Background to ERAvsCorona Action 8



A prompt availability of services provided by research infrastructures (e.g. pathogen laboratories, biobanks, structural biology facilities, clinical trial support facility, etc.) and of the data hold by them, is vital for researchers working on COVID-19.

Many research infrastructure running grants, which are relevant for COVID-19, highlighted their availability to support COVID-19 research. Some of the ones providing research infrastructure services to scientific communities, offered to focus their current calls for access on COVID-19 research. Other grants have offered to carry out specific activities for supporting research on COVID-19, including contributing to the creation of the COVID-19 data sharing platform launched by the EC and EMBL-EBI. Grant amendments will be needed for most of these cases. In very few cases, the need for top-up budget emerged. This is the case where the requests of access for COVID-19 research represents a major fraction or a significant scaling-up of the access provision planned under the grant, or where the inclusion of new work intensive activities for Covid-19 is foreseen.

A new action is also foreseen to be launched through an amendment of the Work Programme Part for Research Infrastructures.

Finally, many European Research Infrastructures, such as the ESFRI and ERIC infrastructures, are launching specific COVID-19 activities, including specific calls for access. Efforts to identify running grants that could support these activities are currently carried out by EC services.

Research infrastructure	Area	Action
grants launching specific		
COVID-19 activities		
TRANSVAC-2	Vaccine development services	Top-up and GA amendment
EVA-Global	European Virus Archive (especially diagnostic	Top-up and GA amendment
	assay reference materials)	
EOSC-Life	Sharing and FAIRification of bio-medical data &	Top-up and GA amendment
	tools. Support to the implementation of the	
	COVID-19 Data Sharing Platform	
SoBigData-Plus	Big data analytics for analysis of social	GA amendment could be needed
	behaviour	
CORBEL	Integrated access to life science ESFRI research	GA amendment could be needed
	infrastructures. Contribution to first	
	developments of the COVID-19 Data Sharing	
	Platform	
ACCELERATE	Light source facilities (especially protein	GA amendment could be needed
	imaging)	
EASI-Genomics	Advanced sequencing (virus genotyping and	GA amendment could be needed
	human genomes)	
New Research	Area	Action



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infrastructure topics		
supporting COVID-19		
research.		
PHIRI	Population Health Information Research	WP amendment needed (RI WP)
	Infrastructure	
European research		
infrastructures launching		
specific COVID-19		
activities (with or		
without EU support)		
ERINHA	High-risk pathogen safety labs (for handling	Identification of running or
	virus culture or neutralization assays)	future GA that could support
		these activities
ELIXIR	Coordinating of storage and access to biological	Identification of running or
	data	future GA that could support
		these activities
ECRIN	Support for multinational clinical trials (ethics,	Identification of running or
	site certification, data management)	future GA that could support
		these activities
INSTRUCT	Structural biology facilities and services	Identification of running or
	(epitopes for immunogenicity, antibody	future GA that could support
	recognition, drug target sites)	these activities
BBMRI	European Bio bank Network (access to	Identification of running or
	biospecimen from CoVid patients and to linked	future GA that could support
	clinical data)	these activities
EATRIS	Translational medicine support –(support for	Identification of running or
		future GA that could support
	regulatory dossiers for new medicinal products)	these activities

