



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Call for proposals for the Thematic Networks 2022 Cycle

Last update: 23/08/2022

Q1: Who can apply? Who can be considered as **applicant(s)**? Can it be an individual person? Can potential partners be mentioned, without having any firm commitment from them?

A1: The applicant should be a health stakeholder organisation registered in the EU Health Policy Platform. Organisations, rather than individuals, are eligible to apply to the call for proposals – 2022 Thematic Networks cycle.

Organisations can apply with or without partners. Potential partners may be mentioned without obligation to commit. If they choose to participate in the thematic networks cycle, they can do so in different ways throughout the cycle, as agreed with the leading organisation. For example, they could assist by co-drafting the Joint Statement, promoting it, participating in the live webinars, etc. The collaboration agreement between parties may be established at a later stage in the process.

Q2: Could you explain the nature of the support that we can expect from the EU Healthy Policy Platform? In particular, the **webinar series** could put quite a strain on the already limited resources that we have...

A2: The Platform team will support participants throughout the cycle, by answering any questions, helping them better understand the process, and, importantly, by organising the live webinars. The Platform team will handle the webinars from A to Z scheduling them using Webex Events, providing you the agenda template, organising a preparatory meeting to run through all the technicalities and promoting the webinar and the follow-up through all EC channels. We handle the technical details, while you handle the content. In advance of the webinar, you will have to provide the agenda and the list of speakers, and promote it through your network of contacts.

Q3: As the summer has already started, could **organisations possibly join the network** at a later stage?

A3: Yes, organisations and potential partners are invited and encouraged to join your Thematic Network throughout the cycle.

Q4: Can you provide some more practical information about the call? Is this a **call to submit a project proposal that includes partners from other Member States or if it is a call for individual proposals**? Are the rules and eligibility criteria the same as for calls under the EU4Health programme?

A4: This is a call for proposals for health stakeholders to collaborate through the EU Health Policy Platform and draft a Joint Statement on the topics suggested in the call text.

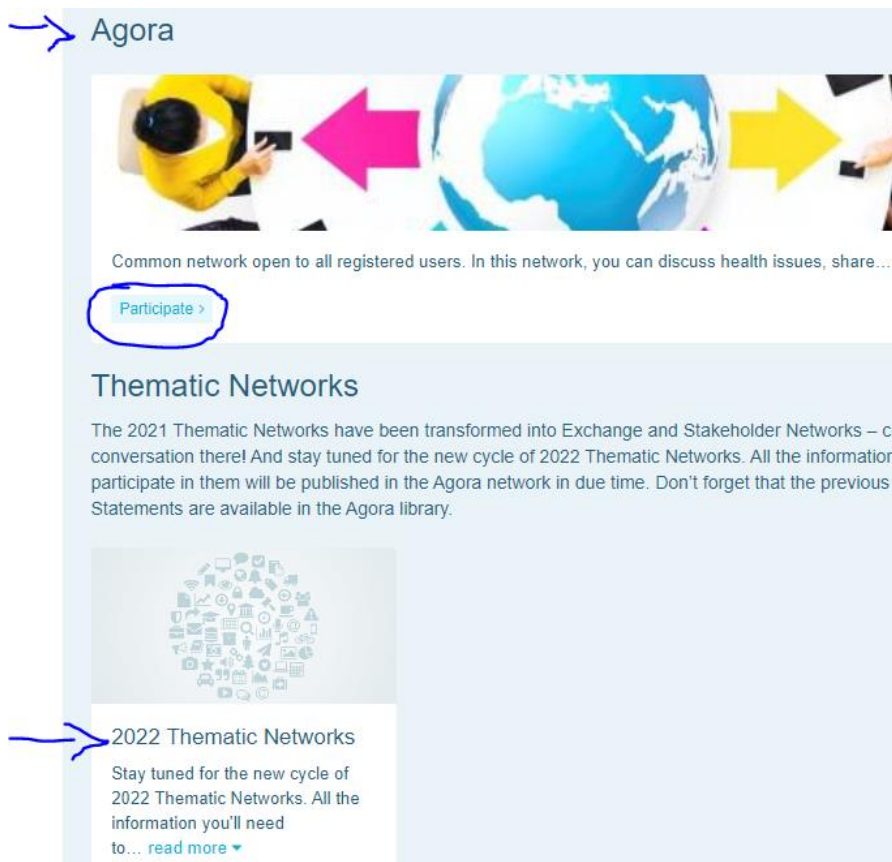
Health stakeholder organisations registered in the Platform are eligible to apply, with or without partners.

