Proposal Evaluation Form

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Evaluation Summary Report - Research and innovation actions

Call: HORIZON-HLTH-2022-STAYHLTH-01-two-stage

Type of action: HORIZON-RIA

Proposal number: 101080465-2

Proposal acronym: OBELISK

Duration (months): 60

Proposal title: Fighting childhood obesity to stay healthy all over the life

Activity: HORIZON-HLTH-2022-STAYHLTH-01-05-two-stage

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE	FR	2,173,725	21.69%	2,173,725	21.69%
2	UNIVERSITE DE LILLE	FR	62,500	0.62%	62,500	0.62%
3	OULUN YLIOPISTO	FI	473,750	4.73%	473,750	4.73%
4	ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE HOPITAUX DE PARIS	FR	1,079,839.25	10.78%	1,079,839.25	10.78%
5	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	IT	1,014,635	10.12%	1,014,635	10.12%
6	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET MUENCHEN	DE	416,576.25	4.16%	416,576.25	4.16%
7	LUNDS UNIVERSITET	SE	331,000	3.30%	331,000	3.30%
8	DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FUER ERNAEHRUNGSFORSCHUNG POTSDAM REHBRUECKE	DE	381,702.5	3.81%	381,702.5	3.81%
9	The European Childhood Obesity Group	BE	159,375	1.59%	159,375	1.59%
10	BETA TECHNOLOGY LTD	UK	452,358.75	4.51%	452,358.75	4.51%
11	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA	IT	1,320,625	13.18%	1,320,625	13.18%
12	AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA UNIVERSITARIA INTEGRATA 'ISTITUTI OSPITALIERI DI VERONA	IT	311,460	3.11%	311,460	3.11%
13	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA TOR VERGATA	IT	420,431.25	4.20%	420,431.25	4.20%
14	FUNDACIO INSTITUT HOSPITAL DEL MAR D INVESTIGACIONS MEDIQUES	ES	189,625	1.89%	189,625	1.89%
15	INSERM TRANSFERT SA	FR	512,750	5.12%	512,750	5.12%
16	CENTRE HOSPITALIER REGIONAL ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE LILLE	FR	721,023.75	7.19%	721,023.75	7.19%
17	SIB SWISS INSTITUTE OF BIOINFORMATICS	CH	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Total:		10,021,376.75		10,021,376.75	

Abstract:

Obesity rates in late teens have increased in Europe from 6% in 1980 to 32%, with long-lasting effects on the prevalence of severe obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, premature death and disability. Efficiently fighting adult obesity is difficult but prevention and treatment of obesity have proven to work better at young ages. OBELISK goal is to cut the roots of the pandemic of obesity in Europe targeting children first. OBELISK is focused on elucidating, Predicting, Preventing obesity and bringing Precision medicine for children with obesity. OBELISK medicine is also Participative (4P), leveraging the potential of social innovation through engagement with families, scientific and medical communities, daycare, schools, municipalities, industries to achieve success. OBELISK objectives are: 1/ to bring breakthroughs in the molecular mechanisms by which causative factors interact to drive (or prevent) the transition from normal weight to obesity during childhood and to develop and exploit for prevention and treatment early predictive proprietary tools; 2/ to identify at least 3 novel childhood obesity genes with the prospect of identifying additional drug targets; 3/ to demonstrate the utility of targeted approaches to prevent childhood obesity; 4/ to bring breakthroughs in childhood obesity treatment including a real-life clinical study of a promising existing drug (GLP1R agonist) to reverse obesity in people with mutations predisposing to early severe obesity; 5/ to exploit the project results and disseminate best practices to prevent and treat childhood obesity, implementing education programs and translating OBELISK clinical results into guidelines and proposals for policy makers to change obesity care; 6/ to facilitate networking and exchanges with other actions and projects in order to optimize knowledge and joint activities.
OBELISK targeted approach should contribute to decrease by 35% the number of children with obesity becoming adults with obesity.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 14.50 (Threshold: 10)

Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art.
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

The objectives are clearly defined and highly relevant to the goals of the funding programme. The approach is very well designed and described within a broad vision, spanning across molecular mechanisms of obesity, lifestyle intervention, sustainable programmes to prevent stigma, social inequalities and the cost-effectiveness of interventions. The objectives are measurable through KPIs, but they are lacking in detail.

The project is ambitious and includes arguments on technology readiness level. The project convincingly describes the current state of the art and explains how it will make further advances. The results will include the discovery of new genes and analysis of the functional role of known and new genetic biomarkers.

The methodology of the project is clearly described and appropriate to achieve the stated objectives. The project will take advantage of already existing cohorts and add three novel clinical studies, targeting relevant aspects of current research e.g., person-centred components.

The technical robustness of medical AI development is integrated well in the proposal.

The project convincingly integrates the scientific approaches of epidemiology (e.g., clinical studies) and life sciences (e.g., genetics, physiology, bioinformatics), with aspects of health economics and health policy. The inter-disciplinarity of the project is adequately described as a fundamental element for the achievement of research objectives. The social and cultural aspects have been adequately considered in two out of the three trials designed in the proposal, as well as in educational activities.

