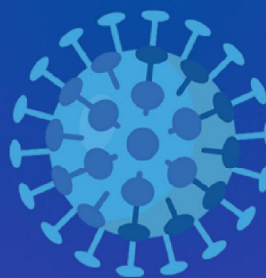


Creating Opportunities for Other Funding Sources to Contribute to R&I Actions on CoronaVirus

Background to ERAvsCorona Action 5



European Union



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Working Document subject to
possible changes

In order to face the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to maximise the quantity, quality and impact of the investments in Research and Innovation, providing opportunities to different sources of funding to contribute in a synergic way to support R&I related activities, e.g. by deploying R&I results, complementing R&I actions and, last but not least, by supporting promising proposals.

To this specific end, a dedicated 'COVID-19 response Seal of Excellence' (COVID-19 SoE) will be awarded to high-risk, high-potential small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) - including start-ups - with technologies and innovations that could help in treating, testing, monitoring or other aspects of the COVID-19 challenge. The COVID-19 SoE will be awarded to proposals submitted in the EIC pilot Accelerator, 20 March 2020 cut off, that will be evaluated as excellent but will remain unfunded due to budget restrictions.

Through the COVID-19 SoE high quality proposals will be more visible and easily identifiable to any national, regional authority and the private sector that would be interested in funding them. This would allow those funding bodies/actors to prioritise their support in the coming weeks to where it is most needed and quickly implementable, by using all the flexibilities currently granted in the use of funding.

Recently adopted Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak will accelerate, among others, COVID-19 relevant research and innovation. In particular, these new rules include an explicit reference to COVID Seal of excellence projects. This means, firstly, that such projects are eligible for aid intensities significantly higher than under 'regular' State aid rules. Secondly, Member States will not have to verify again, at their level, the project's COVID-19 relevance. Thirdly, for COVID Seal of excellence projects these temporary rules presume that the aid has an incentive effect – for all other projects, specific requirements as regards the project start date apply.

In order to mobilise public investors, the Seal Community of Practice, counting 250 members representing regional/national public funding bodies including those that have in the past provided supporting schemes for Seal, will be informed and a meeting will take place in the second half of April.

In term of mobilising private investors, by the end of April/beginning of May, the Access2EIC – Seal of Excellence' online community, hosted on the [EuroQuity.com](https://euroquity.com) platform which gathers high-potential companies awarded with the Seal of Excellence with the aim to maximise the opportunities to raise private equity investment, will promote an e-Pitching session targeted to the COVID seals for potential investors.

In addition, the European Investment Project Portal' (EIPP) will flag COVID SME Seals proposals in its platform in order to attract funding from private investors/venture capitalists registered in their platforms.