

EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)

# **Amendment to the Procedures for the call for proposals:**

## **"Novel imaging and brain stimulation methods and technologies related to Neurodegenerative Diseases"**

Public version, February 2020

### **5.6 Decision on pre-proposals**

After finishing the consolidation phase, the Joint Call Secretariat will provide the individual written statements and scores, the mean score (arithmetic mean) and the standard deviation for each proposal to the Call Steering Committee. Changes to the scores applied during the consolidation phase and their justifications by the respective reviewers will be communicated to the Call Steering Committee.

Afterwards, the members of the Call Steering Committee will meet either in person or by telephone conference to decide on a threshold evaluation score to define the number of proposals to be invited for the full proposal stage. Call Steering Committee members not attending the meeting will be allowed to provide written comments and votes before the meeting. At the meeting, the Call Steering Committee will be allowed to discuss and to decide on evaluations. However, the application of such procedures should be restricted to the cases described below. The Call Steering Committee will decide on the application of these procedures by majority decision. Modifications may include:

- Elimination of specific evaluations if a score doesn't seem to be justified by the respective written statement, i.e. where a justification is missing, irrelevant or uses of inappropriate language.
- Application of a weighting procedure to assure that no high-quality pre-proposal will be missed because of just one diverging evaluation. Double weighting of the two highest

scores may be applied if the standard deviation of a proposal is above a value of 1.0 and at least two of the individual reviewers scores are 4.0 or above.

On the basis of the agreed final ratings, the final score of each proposal will be calculated and rounded to the first decimal position. A ranking list of all proposals will be established. Finally, the Call Steering Committee will decide on the number of full proposals to be invited, either by consensus decision or by majority decision. The decision will take into account the budget available for the call, seeking for a number of full proposals approximately matching a 2-fold oversubscription, but not exceeding a 2.5-fold oversubscription of the totally available budget of the call. All other proposals will be rejected and the consortia will not be permitted to submit a full proposal. The Joint Call Secretariat will provide final tables including the ranking of all proposals, the final scores as well as information on financial oversubscription of the funding organisations participating in the call. In addition, funding organisations being highly oversubscribed (more than 3-fold) after the pre-proposal stage should make individual arrangements to reduce their oversubscription, including:

- an increase of the earmarked budget to reduce the oversubscription below a factor of 3;
- the application of budget caps to research teams, where possible. If such caps are already in place, the maximum amount requested per research team may be lowered in order to match the available budget to the increased demand.
- To make best possible use of the available call budget, redistribution of budgets within consortia including oversubscribed and undersubscribed countries should be encouraged. In this context, countries being underrepresented in the upcoming full proposal stage (i.e. oversubscription factor lower than 1.5) may envisage lowering or withdrawing existing caps in order to allow a budget re-distribution within the consortia (see section 5.7 and 9.1).

## **5.7 Communication of the results**

After the decisions have been validated by all funding organisations, the Joint Call Secretariat will inform all coordinators about the outcome of the pre-proposal evaluation and the decision. The coordinators will be provided with the statements from the remote evaluation and the decision made by the Call Steering Committee. For proposals selected for the full proposal stage, coordinators will receive all relevant information from the Joint Call Secretariat. This will include a full proposal template as well as information on the proposal revision, on widening activities and on underrepresented countries (see section 9.1). Coordinators will be asked for their permission to share the proposal abstract with researchers from underrepresented countries in order to facilitate the inclusion of such teams. Nevertheless, it will be made clear that adding such groups is not mandatory and will have no influence on the outcome of the scientific evaluation. Also, the addition of partners must always be in compliance with the respective national funding rules of the involved funding organisations.

Where relevant, coordinators will also be informed that their consortium includes one or several team members from highly oversubscribed countries (see section 5.6). After approval by the Call Steering Committee, coordinators will be informed that reducing the budget requested by those teams will likely increase the number of fundable projects after the full proposal evaluation. Therefore, consortia should be asked to voluntarily elaborate on the possibility of an internal budget re-

distribution from oversubscribed towards undersubscribed partners. Also the inclusion of an additional regular partner from an EU-13 or from an underrepresented country (see section 9.1) may be envisaged where it helps to better distribute tasks and budgets within the consortium. Coordinators will be informed that any revision of the consortium or the budget must be agreed by the respective funding organisations. The call secretariat will circulate models for decision communication to coordinators for Call Steering Committee approval and information in due time.