

Case study: Funding tools for transnational & multidisciplinary collaboration & networking

What has been done?

Two case studies have been performed to assess whether **existing funding instruments such as Knowledge Hubs or Knowledge Platforms** are suitable tools to

1. enable transnational collaboration and multi-disciplinary networking,
2. align research priorities, and
3. address the specific challenges in a given research field.

The assessed Knowledge Hubs and Platforms (KH/KPs) were:

- *Knowledge Hub on Determinants of Diet and Physical Activities* (DEDIPAC KH)
- *INTIMIC Knowledge Platform on Food, Diet, Intestinal Microbiomics and Human Health* (INTIMIC KP)

Implemented by the *Joint Programming Initiative 'A healthy diet for a healthy life'* (JPI HDHL). Analyses focused on the call text, the project proposals and their final project report (for DEDIPAC KH only) according to nine pre-defined indicators.

What are the main findings?

- **KH/KPs are innovative funding instruments to promote transnational and multidisciplinary collaboration.** The participating research groups start their network proposal from scratch or can contribute with already funded projects and create an overarching work plan to combine those. If relevant for the respective research field, KH/KPs can also incorporate industrial partners.
- **Every funder will only fund their national researchers via the virtual common pot funding model.** Despite the potential for unbalanced national funding budgets KH/KPs still result in successful transnational collaboration.
- **KH/KPs have the potential to align research priorities and to address the specific challenges in a given research area between nations.** Due to its unique funding mechanism this tool can be of particular use for international networks that do not have a joint budget.



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