
Terms of reference:

report on introducing pull incentives in the EU for neglected disease product development

Objective

DSW seeks a consultant to develop a report mapping and detailing pull incentives that could be introduced at European Union (EU) level to encourage neglected disease product development.

Background/rationale

Neglected diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, dengue or schistosomiasis affect over two billion people worldwide, but important knowledge and product gaps persist to diagnose, prevent or treat them, creating a significant unmet medical need. The availability of effective tools for these diseases is limited due to insufficient R&I investments because of low expected product profitability. These diseases pose a significant burden on low- and middle-income countries and represent a growing global health risk due to globalisation, and the wider mobility of disease vectors as a result of climate change, which is also catalysing growing resistance to existing products. Encouraging the development of new, more effective, affordable and suitable products for these diseases is therefore essential.

'Pull incentives' aim to encourage the development of products in areas where there is no viable market. The EU is a significant provider of 'push funding' for neglected disease product development (e.g. via the [EDCTP](#)) and is currently negotiating a new pharmaceutical strategy that explores pull funding mechanisms to encourage product development in areas of unmet medical need. The EU's new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) is also exploring the introduction of incentives. The EU is contributing to improving the accessibility of priority products in Africa (e.g. via the [TEI MAV+](#)). Novel 'pull funding' mechanisms could accelerate neglected disease product development and complement existing EU mechanisms.

Expected output

A report that includes the following:

- An executive summary
- A mapping of pull incentives that encourage - or could encourage - neglected disease product development in the EU
- A description of their features, strengths and weaknesses, and complementarities
- A list of stakeholders, conclusions and recommendations with regard to the introduction of the most promising incentives in the EU.

The consultant will be required to present the report at a workshop organised by DSW with experts and partners.

Profile of the consultant

- Excellent knowledge of neglected infectious disease product development, health economics, public health and intellectual property rights, or another relevant field.
- Good knowledge of the EU pharmaceutical system
- Good interpersonal skills and experience in conducting qualitative research (e.g. interviews).
- Fluency in English, with excellent writing and communications skills.

Logistics

This assignment will be done remotely. The consultant will be asked to regularly liaise and consult with DSW. The consultant will be required to travel to Brussels once (and potentially to Paris) to present and discuss the report. The person responsible for this assignment at DSW will be Agustin Martin (agustin.martin@dsw.org).

Budget

27,000 EUR, including all expenditures such as taxes and logistical costs (e.g. trips).

Period of execution

The study will be developed from May to October 2023. The report is expected to be delivered in November 2023.

Deadline for expressing interest

Individuals or organisations interested in this assignment are invited to send their application to agustin.martin@dsw.org by **May 10, 23:59 CET**. Applications must include:

- A project proposal
- A budget plan
- A curriculum vitae with supporting materials

Language

The report will be written in English.

Proposed methodology

Desk research of pull incentives and structured interviews with stakeholders (pharmaceutical companies, NGOs, etc.) and relevant EU authorities (European Commission, Parliament, European Medicines Agency etc.). A preliminary list of interviewees and a set of interview questions will be agreed upon with DSW. A short list of the most promising pull incentives (in terms of potential to incentivise innovation, and the feasibility of introduction) to encourage neglected disease product development in the EU will be agreed upon with DSW in the draft report. Summary notes of all interviews conducted will be annexed to the study. Full transcripts of all interviews will be provided to DSW for internal verification, not publication. The consultant will provide copies or links to all sources.

Scope of the work

I. Introduction

- A brief overview of the pipeline of neglected disease products and existing gaps.
- Mapping of key actors driving neglected disease product development.
- Explanation of the cost of developing neglected disease products.

II. Mapping the current global landscape of pull incentives for neglected infectious diseases

- Explanation of 'pull incentives' and why they are important for neglected disease product development.
- Description of existing - or theorised - pull incentives for neglected disease product development.

III. Case studies of successful pull incentives for neglected infectious diseases

- Examples of health products that have been successfully developed due to pull incentives (or that benefited from pull incentives).
- A short-list of the most relevant pull incentives detailing and comparing their:
 - Feasibility to be introduced in the EU (e.g. based on size, governance, political will etc.)
 - Ability to stimulate product development in neglected diseases.
 - Cost-benefit (e.g. based on health technology assessments, burden on public finance, or another methodology)
 - Ability to facilitate the accessibility of products in low- and middle-income countries.
 - Contribution to EU objectives and complementarity with existing EU initiatives.
 - Other relevant categories.

IV. Introducing novel pull incentives for neglected infectious diseases in the EU

- Recommendations for the introduction of promising pull incentives in the EU.
- Exploring the combination of incentives (push-pull, pull-pull) to improve their feasibility/ effectiveness.
- Challenges and opportunities.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

- Summary of findings and recommendations.
- Recommendations for additional research.

VI. References & transcripts

Selected bibliography:

- Martin, A. et al. (2022) [Incentivising research, development and innovation for unmet health needs in the EU: a scoping exercise of “pull incentives”](#). Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW). Draft working paper.
- Global Institute for Disease Elimination (2023). [Innovative Finance for neglected tropical diseases: discussion paper](#). Working paper.
- Boyer, B. et al. (2022) [Design of a Transferable Exclusivity Voucher Program Incentives for drug and vaccine development for neglected diseases](#). Duke Margolis Centre for Health Policy.
- Weng, H-B. et al. (2018). [Innovation in neglected tropical disease drug discovery and development](#). Infectious Diseases of Poverty.
- Elias Mossialos, E. et al. (2016) [A systematic review and critical assessment of incentive strategies for discovery and development of novel antibiotics](#). The Journal of Antibiotics.
- Mueller-Langer, F. (2013) [Neglected infectious diseases: Are push and pull incentive mechanisms suitable for promoting drug development research?](#). Health Economics, Policy and Law.
- Dimitri, N. (2012) [R&D Incentives for Neglected Diseases](#). PLOS ONE.
- Granville, B. and Trushin, E. (2010) [The hope for neglected diseases: R&D incentives](#). Queen Mary, University of London. Working Paper.