

The review processes of the Hospital Partnerships funding programme

The Hospital Partnerships funding programme – Partners Strengthen Health – has two funding lines: Global and Academic.

Global

Calls for proposals for the Global funding line are issued twice a year, each with a 6-week application period. During this time, candidates can register and submit their application via the application portal on the website of the Hospital Partnerships funding programme. After the documents are submitted electronically, applicants automatically receive an e-mail confirming receipt of their application.

Once the call for proposals phase has ended, a **formal review** is conducted by the Hospital Partnerships team: The applications are first checked to ensure that they are complete and comply with the eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the formal criteria are rejected.

The **commercial eligibility check** of the applicant institution starts while the application is undergoing formal review. This involves checking aspects such as legal entity, non-profit status, criteria relating to accounting, award procedures, internal and external control bodies, as well as legal compliance and anti-corruption. A negative commercial eligibility check disqualifies the applicant from the application process.

After the formal review is completed, the **technical review** is carried out by the Technical Committee. This is an independent technical body comprised of 10 to 15 members, who are medical professionals with many years of development cooperation experience. Members of the Technical Committee may not belong to an organisation currently receiving funding from the funding programme or that has submitted a pending application for funding. As an external body of experts, the Technical Committee decides on the eligibility of project applications. Applicants whose applications have been deemed ineligible receive a rejection letter and can be advised by telephone on how to reapply on request.

The eligible applications are forwarded to BMZ and EKFS, who are the commissioning parties. They make the final funding decision, taking foreign and development policy aspects into account.

The entire selection process takes about **6 months**.

Academic

Calls for proposals for the Academic funding line are issued once a year, each with a 5-week application period. As with the Global funding line, candidates can also register and submit their application via the application portal on the website of the Hospital Partnerships funding programme.

In contrast to the Global funding line, the Academic funding line has a **two-stage review process**.

Applicants first submit their **project outline** which includes information on the main aspects and the academic approach. The applications are **formally** reviewed by the Hospitals Partnership team. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the formal requirements are rejected.

The documents are then forwarded to the Scientific Advisory Board, which reviews the project proposals from an **academic** perspective. The Scientific Advisory Board is an independent body consisting of 10 to 17 experts. The members are professors from university hospitals and research institutes and have both academic expertise and experience implementing partnership projects. Each project proposal is reviewed from a scientific standpoint and evaluated by two members of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Based on the Scientific Advisory Board's review, the applicants with the best preliminary review are invited to submit a full application. The number of applications considered is approximately 1.5 times higher than the number of funding opportunities. If several applications are ranked equally, this number may be exceeded in exceptional cases.

The full applications are then reviewed by the members of the Technical Committee (see above) from a **development policy perspective** and ranked. Depending on the funds available, the best-placed applications receive funding, subject to the development policy approval of the BMZ.

Finally, a **commercial eligibility check** is carried out on the applicant organisation and its forwarding recipient (see above).

The entire selection process takes about **8 months**.