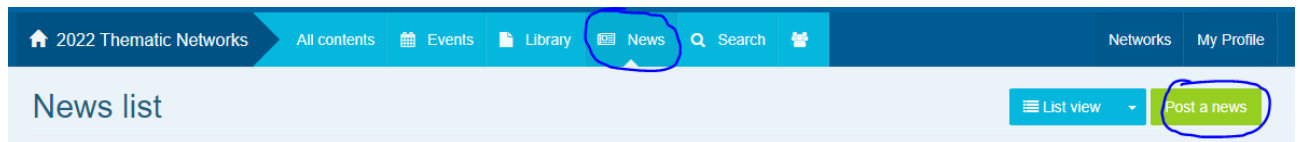
This call for proposals follows the rules established in the EU Health Policy Platform [Rules of Procedure](#). It is not related to other calls under the EU4Health Programme and it does not provide financing means.

Q5: Is there any way to **join an applicant group**, so we don't have to submit a proposal on our own? Is there a way to find out who else is interested in applying so that we can collaborate?

A5: Potential applicants looking to submit a proposal in collaboration with other health stakeholder organisations are invited to inform the Health Policy Platform community by sharing his/her intentions both through the [Agora network](#) and/or the [2022 Thematic Network](#) in a form of "news item". Any posts made in those networks is automatically included in one of the round-up newsletters, which reach the entire Platform community. We invite you to repost several times to increase your visibility, ideally at both the beginning and end of the week, before 10:00 on Tuesdays and Fridays, just before the automated newsletters are sent out.

1. Go to the EU Health Policy Platform homepage and login: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>
2. Go to the Agora and/or the 2022 Thematic Network, click on "news" and create a "new post".





Q6: Is there any **funding** available for the thematic network?

A6: The thematic networks offer a space for health stakeholders to exchange ideas and to dialogue, both among themselves and with the Commission. There is no direct funding for the organisations involved. The Commission provides the technical space through the Platform as well as support and advice throughout the cycle as detailed in the [call text](#). Thematic Network leaders will also be invited to the Platform annual meeting to present their final Joint Statement. Indirectly, this type of visibility and promotion can significantly help initiatives and participating organisations.

Q7: How many **Thematic Networks** are accepted and/or supported? On Agora it looks like 3 Thematic Networks were picked, but I see over 20 other networks (some of which I am familiar with).

A7: Every year since 2016, the Commission has called for a maximum of three to four Thematic Networks, each intended to last six to nine months.

You can find more information about the thematic networks and their functioning at https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/assets/documents/Rules%20of%20Procedure_EU%20Health%20Policy%20Platform.pdf

The other networks available on the EU Health Policy Platform are the following:

1. **Agora Network:** it is a **common space** where all registered users can post news and events and discuss issues of common interest.
2. **Exchange networks:** open to all registered users, some meant to host training material for health professionals.
3. **Stakeholder networks:** for and by stakeholders, used to prepare and follow-up meetings; share, work on and store documents. Access to these networks is restricted.
4. **Commission and Member State-led networks:** administered by EC or MS, prepare and follow-up meetings; share, work on and store documents. Access to these networks is restricted.
5. **Moderators' Network:** this network is used to familiarise Platform network moderators with the EU Health Policy Platform and to provide trainings for them.

