

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

1st Stakeholders Group meeting

3 March 2023

Attendance: Stakeholders Representation: AMR Action Fund (Patel Deepali M.); ECDC (Van der Werf Marieke); Future Africa Institute (Mistry Neeraj); IAVI (Chinyenze Kudai V.); Medicines for Africa (Hwenda Lenias); TB Alliance (Olugbosi Morounfolu Oluyakode); University of Amsterdam (Cobelens Franck); **EDCTP 3 JU:** Elmar Nimmesgern; Lydia Boudarène; Aleksandra Conversano; Claudia Gutierrez Arbizu; Jean-Marie Habarugira; Julia Molto Lopez; Florin Patras. **Apologies:** PATH (Nabiryo Christine); GLOPID-R (Hagen Hans-Eckhardt); Rwanda Biomedical Centre (Muvunyi Claude)

EDCTP3 and Stakeholders Group objectives

Following a round of introductions of each member of the Stakeholders Group (SG), the policy framework and objectives of EDCTP3 were described. Building on the success of EDCTP and EDCTP 2 and aligned with the EU-Africa agenda and SDG3, the council regulation [Council Regulation 2021/2085](#) sets two **general objectives of the GH ECTP3 JU** (a) to contribute to the **reduction of the socioeconomic burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa** by promoting the development and uptake of new or improved **health technologies**; (b) to contribute to the **increase of health security in sub-Saharan Africa** and globally by stressing the research and innovation-based **capacities for preparedness and response** to control infectious diseases.

The Stakeholders group is one of the four bodies of the joint undertaking. Participation is **open to all public and private stakeholders** from Member States, associated countries or other countries and aims to balance representation in terms of geographical distribution, gender, sector and areas of expertise. The Executive director is to convene the SG meetings and may advise the governing board to consult the SG on specific questions.

The SG will be regularly informed of the activities of EDCTP3 and shall be invited to provide comments on planned initiatives, notably to provide inputs to the EDCTP Forum, to the scientific, strategic and technological priorities to be addressed by EDCTP 3 and provide suggestions to enable concrete synergies with other sectors.

It was clarified during the call that **participation to the SG does not preclude its members to from participating in other initiatives** or research programmes or funding. Legal confirmation will be sought **and confirmation of the exact legal framework will be shared** in due time.

Update on the EDCTP3 JU establishment

The joint undertaking is still under the formal responsibility of the European Commission, with an interim Executive director. The staff is being recruited with 11 staff members in place with further recruitments expected in the upcoming 2-3 months. The permanent executive director is to be nominated by September/October.

The **first calls were launched in 2022 (for about Eur 100M)** with 1 grant already signed and 27 further grants under preparation. **The calls for 2023 are about to be launched for around EUR 130M.** The draft work programme is available on [TEAMS](#). Info days are being organised. Clarification was provided on the need to recruit a new team for each joint undertaking as operations cannot be transferred from EDCTP2, under Dutch law to EDCTP 3 as joint undertaking, which is under an EU overarching legal framework. The two will co-exist as EDCTP2 secretariat will exist until 2026 for the follow-up of ongoing programmes.

EDCTP Forum

The EDCTP forum occurs every two years and aims to provide a platform for the presentation, discussion of clinical studies, trials and research in emerging infectious diseases and poverty related diseases. It is prone to increase collaboration. This year session will be in **Paris from 7th to 10th November** under the theme **“Partnering for global health research, innovation impact in Africa”**. 600 participants are expected. The programme is not set yet and inputs will be requested to the SG through the scientific programme committee. **The EDCTP forum prizes** are also proposed. This year, four prizes will be awarded, with a **deadline for abstract submission on [3rd of May](#) and deadline for [nomination of prizes on 31st of May](#)**.

The need for a strong scientific component and clear communication on the establishment of EDCTP3 and its continuity with EDCTP2. The last Forum programme is available on [TEAMS](#). It was clarified that all EDCTP2 projects will be invited to present their work but call for abstracts and participation are open to all, beyond EDCTP. Symposia will be organised by any interested organisation during the Forum, bringing scientific content beyond research and abstracts. This can bring ideas to collect inputs for the future strategy. Further information will be shared as received by the Forum organisation committees.

Modus operandi

Agreement was reached to **nominate two SG representatives** to participate to the EDCTP Forum organisation. The EDCTP Forum is the first topic of collaboration with the SG. **An overview of other inputs expected by the SG will be provided as tasks and timelines are clarified.** This will then ease the planning and frequency of meetings, which can be adapted to the needs, the level of engagement.

It was suggested to agree on indicators on which the SG can report on: thematic areas for disease issue, gender representation on proposals, geographic representation...**The nomination of a chair/deputy chair** for the group was put forward and will be organised in the coming days. Agreement to set-up a TEAMS group was reached.

Expansion of the SG

A second expression of interest will be launched to expand the capacity of the group. 45 applications received for the 1st round, but majority of self-representation rather than a group of interest. A 2nd call for interest could focus on the **gaps identified** (representation of specific areas and a targeted call) or the fulfilment of representation of **specific groups of stakeholders**. A proposal was made to complete the group through self-nomination, nomination by others and by identifying specific organisations to be represented if legal base allows. The need for CSO representation was highlighted. The need for identification of a matrix of what we want to achieve and how do we want to define and measure success of this group was stressed. The second call for expression could be tailored to the identified needs.

Next steps

A TEAMS group will be set-up, meeting slides, read-out, EDCTP Forum concept note and regulation will be uploaded on TEAMS. Follow-up on the nomination of SG representatives to the Forum will follow by email.