



CHERRIES
RESPONSIBLE HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEMS

CHERRIES Call for Solutions in Örebro

February 12th, 2021



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1 ABOUT CHERRIES

The main aim of CHERRIES project is to support healthcare research and innovation policy and pilot actions by interlinking Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), demand-side policy and territorial innovation models. This pilot innovation process is being implemented and tested in the territories of Murcia (ES), Örebro (SW) and the Republic of Cyprus (CY). Subsequently, three additional Mirror territories will be supported in adopting the CHERRIES model. The model applies RRI methods in the innovation process, not only contributing to more innovative territorial environments but also to more suitable single innovations that therefore have a higher chance of being widely adopted and establish them successfully on the market. With this innovative design processes, the project contributes to more open, transparent and democratic R&I systems in the engaged territories and beyond, creating societal, democratic, environmental, economic and scientific impacts as well as tackling transformation processes of the organizations involved.

This call is part of the pilot actions to be developed in each of the participant territories and aims to give solution to a need that has been previously selected in an open process in each region with the final objective of stimulating institutional reflection processes on how to innovate products and services connected to the healthcare sector through participatory approaches.

2 CHERRIES APPROACH FOR CO-CREATION

In order to guarantee that the developed solutions are aligned with the values, needs and expectations of the society, CHERRIES foster the engagement of societal actors, professionals and patients, therefore the development of the solution needs to include interactions with all the actors (healthcare, professionals and patients) including mainly those involved in the definition of the need.

In each participant region a “co-creation team” will be established which will include the solution provider, the stakeholder(s) who identified the need(s), healthcare organisation personnel (e.g. innovation unit, IT, legal, etc) as well as representatives of the civil society (e.g. patient groups). The co-creation teams will arrange an initial number of meetings over the 10 months implementation period to exchange technical information and monitor the development of the pilot.

The whole co-creation program will last a maximum of 10 months, from June 2021 to April 2022 and a Grant Agreement will be signed among the funding partner of project CHERRIES, the solution provider and a representative of the team that defined the need to be solved.

The solution provider will also receive business support by the CHERRIES consortium. The project will consult in questions of business modelling, access to private investors and commercialisation. At pilot end, each solution provider will deliver the solution and deliverables as defined in the Grant Agreement. A local “review committee” - again consisting of a broad customer, potential users and civil society will then reviews the solution.

3 CHERRIES OPEN CALL FOR SOLUTIONS

We seek innovative solutions to reach elderly people that are in need for social contacts, but often are hard to reach, the loneliest and often unengaged groups that we do not reach today. The received



solutions must be developed together with the target group (involuntarily single elderly people in need of a social context) and the actors involved (e.g. business, civil society and the public sector.)

The solution that is granted funding will be conducted as a pilot project for a maximum of 10 months (June 2021-April 2022), with the potential to continue to be conducted after the project period is over and the potential to be scaled up and disseminated.

Co-creation of a solution together with the target group or other stakeholders around the target group (e.g. health care, social services or civil society organisations) should be an important part of the project.

3.1 Description of the need

During the autumn of 2020, an inventory in the area of the elderly's mental health was made, where businesses, associations and private individuals reported needs from their perspective. The collected needs concerned involuntary loneliness and the need for social contacts in various ways as well as the challenge of reaching those most in need. Involuntary loneliness is a concern especially for elderly people that significantly impacts the mental health of some patients. Long-term loneliness could result in self-isolation from social contacts and society in general. Expectations that others will make contact, is rooted in a perception that elderly do not want to be a burden to family and society. Therefore, people with the greatest need for social contacts can be difficult to reach with various efforts that aim to break the loneliness and offer a social context. In groups that are easier to reach, people have often understood that there is a connection between loneliness and lack of social contacts, and in this perspective they see a benefit in being involved and participating in various forms of activities.

As described above, involuntary loneliness is often a problem in elderly and thus the demographic development and general aging of European societies will exacerbate this problem in the coming years.

In Sweden, already almost a quarter of the population is over 65 years old. The three municipalities targeted by this call (Degerfors, Karlskoga, Laxå) are even above this national average. The share of people older than 65 is around a quarter and the one older than 80 is around 10% of the total population of these municipalities. Of these elderly people, around 20-30% live at home but receive support of municipality services while another 6-12% of these people live in care homes. While in general, mental well-being is not a problem that only affects people above 65 – on population level, the share of reported problems was even lower than in the population as such – but at the same time high shares of antidepressants, number of suicides, problems with sleeping and anxiety are more pronounced in this groups. These issues can often be tracked down to loneliness and the need of social contacts. There are different kinds of loneliness:

- Existential - we feel that our innermost thoughts and feelings cannot be shared, that no one really listens or understands.
- Social - you lack ties to friends and acquaintances with whom you feel connected or can be entrusted with.
- Emotional - you lack a partner that you can trust in depth.