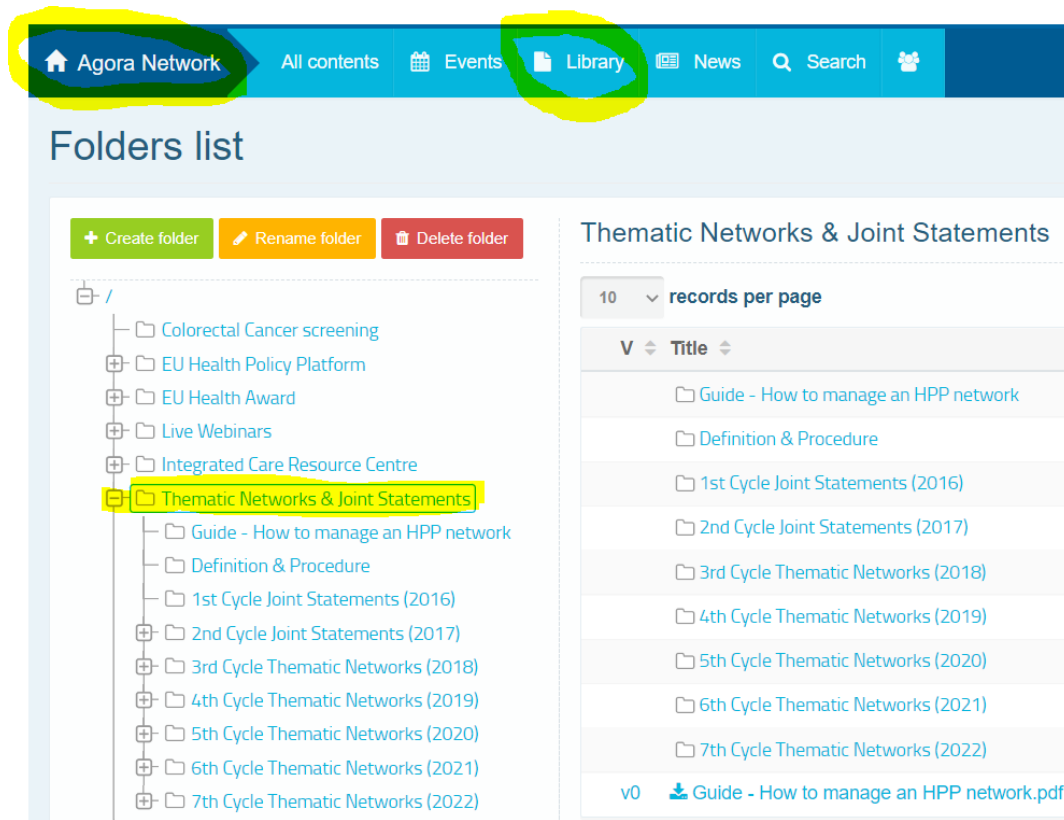
Q8: Is there a **template for the application**? If so, could you please share it?

A8: You can find more information about formulating your application on the second page of the call text, which can be found online: https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/2022_hpp-thematic-networks_call-proposals_en.pdf

You can also access previous cycle initial proposals for inspiration and guidance. They are available in the Agora network Library section of the EU Health Policy Platform. If you are not a member of the EU Health Policy Platform yet, you need to first request access by clicking on

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>, using or creating your EU login and filling in the registration form.

Once your registration is approved, you will be able to navigate through the Agora Network and its Library as indicated below:



Q9: When will applicants be notified about the **acceptance of their proposals**?

A9: The selected Thematic Networks will be announced in September.

Q10: Is any support offered for the webinars, other than technical support? For example, **travel or meeting costs**?

A10: The kick-off meeting and live webinars will be organised remotely and take place online. Thematic Network leaders may be reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs if they physically attend the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting to present their Joint Statements. This meeting usually takes place in the spring: information about whether and when it will be organised in 2023 will be forthcoming.

Find more information on the support provided by the Commission throughout the Thematic Network cycle in Answers 2 and 6 of this document (A2 and A6).

Q11: Please can you tell me, or point me to where I will find, the **definition of an organisation and those eligible to apply**?

A11: By [definition](#), an organisation is a company or other group of people that works together for a particular purpose. The organisations eligible to apply for this 2022 Thematic Networks are those that are registered or can register in the EU Health Policy Platform according to its Rules of Procedure.

Examples of eligible organisations are listed below. More information about the registration criteria can be found at this link:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/assets/documents/Rules%20of%20Procedure EU%20Health%20Policy%20Platform.pdf](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/assets/documents/Rules%20of%20Procedure%20EU%20Health%20Policy%20Platform.pdf)

- Public health and patients' non-governmental organisations
- Organisation representing health professionals
- Health services providers and health insurance bodies
- Public Health governmental organisation
- European Institutions
- Early education, primary and secondary schools
- Universities and Research Institutes
- Business organisations or associations with clear commitment to health promotion, protection and improvement. They will not use the IT Platform for commercial promotion

Q12: Is it possible to apply to **set up a standalone exchange network**, for example one specific to stress/wellbeing amongst health care workers in the context of pandemics?

A12: Platform members may indeed submit a request to create an Exchange Network, but the procedure is different than that set out here for the 2022 Thematic Networks call for proposals. If you wish to set up an Exchange Network (definition available in this document, answer A7), do not hesitate to contact us with your detailed request at sante-hpp@ec.europa.eu

Under the call for proposals for 2022 Thematic Networks, Platform members may submit proposals on the following topics or other health policy areas, as indicated in the call text:

1. Ensuring continuity of care and quality of life for all people living with HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, as well as (drug-resistant) tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, including an adapted response for displaced patients from Ukraine and the EU/EEA citizens.
2. Reducing health inequalities: a cross-sectoral approach for vulnerable groups.
3. Mental Health in all policies.

