

DRAFT 1 (27 March 2020)

R&I Action Plan for “ERAvsCorona” – first urgent work streams

EU leaders called for support of research, to coordinate efforts and seek synergies within European scientific and research community. They also underlined that there is an urgent need to share scientific information and to collaborate both within the EU and worldwide and declared to increase and accelerate support to European research teams and companies in this respect.

*The purpose of this R&I action plan is to identify first priority R&I work streams for coordinated action between the Commission and the Member States taking action against the Corona virus that can be executed in the next weeks. It sets key measures we activate now to **support** research, to **coordinate**, to **share** and to **increase** support for R&I.*

This R&I action plan is a living document and will be updated regularly with additional R&I coordinated actions.

	Action	How	Added Value	Target Group	Time line
A) Creating and informing on ‘funding’ opportunities for researchers and innovators					
1	Establish new co-programmed partnership	Programme level cooperation” model instead of ERA NET to be faster;	To coordinate national funding for research	Member State representatives	Could be set up next week.
2	Establish a one stop shop for Corona R&I funding	Establish a “ERA Corona platform” on the funding and tender portal for researchers and innovators, Member States need to provide information on national calls into this portal.	To provide an overview of all on ongoing R&I funding initiatives on COVID19, eg one stop shop for all ongoing COVID19 calls both EU and national calls. This platform should indicate which national calls are open for all Member States. Links other initiatives (CEPI GloPID-R, WHO, etc.) could be included.	Researchers and innovators.	Next week the platform could be launched.

3	Establish an ad-hoc High Level Expert Group on Corona	Nominations by Member States	To share information on funding actions, to discuss priorities, to discuss complementarities to maximize investments made by Member States and to communicate about coordinated R&I actions to the general public	Member State experts	Can be set up in the coming weeks
4	Mobilizing funding from other EU programmes to COVID-related R&I	Action with ESIF: mobilising / redirecting existing unspent ERDF funding related research actions towards COVID. Award of Seal of Excellence for Coronavirus relevant innovations by SMEs/startups evaluated as excellent, but unfunded, by EIC calls. In addition to request consent of SMEs/Startups to provide their contacts to Structural Fund managing authorities. Interaction with EIC COVID Community Platform and matchmaking services (see below)	This action should enable many of these excellent Coronavirus relevant innovations which cannot be funded by the EIC accelerator to be funded by the Structural Fund.	Innovative startups and SMEs (to receive Seal of Excellence), Structural Fund managing authorities (to reorient innovation funding to support SoE SMEs)	Immediate: Inform that SoE Community of Practice that this forthcoming. Introduce "consent" box for SMEs applying to EIC. Strengthen importance of R&I investments also through Structural Funds by strength recommendation in the Semester CSR. Provide the Seal of excellence Community of Practice with all info related to COVID-related Seals, as soon as available (mid-April)
5	Establish a Coronavirus EIC Community Platform	By expanding the current EIC Community Platform with dedicated groups and matchmaking services for to start-ups and SMEs to exchange ideas on Coronavirus innovations and to be connected to investors, public procurers, corporates and others.	Matchmaking services – broking on needs and services. This could include hackathons (following Estonian example) Bring together with SoE companies which have corona-relevant innovations in order to attract other funders.	Innovative start-up/SMEs in particular existing EIC beneficiaries and Seal of Excellence. Public procurers, investors, corporates, regional authorities	Platform already exists, expansion of Coronavirus groups/ fora could be done 2 – 3 weeks

