



HDHL-INTIMIC : Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health

Submission deadline Expression of Interest:

9 October 2018 at 16.00 CEST

Link to: [“Guidelines for Applicants”](#)

Link to: [“Expression of Interest Questionnaire”](#)

Link to: [“Expression of Interest Letter template”](#)

Link to: [“Electronic submission system”](#)

For further information, please visit us on the website:

<http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/>

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1. Background

Governments from western countries are struggling with the growing social and economic consequences of the alarming increase in obesity and diet-related chronic diseases. Better diets and increased physical activity will contribute to preventing or reducing the risk of illnesses and to reducing the high costs of health services. Therefore, the promotion of healthy lifestyles with better diets and increased levels of physical activity is of utmost importance for prevention of the onset of diet-related chronic diseases in Europe and beyond. [JPI Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life \(JPI HDHL\)](#) was established to coordinate research in the areas of food, diet, physical activity and health in order to tackle the above-mentioned major societal challenges that no single country is capable of tackling on its own. The prime aim of the JPI HDHL is to better understand the food-health relationship and subsequently translate this knowledge into programmes, products, tools and services that enable consumers in Europe and beyond to live a healthy life.

In this context, microbiome science is an emerging and rapidly developing research field and the interest in the role of the microbiome in human health has increased rapidly over the past decades. Recent studies indicated that the intestinal microbiome plays an important role in modulating the risk of several chronic diseases, including inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes and, cardiovascular disease. Furthermore, diet has been suggested as one of the main factors modulating the composition and function of the gut microbiome. However, the progress and impact of the microbiome research field is hampered by the fact that study results strongly depend on the study designs, the genetic and dietary background of the population groups and procedures used to analyse the microbiome and therefore the comparability of data and results is limited. Previous attempts to strengthen comparison, sharing and integration of large data sets have been struggling with the lack of coordination and collaboration between the relevant scientific disciplines and research activities.

To overcome this hurdle JPI HDHL aims to establish a Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health research. The Knowledge Platform (KP) provides the unique possibility to connect all funded JPI HDHL researchers with other existing initiatives and relevant stakeholders in the human microbiome and health research area.

The KP will be implemented under the umbrella of the JPI HDHL ERA-Net Cofund¹: HDHL-INTIMIC. HDHL-INTIMIC aims at coordinating national and regional research programmes in the areas of food, diet, intestinal microbiomics and human health as well as nutrition and human health in general, thereby contributing to the implementation of JPI HDHL objectives.

2. Aim of the call

The composition and activity of the intestinal microbiota have been linked with diet and health, although the exact mechanisms of this complex interplay are still largely unknown. Gaining deeper insight however is prerequisite to:

- develop evidence-based recommendations and guidelines to promote public health and prevent the development/onset of diet-related diseases;
- find new lifestyle-related treatment options for certain types of diet-related diseases;
- enable the food industry to develop healthy new food products.

However, the promising impact of the microbiome research field is currently hampered by a lack of cause-and-effect studies and the poor comparability of data and studies.

The overall aim of the Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health is to foster transnational and multidisciplinary collaboration and networking in order to accelerate, further develop and increase the impact of intestinal microbiome research related to human health.

¹ The ERA-NET instrument under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as topping up of single joint calls and of actions of a transnational nature.

For this, participating funding organisations will bring together research groups from various disciplines to form an international consortium that will design and implement the KP. The platform will for example carry out joint multidisciplinary activities aiming at integrating expertise, knowledge, facilities and databases in areas such as for example biology, medicine, nutrition and (bio) informatics.

The activities of the platform should focus on the current research challenges in the field, *for example*:

Standardisation and harmonisation²

To speed up discoveries in the field, comparability of data and studies is essential. There is a need for a higher level of standardisation in the whole process from sample collection to basic analysis (e.g. including use of standard mixtures of microorganisms to control for sequencing and consistency of analysis methods); but at the same time allowing for a certain degree of flexibility to further improve and develop existing methods and innovative approaches. Furthermore, harmonisation methods are needed to integrate data generated in different studies.

