Frequently Asked Questions: Work Programme 2024

Last updated February 2024

Please note :This document only covers topics under Work Programme 2024 and <u>does not</u> provide information on calls for proposals under Work Programme 2023 (including the 2023 two-stage calls with a deadline of 3 April 2024)

What is the deadline to apply to the topics under Work Programme 2024?

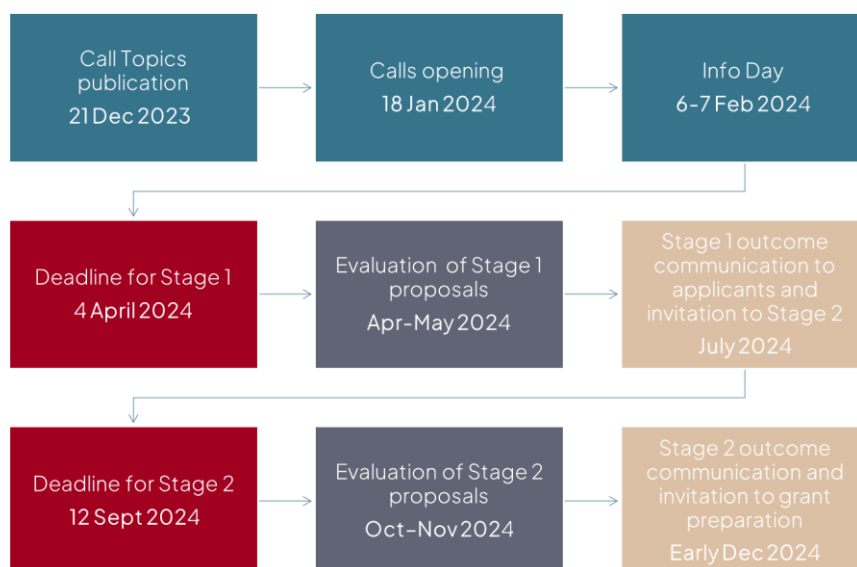There are two separate deadlines to apply for two-stage topics. The deadline dates are:

- 04 April 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time
- 17 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

After the first deadline (4 April 2024) an evaluation will be carried out and only selected proposals will be asked to submit a subsequent full proposal by the second deadline (17 September 2024).

What does a 'two-stage' call imply? What is the timeline for the whole procedure?

Global Health EDCTP3 calls may be subject either to a single-stage submission procedure or a two-stage submission procedure. Under Work Programme 2024, all calls follow a two-stage procedure.

In stage 1, applicants are requested to submit only an outline application which will be evaluated against only two award criteria: 'Excellence' and 'Impact'. After the closure of the first stage, proposals are evaluated by independent experts. The number of proposals admitted to stage 2 will be as close as possible to three times the available budget. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application for stage 2 by the second deadline. These proposals will be evaluated against the full set of award criteria ('Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Implementation').

Can changes be made to proposals that were submitted to Stage 1 and that were invited to submit a full proposal to Stage 2?

Certain changes, such as changes in consortium composition (including the coordinator) are allowed between stage 1 and stage 2 submission.

The full proposal submitted to stage 2 must be consistent with the outline proposal submitted to stage 1 and may not differ substantially (i.e. obvious change concerning a substantial part of the proposed project) — otherwise it will be inadmissible. The aim of this rule is to ensure fair and equal treatment of competing proposals. It should prevent applicants from deliberately setting out false promises in the first stage that are not reflected in their second stage proposals.

The evaluation of (full) proposals during Stage 2 is independent from the evaluation of the outline proposals submitted to Stage 1. All three criteria are re-evaluated for every full proposal submitted.

What is the expected duration of projects?

There is no predefined maximum duration of the project. Applicants are free to propose a duration that optimally matches the expected outcomes, scope and budget of the topic they plan to apply to.

Can proposals request higher or lower budgets than the expected budget per project mentioned during the Info day sessions?

For each topic under Work Programme 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 has estimated an indicative amount that would allow the outcomes of the topic to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

Can proposals applying for Global Health EDCTP3 calls also require funding from other sources for the same proposal?

Other sources of funding are not a requirements: proposals can by fully funded by Global Health EDCTP3 grants. If additional funding from other sources are to be sought or have been obtained, this needs to be described in the proposal. The consortium must explain how this additional necessary funding will be ensured.

Is the involvement of a small or medium-sized (SME) pharmaceutical company viewed more favourably than that of a large pharmaceutical company?

SMEs as well as large companies are welcome within proposed consortia. Independent experts will evaluate the proposals and will assess the role of the consortium partners, including possible industry partners. They will thereby focus on what the partners contribute to the consortium, the proposed activities, and their impact.

Are there specific conditions for certain topics?

Yes. There are specific conditions and rules to be followed for each topic. Please check the Funding and Tenders portal and search for "EDCTP" or check our Calls for proposals page.