Loneliness can be voluntary or involuntary. It can be objective or subjective. The feeling of loneliness then exceeds the actual loneliness. The focus of this call is involuntary loneliness and, thus, people who feel lonely but do not want to be.



Social relationships are a basic human need and serve as a protective factor for physical and mental health. Social support includes, among other things, practical and emotional support. Older people with access to social support, are generally in a good position to cope with everyday life. People who have no one to share their innermost feelings with, are predominantly living alone. This is affecting around a fifth of the people of this group. The share of people older than 65 who live alone is approximately 45% in all three municipalities. While, these numbers delimit the group at risk, it, however, does not mean that they are all suffering from loneliness. Living alone can be voluntary or involuntary for the elderly just as much as for the young. In general, older people more often suffer from involuntary loneliness in connection with the death of life partners and friends. Among single people, more than one in three is affected by loneliness, which is a significantly higher share than for people living in a partnership. Even if there are people close (e.g., healthcare staff), people may suffer from loneliness as it is more about the quality of the relationships.

Thus, the challenge in the context of this call is to find the persons who are involuntary lonely and offer them social contacts. While, the activities of associations, civil society organisations, municipalities and the like, offer a variety of services and social gatherings, they often presuppose physical presence and the elderly getting there by themselves. Therefore, we need new approaches to identifying and engaging the group of elderly people, especially the at-risk group, that are often not reached on a daily basis in order to reduce the burden of involuntary loneliness.

3.2 What can project funding be applied for?

The applied project funds can be used to testing new solutions to counteract involuntary loneliness and meet the elderly's need for social contacts. This can involve social, organizational or technical solutions or a combination of these.

Please note that funds not allow you to finance an already ongoing activity / service. Proposed solutions may build upon existing services but must clearly indicate the foreseen novelty of the solution and how it is different from ongoing practices. Further, the benefit from this extension for the identified target groups must be shown, and a convincing argument why this funding is essential for the extension of that service must be made.

The solution must be carried out / offered in all or parts of the municipalities in the western part of Örebro County (Degerfors, Karlskoga and Laxå). However, the pilot project does not have to be limited to these; a larger geographical area is possible.

The actors can apply for project funding of a maximum of EUR 50,000. The grant is intended to cover project costs such as actual personnel costs, external services as well as travel and accommodation. There is a template for the budget to support the calculation of project costs, see the announcement's website.

3.3 Who can apply for project funding

Associations, companies, public enterprises and other types of organisations registered as legal entities in EU or [EU/H2020 associated country](#) can apply for project funding. Private individuals cannot apply for funds.



The application has a main applicant association, company, public activity or other type of organisation. The application must state if more actors are involved in the solution.

Actors who are granted project funding do not need to be connected to the western part of Örebro County (including the municipalities of Degerfors, Karlskoga and Laxå) but must be able to offer their solution in all or parts of this area.

As the co-creation process will be carried out in local language, the applicants will need to be able to communicate with stakeholder groups in Swedish.

3.4 How to apply for funding

Applications should be submitted no later than 15th of April to cherries@regionorebrolan.se.

A fillable PDF template for the application, an excel template for the budget calculation and evaluation criteria can be found at Cherries website. Approved languages for applications are English or Swedish. Please note that the working language for the co-creation process is Swedish.

Questions and related answers regarding the call will be published in a FAQ document at the website.

3.5 Evaluation process

Before the evaluation process starts, the completeness of documentation and eligibility of each submitted proposal will be assessed. In justified cases, the applicants may be requested to provide additional explanations clarifying some inconsistencies of their proposal, but no changes to the application documentation are allowed once the application is submitted. Complementary documentation or information will be electronically requested and submitted via a dedicated email. If so, applicants may dispose on 7-calendar day term to correct or provide documents to complete their initial application.

In the first phase of the evaluation process those applications that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be assessed individually by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee consists of local CHERRIES partners in Örebro as well as local experts of the field and of innovation.