Data handling, knowledge and data sharing

The rapid emergence of new technologies in the fields of imaging, proteomics, metagenomics and metabolomics causes challenges in the field of data handling, data sharing and data distribution. These challenges include the development of suitable methods to handle large data sets (f. ex. metagenomics sequencing data), but also issues of data ownership, as well as legal and ethical issues regarding the sharing and use of datasets. Also for this challenge, standardisation of sample handling and data collection is essential. Furthermore, there is a need to connect datasets across countries and different disciplines. The handling of such “big data” requires not only appropriate methodologies but also collaborations across a range of disciplines.

Move from association to causality

The science of the microbiome predominantly focuses on associations between the microbiome and disease in patients. Furthermore, the abundance of existing data shows correlations, but not causal interrelations between food, diet, the microbiome (composition, activity diversity) and health or disease. In many cases, it is not clear if microbial biomarkers associated with a disease are a consequence of that disease or a contributing factor. This clearly indicates that the field needs to move from the descriptive level to the causal level – in appropriate animal disease models and/or also in humans – in order to have positive impact on the food and health system as a whole.

Activities of the Knowledge Platform

Networking activities to foster **multidisciplinary research and transnational collaboration** and **reduce fragmentation** in the research field are the primary focus of the KP. The networking activities should contribute to the current challenges in the area of intestinal microbiomics research. Examples of networking activities could be:

- Bring together clinicians, nutritional scientists, biological scientists, (bio) informatic experts, data sharing experts, and industry to enhance the dialogue between the different disciplines.
- Set a framework / deliver a roadmap to move the field of human microbiome, nutrition and health research forward. This could include for example inventories of ongoing studies and/or existing data sets, agreed definitions, best practice examples for data and knowledge sharing, formulation of requirements and standardised procedures for multicentre studies and/or data harmonisation etc.

JPI HDHL expects all selected members of the KP to actively participate in and contribute to the networking activities.

Within the KP, the JPI HDHL may also support **transnational, multidisciplinary collaborative research activities** that address and contribute to the above-described research challenges. Examples of possible research activities could be:

- Case studies for data sharing.
- Development of SOPs for collection and handling of samples, data collection and processing as well as basic analysis and data formatting.

² Harmonisation refers in this call text to the process of agreeing and applying standards that can lead to comparability.

- Collaborative pilot studies focusing on cause- and effect relationships between the microbiome, nutrition and human health throughout the lifespan.

General condition for the Knowledge Platform

The following general conditions apply:

- The KP needs to be multidisciplinary.
- The joint proposal should make use of existing biobanks/ research infrastructures and/or cohorts, if applicable, or explain why existing biobanks/research infrastructures or cohorts are not used.
- The KP is encouraged to include training activities for early career scientists into the joint project plan.
- The KP is encouraged to consider the possible impact of age, gender and ethnic differences in its research activities where appropriate.
- The JPI HDHL expects the KP to follow the JPI HDHL [FAIR data Guideline](#).
- Involvement of the funded research consortia in the [HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call](#) is mandatory. In addition to this, involvement of other research consortia funded by the JPI HDHL (including the previous JPI HDHL Funding Action “[Intestinal Microbiomics](#)” of 2015) is highly encouraged.

3. Participating countries and respective funding organisations

Table 1 lists the countries, respective funding organisations that additionally to funding projects in the HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call provide funding (in kind or in cash) for the activities of the KP.

Table 1: Overview of available fresh funding for the Knowledge Platform per country

Country	Funding Organisation	Short name	Earmarked Budget
Austria	Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. Call implemented by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)	BMBWF	€99.900,-
Belgium	Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	ILVO	<i>In kind</i>
Israel	Ministry of Science, Technology and Space	MoST	€200.000,-
Italy	Italian National Institute of Health	ISS	€50.000,-
Italy	Ministry of agricultural, food, forestry and tourism policies	Mipaft	€250.000,-
France	French National Institute for Agricultural Research	INRA	<i>In kind</i>
France	French National Institute of Health and Medical Research	Inserm	<i>In kind</i>
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research, represented by the Project Management Agency in the German Aerospace Center	BMBF represented by DLR-PT	€ 500.000,-
Germany	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture represented by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food	BMEL Represented by BLE	€100.000,-
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development	ZonMw	€ 200.000
Spain*	National Institute of Health Carlos III	ISCIII	€ 50.000,-

* Participation is pending

In addition to this, funding organisations will participate with their already funded projects in the HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call. Please note that these funding organisations have no funding available to support additional activities of the KP. However, budget of the granted projects can be used to participate in the KP.

