



European
Commission

European Reference Networks

The sustainability challenge

4th ERN Conference

Donata Meroni,
Head of Unit, Health and Food Safety

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2017-2022

**Health Programme
Financial support and
results**

Activities of ERNs co-funded under the health programme

Financing decision (Annual Work programme 2016):

"Coordination, management and non-clinical activities of an approved ERN in support of ERN goals "

Coordinators can request support for

- (i) networking and coordination activities;
- (ii) administrative and logistic support
- (iii) development of knowledge generation tools (clinical guidelines, patient pathways);
- (iv) training and eLearning activities; and
- (v) meetings of the network members and participation in conferences or events related to the network's area of expertise;

Providing a better governance and coordination so that ERNs can:

- (i) offer the possibility to work in multidisciplinary teams across different EU countries;
- (ii) increase the level of expertise;
- (iii) build capacity to produce good practice guidelines, to implement outcome measures and quality control;
- (iv) provide support to research coordination and teaching and training activities;



Main funding scheme 24 ERNs

Mono-beneficiary grants:

Awarded to the ERN Coordinator

Duration:

23 ERNs: 1/03/2017-28/02/2022

5-years Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA);

3 Specific Grant Agreements (SGAs) covering:

1st year , 2nd year; 3-5th year

1 ERN: 3 year 1/06/2018-31/5/2021

Funding amount:

Up to EUR 200 000 per network and per year

Total EUR 23 600 000

Other funding

Project grants for registries:

Call in 2016

5 projects funded for EUR 1 979 361

Procurement

Clinical decision support tools: taxonomy and templates for deliverables, including training EUR 400 000

Development of clinical guidelines EUR 4 million
Networking, communication and coordination between networks (several service contracts)



Achievements 18 months on

Internal Coordination:

All ERNs have established their **governance models** and **Quality Assurance Plans** or other **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for their working procedures

Dissemination:

All ERNs have established specific **dissemination and communication plans** and **websites**

Evaluation:

All ERNs have established internal **evaluation activities**



Achievements 18 months on

Clinical management tools

All ERNs have established or further developed their own **databases and/or registries**

Clinical Guidelines

Most ERNs have developed **clinical guidelines** in their field of activity

Clinical Patient Management System (CPMS*)

All ERNs are using or are preparing to use the IT Platform for clinical consultations between ERN Members

* ***funded through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)***

Achievements 18 months on

Scientific and clinical cooperation

Setup of working groups bringing together leading European centres:

Education, Clinical Guidelines and recommendations, **Registries and Bio banks**, IT and e-Health, **Molecular Testing**, Patient Organisations and on Communication **Stem Cell and Gene Therapy**, Transition Care, **Pharmaco-vigilance and Biological Therapies**



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Post 2022

**Translating
financial and
technical support
into sustainable
operations**

Optimize the initial funding rounds to achieve sustainable operations

Technical sustainability

Moving from best practice sharing and show-casing to **standardization** (sharing of experience and capacity building)

Moving from ad-hoc assessment (currently undertaken by the Independent Assessment Bodies) to an **internal system of quality improvement**

Optimize the initial funding round to achieve sustainable operations

Financial sustainability

Additional funding for the implementation and following phases is to be included under the new MFF;

Support sustainability also requires:

- The whole network takes ownership & activities are integrated into HCP general operational framework and into national health systems
- Using the health programme to access other (multiple, bigger and more appropriate funding sources)