6	<p>New call 'Expression of interest' in Horizon2020 for innovative and rapid approaches for responding to COVID-19 and deliver quick results relevant to society</p>	<p>Calls for innovative approaches, researchers in all areas (including SSH), and innovators to deliver quick results relevant to society</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To help protect frontline workers, allow them to interact across Europe and beyond (Personal Protective Equipment; Ventilators but also telemedicine 2. To tackle fake news and do appropriate risk communication 3. To find innovative solutions for inclusive continues education 4. Inclusion: To tackle social isolation and enhance mental health, mobility and accessibility of public services 5. New methods for ensuring availability and access in Europe of critical products and services; supply chains, logistics, reuse, recycling <p><i>Funding:</i> Expression of interest under “other actions”, in an updated work programme, possibly across sc’s (€ 50 million or more)</p>	<p>Deliver results within 18-24 months to end-users at scale.</p> <p>Data shared in 'real time' in COVID-dedicated results platforms</p>	<p>Consortia of researchers, public sector, industry, civil society organisations</p> <p>End-users in the consortium with a clear deployment plan and actions inside the project</p>	<p>Depends on WP amendment</p>
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7	Mobilisation of citizens at EU level	Possibility for the Commission provide a patronage to other initiatives such as the pan-European Hackathon which will be organised through a coalition with the organisers of the hackathons held in Estonia, Finland, Austria, NL, Ireland, France, Spain and Italy.	To shorten the time to deployment of innovative solutions developed by startups and makers. Innovators will be able to leverage the work already done by other innovators in Europe instead of starting from scratch or redoing the work done already by other innovators. To provide information to hospitals and public administrations on the existing solutions in other Member States.	Startups, makers and innovators in general	Very short term: - 3 weeks for the pan European Hackathon driven by ecosystems players.
B) Creating the 'framework' conditions for researchers					
8	Access to Research Infrastructures (RIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repurposing existing grants to Research Infrastructure projects - Extra funding to Horizon 2020 ongoing projects providing vital COVID-19 services - Information on relevant services provided by RIs to be gathered (via ESFRI and relevant H2020 funded projects) to be presented on relevant Platforms (EOSC, ESFRI, ERA Corona). 	The availability of the services provided by RIs (analytical facilities, biological samples, reagents, pathogen labs, regulatory support etc.) and of the data they hold (e.g. for the re-testing of raw data) is vital for researchers working on COVID 19. New services and datasets are being brought on stream and it is important to match supply and demand across borders.	Researchers	Repurposing and extra funding is ongoing; information on available services will be provided on the EOSC and other Platforms as each is are up and running (see already the ERF site: https://erf-aisbl.eu/research-infrastructures-offer-for-research-on-covid-19/) and will be continuously updated.

9	Coordination of clinical trials: NEW European 'virtual clinical trial network'	<p>Coordination of EU and Member States efforts around two large-scale multi-centric clinical trials for testing COVID-19 treatment and vaccines, i.e. REMAP-CAP and DISCOVERY – and creates a virtual clinical trial network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospital research sites from all MS can participate in the same trial, throughout Europe. All sites to use the same standard protocol, collecting data in a harmonised manner, which results in comparable data. - The network set up to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include IMI funded trials ▪ guarantee easy inclusion of new compounds to be tested, e.g. outcome of newly funded COVID-19 projects, outcomes of IMI funded projects, ▪ Include DG SANTE supported convalescent plasma treatment, etc. - The network of research sites can also be used for vaccine trials. 	<p>Coordination will guarantee a sufficient number of patients, increasing the potential for strong and conclusive results, supporting the evidence base on therapeutic approaches to COVID-19.</p> <p>MS can contribute to either of these or both, adding hospital research sites.</p>	<p>Researchers</p>	<p>Dependent on update of WP – within next 2 weeks: to be discussed with MS through PC to check whether they can pre-agree.</p>
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10	Research data sharing for SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19	<p>Establishment of European data exchange platform for SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 related information exchange, connected to the EOSC.</p> <p>The Commission services are working with the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) to create a European research data exchange platform on the virus/disease to allow the research community to share and access relevant data faster (including raw research data and other research output such as protocols and workflows). This scales up ongoing efforts by EMBL and ELXIR (the European research infrastructure for life science information) on the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).</p>	<p>To quickly share research data and speed up research. researchers should be required to provide immediate and full OA and to share research outcomes (data, models, workflows, results) in real time by researchers and research organisations so as to accelerate discovery.</p>	<p>Researchers and innovators</p>	<p>Initial deployment of the platform is expected within a month, supported by EMBL's operational management. The platform shall link to other European/national/community data platforms as well as complement other platforms for knowledge exchange for instance towards health practitioners, clinicians or policy makers.</p>
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