

ProEmpower releases tender to develop innovative ICT for diabetes mellitus self-management

ProEmpower has released a tender to procure a continuous disease self-management solution that will make person-centred care a reality.

Interested parties can access the tender at <http://proempower-pcp.eu/call-for-tender/tender-documents.html>

The ProEmpower procurers are looking for a diabetes management solution that will tackle the unmet needs in the current treatment of diabetes by providing personalised and multi-disciplinary care to diabetes patients.

Diabetes patients are frequently ineffectively treated as healthcare systems worldwide tend to react only after the condition has become a problem to the patient. Without the proper empowerment support, patients are unable to take an active and responsible role in their care and decisions are delegated entirely to doctors. Fragmentation in today's health systems, however, creates gaps in the coordination and delivery of care. As a result, it is not uncommon for patients to suffer from diabetes for several years before receiving a clinical diagnosis.

Once diagnosed with diabetes patients are usually prescribed medication but insufficient efforts are being channelled into getting patients to also change their lifestyle. Pharmacotherapy is most effective if coupled with changes in nutrition and exercise levels, as the overreliance on drug treatment alone should best be avoided. Poorly managed diabetes and inadequate glycaemic control are associated with an unnecessarily high incidence of complications, including the much too frequent occurrence of severe long term consequences such as amputation, blindness or renal failure.

ProEmpower aims to change this picture by addressing the need for the stratification of patients according to risk in order to facilitate the early detection of diabetes and enable personalised proactive care and the timely delivery of support. This requires adopting a team-based approach in healthcare with strong multi-disciplinary coordination of all action in the care process. Care must become person centred, enabling the patients to be active and responsible participants in their own diabetes care. A personalised decision support system would enable healthcare practitioners and patients to set adequate treatment goals based on weighing in multiple factors. On top of this, patients need targeted self-management education together with actively engaging in a peer support network, in order to successfully maintain a healthier lifestyle on their own.

The ProEmpower solution will create a supportive environment that minimises the external barriers which patients face in embracing the kind of changes that would make their condition manageable. At the same time, ProEmpower will contribute to creating a learning healthcare system based in a quality oriented culture that continuously improves itself.

The procurement will take the form of a pre-commercial procurement (PCP) under which R&D service contracts will be awarded to R&D providers in parallel in a phased approach. This will make it possible to compare competing alternative solutions. Each selected operator will be awarded a framework agreement that covers three R&D phases. The three phases are: solution design, prototyping, original development, and validation and testing of a limited set of first products or services. After each phase, intermediate evaluations will be carried out to select the best of the competing solutions. The contractors with the best-value-for-money solutions will be offered a specific contract for the next phase.



Interested parties have until 12pm (CET), 21 March 2018 to submit a bid to vendors@proempower-pcp.eu.

ProEmpower receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727409.