Table 2: Overview of funding organisations participating in the Knowledge Platform only with projects funded in the HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call “*Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health*” (2017)

Country	Funding Organisation	Short name
Italy	Ministry of Education, University and Research	MIUR
Spain	Spanish State Research Agency	AEI
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council Formas	FORMAS

4. Management of the call

The call will be coordinated by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS). The JCS is responsible for management and administration of the submission procedures (Expression of Interest, selection of KP members, proposal submission, evaluation). The JCS will be set up at the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research & Development (ZonMw). Contact details are:

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The JCS acts as the primary contact point for interested researchers and research groups for information on general issues of this call and its technical aspects. For questions regarding the national regulations, please contact the national contact person (see Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants).

5. Facts and rules of the Knowledge Platform

5.1 Eligibility

JPI HDHL aims at connecting all funded JPI HDHL projects that are related to the research on food, diet, intestinal microbiomics and human health. In addition, the call is open for other related initiatives (not funded by JPI HDHL), depending on the availability of funds from the respective national funding organisation. Table 3 summarises the different eligibility rules for this call.

Table 3: Overview eligibility rules Knowledge Platform

Type of projects/partners	Eligibility
Projects funded under the HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call “ <i>Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health</i> ” (2017)	Formally eligible for participation.
Projects funded under the Joint Action (JA) “ <i>Intestinal Microbiomics</i> ” (2015)	Formally eligible for participation (participation depending on the availability of funds from national funding agency and/or own funds).
Other JPI HDHL funded projects	Eligibility depending on national funding rules.
Other related projects/initiatives/research groups	Eligibility depending on national funding rules.

Please find below the rules and regulations regarding the eligibility specified.

JPI HDHL funded projects

JPI HDHL implemented two research calls on the topic of diet, intestinal microbiomics and health, namely:

- HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call “[Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health](#)” (2017)
- Joint Action “[Intestinal Microbiomics](#)” (2015)

Project partners of consortia funded under these calls are eligible for participation in the KP. However, whether these partners can request funding to participate in additional activities of the KP depends on the availability of additional funding from their respective national funding agency (see section 3, table 1).

For project partners already funded under the *HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call*, the travel budget for the meetings of the KP has already been included into the budgets of these projects.

The participation of project partners funded under the Joint Action *Intestinal Microbiomics* depends on the availability of travel budget from either their national funding agency (see section 3, table 1) or in-kind travel budget of the researchers.

Project partners funded under other JPI HDHL projects (e.g. Joint Action [Nutrition & Cognitive Function](#); [Food Processing for Health](#); [ENPADASI](#), [Biomarkers for Nutrition & Health](#)) are eligible to apply for participation in the KP, depending on the availability of funds from national funding organisations (see section 3, table 1). The national funding organisations are responsible for checking, if these project partners are formally eligible to join the platform and the level of available funding. Therefore, applicants are obliged to check their respective funding organisations' eligibility regulations and contact them for further questions (see Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants).

Research groups not funded by JPI HDHL:

External researchers or research groups working in the field of food, diet, intestinal microbiomics and human health are welcome to apply for participation in the KP. However, their participation depends on the availability of funding from their respective national funding organisation. *Researchers that are not funded by JPI HDHL should note that: it is **only** possible to apply for participation to the KP in case their national/regional funding organisation has committed budget for this call (see section 3, table 1 for the list of funding organisation that committed budget for the KP).*

In general, applicants working in universities (or other higher education institutions), non-university public research institutes, hospitals and other health care settings can apply. Participation of private parties is encouraged as well as commercial companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises. However, eligibility is dependent on the national funding regulations (see Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants). Therefore it is mandatory to adhere to the respective eligibility/funding criteria and applicants are strongly advised to contact the respective contact person in advance.

