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Questions and Answers

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"SC1-PM-01-2016: Multi omics for personalised therapies addressing diseases of the immune system"

1. Question: Is the use of IHEC data mandatory – or would data from the ICGC (e.g.) be just as valid in the context of SC1-PM-01-2016? What are the other databases that can be used?

Answer:

The relevant work programme topic reads "Proposals must build on data from IHEC and, as appropriate, on data from other international initiatives".

Therefore, we confirm that:

- i. The use of [IHEC](#) data is mandatory. IHEC provides high quality reference epigenomic data and such data must be considered. The use of ICGC data alone is not sufficient.
- ii. In addition to IHEC, other databases can also be used, as appropriate. Since the topic is open to proposers to build on all kinds of different data sets it is impossible for the European Commission to provide a comprehensive list. Examples of different databases are the cancer genome ([ICGC](#)) and the data centre for the [human microbiome project](#), where data deposited are available to the scientific community upon request.

2. Question: The scope of the topic SC1-PM-01-2016 reports 'International cooperation is requested' without specifying which countries. Extra EU countries will be admitted to participate and to obtain EU funding? Which countries?

Answer:

In line with the Union's strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, proposals should create strategic synergies between scientists across disciplines, sectors and around the globe not limited to EU only. The standard rules on providing funding to international partners apply. There is no extra provision for this topic to provide funding for international partners beyond the standard rules of the work programme.

Countries are not specified; therefore it is up to the proposers to select the most appropriate Third countries depending on the content of the proposal. In relation to funding, the general rules to fund Third countries apply (see [here](#)).

3. Question: Is clinical application of biomarkers mandatory for projects in SC1-PM-01-2016?

Answer:

Yes, clinical application of biomarkers is mandatory for these projects. The call text clearly asks to identify and select new biomarkers for clinical validation in stratified patient populations.

4. Question: Does the scope of the topic SC1-PM-01-2016 allow for an approach primarily driven by integration of clinically generated phenome-coupled 'omics data' with 'omics data' from publicly available databases (eg. IHEC, ICGC or the national registers)?

Answer:

We cannot 'interpret' the work programme topic (e.g. with regard to whether a certain proposal or condition is within the scope of this topic or not) beyond the published text. The question whether and to what extent your proposal or the respective condition is within the scope of the topic or not will be an essential part of the evaluation by independent experts. Experts use the general consensus regarding definitions and understandings of experts in the respective field. Therefore the best advice you can get with regard to your questions is the opinion of your peers, who are potential evaluators.

5. Question: Are immune deficiencies, autoimmune and / or haematological cancer in scope of the topic SC1-PM-01-2016?

Answer:

If they are not rare, immune deficiencies, haematological cancers and autoimmune diseases are included in the scope of this topic.

"SC1-PM-04-2016: Networking and optimising the use of population and patient cohorts at EU level"

Question: The scope of the topic SC1-PM-04-2016 encourages the collaboration with international initiatives in addition to the involvement of European infrastructures. Which initiatives? Will Extra-EU countries be funded?

Answer:

The text says 'relevant international initiatives'; therefore the decision is up to the proposers, bearing in mind that the initiatives included have to be relevant for the proposal. In relation to funding, the general rules to fund Third Countries apply (see [here](#)).

"SC1-PM-09-2016: New therapies for chronic diseases"

Question: Regarding SC1-PM-09-2016 ('New therapies for chronic diseases'), do chronic infectious diseases include HIV, tuberculosis and malaria?

Answer:

HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are chronic infectious diseases. Since malaria is not a chronic disease, it is excluded from SC1-PM-09-2016.

Question: Is malaria excluded from SC1-PM-09-2016 since SC1-PM-06-2016 tackles vaccine development for malaria?

Answer:

The two topics PM-09 and PM-06 are independent one from the other. The fact that PM-09 excludes malaria is not due to the presence in the Work Programme of the other topic PM-06, but the exclusion is based on the fact that malaria is not regarded as a chronic diseases.

"SC1-PM-10-2017: Comparing the effectiveness of existing healthcare interventions in the adult population"

1. Question: **In the scope of SC1-PM-10-2017 it is stated 'randomised controlled trials, pragmatic trials, observational studies, large scale databases and meta analyses may be considered.' Does this mean that these are the only ones that can be used?**

Answer:

The categories mentioned are non-exclusive. These are the main types of trials used but if consortia come with other options experts will be better placed to decide if appropriate or not.

2. Question: **Does the topic SC1-PM-10-2017 (Comparing the effectiveness of existing healthcare interventions in the adult population) exclude elderly (people over 60)?**

Answer:

Screening and / or the involvement of elderly populations are not excluded.

3. Question: **Topic SC1-PM-10-2017 is similar to the one of last year. Will the healthcare interventions already funded in the previous call be excluded in this new call?**

Answer:

The healthcare interventions already funded in the previous call will not be excluded in this new call.

"SC1-PM-21-2016: Implementation research for scaling-up of evidence based innovations and good practice in Europe and low- and middle-income countries"

Question: Does SC1-PM-21-2016 refer to low / middle income countries only in projects under this call or it may be focused on Europe as well?

Answer:

The phrase 'Europe and [LMI countries](#)' in the topic text is meant to be inclusive and to suggest that non-European participation is welcome. The proposal may involve only-European countries, or a mix of European and non-European countries. This topic is not geographically limited.

The call text specifically mentions the following: "This scaling up can take place within Europe as well as outside it, notably in low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) [...] The research should identify the facilitators of and barriers to scaling-up, including context-specific factors and differing social and health systems environments in Europe or in LMIC [...] Proposals should be multidisciplinary and relevant gender aspects should be taken into account. They also should reflect and take advantage of the regional diversity across Europe and/or the diversity of LMIC settings.