

## Q&A First RPO meeting EUP AH&W 20 Feb 2023

- These external calls - are they to be announced through the national research councils?

*They will be announced through various routes: the EUPAHW website, mailing lists, FO, etc.*

- When will the 6 priority actions described today start?

*We assume that the internal projects can start primo 2024*

- Question to Dolores Gavier-Wildén: the diseases summed-up in the objectives of OO1-Action 4 (wildlife) are now all non-aquatic related. Perhaps some important fish (bacterial) diseases (caused by e.g. *Flavobacterium*, *Aeromonas*, *Vibrio*) could also be added? What about oyster, shrimp, and hence non-mammal-related aquatic diseases?

*It may be that we will opt for two projects in this area, one for terrestrial animals, and one for aquaculture, not only for Wildlife, but also Biosecurity and maybe other actions.*

*Experts can suggest examples of some important diseases of fish, oyster, shrimp in the relevant working groups. For aquatic diseases, please consult the HE project <https://cure4aqua-project.eu/> that is facing many of these aspects.*

- If we participate in the development of this internal action that later may become an external call, would it be a conflict of interest to apply for that external call? So, as RPO, we can participate in the internal activities AND apply for external future calls, too, is that correct? How will the firewall protect us from COI?

*No, for external research calls the firewall will protect you from COI. The call text for external calls will be drafted by a separate body, i.e. the Call Board that is composed of Funder Organisations. But in case an expert would be involved in this latter process, the related organisation will be excluded from taking part in the external call.*

- If your institution is involved in writing, but you belong to a different Faculty or Department than do the people that are involved in the writing, how does the firewall work there? For that same reason, I forwarded my research interest to another group in the lead of an action domain, and did not fill in the survey as the survey asks about "institution", not about subgroups within an institution

*The actual writing process, i.e. before the submission of the EUP AH&W proposal on 12 April 2023, is independent from the participation as a beneficiary of that Partnership.*

*Once the Partnership is launched, the firewall will be active to protect member RPO from dealing with the organisation of the external open research calls.*

- (Participating in the working groups dealing with the internal actions (6 + 10 of such actions have been proposed in February 2023) is to help drafting one or several of these project proposals.) In this preparatory phase of drafting the internal projects, can an RPO participate for e.g. 1 person month or should it allocate person months for the duration of the project proposed?

*At this stage, to prepare the submission of the EUP proposal and its first year Annual Work Plan, the cost of drafting (PM) is not an eligible cost. In the AWP, RPO should mention the number of PM needed to perform the activities.*

We provided the following information earlier by e-mail to some interested parties:

#### **RPO in the EUP**

- Reference laboratories (and public organizations) that perform reference tasks in the area of animal health for their authorities), reference centres (for animal welfare) and AH&W research centres can participate as member RPO and will thus contribute through in-kind funding in order to strengthen their collaboration, collectively build on preventing against AH&W risks, and reinforce their preparedness.
  - Eligible costs of RPO members will be partly reimbursed by EU co-funding, probably for 50% but rules will be defined by the EUP AH&W.
- External RPO will be invited to participate through the external open calls and will then be funded according to the FO rules, up to 100% of their eligible costs.

#### **To manage the conflict of interest (COI) related to external research calls, the following procedure is foreseen in the EUP**

- An efficient firewall is installed, i.e. to foresee that there are several organizational entities responsible for defining the planning, the domains and topics of the calls, working independently, according to procedures to prevent conflicts of interest (COI) and endorsed by the EUP management.

#### **The RPO have to define for themselves if they are best off within the EUP or not**

##### **Candidate member RPO**

- Candidate member RPO are ready to co-fund the internal activities for about 50% (in-kind contributions).
- Contribute to programs of the national authority that are aligned with/linked to the internal program of the EUP AH&W (reference, surveillance, ...)
- Can engage in a long-term commitment to the EUP AH&W (related to both the amount of in kind contribution and capacity/resources to enable significant contribution to the internal program)
- Have unique expertise relevant to the internal program of the EUP AH&W
- In case they have interest to participate to external research calls which is Financial Support to Third Parties, should consider that the majority of FSTP should go to RPO who are not beneficiary in the EUP AH&W
- In case many RPO want to be partner, for reasons of good management, the EUP consortium will suggest RPO to join the EUP as affiliated entities.

## **Q&A Second RPO meeting EUP AH&W 23 Feb 2023**

- Will affiliated entities also get 50% co-financing?

How can an RPO become an affiliated entity? What are the rules? Is a legal connection with a beneficiary necessary? Is this nationally organised or can it be with another country beneficiary?

