Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Report on activities and achievements in 2023

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1. Summary Activities in 2023

- Constituted in 2022, the Scientific Committee is the scientific advisory body of the Global Health EDCTP3 JU. The Committee is currently composed of 18 members coming from Europe and Africa, including a Chair (Professor John Gyapong) and a Vice-Chair (Professor Marleen Temmerman).

- Since its establishment, the Committee has been assisting the Global Health EDCTP JU in the design of the strategic and scientific activities, including the priorities to be addressed by the calls for proposals.

- In the course of 2023, Scientific Committee met twice: on 30-31 May 2023 in Brussels, Belgium (and online) for its Third Meeting, and 7 November 2023 in Paris, France (and online) for its Fourth Meeting.

- In May 2023, at the Third Scientific Committee Meeting, a discussion took place during a hybrid meeting about the research priorities to be addressed by the 2024 work programme. More details on the discussions and conclusions from the Third Scientific Committee Meeting are provided as Annex 2.1 (*Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee*)

- The Fourth Scientific Committee Meeting, also hybrid, took place on 7 November 2023, alongside the 11th EDCTP Forum, with attendees present in Paris. More details on the discussions and conclusions from the Fourth Scientific Committee Meeting are provided as Annex 2 2 (*Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee*)

- During these meetings and further online interaction, SC Members have actively contributed to the prioritisation process for the 2024 Work Programme, considering previous investments made through the 2022 Work Programme and the expected outcome from the 2023 Work Programme.

- Prior to the 7 Nov 2023 meeting, through online interactions, all 18 SC Members actively contributed to the prioritisation process for the 2024 WP.

- The SC Chair attended the Governing Board meeting of 7 Nov 2023 (Paris) as final deliberations proceeded.

- Prior to submission of the 2024 Work Programme to the Governing Board for Approval, the Scientific Committee was consulted on the final content and on the EDCTP Association Members Additional Activities Plan annexed to the Work Programme.

- At its Fourth Meeting, the Scientific Committee had a one-hour joint session with the Stakeholders Group to discuss and align their work on:

1) Tasks of the **Scientific Committee** (Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 **Art 21 & 108**) include:

- Assist in the design of the strategic and scientific planning of the activities of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
- Advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programmes including on scope of calls for proposals, in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation agenda and the Horizon Europe strategic planning.
- Provide independent advice and scientific analysis on specific issues.

2) Tasks of the **Stakeholders Group** (Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 **Art 22 & 109**) include:

- Providing input on the scientific, strategic, and technological priorities to be addressed by the Global Health EDCTP3 JU
- Providing suggestions to enable concrete synergies to take place between the Global Health EDCTP3 JU and the adjacent sectors or any sectors with which synergies will be deemed of added value.
- Providing input to the EDCTP Forum

At the Joint session, the two bodies agreed that further meetings will involve the Chair of each group joining as observer the meeting of the other, to ensure a streamlined and complementary generation of advice to the Joint Undertaking.

2. REPORT ANNEXES

2.1. Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee

30-31 May 2023

White Atrium – Avenue de la Toison 56-60 – 1060 Brussels, Belgium

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the Third Scientific Committee meeting was 1) to advise on the **scientific priorities to be addressed for the work programme 2024** (WP2024) of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) and the **scope of calls for proposals, and 2) to d**iscuss and advise on **any other themes the Scientific Committee would like to address**, considering its mandate and tasks as defined in the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe

This was the Third meeting of the GH EDCTP3 Scientific Committee (SC) with majority of the members attending in person and other members joining online.

 A *tour-de-table* was held. Two members SC having resigned in 2022, the GH EDCTP3 informed the SC that 2 members have been appointed. One of the 2 new members joined the meeting. The SC meeting was chaired by Professor Gyapong chaired the proceedings.

All SC members including the new appointed members have signed a conflict-of-interest declaration when joining the Global Health EDCTP3 Scientific Committee.

2. Agenda Items

The 2-day meeting agenda included the following sessions:

1) Welcome, Agenda Adoption
2) Follow up Actions from the August 2022 Meeting
3) Updates 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes (WPs)
4) Update and Discussion on Strategic Content Developments
5) Research areas still to be addressed.
6) Recap Day
7) 2022 SC Annual Report
8) The EDCTP bi-annual Forum
9) Working Groups
10) Planning for the next meeting

3. Summary – updates, discussions and agreed actions

Welcome and Agenda Adoption

After a brief welcome address by a representative of the GH EDCTP3 Secretariat (SEC), the Scientific Committee Chair (SC Chair) opened the meeting and gave the opportunity for a tour de table to get to know each other, as some SC members are meeting for the first time and the new SEC team is also growing. The SC Chair proceeded with the agenda adoption. All members present in person and online adopted the proposed agenda without further changes.

Follow up Actions from the August 2022 Meeting

After unanimous adoption of the agenda, the meeting proceeded with a follow up on Actions that emanate from the second SC meeting held in August 2022.

First, the SEC gave a presentation on the "Role and tasks as defined by Council Regulation 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. After the presentation, the SC Chair opened the floor a gave time for questions and discussion. Most questions were on issues that are not yet fully clear, especially on the relation between different governing bodies. The SEC legal officer addressed the SC members questions and confirmed his availability for any further clarification during and after the meeting.

