

YUFE Postdoc call open!

YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) opened the 1st of October a call for 22 postdocs for a 3-year period. This second call will focus on “Citizens’ Well-being and European Identity” which can also include topics interesting in health economics. Call closes the 20th of December. More information about the call: <https://www.yufe4postdocs.eu/call/>

The postdocs can freely define their project and carry out their research anchored in a YUFE host university of their choice. Applicants must choose two universities, one is the host university, another one the co-hosting university.

University of Eastern Finland as the host-university and Maastricht University as the co-host are prepared to host YUFE post docs. Both universities share interest in Economics of aging, Cost-effectiveness of integrated health and social services, Health economics methodology (such as threshold value, EQ-5D preference-weights in Finland), Decision-making in health care especially shared decision making, or the Economics of prevention.

From these websites you will find information on our research and contact persons:

- Host university: <https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/group/health-economics-research-group/>
- Co-host university: <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/maastrichttheta>, contact person (Dr Mickael Hiligsmann, m.hiligsmann@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

University of Eastern Finland/Proposals for research collaboration/YUFE post doc recruitment

1) SustAgeable: Economic and social sustainability across time and space in an ageing society

SustAgeable work package 5 investigates factors associated with health and long-term care spending in older population and proposes ways to mitigate cost increases in an equitable manner to promote both economic and social sustainability. We examine the effects of ageing and the proximity to death on costs of health and long-term care expenditures nationally and regionally in Finland. We also seek means and policies to curb the growth of costs in an equitable way or more generally so that economic sustainability does not contradict social sustainability.

Proposals for research collaboration:

- Register data studies on the effects of population ageing on costs of health and long-term care services
- Effects of different policies or interventions to contain the growth of costs due to population ageing

Contact person: Professor Ismo Linnosmaa, ismo.linnosmaa@uef.fi; <https://www.sustageable.fi/en/>

2) IMPRO – Improved knowledge base and service optimisation to support health and social services reform

Impro is a multidisciplinary research project seeking to develop new analysis methods for evaluating health and social services, and to support the development of more equal and cost-effective services. We study the structure, effectiveness and performance of health and social services. The research is based on data in national social welfare and health care registers and spatial information. Our research team will analyse social welfare and health care structures, accessibility of care, care paths as well as the outcomes, costs and

cost-effectiveness of care. As examples, we will select illnesses that play a key role in terms of public health and result in high levels of service use and costs.

Aims: We will study methods for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of integrated social welfare and health care services.

Costs cannot be used to support decision-making without linking them to care outcomes that are meaningful for patients. We will look at grouping applications and cost accounting approaches that encompass all services significant for an integrated analysis. We will demonstrate how the costs of services and health outcomes can be analysed using actual service data from different regions and for different patient groups.

Proposals for research collaboration:

- comparison of regional and local organizational settings (integration, outsourcing) on patient and municipal level; recognizing multimorbid patient population and the performance of health system (costs, health outcomes)
- available microdata years 2015-2020 all municipalities, all patients, specialized and primary care, social services.

Contact person: Professor Miika Linna, mika.linna@uef.fi, <https://stnimpro.fi/en/>

3) PROSHADE - Reliable Knowledge for Health Care: Process and Practice of Shared Decision Making 2023-2026

In collaboration with clinical practice guideline panels hosted by The Finnish Medical Society Duodecim we have developed a way to integrate and present economic information in Current Care Guidelines (Finnish clinical practice guidelines). During 2025-26 we will evaluate the impact of integrating economic information in clinical practice guidelines on treatment mix, costs of care and possibly, the health of patients and population.

We study the possibility to calculate a threshold value in Finland in order to help choose cost-effective treatments. Also, theoretical work is possible: what are the pros and cons of using threshold values in health care decision-making. We develop existing theories on decision-making in health care organizations and in professional-patient relationships in collaboration with social psychologists.

Proposals for research collaboration:

- estimating threshold value in Finland, examining the pros and cons of applying threshold value
- based on register data to study the impact of including economic information in clinical practice guidelines
- based on video recordings analyze decision-making in 1) professional-patient encounters and/or 2) when professionals discuss and implement clinical practice guidelines in collaboration with social psychologists.

Contact person: Research director Eila Kankaanpää, eila.kankaanpaa@uef.fi, <https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/group/proshade-reliable-knowledge-for-health-care-process-and-practice-of-shared-decision-making/>

4) EQ-5D/estimating preference weights

Finland is just about to choose national questionnaires to measure routinely effectiveness in health care. EQ-5D-5L will most probably be one of the questionnaires. Thus, there is a need to estimate national preference weights for the Finnish population. We are also interested in estimating preference weights for children (EQ-5D-Y). We have had and will have projects on children/adolescent mental health. Also, methodological topics of estimation/preference values.

Proposals for research collaboration:

- participation in planning the data collection
- estimation of preference weights
- methodological topics

Contact person: Professor Ismo Linnosmaa, ismo.linnosmaa@uef.fi