On 26 February 2009, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers has launched a call for proposals for financial contribution to specific actions in the field of health such as: projects, conferences, joint actions, operating grants and other activities like organisation of workshops and expert meetings, including seminars, publications and various communication initiatives.

This call for proposals is open to non-governmental organisations, public sector bodies, public administrations, universities, higher education establishments, and commercial firms established in a European Union (EU) country or in EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) or, under certain circumstances, in Croatia.

The final deadline for the submission of proposals is 20 May 2009.

An Information Day on the 2009 Calls for proposals will be held in Luxembourg on 18 March 2009. In some countries, the National Focal Points will also organise national information days.

Within this call for proposals, preference will be given to actions with a significant added value at European level in the following areas: improving European citizens’ health, reducing health inequalities in and between EU Member States and regions, building capacity for development and implementation of effective public health policies particularly in areas of high need, involvement of new (non-traditional) actors for health in sustained, cooperative and ethically sound actions, both at regional or local level and across participating countries.

For the work programme 2009, the indicative amount of the operating budget is EUR 48,261,000, from which the amount of EUR 24,130,500 is reserved for the call for proposals for projects. Up to 60 percent of the project costs can be covered by the Community contribution but projects can receive up to 80 percent co-financing of eligible costs in cases of exceptional utility.

More information is available on the website of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/eahc.