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Reference	PH 4/4/Info 2
Title	NDPHS Project pipeline – short description
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	This paper copies the text available in the Project pipeline section of the NDPHS website, which is available at www.ndphs.org/?pipeline,page,about . The new pipeline is available at www.ndphs.org/?pipeline . ¹ The DPSG Members are invited to also read other accessible pages of the Project pipeline.
Requested action	For information

¹ In late September 2007, in agreement with the CSR Chair, the Secretariat will invite the NDPHS Partners to examine/review the pipeline and will propose that the CSR 12 would approve it for public announcement.



This document arises from the project “NDPHS Project Database” which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Public Health Programme 1

NDPHS Pipeline

About the Pipeline

Introduction

The NDPHS Project Pipeline has been developed to facilitate coordinated and harmonised project initiatives between financing agencies, operating in the north-eastern part of Europe and the Barents Region. It offers financing agencies a joint mechanism for streamlining and improvements of project application procedures and project applicants a user-friendly system for applying for financial support for their projects. The applied flexible and user-friendly technology allows adjusting the pipeline to the financing agencies' various requirements and needs.

Overall concept

The NDPHS Project Pipeline encourages all actors, active in the Northern Dimension Area and dealing with issues related to public health and social well-being to submit project proposals. Based on the thematic and geographical characteristics of the project, the pipeline will automatically categorize the project and identify possible sources for funding. The pipeline will then forward the project to the relevant financing agency(ies), who may have an interest in funding the project (however, it is a project proponent who chooses which of the relevant agencies to approach). This means that project proposals will only need to be submitted once, but can reach several financing agencies, which will review them. It should be noted, however, that the NDPHS cannot guarantee funding of the projects submitted to the pipeline, as the final decision rests with the financing agencies.

Project applicants will be able to see which financing agency(-ies) may have a potential interest in the project and what requirements need to be met in that respect. The automated notification e-mail system of the NDPHS pipeline will keep the project applicants and the financing agencies up-to-date with the current status of the project.

How it works

Before being able to use the NDPHS Project Pipeline, a user needs to have an account. Several types of profiles used in the pipeline can be assigned to one account:

- A **Project Proponent representative profile** – this profile allows you to submit project proposals and seek funding opportunities through the NDPHS Project Pipeline. You may [create yourself your own password-protected account](#) with a project proponent representative profile. You are advised to carefully examine the information displayed on page [Funding opportunities available in the NDPHS Project Pipeline](#) before applying for financial support through the pipeline;
- A **Financing Agency representative profile** – this profile allows you to display calls for proposals and other funding opportunities by specifying yourself your agency's project funding conditions; review project proposals, interact with the project proponent, other potential financing agencies and experts, and to take and communicate final decision regarding project proposals. Please contact the [NDPHS Project Pipeline Management Team](#) if you would like to be assigned this profile;
- A **Expert Group member profile** – this profile allows you to review and comment on project proposals upon an invitation of a financing agency. Please contact the [NDPHS Project Pipeline Management Team](#) if you would like to be assigned this profile;



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- A **Temporary Expert profile** – this profile has the same functions as an Expert Group member profile, but is created only for individual experts. It is created automatically on an ad hoc and temporary basis when a dialogue with a temporary expert is initiated in the pipeline by a financing agency’s representative.

One person may have several profiles at the same time, for example if he/she acts as an Expert Group member or a Project Proponent, depending on circumstances.

From a project proponent's point of view, applying for financial support from financing agencies involved in the pipeline can be described as a four-step process (assuming that he/she has already set up an own account): (1) input of basic parameters of a project, followed by the selection of financing agency(-ies) relevant for the project (2) filling out an application form and subsequently its submission, (3) review by a financing agency(-ies) (if necessary, assisted by experts) – this may be combined with revising of a proposal by a project proponent, and (4) approval for funding / disapproval of a project by a financing agency(-ies).

1. Project categorisation based on an input of basic parameters, and selection of financing agencies

Based on a short selection of the project basic parameters (project duration and budget as well as geographical and health areas covered by the project), the **pipeline will select for a project proponent those of the financing agencies connected to the pipeline, who are relevant for such a project** (i.e. may be interested in financing it). It is, however, up to a project proponent to decide which of the selected financing agencies to apply to. Finally, the pipeline will create for a project proponent an on-line application form.

2. Filling out an application form; submission

In simple words, registering of a project proposal involves filling out an application form, i.e. a **questionnaire with check boxes and text fields to be filled out with relevant information**. The application form is based on a flexible on-line template, which is dynamically created based on the parameters specified by financing agencies, which gives them the possibility to tailor the whole system according to their requirements. This means that the applicant needs to provide only such information that is required by the financing agency(-ies) identified by the pipeline as relevant for a given project proposal. Based on one comprehensive module, multiple types of application forms can be dynamically produced depending on given circumstances.

Users can save draft applications over a longer period of time, and visit their accounts (and view their profiles) an unlimited number of times. In a draft mode, an application is invisible to other users of the system. If so wished, the project proponent can share application information with other selected users, whom he/she can invite through a pipeline’s automated e-mail system to on-line review and revise his/her draft application.

After having submitted the project proposal, the project proponent is no longer in a position to make amendments in the application unless requested by a financing agency to do so (see the next step). The process is taken further by the respective financing agency(-ies) who is/are notified about the project proposal through a pipeline’s automated e-mail system and invited to on-line review the submitted proposal.

3. Review by a financing agency(-ies) and experts; revisions by an applicant

During this phase the respective financing agency(-ies) and project proponents are able to benefit from a feature-rich engine of the pipeline that, for example, allows:



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- **Financing agency(-ies) and the project proponent to communicate about the revisions needed in the project proposal**, which may be necessary before the sponsor(s) take a final decision;
- **Financing agency(-ies) to invite expert groups and/or temporary experts to review the project proposal and comment on it** (it is up to the financing agencies to decide if and how they would like to use the received comments). All financing agencies dealing with a given project proposal automatically receive an Expert Group's response, even if it is only one agency that requests a review by an Expert Group.

As far as reviewing by expert groups is concerned, it should be mentioned that the [NDPHS Expert Groups](#), which include experts from Partner Countries and Organisations, can be viewed as a unique pool of professional expertise in specific health areas. They can support the financing agencies in ensuring that the latter's decision-makers take into account the regional and cross-cutting dimension when making funding decisions. However, financing agencies may also invite experts, on an *ad hoc* and temporary basis (e.g. non-NDPHS experts), to review a given project. This is done through a "Temporary Expert"-profile scheme offered by the pipeline.

All communication is done through the pipeline's automated e-mail system and the revisions and comments are inserted in the project's profile on-line, thereby allowing for a clean and transparent work and archiving of all project-related information.

4. Final decision regarding financing

The pipeline features a multi-donor mechanism. It allows a financing agency to communicate its final decision (approval of the project for funding or disapproval thereof) to the project proponent and other financing agencies. Again, this is done with help of the pipeline's automated e-mail system.

If more than one financing agency is considering a given project, the pipeline also keeps track of their decision-making process and, as soon as the last financing agency makes its own final decision, the **pipeline informs the project proponent and all relevant financing agencies** if the project was granted the total requested funding, or only a partial funding.

Projects, which have secured full funding for their implementation, will be automatically included in the [NDPHS Project Database](#) (view [all projects put through the Pipeline, which received funding](#)).¹

Terms and conditions of the NDPHS Account System

Before being able to use the NDPHS Project Pipeline, you will need to read and accept the [Terms and conditions of the NDPHS Account System](#).

¹ As the NDPHS Database is not finalized yet, this function has been disabled.



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