In the second phase of the evaluation process, the top three applicants will be invited to an online session where they will be able to present to members of the Selection Committee their proposed solutions, and will be able to answer questions from the Selection Committee.

After this session the Selection Committee will meet in order to choose the final solution. The decision of the Selection Committee will be made public and all the applicants will receive a notification of the outcome.



3.5.1 Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Explanation	Marks
Solution: Fit with the particular challenge, potential impact and achievability		
1. Soundness, consistency and excellence of the concept	Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art, enhancing the innovation capacity and the integration of new knowledge & the implementation of such innovations to the market	1 to 10
2. Solution fit to challenge	Alignment of the solution with the proposed challenge and expected impact	1 to 10
3. Objectives and success indicators	Clearness and achievability of the objectives and relevance of the indicators	1 to 10
Work Plan viability		
5. Credibility of the proposed Work Plan	The work plan is realistic and fits with the CHERRIES calendar	1 to 10
6. Co-creation process	Relevance of the co-creation work and importance given to the co-creation work (objectives and means employed)	1 to 10
7. Experience and skillset of the team	Appropriateness of the team	1 to 10
Sustainability		
8. Market description, scaling and dissemination	Expected market, potential and strategy for scaling and dissemination of the solution	1 to 10
9. Sustainability and engagement	Potential of sustainability of the solution and engagement and interest in the development of the solution	1 to 10
Responsible Research and Innovation¹		
12. Gender Issues	Does the organization have a gender equality plan?	1 to 10
13. Public Engagement	Does the solution contribute to Public engagement?	1 to 10
14. Open Science /Access	Does the solution contribute to Open Science?	1 to 10
15. Science Education	Does the solution contribute to Science Education?	1 to 10
16. Governance	Does the solution contribute to Governance?	1 to 10

¹ CHERRIES model applies Responsible Research and Innovation methods in the innovation process, not only contributing to more innovative territorial environments but also to more suitable single innovations that therefore have a higher chance of being widely adopted and establish them successfully on the market. With these innovative design processes, the project contributes to more open, transparent and democratic R&I systems in the engaged territories and beyond, creating societal, democratic, environmental, economic and scientific impacts as well as tackling transformation processes of the organisations involved.



Applicants will be asked how their organizations implement RRI measures (in case they do). In the application form, there will be questions related to RRI: gender, public engagement, Open Science, Science Education and Governance. The punctuation obtained in this section will only be taken into account in case two or more solutions get the same score. In that case, the punctuation received in this section will be used as tiebreaker.

3.5.3 Tentative calendar

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Launch the call | February 2021 |
| • Deadline for applications | 15 th April 2021 |
| • Notification of applicants selected for Oral presentations | 15 May 2021 |
| • Oral presentations | 20 May 2021 |
| • Notification to awarded applicants | May 2021 |
| • Signature of the grant agreement | May 2021 |
| • Kick off meeting | June 2021 |
| • Co-creation process | June 2021 – April 2022 |

3.6 Selected solution provider – Administrative duties

The administrative tasks for the selected solution provider, including activity reporting obligations and related documents will be provided during the negotiation and contracting phase.

3.6.1 Sub-Grant Agreement preparation process

As stated before, selected solution provider will be requested to sign a Grant Agreement. Before the signature of the Grant Agreement, the financial operational capacity of the solution provider will be assessed.

The solution provider will be asked to provide the by mail to Region Örebro County, the funding partner:

- **Legal existence:** Deed or Articles of Association (corporate statutes)
- **Legal representative:** Copy of Power of attorney document (if applicable), National Identity Card
- **Tax Agency Documentation** to evidence the fulfilment of tax obligations
- Certificate of up-to-date Social Security payments to evidence the fulfilment of obligations.
- **Financial statements:** P&L, Balance sheets (from previous year). In the case that it is the first year of activity, it will not be asked any further information.
- **Bank Account information:** IBAN & SWIFT code (if applicable)

The provision of the sub-grant agreement duly signed and listed documents to the Funder duly constitutes proof of acceptance of the grant by the solution provider.

If negotiation with the first candidate of the list eventually fails, negotiation will be initiated with the second candidate (or ulterior candidates, just in case).

A Kick-off meeting with beneficiary solution provider will be scheduled in order to define the detailed planning and workplan of the co-creation phase. The day of this meeting will formally open the co-creation phase that will last for maximum 10 months.