*Affiliated entities are legal entities that have a pre-existing legal link with a Grant Agreement beneficiary (neither limited to the EUP AH&W nor established for the sole purpose of the EUP AH&W; for implementation, see MGA article 8). Affiliated entities can charge costs and contributions to the action under the same conditions as the beneficiaries and must implement the action tasks attributed to them.*

- As RPO, can we participate in several actions and not only within integrative activities but also with research activities within internal program?

Yes

- Is a financial in-kind engagement of RPO's necessary for the full span of the Partnership or can it be for the first phase of 2 years, after which an RPO can re-evaluate its engagement depending on the new integrative or internal research activities which are planned? Is the financial engagement very strict, or can it be more flexible depending on how integrative or internal research activities are evolving? This is more important for RPO's which have no direct reference or mandated activities.

*The financial engagement is for the whole duration of the EUP AH&W and it is expected that internal RPO have sufficient flexibility to commit to other activities in the future. RPO that do not perform reference or mandated activities for their authorities should likely not be partners of the Partnership but join the external research calls.*

- Is the 50% cofunding from the EU going directly to the RPO?

*Eligible costs, demonstrated in the annual reporting, of RPO members will be partly reimbursed by EU co-funding, probably for 50%, but rules will be defined by the EUP AH&W.*

- How much time do RPO have to express interest in the actions?

*Because the RPO commitments (description of task, deliverables, person-months, budget) are needed before 24 March, RPO should decide now and contact the Chairs.*

- Openness is important not only regarding the content but also regarding the RPO members that have already joined each WG.

*The chair's name and email addresses are available on the EUP AH&W website (<https://www.provaxs.com/eupahw>), so that the whole process is transparent and candidate RPO can decide what WG to join. A WG-specific SharePoint will allow RPO to contribute.*

- Is it possible to set-up tasks overarching over the actions? As for aquaculture for example, there is overlap between several actions (like biosecurity and wildlife).

*The EUP AH&W Management Team leaves that up to the WG chairs to decide.*

- Why are these pathogens of veterinary importance not covered in One Health calls?

*The EUP AH&W Management Team has aligned with the EUP OH-AMR consortium and agreed on a distribution of tasks. This is further discussed. However, Integrative, reference and research activities related to AMR of animal pathogens will be under the EUP AH&W .*

- Are foodborne zoonotic pathogens like Salmonella and Campylobacter or Hepatitis E also covered in the Partnership?

*Yes.*

- Likewise, is biosecurity during transport to slaughterhouse or to the farm also covering zoonotic pathogens like Salmonella and Campylobacter or .....?

*Yes.*

- To express interest in a priority action did the response to the SRIA consultation by the RPO suffice, or must the RPO be represented in the current working groups drafting the detailed text of the actions?

*An RPO that is interested in one of the actions proposed for the internal programme, should join that working group and participate, to share its intention to join the tasks in the project, and its in-kind budget with which it will contribute.*

- Are aquaculture/fish part of each of the six actions?

*The Work Group Chairs should discuss this in the WG, and decide whether to include aquaculture in the projects or not (and set up a separate WG).*

- Will we receive the contact emails of each chair of WG's?

*The chair's name and email addresses are available on the EUP AH&W website (<https://www.provaxs.com/eupahw>), so that the whole process is transparent and candidate RPO can decide what WG to join. A WG-specific SharePoint will allow RPO to contribute.*

- How do the WG fit into the RPO?

*It is the other way round: it is up to the candidate member RPO to decide how it fits into the WG. To decide that, the RPO should take part in the WG discussions.*

- Why not prioritise the setting up of networks and plan research actions for the following years once the networks have started to organise themselves?

*The EUP AH&W Management Team proposed 6 priority actions on basis of the EUP AH&W SRIA but left it up to the candidate RPO to choose additional ones. The top 10 of these have been included in a second round of priority actions.*

- We need a chair for each PROJECT, not for each OO and Action (in case there are several projects within an Action), right?

*That's right!*

- Max length of project description?

*Keep it short (2-3 pages, "Less is more"). The annex for the first year (where these projects will be described in detail) is limited to 10 MB but not in pages.*

- Is there a max number of participants per project?

*We must be inclusive, so no maximum. (see remark affiliated entities)*

- If many participants in a project, will we need to restrict the PM for each participants?

*The PM are related to the work proposed. They should be funded by the participating RPO, which will get about 50% of their eligible costs reimbursed.*

- I hope we can add participants after the first year, given the short time we have now we may not capture all interested RPO

*The partnership can evolve over time, after the launch of the first integrative programme. The whole term of the EUP is divided in 3 stages of funding by the EC, each with a specific set of internal activities and research calls. The Partnership will evolve with time, after the first period/EC-instalment.*

- length of project descriptions?

*Same question as above.*

- Where can we find the FAQ?

*<https://www.provaxs.com/eupahw>*

- Can institutions from non-EU participate in the Partnership?

*Please find the [link](#) with list of participating countries.*