The gender dimension has been given appropriate consideration in the proposal.

Open science practices are convincingly described as an integral part of the methodology of the proposal.

The research data management plan in the proposal is well described.

The level of engagement of citizens and end users is well considered.

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

The pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and provide researchers, developers of medical interventions and health care professionals, with new knowledge of the role of biological pathways in obesity prevention, are convincingly described. All relevant stakeholders involved have been adequately considered, including researchers, national/regional/local public authorities, schools and social services, parents of newborns and infants at risk of obesity.

The potential barriers to the expected impacts have been correctly identified, and alternative measures have been suggested, including strategies enabling adaptations and co-facilitation.

The wider impacts are generally well described in the project, but not sufficiently detailed on the uptake of the project results e.g., creating awareness among practitioners and families about the advantages offered by new forms of preventative campaigns for obesity. The proposal positively envisages the continuation of one trial beyond its completion.

The potential scale and significance of the project is adequately covered, including aspects interfacing prevention of non-communicable chronic diseases e.g., hypertension, diabetes, depression, etc. However, the presentation of how to achieve the claimed scale is insufficiently detailed, which is a minor shortcoming.

The dissemination and communication activities are well addressed, and the potential impacts in empowering EU citizens are well described. The relevant target groups have been properly identified.

The strategy for the management of intellectual property is properly planned and it will be suitable to support an appropriate exploitation strategy that ensures data protection, while allowing the use of the research results in the legitimate interests of all partners. The management of intellectual property is well outlined, with clearly identifiable KPIs.

Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:
- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

The workplan is well described, properly designed and logical. The effective progress monitoring is in place.

The role of each work package in the overall project is appropriate and well justified to address its objectives. The plan and dependencies are appropriate, as shown by the included Gantt diagram. Milestones and deliverables are in place, well detailed, and reflect the connections between work packages. A conventional but efficient management and monitoring structure is presented, with an already identified external scientific advisory board, whose members are renowned scientists in the field of childhood obesity.

The critical risks for implementation and mitigation measures are outlined, but some of them are not fully addressed e.g. those involving pharmacological interventions.

The allocation of resources to work packages is well justified, and it is in accordance with their objectives and deliverables. The foreseen subcontracting of support activities by the coordinator is well justified.

The capacity and role of participants are well explained, showing relevant track record, knowledge and expertise on childhood obesity, which is highly complementary and inter-disciplinary. The partners have appropriate access to all necessary infrastructure needed for the project.

The consortium has a convincingly wide spectrum of expertise, involving a remarkable team of renowned international experts in the molecular determinants of obesity, prevention programs and treatments, legal /ethical aspects and health economics.

Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)
Not provided

Exceptional funding

A third country participant/international organisation not listed in the General Annex to the Main Work Programme may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the HE programme guide)

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:
Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:
Not provided

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: **No**

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.
Not provided

Use of human embryos

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.
Not provided

Activities excluded from funding

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain.
Not provided

Do no significant harm principle

Status: **Yes**

If Partially/No/Cannot be assessed please explain
Not provided

Exclusive focus on civil applications

Status: **Yes**

If NO, please explain.
Not provided

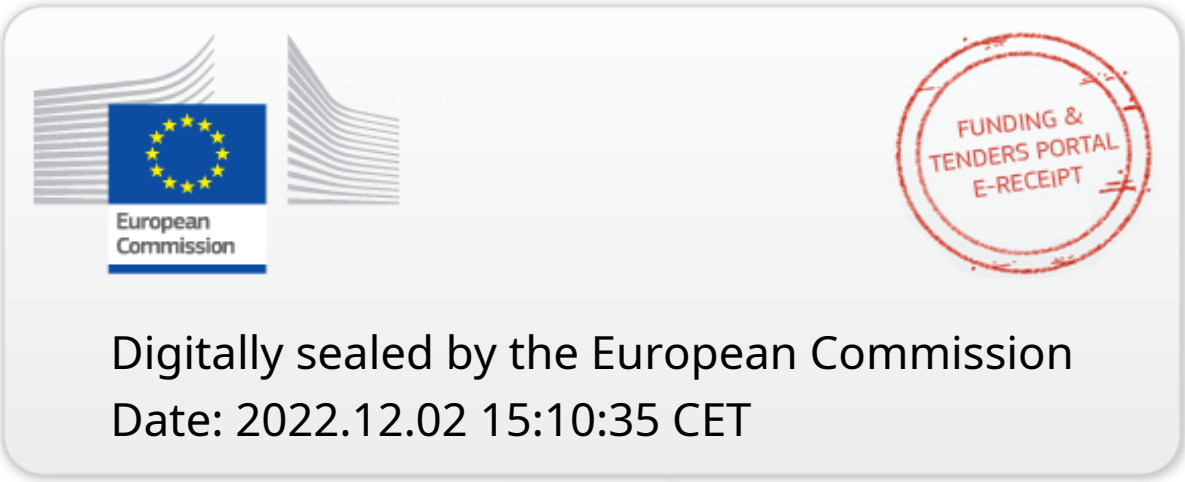
Artificial Intelligence

Status: **Yes**

If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate criterion.

Overall comments

Not provided



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