Researchers or research groups that are not eligible for funding (for example researchers from countries that have not committed budget for this call) cannot participate in the setup of this KP.

5.2 Participation and membership

The members of the KP should represent the very best expertise in their countries in the field of food, diet, intestinal microbiomics and human health. Valid members are only researchers and research groups that have the formal support of their respective research organisations and/or institutions.

Applications of consortia that are built from different research groups from one or more organisations are not eligible to submit a collective Expression of Interest Letter (EoI). Each researcher/ research group needs to submit separate EoIs. A research group will be represented by one group leader responsible to submit the EoI.

The KP is expected to nominate a Platform Coordinator at the Network Meeting and to design and implement a suitable governance structure to guide the activities of the platform. The chosen coordinator has to check with her/his national funding organisation, whether costs associated with the role of the coordinator are eligible for the respective funding organisation. The coordinator will be responsible for the scientific management of the project and will act as the interface between the JCS and the platform consortium.

6. Implementation and execution of the Knowledge Platform

The KP will be implemented in a three-step procedure. Following the electronic submission of the **Expression of Interest (Eol)** and the national eligibility check (step one) the suggested members of the platform will be selected at national level. The successful researchers and research groups will be invited to a **Network Meeting** where the Platform Coordinator is elected and that sets the starting point for the development of the platform and the joint proposal (step two). A **Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will evaluate the platform proposal (step 3)**. Details on the procedure are listed below.

6.1 Expression of Interest (Eol)

Within the first stage of implementation of the KP, interested researchers or research groups have to submit an Eol before **9th of October 2018, 16.00 CEST**. The Eol must be written in English following a pre-defined questionnaire (Guidelines for Applicants) and submitted to the JCS through the JPI HDHL electronic submitting system exclusively. All interested researchers (also those that are already funded under the HDHL INTIMIC cofunded call) must submit an Eol. Applicants must be registered at the Meta Data Base of the JPI HDHL (www.healthydietforahealthylife.eu) before an Eol can be submitted. In addition, it is mandatory for all applicants to complete their profile information.

The Eol should express the willingness and ability of the applicant(s) to join the KP as an active and contributing member. In addition, the Eol should explain:

- The scientific expertise in the area of the KP;
- The putative role and planned activities in the network, i.e., how and by what means and activities they plan to achieve the objectives of the KP;
- the motivation and added value of work within KP;
- the most significant previous and ongoing research projects related to the KP including publications related to the role proposed in the platform;
- involvement in JPI HDHL projects and connection to this KP.

Moreover, they have to state that their institution/organisation fully supports their intended participation in the KP. Therefore the Eol has to be signed by the applicant and by the legal representative of the respective institution/organisation.

Selection of Eol

Project partners funded in one of the following JPI HDHL calls:

- HDHL-INTIMIC cofunded call "*Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health*" (2017)
- Joint Action "*Intestinal microbiomics*" (2015)

will be automatically selected and appointed as a member of the KP, if travel money is available (see also section 5.1).

For all other applicants the following procedure will be followed:

The selection and appointment of members of the KP will be based on a national selection process. The Eols will be checked for the coherence with both, the eligibility criteria of the national funding organisations (see section 5.1 and Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants) and the following KP selection criteria:

1. Overall scientific quality of the intended contribution of the research group and how it matches the objectives of the KP.
2. Quality of the planned activities in the KP.
3. Quality of the currently running and funded research projects as documented by given facts, figures, papers, patents, etc.

The selection and appointment of members will be performed by the respective national funding organisations. The CSC will meet to discuss the national selection and to agree on a final selection of the KP members. The decision regarding the selection of KP members will be communicated to the interested researchers and research groups via email. A formal letter stating the decision will be attached.

6.2 Networking process & setup of the Knowledge Platform structure

The appointed KP members will be brought together in a Network Meeting scheduled to take place on the **20th of November 2018**. Participation in this Network Meeting is highly recommended for all appointed platform members. The meeting will be used to present and explain the background and specific objectives of the KP and to bring the successful applicants together for the first time to facilitate the start of the development of a joint proposal. This meeting is of high importance, as it should be used to set up a suitable governance structure including the election of the Platform Coordinator. Further, the meeting will mark the starting point for the preparation of the platform proposal.

