Guide for the Expression of Interest

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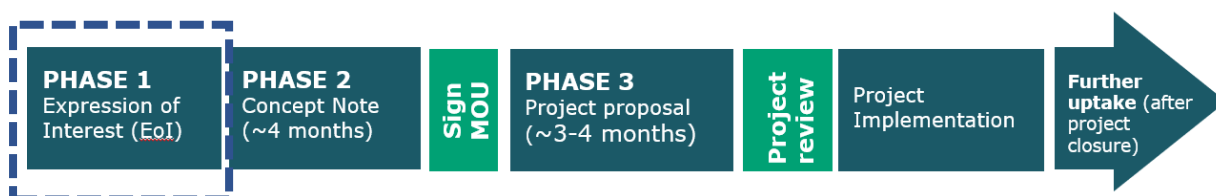Partnership Agreement Template
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1. Introduction

The Expression of Interest (EoI) is the first phase of the ICARS application process (see Figure 1 below). As such, the EoI represents the first introduction to the country's AMR National Action Plan (NAP) and the priority AMR-sensitive and AMR-specific challenges/problems the country has identified. The EoI also provides the opportunity to highlight interventions that would potentially address these challenges and problems and how they would align with the NAP as well as other existing or planned AMR interventions in the country. The EoI must also include a reflection on how the respective Ministries will integrate learnings from any ICARS-supported intervention and implementation research project. Finally, the stakeholders that should be involved nationally and sub-nationally to bring such a project to fruition should also be highlighted.

The Responsible Ministry should coordinate the development and submission of the EoI.

FIGURE 1. PHASE DESCRIBED IN THIS GUIDELINE

2. Developing the EoI

The Responsible Ministry is requested to use the EoI template provided on the ICARS website. The EoI should not exceed 5 A4 pages.

TABLE 1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CONTENT

Heading	Content
Date	• Date of submission of the EoI
Country	• Name of the country
Responsible Ministry	• Name of the Responsible Ministry (or ministries) submitting the EoI • Name of the department within the ministry (ministries) responsible for the EoI
Point of contact	• Name and contact details of the point of contact at the Responsible Ministry (or ministries)
Priority antimicrobial resistance (AMR)-specific or AMR-sensitive challenges/problems	• In the table provided, list a minimum of two and a maximum of five AMR-specific or AMR-sensitive challenges/problems you would like to address with financial and technical support from ICARS • For each priority challenge/problem provide a reason why these have been prioritised in your country.
Evidence of identified AMR challenges and problems	• For each of the challenges/problems that you listed in the previous section, please provide any existing evidence from reports, grey literature or publications in support of these. • Please include references where necessary • In case you need more rows, please add these to the table.
Measurable interventions to address AMR challenges/problems	• Describe interventions that can address the AMR challenges/problems you previously identify • For each proposed intervention indicate whether it aligns with existing or planned other interventions • For each proposed intervention indicate which objective of the NAP is addressed by it
Ministerial integration of learnings	• Describe how the Responsible Ministry envisions sustainable uptake and scale-up of successful interventions following completion of the project
Stakeholders that will engage/facilitate the intervention implementation	• List the relevant stakeholders with whom the project proposal will be co-developed. This includes research institutions/universities and public, private and non-governmental stakeholders

3.   Assessment Criteria

The EoI will be assessed by ICARS based on the following criteria (Table 2.):

TABLE 2. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment Criteria
• Are the AMR challenges/problems and the evidence to support them well articulated and described?
• Are the interventions suggested to tackle priority AMR challenges/problems well described?
• Are the respective Ministries clear in their commitment to addressing the AMR challenge/problem as well as using the results from any ICARS supported activities for scale up?
• Are the stakeholders as proposed representing a good balance of top down (governmental) and bottom-up (researchers, implementers etc.) which would facilitate the success of implementation and scale up?

4. Submitting the EoI

The Responsible Ministry is requested to submit the EoI through the ICARS Application Submission System Portal. The point of contact for the Ministry will be required to create a profile on the Application Submission System, which will then become the primary means through which the various components of the project application will be submitted and evaluated.