

CR-g-24-99 Call for proposals on Personalised Cancer Medicine

POLICY CONTEXT

Personalised Cancer Medicine ('PCM')¹⁰⁴ through particular methods and patient management, has the potential to improve healthcare by establishing technological advancements and implement the scientific understanding of disease processes within the cancer clinical pathway. However, PCM depends on the information management capabilities of the healthcare practitioners and other stakeholders working within health systems.

Future healthcare methods that make use of genetic/genomic testing and molecularly targeted medicines will contribute to preventing and better comprehending the disease processes. For instance, a thorough understanding of the metastatic process could point to novel therapeutic directions since metastasis are still the main cause of cancer-related mortality.

Electronic clinical decision support technology can be used to efficiently solve significant difficulties in patient management, ensuring the appropriate clinical use of genomic test data and molecularly targeted treatments.

This is accomplished by creating personalised preventative and treatment plans for individuals or groups, ensuring that patients receive the precise therapies that are most effective for them and that financial resources will not be put in ineffective procedures.

PCM can potentially improve cancer diagnosis and treatment outcome, as well as provide a better quality of life for patients and survivors, which is one of the main goals of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan).

This action will support the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan objective to ensure high standards in 'Cancer diagnostic and treatment for all' and implements the EU4Health Programme's general objective of improving and fostering health in the Union (Article 3, point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/522) through the specific objectives defined in Article 4, points (a) and (g) of Regulation (EU) 2021/522.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

The aim of the action is to complement the implementation of the 'Joint Action on Personalized Cancer Medicine' led by the Member States, thus helping to reduce the burden of cancer both at a personal and societal level, namely by supporting the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and policy initiatives on personalised medicine. It may also support other Union initiatives that aim at improving public health, such as the '1+ Million Genomes' Initiative¹⁰⁵ and the Initiative to Understand Cancer (UNCAN.eu)¹⁰⁶ in so far as it shares the objectives of promoting personalised treatments and support ground-breaking research needed to advance the understanding of cancer mechanisms in order to improve the cancer care pathway.

This action should cover the ambition of the sixth flagship of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the 'Cancer diagnostic and treatment for all' initiative. It will build on the results of the EU4Health Programme funded projects, such as the Personalised Cancer Medicine for all EU citizens ('PCM4EU')¹⁰⁷, the EU Cancer and Public Health Genomics platform project ('CAN.HEAL')¹⁰⁸, as well as the project for improved diagnostics and survival for all children with Acute Myeloid and the Leukaemia treated within the NOPHO-DB- SHIP consortium; a

¹⁰⁴ Council conclusions on personalised medicine for patients. (2015/C 421/03)

¹⁰⁵ [European '1+ Million Genomes' Initiative](#).

¹⁰⁶ [UNderstand CANcer \(uncan.eu\)](#).

¹⁰⁷ [Personalised Cancer Medicine for all EU Citizens \(PCM4EU\)](#).

¹⁰⁸ [Can.Heal | Building the EU genomics platform \(canheal.eu\)](#).

cross-European collaboration ('CHIP-AML22').¹⁰⁹ The action will also make use of the guidelines, protocols and best practices, developed under other European Commission funded initiatives and projects such as the 1+ Million Genomes Initiative, a European-wide foundation to accelerate Data-driven Cancer Research (EOSC4Cancer)¹¹⁰, and Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)¹¹¹ as well as Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)¹¹² funded projects could also be considered.

Activities will contribute to the Joint Action on Personalized Cancer Medicine', and include:

- a) the implementation of targeted projects involving civil society organisations and industry complementing the Member States' efforts in the design, planning and implementation of best practices (e.g., on metastatic cancer);
- b) the production of public health guidelines concerning personalised cancer medicine, genomic testing/screening and metastatic cancer management;
- c) patients and caregivers consultations, and other actions that can benefit citizens directly;
- d) preparation and roll out of innovative practices;
- e) support capacity building actions such as training and twinning, health communication or health literacy-

Activities should also include an equity dimension and aim at reducing health inequalities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACT

The action will benefit cancer patients accessing personalised cancer medicine services, which is expected to reduce the burden of cancer in the Member States.

The expected results will include initiatives to complement the Member States' efforts in the design, planning and implementation of best practices, such as support for the development of public health guidelines (e.g., personalised cancer medicine, genomic testing/screening and metastatic cancer management) guidelines and, support for the preparation and roll out of new policy approaches; participation in the pilot testing of innovative practices; development of capacity building actions such as training and twinning, health communication or health literacy.

The actions that will complement the Joint Action on Personalized Cancer Medicine are expected to bring short-term improvements in implementing personalised cancer medicine and sharing best practice among Member States and countries associated to the EU4Health Programme. In the mid- to long- term, this is expected to improve innovation and patient management in the cancer pathway, including metastatic cancer, by improving knowledge and skills in implementing personalised medicine in oncology.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE, BUDGET, IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURE TYPE

Call topic/sub-topic	Indicative call publication	Indicative Budget
Call for proposals – CR-g-24-99	Q4/2024	EUR 3 000 000

¹⁰⁹ [Childhood International Protocol – Acute Myeloid Leukaemia 2022](#)

¹¹⁰ [European-wide foundation to accelerate data-drive cancer research \(eos4cancer\)](#)

¹¹¹ [THCS at a glance \(thcspartnership.eu\).](#)

¹¹² [Innovative Health Initiative | IHI Innovative Health Initiative \(europa.eu\).](#)

Procedure type	Implemented by	Type of applicants targeted
Open calls for proposals (action grants)	HaDEA	Academia and education establishments, research institutes, hospitals, public authorities, expert networks, civil society organisations, associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities