WHO

1. What is the definition of a tenured position as described in the criteria?

A fixed position. This is required from the leads, but not mandatory for all members of the consortium.

1. Can you partner in 2 Flagship proposals?

Yes, it is allowed to be part of more than 1 Flagship consortium. However, leads can only be lead for one. Also, this call should attract those people convinced of the transdisciplinary convergence aims.

1. Can external people join the consortium?

Yes, but funding can only be spent on staff from the three institutions.

1. Do the 20 people in the consortium need to be already “on the payroll” or could they be hired once the Flagship is granted?

In this pre-call, we are expecting at least 10 people to be part of the team and they should be on the payrol. Once the Flagship is granted, the staff with already tenured positions cannot be paid out of the budget.

1. What is the desired proportion of researchers vs support staff?

That is up to the submitters of the project. There is no guideline about that aspect.

FUNDING

1. How many proposals will be funded and what is the max funds per proposal?

Approx. 8-10 in this round, depending on requested budget. Maximum available funding is 400k€ per flagship per year. This needs to be matched by at least the same amount in external funding.

1. Does the matching funding need to be in place before the start of the flagship or does there need to be a plan for matching during the 5 years?

Most important is a clear convincing plan for funding the Flagship over the 5-year central funding period as well as a view on sustainability on the long term. This will be judged by the external assessment committee in the full proposal round.

1. What kind of co-funding do you need to have, from third money stream (companies)? or is second-money stream funding (e.g. NWO funding) also good?

The specific co-funding requirements are still being discussed. The call for full proposals will be online November 1st. However, the form of co-funding will depend on the content of the proposal, both public and private sources are allowed. Overall, a sound budget plan is required.

1. Matching: in kind or in cash?

Can be both; a division which is discussed is 50-50. A clear convincing budget plan will be assessed by the external committee.

1. National and International collaborations are accepted but the Convergence funding goes specifically to EUR, TUD, EMC. Yes.
	1. Do the 20 consortium members need to be affiliated with one of the three institutes (EUR, EMC, TUD) or can an international partner count as one of the 20?

Again, in this pre-call, the requirement is that the team should consist of at least 10 people affiliated with one of the three institutes (EUR, EMC, TUD). Once the Flagship is granted, the team should grow (to about 20 people).

* 1. How does co-funding/matched funding counts if an international partner is involved? Does the international partner’s funding counts, or only funding coming from EMC, EUR and TUD?

We are still working on the cofunding requirements. On 1st November, we will publish the last details in the call document.

PROCEDURE

1. Will the full proposals also be sent out to reviewers, or is the evaluation only by the committee?

Deadline for full proposals will be February 15th; the call will be published by November 1st. The assessment procedure is not yet fully decided on. Nevertheless, an international assessment committee, chaired by a Dutch technical chair, will assess the proposals, and provide a funding advice to the Management Board of Health & Tech. The Management Board can deviate from the advice on account of strategic priorities.

1. When do you expect that the projects can start? How long will the full evaluation take?

A funding decision will be reached before the summer of 2022. Flagships will need to start soon after the summer, but at least before December 31st 2022.

1. Can a full proposal be submitted only after a pre-proposal? or is submitting a full proposal also possible without a pre-proposal (so then the consortium does not use the 10k) when the applicants think they fit the criteria?

Yes, it is possible to submit a full proposal without submitting a pre-proposal. However, you will then miss out on budget for finalizing the proposal as well as advice from the theme core group in optimizing the pre-proposal.

1. is there any requirement to spending the 10k if you are selected to write the full proposal?

No, the maximum budget of 10k is ‘free’ to spend on writing the full proposal. So can be used to hire temporary staff to help in writing, or in hiring an external company to help.