What are the target diseases of Global Health EDCTP3?

Target diseases as specified in Global Health EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda include: HIV, TB, malaria, neglected infectious diseases (NIDs), diarrhoeal diseases, lower respiratory tract infections, and emerging/re-emerging infections affecting sub-Saharan Africa.

This also includes antimicrobial resistance, climate crisis-provoked changes in infectious disease incidence, and co-infections and co-morbidities.

Each topic under Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programme 2024 may specify which diseases are included in the scope of such topic. Please check the topic description and conditions for the topic you wish to apply to in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

What are the Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) considered under Global Health EDCTP3?

NIDs in the scope of the Global Health EDCTP3 include: Buruli ulcer, dengue and chikungunya, dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease), echinococcosis, foodborne trematodiases, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), leishmaniases, leprosy (Hansen disease), lymphatic filariasis, mycetoma, onchocerciasis (river blindness), rabies, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiases, taeniasis/cysticercosis, trachoma, and yaws.

Global Health EDCTP3's remit will not cover chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses, scabies and other ectoparasites, and snakebite envenoming.

Each topic under the Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programme 2024 may specify which diseases are included in the scope of such topic. Please check the topic description and conditions for the topic you wish to apply to in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

What are the emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases considered under Global Health EDCTP3?

Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with epidemic or pandemic potential included in the scope of Global Health EDCTP3 include those in the World Health Organization's list of priority diseases. This list can be found here. This list is non-exhaustive. Other mosquito-borne diseases with epidemic potential that are endemic to Africa will also be considered, including Dengue virus, West Nile fever virus and Chikungunya virus. Please also refer to Global Health EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for information on emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases (Section 7.8).

Each topic under the Global Health EDCTP3 Work Programme 2024 may specify which diseases are included in the scope of such topic. Please check the topic description and conditions for the topic you wish to apply to in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

Who evaluates proposals submitted to funding from Global Health EDCTP3?

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking will appoint external independent experts to carry out the evaluation of grant applications. A conflict of interest exercise is carried out before starting the

evaluation procedure. If you are interested in being an expert, please register at Funding & Tenders Portal, under the section on 'Work as an expert'.

What entities can be coordinators of the projects? What role does the scientific project leader have?

Legal entities established in an EU Member State or an associated country to Horizon Europe can be coordinators of projects. As regards entities from other third countries, only those established in a third country that has concluded a bilateral science and technology (S&T) agreement with the EU can be assigned as (financial) coordinator of a project in the sense of Article 7 of the MGA..
For the moment, South Africa is the only SSA member of the EDCTP Association with a S&T agreement with the EU. See more on this here.

To ensure that all partners in the funded consortia, including sub-Saharan African entities, have equal opportunities to lead the scientific work of the project, the Governing Board of the Global Health EDCTP3 has adopted a new approach that would establish a "Scientific Project Leader" within each consortium. If the coordinator is not established in a country in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the designation of a scientific project leader established in a SSA country member of the EDCTP Association will be mandatory. A work package on 'scientific project leadership' must be included.

Tasks of the Scientific Project Leader could include:
- Acting as the key contact point for the GH EDCTP3 JU alongside the coordinator on scientific governance & leadership actions including external communication

- Monitoring that the scientific tasks are implemented properly

- Collaborating with the coordinator on the project monitoring and the adoption of appropriate internal measures to ensure that beneficiaries are fulfilling their obligations

What is the minimum number of legal entities needed for a proposal to be eligible?

To be eligible for funding, the consortium must be comprised of at least three legal entities established in different countries, where legal entities are eligible to receive funding, including:
- At least one independent legal entity established in an EU Member State or an Associated Country
- At least one independent legal entity established in a sub-Saharan African country that is a member of the EDCTP Association

Which countries are eligible to apply for funding under Global Health EDCTP3?

According to Article 110 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, funding from the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking is restricted to legal entities established in Member States or associated countries or in the constituent states of the EDCTP Association.

EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
Associated countries to Horizon Europe can be found here.

Constituent states of the EDCTP Association that are not Member States or associated countries currently are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

A number of non-EU/non-Associated Countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for making funding available for their participants in Horizon Europe projects. See the information in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide.

Why is the list of countries automatically eligible for funding different for Global Health EDCTP3 JU in comparison to Horizon Europe calls?

Article 17(2) Horizon Europe Regulation provides that 'In duly justified cases, funding bodies may depart from the rules (including the ones of the legal entities eligible for funding), (…), if: (a) such a departure is provided for in the basic act setting up the funding body or entrusting budget implementation tasks to it…'.

