

Second call outcome

– 12 projects approved, 11 funded by VOPD

16 project applications were registered at the deadline for submission of Expression of Interest. 11 projects were approved and funded by VOPD at this second call for expert support for distance-spanning service implementation. A 12th project will actively take part through support by the Estonian government.

The project management have held meetings with all applicants approved as well as with all assigned expert organizations, to initiate the service implementation process. The initial planning meetings between the organisations with approved projects and expert support organisation have been conducted during April or will be carried out now early May 2020.

See our [ppt presentation](#) for project overview.

Widening from Nordic only to include Nordic Baltic partnership

The VOPD Steering Committee welcomed at this second call applicants from Estonia to join forces with Nordic projects in implementation of distance-spanning services within Nordic healthcare and social care organisations. Two Estonian Expression of Interests were approved, Tallin Science Park who will join forces with an initiative from Oulu Health (FIN) and one from Saaremaa Municipality who will join forces with the initiative from Agder in Norway and 25 of their municipalities. A third applicant from Estonia, Võru County, was unfortunately not registered with a submitted Expression of Interest. However, the Estonian Government has secured the possibility for Võru County to actively join forces with Saaremaa Municipality and the implementation foreseen in Agder and their 25 municipalities.

Some reflections

We can see that some partners see a great need, due to Covid-19, to fast track this implementation. Other projects express that the need for the distance-spanning services have increased due to Covid-19, however they have limited access to clinical staff resources at this stage to carry out the work. VOPD project management have agreed with the expert support organisations to monitor this development carefully. The VOPD project management have at this stage, clearly expressed that we can only promise implementation support up to the end of November 2020.

Further the project management feel that the second call projects are of high quality. It is perceived as if the expectations are at a realistic level. And perhaps due to Covid 19, it is clear that all applicants at this call are more eager to get their selected distance-spanning services to really work well. Some applicants, such as Rigshospitalet and Bornholm Hospital in Denmark, express that the timing of this approval could not be better!

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