6.3 Joint Platform Proposal

One joint proposal written in English and following a pre-defined template must be submitted before **16:00 CET on the 5th of February 2019** through the JPI HDHL electronic submission system. No other means of submission will be accepted. The proposal template will be made available online. Adhering to this proposal template is mandatory.

6.4 Evaluation of the Knowledge Platform proposal

The SEC members will evaluate the KP proposal, according to the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to the aim(s)** of the call.
2. **Scientific excellence** of the proposal (originality, methodology).
3. **Feasibility of the project** (adequacy of the work plan, budgetary and other resources, time schedule, management).
4. **Quality of the transnational collaboration** (added value of the KP, multidisciplinary approach, sufficient expertise to reach the aims of the call).
5. **Potential impact of the expected results** for the further development of the research field as well as future public health, other socio economic health relevant applications and/or for industry.

As a result, the SEC will elaborate a funding recommendation including suggestions for revisions, if necessary.

6.5 Scoring system

- 5 = Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.
- 4 = Very good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.
- 3 = Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion in question well but certain improvements are necessary
- 2 = Fair.** The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.
- 1 = Poor.** The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
- 0 = Failure.** The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information.

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the five main criteria, and not singularly for the different aspects listed below the criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of five. The threshold for individual criteria will be three.

6.6 Funding decision and contract negotiation

Based on the SEC evaluation of the network proposal and their recommendations one of the following decisions will be made:

- a. In case of a positive evaluation, to fund the KP proposal as it is.
- b. In case of a conditional recommendation, to ask for revisions deemed necessary by the review panel.
- c. In case of a negative evaluation, not to fund the network proposal.

In any case, the Platform Coordinator will be informed by the JCS about the outcome of the evaluation and the funding decision no later than **8th of March 2019**.

In case of necessary revisions (option b), the JCS will ask the Platform Coordinator and the members of the platform to improve the submitted proposal according to the SEC recommendations. The Platform Coordinator will be provided with specific information on which parts of the proposal that must be revised and improved. Afterwards, the Platform Coordinator has time to improve and resubmit the revised proposal until the **5th of April 2019**.

The compliance of the resubmitted final proposal with the reviewers' recommendations will be evaluated by the SEC and approved by the members of the CSC. In case of compliance, the CSC will recommend the platform to be funded by the national funding organisations. Final decisions and negotiations will be made by the national funding organisations and will be subject to budgetary considerations. The Platform Coordinator will be informed by the JCS about the outcome of the evaluation and final decision no later than **10th of May 2019**.

After a positive funding recommendation, the network members will be directly contacted by their national funding organisations to discuss the further national funding procedure.

7. Funding procedure

7.1 Funding modalities

The KP will be funded for a period of up to two years. The eligibility of costs (e.g., personnel, material, consumables, equipment, and travel expenses) as well as the maximum budget per applicant is subject to the national regulations of the individual funding organisations (see A). Therefore, platform members are obliged to check their respective funding rules and eligible costs to decide on their putative role and activities in the network (e.g. Platform Coordinator). The scheduled platform and research activities of the individual researchers and research groups within the platform will be funded by their respective funding organisations according to their national eligibility/funding criteria. Furthermore, each KP member is responsible for financial reporting towards its national funding organisation.

7.2 Legal modalities

Consortium Agreement (CA): The platform should negotiate and sign a consortium agreement before the commencement of the project. It is recommended that the CA specifies at least the following issues: the governance structure, the decision making processes, the collective responsibilities and the management arrangements including specific arrangements on intellectual property rights (IPR), scientific reporting and monitoring, open access and sharing data/knowledge and resources as well as actions to be taken in the event of unsatisfactory performance by one or more partners. Guidance and model consortium agreements can be found at the [European IPR Helpdesk](#) and [DESCA](#) websites that may support drafting the CA. However, please note that the respective documents were developed for activities funded by the European Commission, which differ from funding measures within JPI HDHL. Within JPI HDHL national rules have to be taken into account. There is a shared responsibility between all network members for the progress of the project.

