting procedures, scientific and financial management, ethical issues as well as IPR-related issues. Moreover, detailed information about audits by the EC and the EU court of auditors was provided by a representative from the EC audit unit, including a detailed question-answer session.

All presentations are available on our “Fit for Health” website at <http://www.fitforhealth.eu/20110511presentations.aspx>



Dos and Don'ts on Management of FP7 Projects

Appropriate management structures are necessary for the successful implementation of projects funded within the Framework Programmes of the EU. These structures should be identified during proposal preparation and efficiently and effectively applied within the consortia.

Project management mainly consists of:

1. Communication
2. Monitoring
3. Reporting
4. Finance Management

Good communication is essential for a project's success. It can be personal, through face-to-face meetings, or remote, via e-mail, telephone, web-conferencing, etc. Project meetings should be arranged well in advance, have a clear agenda and objectives, adequate time for discussion, be properly chaired and noted and, of course, attended by all partners, if possible. The EC Project Officer may attend the project meetings, too. Potential obstacles for smooth communication within the consortium can be partner indifference, cultural differences, unclear communication of the work plan, etc.

The Project Management Team must keep track of how the project is progressing in terms of implementation of activities, delivery of results, expenditure, use of resources, and the management of risks. This can be efficiently achieved through 'monitoring', which is the systematic and continuous collection, analysis and use of management information. This information can also be used to support effective decision-making. Monitoring is an internal management responsibility, although it may be complemented by 'external' experts. These external monitoring inputs can be useful in providing objective verification of results, additional technical advice and a 'big-picture' view for senior management. The Description of Work is a good indication of the planned work but the planned work must be modified on an ongoing basis to take account of what actually happens during implementation.

At the end of each period the coordinator must submit a report, consisting of a technical and a financial part, to the EC.

- A Project Report including a publishable summary about the progress of the work carried out, explaining potential differences between the work planned and what has actually been implemented. It also contains an explanation of the use of the resources.
- A Financial Statement prepared by each project partner and a Summary Financial Report prepared by the project coordinator. A Financial Statement should be accompanied by an audit certificate when a participant's cumulative budget for the project exceeds or is equal to 375.000 Euro.

The project coordinator receives all payments, including pre-financing and interim payments, from the European Commission and is responsible for the subsequent distribution of payments to the project partners. The Consortium Agreement should include the payment details and how they should be made. As the project goes on, the calculation of budget distribution may become more complex for the coordinator. At this stage, it becomes necessary to consider how much funding each partner has received and spent in the previous periods in order to calculate how much they should receive in further instalments. The coordinator must ensure that the funding is fully utilised. If a partner appears to have underspent, then some budget may need to be transferred to another partner within the consortium.

EPMA-World Congress in Bonn, 15th-18th September 2011, Bonn, Germany

"The European association for predictive, preventive and personalized medicine (EPMA) organises the first [EPMA World congress](#) in Bonn, 15th-18th September 2011.

Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine (PPPM) is a leading global challenge in the 21st century. Of paramount importance is the communication among professionals – medical doctors, biotechnologists, computer-scientists, healthcare providers, policy-makers, educators, etc. This paradigm change can be achieved only by well-coordinated measures focused on solving the accumulating problems in healthcare and reducing the concomitant economical burden that societies across the globe are progressively facing. The overall concept in the field is conducted by the "European Association for Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine" (EPMA) – the "umbrella" organisation in 30 countries around Europe and worldwide.

The EPMA Congress is an important global event promoting a multidisciplinary consolidation in the branch. Inaugurated in 2011, it will take place every two years following the 24-month thematic cycle of the EPMA Journal (Springer). Some congress particularities will reflect the EPMA's proven expertise in:

- PPPM-related implementation - a specialised session will be dedicated to "Clustered PPPM-Centres, Validation and Standards", where experiences will be shared from the creation of specialised PPPM-related Medical Centres in Europe and worldwide.
- The strong integration of PPPM-related industry - without exception, each Congress session will benefit from topic-related input by the industry and regulators, including innovative R&D concepts, advanced technologies, PPPM-cantered products, etc.

Latest news & Health-related Events on our Website

- [Fit for Health - International Workshop "Valorisation of FP7 R&D Results"](#) (11/10/2011 - Hannover, Germany)
- [BioBusinessMatching 2011](#) (12/10/2011 - Hannover, Germany)



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

Please contact us!



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