Such a departure of the rules in the case of the GH EDCTP3 on legal entities eligible for funding is provided for in Article 110(1) of the Council Regulation 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings (and the Global Health EDCTP3 JU): 'In accordance with Article 17(2) of the Horizon Europe Regulation and by derogation from Article 23(1) thereof, funding from the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking shall be restricted to legal entities established in Member States or associated countries or in the constituent states of the EDCTP Association. Exceptionally and if provided for in the work programme, entities established in other states may be eligible for funding from the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking in specific call topics or in the event of a call addressing a public health emergency'
This eligibility rule for the Global Health EDCTP3 was introduced in the legal text to incentivise participation in the partnership (see Recital 72 of Council Regulation 2021/2085) .

Are Third countries (e.g. US, Japan) partners eligible for funding under Global Health EDCTP3?

The Third countries' partners are in principle not eligible for funding and therefore those institutions have to participate at their own cost.

As for any other participant from countries not eligible for funding, they can however receive exceptional funding, if the granting authority considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project, for example in view of their:

- outstanding competence/expertise;
- access to particular research infrastructures;
- access to particular geographical environments;
- access to particular data.

The Work Programme can make legal entities eligible, in countries where they are normally not eligible for funding under a given call. There is no such case in the 2024 Work Programme. The restriction on eligibility for funding also does not apply in calls addressing a public health emergency. Again, the 2024 Work Programme does not contain such topics.

For legal entities that are established in countries that are not automatically eligible for funding, when is the deadline for the corresponding country to be part of the EDCTP Association to be able to apply for the current open calls for proposals?

Countries can apply to be a partner in the EDCTP Association at any point in time. However, for legal entities to be eligible for funding under the 2024 calls for proposals their respective country must be a member of the EDCTP Association by the time of grant agreement signature at the latest (usually 2 to 3 months after call closure).

For further information on the process of joining the EDCTP Assocation please consult this page.

Please note that even if not eligible for funding, participation in a project is open to any legal entity established in any country, except Russia and Belorussia.

Can the UK legal entities be eligible for funding under Global Health EDCTP3? Can a UK entity be coordinator of a Global Health EDCTP3 project? Could a project that includes a partner from the UK but not EU Member State partners be eligible for funding?

As of 01 January 2024, the UK is an Associated country of Horizon Europe. As such, legal entities established in the UK are eligible for funding and can be coordinators of such projects.

As described in separate question (above), to be eligible for funding, the consortium must be comprised of at least three legal entities established in different countries, where legal entities are eligible to receive funding, including at least one independent legal entity established in an EU Member State or an Associated Country (such as the UK) and at least one independent legal entity established in a sub-Saharan African country that is a member of the EDCTP Association. This means that a consortium composed of 1 partner from the UK and 2 partners (or more) from sub-Saharan African States members of the EDCTP Association would be eligible for funding.

If Switzerland provides the funds for a Swiss participant in a Global Health EDCTP3 project, could the Swiss participant be the coordinator of such project?

According to article 110(1) of the Council Regulation 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings, as Switzerland is not a Member State, associated country nor a constituent state of the EDCTP Association, and as none of the specific call topics exceptionally allow for Swiss entities to be eligible, they cannot be eligible for funding. Therefore they cannot be considered as beneficiaries, including coordinators in Global Health EDCTP3 projects. However, Swiss legal entities can still participate in calls as associated partners.

Is there a match-making platform available to find partners to compose a consoritum to apply for these calls?

Global Health EDCTP3 does not currently have a platform for potential partners to connect and collaborate. However, the Funding and Tenders Portal of the European Commission (where all Global Health EDCTP3 calls for proposals are published) has a 'Partner search' tab where organisations can register to provide services and to look for potential partners for projects.

What are contributing partners and how are they involved in these calls for proposals?

A contributing partner can be any country, international organisation or legal entity, other than a member of the Joint Undertaking, that supports the objectives of the programme. Contributing partners can contribute through in-kind contributions to operational activities (by performing tasks under a project without being fully reimbursed for their eligible costs) or through financial contributions.

Under Work Programme 2024, topic *HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2024-02-01-two-stage: Global Health EDCTP3 JU training fellowship with return phase* foresees a particular role for contributing partners. Contributing Indusry partners are expected to join at the second stage and co-write the full proposal to be submitted for the second-stage evaluation. Beside the co-delivery of training, these partners will provide in-kind and/or cash contribution to the project.

What is the difference between the EDCTP Association and the bodies of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking?

The EDCTP Association, together with the European Union, is a founding member of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. The EDCTP Association, representing its European and African member countries, and the European Commission, representing the European Union, are in the Global Health EDCTP3 Governing Board of the Joint Undertaking which is the main decision-making body.

Other bodies of Global Health EDCTP3 provide input, such asscientific advice (Scientific Committee) and other sectors views (Stakeholders Committee)..

Other partners (contributing partners) can join on 'ad hoc basis' on concrete calls for proposals to have synergies (e.g. philanthropies, industry, other third countries).

For further information about the EDCTP Association please check their website.