Upon request, the CA must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

Intellectual property rights, open access and data/knowledge sharing. Ownership and transfer of newly developed intellectual property, as well as access to existing intellectual property are a core part of project success and contribution to society and therefore, should be properly managed from the beginning of the project. Any particular protection and exploitation strategy should be agreed upon before the research activities start, and arrangements need to comply with the relevant national and/or European legislation (please refer to Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants for national requirements). More information can be found in the [Quick guide for dissemination](#) of the JPI research projects results.

8. Responsibilities and reporting requirements

8.1 Progress report

The Platform Coordinator is required to submit an annual scientific progress report on behalf of the consortium to the JCS, detailing how the project is progressing in relation to planned objectives. Furthermore, a final scientific report should be sent to the JCS within a period of three months after the project ends. National funding organisations may also request annual progress reports and a final report on the project from the different partners from their respective country.

In addition, the Platform Coordinator will be asked to present the results during the final symposium. The KP members will be asked to participate in the final symposium. Travel budget should be planned and managed accordingly.

8.2 Communication

The Platform Coordinator represents the KP externally and is responsible for all communication with the JPI HDHL (including the JCS and the CSC). For effective contribution to the objectives of the JPI HDHL and the Joint Funding Action: *Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health* the Platform Coordinator should be available to participate in meetings/workshops with the aim to:

- Exchange results.
- Develop a joint strategy to coordinate and facilitate integration of the planned activities of the JPI HDHL.
- Communicate results across the JPI HDHL (e.g. at Management Board meetings. Conferences and symposia organised by the JPI HDHL).
- Interface and build collaborations with the other JPI HDHL Joint Actions and relevant organisations within Europe (in particular the upcoming CSA “Supporting microbiome coordination and the International Bioeconomy Forum” SFS-32-2018) and worldwide.

Utilisation of knowledge

In order to enhance visibility of the JPI HDHL, the platform should adhere to the following JPI HDHL dissemination guidelines:

- Appropriate measures should be taken to engage with the public and the media about the project.
- The JPI HDHL should be appropriately referred to in reports, articles or any other documents resulting from the platform. The JPI HDHL should be referred to as “European Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” (JPI HDHL)”. Please also include a link to the JPI HDHL website: <http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/>;
- Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, oral presentation etc.) of the KP include a proper acknowledgement of JPI HDHL support and the respective national funding organisations.
- The JPI HDHL should be referred to and acknowledged appropriately in any promotional material including event programmes, invitations, press releases, reports, presentations and external websites.
- Whenever possible and useful, the JPI HDHL logo should be used.

Further details are laid down in the [“Quick guide for dissemination of the JPI HDHL research project results”](#). Researchers funded under the umbrella of JPI HDHL are requested to adhere to these JPI HDHL guidelines.

The JPI HDHL supports an open access policy. Therefore, funded researchers should consider open access publication of their results. Due consideration should be given to consistency with similar policies that are already in place at national level.

9. Ethical issues

Research supported by the JPI HDHL must respect fundamental ethical principles. Applicants must ensure that the proposed research respects all national rules and procedures for legal compliance. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify if their proposed research requires ethical approval. Where ethical approval is required, applicants must inform their national funding organisation and applicants may be requested to provide further details. Ethical approval must be obtained from the relevant national or local ethics committee prior to the start of the project.

10. Confidentiality

The JCS takes all reasonable steps to ensure that information provided in the application is treated as confidential.

11. Time line

When	What
4 th of September 2018	Publication of the call
9th of October 2018	Deadline submission Expression of Interest
26th of October	CSC meeting selection platform members
30 th of October 2018	Communication of selected platform members + invitation to Network Meeting
20 th of November 2018	Network meeting
5th of February 2019	Deadline submission joint network proposal
28 th of February 2019	SEC and CSC meeting for proposal evaluation
Early March 2019	Communication of final decision to platform coordinator (revision of proposal or no revision required)