

**INFORMATION FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION**

Subject: implementation of the first 10 priority actions

As a follow-up to the informal Ministerial Research and Innovation video-conference of 7 April, where the Ministers supported the first ten priority ERAvsCorona actions, the purpose of this document is to share with you the concrete first steps we are proposing to implement these actions.

For action 1, the **coordination of R&I funding against the Coronavirus**, based on the Ministerial discussion of 7 April, I propose to extend this to cover the whole pipeline (from pre-clinical research to products being available to citizens) and to cover the following priority issues: vaccines, treatments and diagnostics (see separate working papers on this). To this end, I propose to establish an ad-hoc working group including Member States and Commission services representatives and agencies. This group should enable us, public funders of research and innovation, to work better together in a coordinated and more efficient manner in our immediate need to tackle the current Covid-19 pandemics. Specific objectives of the group should notably address the development of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, but the group should first focus on the immediate need for an effective strategy regarding the development of vaccine(s), treatments and diagnostics for Covid-19.

In order to kick this off as quickly as possible, I would like to invite you to nominate one or two members for this group. Please send the name of your nominee(s) to 5.1.2e (5.1.2e [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ec.europa.eu)) by 15 April 2020.

For actions 2, **the extension of and support to large EU wide clinical trials** for clinical management of Coronavirus patients, further steps will be discussed in the ad-hoc group. Further background information on this action can be found in the separate paper on clinical trials.

For action 3, **the new call 'Expression of interest' in Horizon 2020 for innovative and rapid health-related approaches for responding to Coronavirus**, which includes three areas in one call, we will involve the Health configuration of the Horizon 2020 Programme Committee.

For action 4, **increasing support to innovative companies**, the Commission has reinforced the financial means for financial instruments dedicated to the Corona crisis such as the InnovFin Infectious Diseases Finance Facility. Due to the level of demand, EC and EIB agreed a reallocation of financial priorities to allow other key innovative players developing innovative vaccines candidates, drugs, medical and diagnostic devices or novel critical research and innovation infrastructures (including production facilities) for combatting COVID-19 to benefit from InnovFin IDFF support. In this context €350m have been reallocated (including €250 m of reflows from previous R&I financial instrument (FP7 RSFF)). The possibility to work with other investors could be tackled in the context of the forthcoming EU pledging event. Regarding the increased support (an amount of EURO 150 million is foreseen) to the recently closed Horizon 2020 EIC pilot Accelerator call, the implementation will be discussed with the relevant Programme Committees. Regarding the establishment a Coronavirus EIC Platform for matchmaking services we refer to the action 4 background paper.

For action 5, **creating opportunities for other funding sources to contribute to R&I actions on Coronavirus**, a dedicated 'COVID-19 response Seal of Excellence' (COVID-Seals) will be awarded to proposals submitted in the EIC pilot Accelerator call with a cut off date of 20 March 2020. A meeting with the Seal Community of Practice, counting 250 members representing regional/national public funding bodies, will take place in the second part of April. In terms of mobilising private investors, by the end of April/beginning of May, the Access2EIC -Seal of Excellence' online community will promote an e-Pitching session targeted to the COVID-Seals for potential investors. Furthermore, the 'European Investment Project Portal' will flag COVID SME Seals proposals in its platform in order to attract funding from private investors/venture capitalists. More information can be found in the action 5 background paper.

For action 6, **establishing a one stop shop for Coronavirus R&I funding**, please send your information on national funding opportunities to the following mail box: 5.1.5
5.1.5 [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.5@ec.europa.eu). In order to structure the information, please use the template (see the action 6 background document). Please also nominate a contact person (with a back up if possible).

For action 7, **establishment of an ad-hoc High Level R&I Task Force on the Coronavirus**, I suggest to further assess the added value and possible mandate of this group.

For action 8, **access to Research Infrastructures**, further information can be found in the action 8 background paper.

For action 9, **the Research data sharing**, I foresee the initial deployment of a new European COVID-19 Research Data Platform by mid-April as a priority pilot to realise the objectives of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The interaction with the Member States and Associated Countries on the staged development and dissemination of this platform will continue through the EOSC Governance Board. The delivery of guidelines for data exposure on the platform is expected by mid-April and for COVID-19 data management by end of April. Furthermore, there will be a link with other relevant COVID-19 information and communication platforms (e.g. the Health Policy Platform operated by the Commission). Further information can be found in the action 9 background paper.

For action 10, **the Pan-EU Hackathon to mobilise European innovators and civil society**, further updated information can be found in the action 10 background paper.