



**Ad hoc meeting on need for urgent R&I actions to address the increased threat of SARS-CoV-2 variants**

**Programme Committee for the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) – Configuration ‘Health, demographic change and well-being’**

**And the**

**Shadow Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee**

**15 February 2021, 15.30 – 17.30**

Videoconference

### Meetings with WebEx



**•Make sure you are correctly identified**  
(COUNTRY – full name)



**•Respect confidentiality**



**•Please keep your microphone muted and your camera off during the meeting.**



**•How to ask questions or the floor?**

Please use the Chat function.  
Unmute your mic only when the chair invites you to take the floor.  
Do not use the Chat function to start discussions.

# Draft agenda



- 15.30**      **1. Welcome and Introduction**
- 2. Policy context**
- 16.00**      **3. Discussion of new emergency actions for Horizon2020 funding**
- 3A.** Vaccine clinical network – VACCELERATE (the European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform)
- 3B.** Support of other projects for the COVID 19 data portal for data collection, analysis and detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants and their spread, further support for clinical trials & the monitoring of COVID through cohort studies
- 16.30**      **4. Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme**
- 17.00**      **5. Next steps to launch a HorizonEurope Pandemic Preparedness Partnership**
- 17.30**      **6. End of the meeting**





# 1. Welcome and Introduction





## 2. Policy context





# 3A. Setting up EU-wide vaccine trials network: State of play





### 3A. Setting up EU-wide vaccine trials network

VACCELERATE, European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform  
[www.vaccelebrate.eu](http://www.vaccelebrate.eu)

- Horizon2020 SC1 Health Programme Committee information webinar 18 November 2020 to discuss the development of an EU wide COVID19 vaccine trial network
- Horizon2020 SC1 Health Programme Committee of 24 November: additional funding under **'other action 6 of the SC1 Work Programme 2020'** to deliver on the commitment outlined in Communication of November 11 'Building a European Health Union: reinforce the EU's resilience for cross border threats'.
- Request for funding received from German Centre for Infection Research on 11 December
- Reference to prepare proposal: Concept note "Towards an EU-wide network for COVID-19 Vaccine trials"





**VACCELERATE** : [www.vacCELERATE.eu](http://www.vacCELERATE.eu)

**Vision:** Pan-European structure to accelerate strategic phase 2 & 3 clinical COVID-19 vaccine development:

- Provide a pan-European platform, combining expertise into 1 network, for strategic scientific leadership and guidance on vaccine trials in Europe
- Support closing gaps in public health knowledge and improving knowledge transfer
- Connect European stakeholders involved in vaccine development, incl. EMA & ECDC
- Ensure preparedness beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, through tested and established network, underpinning Europe's capacity for vaccine trials







## VACCELERATE

### Key objectives

- Single entry point for European stakeholders in vaccine development
- Contribute to public health knowledge in vaccine development for vaccination strategies
- Capacity mapping of clinical trial and laboratory sites, for individual phase 2 & 3 vaccine trials  
<https://www.euvap.eu/index.html>
- Capacity building to ensure high quality data output in sites across Europe
- Volunteer registries to facilitate recruitment of trial participants
- Access to laboratories, comprehensive standardised methods essential for Phase 2 & 3 trials
- Harmonised data collection, open data sharing and pooling of data for stronger analysis



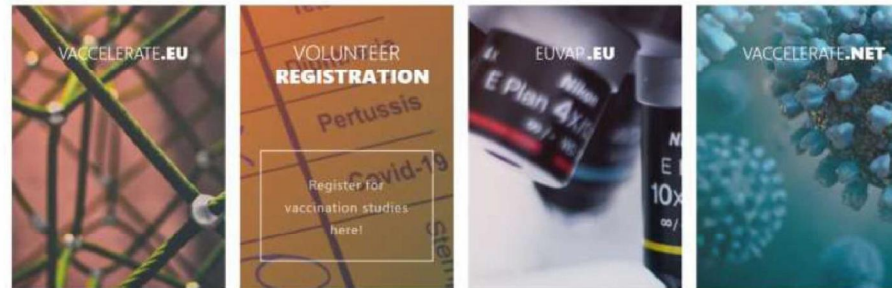




## Vaccine clinical network – VACCELERATE

- Grant to be signed ASAP
- 26 partners in consortium, from 16 MS and 5 Associated Countries

DE	PL	TR
SK	AT	RS
PT	IE	IL
EL	DK	CH
FR	BE	NO
CY	NL	
ES	IT	
SE	LT	





## **3B. Discussion of new emergency actions for Horizon2020 funding**



### 3B. A plan to prepare Europe for the increased threat of SARS-COV-2 variants: Mobilising H2020 funds – possibilities:

Activity	Budget (EUR million)	Responsible
<b>1.1 Detection and assessment of variants</b>		
COVID-19 data platform and other related infrastructures (ELIXER-CONVERGE, EVA-global)	3.5	Commission
Reinforcement of virus monitoring – (VEO)	1	Commission
<b>1.2 Cohorts</b>		
Assessments of long-term safety and efficacy for vaccines – Expand Pan European Cohort (ORCHESTRA)	8	Commission, EMA
<b>1.3 Clinical trials and observational studies</b>		
Reinforcement of research on treatments specific to the new variants (ATAC)	2.5	Commission, EMA, ECDC
EU-wide Vaccine trial network (VACCELERATE)	15	Commission, EMA, Member States and other



## **4. Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme**



## Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme

Further development of the COVID19 data platform (open data sharing) and infrastructure services for rapid research response to epidemics	30	Commission
<b>1.2. Cohorts</b>		
Support for the development of large scale, international/worldwide COVID19 cohorts & networks	30	Commission, ECDC, EMA, WHO
<b>1.3. Clinical trials and observational studies</b>		
Conduct of vaccine & therapeutic trials to further inform public health policy and clinical management	60	Commission, EMA, ECDC

# Possible actions in research infrastructures

From the HorizonEurope 2021-22 Research Infrastructures Work Programme

- Destination 2: **HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-06: FAIR and open data sharing in support of European preparedness for infectious diseases**
- Destination 3: **HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-01: Research Infrastructure services for rapid research responses to infectious disease epidemics**





## **5. Next steps to launch a HorizonEurope Pandemic Preparedness Partnership**





## Update on the European R&I Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (1)

- **Objectives:**

- improve the EU's preparedness to prevent, predict and respond to emerging infectious health threats
- develop a Strategic Research and Innovation pandemic preparedness agenda with common objectives

- **Was discussed in:**

- Shadow Health Cluster 1 meeting of 27 November 2020 and
- HorizonEurope SPC meeting of 4 December 2020

- **Scope was limited to health threats** (focus can be revised or broadened later).

- **11 Member States nominated representatives for the development of the partnership**

- **Fiche is being revised following Member States written comments**





## Update on the European R&I Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (2)

### How:

- Quickly operational; co-programmed Partnership,
- supported by a CSA in Cluster 1 - 2021 and R&I actions in Cluster 1 - 2022
- Links with proposed Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA), ECDC and EMA, EU Health Security Committee, etc.

### Next steps:

- 24 February 2021: first meeting with core group of Member States
- Presentation of revised fiche and first discussion





# 6. End of the meeting

