



Call for Application

The Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) invites applications to conduct country-specific analyses for the European project *Pan-European Response to the ImpactS of COVID-19 and future Pandemics and Epidemics* (PERISCOPE) in work package 3 (“Impact on Health Systems”).¹

The goal of work package 3 is to shed light on the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on health systems and to identify successful short-term and long-term strategies to contain such effects.

Scope and methods:

The aim of each country-specific analysis is to investigate successful pandemic management as well as gaps and failures in the areas of primary care and secondary care and identifying possible strategies for improvement. Within these areas, the following research topics should be covered:

Primary care:

- Service delivery from the perspective of healthcare professionals and patients

Secondary care:

- Provision of non-COVID-19 services and associated collateral damage
- Management of COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment, e.g., staff shortages, ICU capacities

The defined research topics represent knowledge gaps that still need to be filled. Thus, the country-specific analysis should not primarily reiterate existing knowledge but rather provide original research which is relevant for European stakeholders in combatting the current and future pandemics. As this often appertains to implicit knowledge rather than explicit knowledge, applicants are primarily expected to apply qualitative research methods, in particular expert interviews and focus groups, as well as some preparatory document analysis.

In total, applicants are expected to conduct approx. 5 interviews in the context of primary care (predominantly healthcare professionals, e.g., physicians and primary care nurses) and approx. 10-15 interviews in the context of secondary care (predominantly members of hospital management, as well as healthcare professionals, e.g., physicians and nurses). The expected length of each interview is approx. one hour. In addition, applicants are expected to conduct at least one focus group with patients/informal caregivers from chronic care.

Interview and focus group guidelines and guidelines for content analysis will be provided by IHS in order to allow for a multi-country comparison. Interviews should be transcribed and analysed using standard qualitative data analysis software (e.g., Atlas.ti). Transcriptions will be organised and paid for by IHS. Applicants are expected to provide a report of the analysis in English to IHS.

The individual country-specific analyses will serve as a basis for an overarching analysis (led by IHS) to identify successful strategies for improving health system resilience. Applicants should therefore also facilitate access to national data sources for comparative statistical analyses.

¹ Horizon2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the European Commission, Grant Agreement number 101016233.

Note: Successful applicants will have the opportunity to work on and be named as authors on ensuing scientific publications.

Application requirements:

The IHS invites individual applications for the following countries:

- Belgium
- Finland
- France
- Italy
- Norway
- Sweden
- The Netherlands

Applicants:

- must have long standing experience in health policy analysis/comparative analyses of health systems and application of qualitative methods
- should have a track record of publications concerning the health system of the country covered
- must have experience with COVID-19 related research topics
- should be highly proficient in the official language of the country covered
- can be an individual researcher or a research group

Applications should include:

- an illustration of the applicant's suitability for selection (max. 1 page or CV)
- a short description of the planned research approach, including potential interview partners (anonymous, i.e., only stating professions/positions) (1-2 pages)
- a detailed calculation of efforts (person hours and hourly rates)

Budget:

15,000-20,000 EUR per country covered (taking into account local wage rates)

Note: Transcription costs will be covered by IHS

Selection criteria:

The following criteria will be applied:

- adequacy of planned research approach in relation to proposed budget
- scientific excellence and relevant experience of the applicant

Timeframe:

- Deadline for application: 10th April 2022, decision within a week
- Interim virtual coordination meetings
- Deadline for submission of draft report: 30th June 2022
- Deadline for submission of revised report: 31st July 2022

Please direct questions and your application using the subject "PERISCOPE Tender" to: riedel@ihs.ac.at.