The European Commission may also consider proposals from other health policy areas if stakeholders present sound reasons for doing so.

Q13: Will the Commission select **3 proposals per topic or 3 proposals in total** (1 per topic)?

A13: The Commission will select three proposals in total, one per topic, if there are an adequate number of good submissions. Proposals on the same topic which are not selected will be invited to join forces with them to lend it more weight and momentum. The three selected proposals will become the three 2022 Thematic Networks.

Q14: On what **criteria** are proposals for the Joint Statements judged?

A14: As indicated in the EU Health Policy Platform - [Rules of Procedure](#):

- The Commission evaluates the proposals based on their relevance to the proposed topics and current health priorities in the EU agenda

Q15: Will the Joint Statements include a **call on the Commission to take action**? Can we include a call for Member States or more specifically targeted stakeholders (healthcare professionals) to take action?

A15: The Joint Statement should gather good practices that the Thematic Network could implement in collaboration with others. The Joint Statement should not be for Member States only, nor should it be a wish list for the Commission to implement.

As indicated in the EU Health Policy Platform - [Rules of Procedure](#):

- The Joint Statement is produced collectively by a Thematic Network over a limited time period, corresponding to the network's lifespan. It describes the sustainable actions members plan to take to achieve the Network's aims. It is endorsed by health stakeholder organisations to promote the sharing and implementation of good practices and possible synergies with other actions related to EU health topics that are still ongoing or complemented at European, national or regional level. By doing so, health stakeholders may support the Commission in the implementation of EU health policies.
- The Joint Statement will always be independent from the views of the Commission and there should be no expectation or assumption that the Commission will take action or commit funding for specific actions. This of course does not rule out that some of ideas expressed in the Joint Statement might be further supported/promoted by the Commission in policy papers and programmes.

Q16: Our organization will launch several **Policy Asks** in which we will call on national authorities to deliver change on the ground. Could these be **part of the Joint Statement**?

A16: Yes, if you consider the outcome of those Policy Asks important to guide and implement further actions in a collaborative way, these kind of activities could be included in your proposal.

Q17: Besides organising webinars during the 6/9 months of the project, what **other activities should be carried out by project partners**? Could you please explain more about the **process of drafting the Joint Statement and what type of support** we will get from the EU Health Policy Platform? Also, knowing that an organisation can submit its own proposal, what is the **role of the EUHPP in finding partners**?

A17: The Commission provides you with the space in the Platform, some technical and promotional support, as well as some policy indications if applicable. The drafting of the Joint Statement and the build-up of a network community is the task of the leading organisation and their partners. Please note that a standalone submission should mention potential partners who might join the Thematic Network at a later stage, as requested in the call text.

The Thematic Network leaders will be invited to present their proposals at the online kick-off meeting, followed by an online Pitch webinar to present them to the public. A series of live webinars will then take place from November until March and the final presentation will be given at the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting in the first half of 2023. The content related to these activities will be produced by the Thematic Network leaders.

Q18: Should the project **summary include concrete actions** to be carried out during the project to help achieve the objectives of the call?

A18: Yes, if you consider those concrete actions important to guide its implementation in a collaborative way, they could be included in your proposal.

Q19: Is there any chance that the **deadline might be extended**? If not, is the call for proposal launched every year around the same period or do you have multiple calls during the year?

A19: We are not planning to extend it at the moment. If we do decide to prolong the submission period, a notification will be published on the Agora network of the EU Health Policy Platform (register now following [this link](#), if you haven't done so yet), as well as on the [Europa site](#) and @EU_Health Twitter account.

The Thematic Networks' cycle is launched once a year, during the second or third trimester. Therefore, no other call for proposals will be launched in 2022.

Q20: In previous years, the Commission pre-selected a small number of proposals that were then subject to an **open vote by members of the Health Policy Platform**. Will stakeholders be asked to vote again this year, or will the Commission be making the selection?

A20: As explained in the call for proposals text, Commission services, and specifically the Unit concerned by the suggested topic, will select the three final initiatives. However, if the Commission receives many proposals on different topics, it might invite the Platform community to take part in a voting poll. This year stakeholders had the opportunity to suggest topics for the 2022 cycle of Thematic Networks at the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting that took place in May 2022.