During pilot phase, it is possible to amend the Sub-Grant Agreement upon the request of the Beneficiary and due to justified reasons. CHERRIES will evaluate if the requested amendments are still in line with the objectives of the Call and the evaluation criteria and all other requirements, without a change of the overall score of the project. If the application of amendments is considered as not fulfilling all requirements and evaluation criteria, it will be rejected and the Funder who will notify the beneficiary by email, will give the reasons of refusal. In case of acceptance, an annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement will have to be signed by following the same procedure stated before. Claiming against this decision will not be processed.

3.6.2 Obligations of Beneficiaries

Successful applicants formally accept the following conditions in case of being awarded as Beneficiary solution provider:

- Beneficiaries accept their responsibility on accuracy and veracity of data and documents submitted for proving the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria when submitting their applications.
- Beneficiaries will provide the documentary evidences proving the co-creation and provision of services.
- Beneficiaries are obliged to store the documents for external audit purposes until January 2028 either on paper or electronic version.
- Beneficiaries are in general bound to art. 35 (Conflict of interest), art. 36 (Confidentiality and Data Protection), art. 38 (Visibility of EC funding) and art. 46 (Liability) of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement - AGA of the H2020 Programme, without prejudice to the provisions set out in this Call and in the Sub-Grant Agreement. With regards to art. 38 (Visibility of EC funding), beneficiaries will make references to public funding from EU, including suitable logos, and EU flag. Beneficiaries will include references to CHERRIES project and specifically show that funding is 100% under European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme - Grant Agreement No. 872873.
- Beneficiaries must ensure that the recipients of the financial support allow the EC, the European Anti- fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control, audit and monitoring on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the final recipient's premises, and shall comply with the Regulation for the Protection of the financial interests of the Union.
- Beneficiaries shall implement the Services in compliance with all the conditions and obligations set out in [Regulation \(EU\) 1290/2013](#), the Call and the Sub-Grant Agreement. Beneficiaries shall make no commitments which are incompatible with the Regulation or the Sub-Grant Agreement.
- Beneficiaries shall implement the Services and shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to that end. They shall have the appropriate resources as and when needed for carrying out the Services.

3.7 Payment

Payment of granted funds will be done in arrears for the costs that have been paid and meet the requirements for eligible costs. The solution provider can have part of the granted funds paid in advance by agreement.

The solution provider must keep track of their expenditures and provide records in case an auditor asks them to provide information. These records must be kept for at least 4 years after the end of CHERRIES.



3.8 Questions

Please submit your questions to cherries@regionorebrolan.se. Please notice that all questions and related answers will be published in the CHERRIES website.

4 ETHICS

All data collected within this project will be carefully protected in compliance with relevant national data protection legislation of the EU member states implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which replaces the European directive 95/46/EC. All research is designed and undertaken to ensure "*the right to privacy, the right to protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person, the right to non-discrimination*", following article 19 of the Regulation 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Personal data will be of qualitative and quantitative nature encompassing also audio-visual formats. Personal data will be stored in a way to not allow the identification of the subjects. CHERRIES will not publish any personal data unless participants have explicitly given their permission. Publications based on personal data will only report aggregated data and shall not contain information that may permit the identification of individual participants unless otherwise agreed.

As it is one of the project's core concerns, CHERRIES ensures transparency and accountability for data collection processes, data ownership, and data storage, by upholding the right for participants' informed consent and their right to withdraw their participation in the studies overtaken at any time.

All the actions carried out within CHERRIES project must follow these ethic rules:

- Participants will be ensured with full protection for their personal data unless they agree otherwise. Moreover, participants will be informed that researchers shall protect them when desired. Personal data will be anonymized and not be shared with third parties. Data will be collected and stored securely.
- Participants will sign an informed consent that will provide as much information as possible about the project so that they can take an informed decision about their possible involvement and the continuation of their involvement. The purpose of the project will be explained both orally and through an information sheet. The consent form and information sheet which will be prepared shall be in the participant language and will use terms fully understandable to the potential participants. Participants will be asked to read, fill in, date and sign it in written declaring that they have read and understood the information.
- If participants inform the researchers of their decision to withdraw the consent which they may have given previously to participate in the action, either in the light of their experience of participating in the study, or as a result of the debriefing which takes place after data collection is complete, the researchers will proceed to permanently destroy the data provided.
- No minors will be involved in any of the activities carried out within CHERRIES project.

The mere fact of participating in this Open Call means that the participants knows and fully accepts the present rules.

CHERRIES Partners



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