Second, the SEC presented the GH EDCTP3 SC Decision N° SC 01/2023, adopted in March 2023, amending Decision SC 01/2022 on the Rules of Procedure (RoP). It was clarified that following a written procedure launched by the SEC in December 2022, a majority of SC members approved the proposed amendment allowing additions of specific paragraphs to Article 3 of the SC's rules of procedure. The added paragraphs provide the SC with the possibility to appoint a permanent observer from the World Health Organisation for a maximum duration of three years. SEC further presented the GH EDCTP3 SC Decision N° SC 02/2023, adopted in March 2023, establishing SC Working Groups. Through the same above-mentioned written procedure, a majority of SC members approved the proposed decision to establish the following Working Groups (WGs): a WG on **Ethics and Data Sciences** and a WG on **Gender Equality and Community Engagement.** An extensive discussion was held on the scope of the two

groups. SC members proposed revising the names of the second group. Later in groups discussion (see session on WG discussion) it was proposed change the name from "Gender Equality and Community Engagement" to "**gender and Diversity**".

Actions:

- SEC to prepare amendment of GH EDCTP3 SC Decision N° SC 02/2023 to capture the change of the WG name
- SC to adopt the amended version of GH EDCTP3 SC Decision N° SC 02/2023

Fourth, the SEC reminded the SC of the obligation to submit an annual report on its activities in 2022. An outline of the draft report was presented, and SC members were invited to comment and activities to be added if any missed.

Actions:

- SEC to share the draft report for final edits
- SC members to make final edits
- SC chair to submit the report to the Governing Board

Fifth, the relations and interactions with the Stakeholders Group were discussed. SC members welcomed the SG Chair who was invited as an observer as a start of what will become regular communication and exchanges between two groups. SC members agreed that such regular exchanges will be instrumental to a fruitful functioning of the two bodies. It was agreed that meeting will be aligned to allow exchange of documents and two-way input.

Actions:

- SC and SG Chair to invite each other to meetings of their respective group/committee
- SEC to coordinate with SC and SG Chair to organise (if possible) a joint meeting to be at the 11th EDCTP Forum in Paris.

Updates 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes (WPs)

The SEC gave an update on 2022 WP, with informative data Calls process and output. Starting with an outline of the GH EDCTP3 diseases scope, the SEC presented an overview of the 5 call topics launched as part of the 2022 WP:

1) Promoting implementation of research results into policy and practice (RIA, EUR 38 million)
2) Implementing adaptive platform trials (RIA, EUR 30 million)
3) Genomic epidemiology (RIA, EUR 22 million)
4) Creating a sustainable clinical trial network (CSA, EUR 1 million)
5) Strengthening regulatory capacity for supporting conduct of clinical trials (CSA, EUR 5 million)

The two first RIA call topics have generated projects in the area of malaria, HIV, TB, Soil-transmitted helminths, Human African trypanosomiasis, Neurocysticercosis, onchocerciasis, loiasis, mansonellosis and trichuriasis, sepsis in infants and neonates, antimicrobial resistance, Lassa Fever. The projects in the first call are largely implementation research on existing intervention, especially under the first call, while the second call on adaptive platforms includes research on novel and repurposed products.

The third call generated innovative projects that will enable expansion of genomic epidemiology across several sub-Saharan African Countries using existing surveillance of emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, HIV and TB.

The fourth topic has generated a project that will seek to map and re-coordinate existing clinical research networks across Africa.

The fifth topic has led to projects on ethics and regulatory affairs looking at sub-regional capacity strengthening rather than keeping a focus just within national boundaries.

Updating the SC on the call topics under the 2024 WP, the SEC highlighted the diseases areas to be potentially (eligible) covered by future projects:

1) Under the "*Global Health EDCTP3 Training Networks*" call topic, proposals can focus on any disease in the GH EDCTP3 scope
2) The call topic on "*Funding to successfully finalise EDCTP2-funded clinical trials that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (RIA)*" will focus on 23 pre-identified clinical studies funded by EDCTP2 covering malaria, Onchocerciasis, leprosy, typhoid infection, TB/HIV and other areas in EDCTP2 scope.
3) This call on "*Implementation research/real life assessment of existing interventions in women and children's health (RIA)*" is restricted to HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, bacterial infections (especially those where AMR is an issue), sepsis and lower respiratory tract infections.
4) The call on "*Research to rapidly evaluate interventions on Ebola outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa (RIA)*" will logically focus on Ebola
5) The fifth topic is a repeat of the "Ethics and Regulatory *capacity*" call
6) The sixth call topic on "Improving modes of delivery, deployment, and uptake of vaccines through phase IV/implementation research (RIA)" will accept proposal on any disease in GH EDCTP3 scope
7) The seventh call topic on "Advancing point-of-care diagnostics to the market (RIA)" will accept all diseases in GH EDCTP3 scope, except Ebola.

Update and Discussion on Strategic Content Developments

SEC presented several ongoing discussions with potential contributing partners interested in Join investment. As these are still in early phase of discussion, it was agreed that SC will be kept informed so that it can strategically and timely advise on the research priorities. SEC indicated that in some of the ongoing discussions, the SC chair was invited and where needed, this conversation will involve the Chair who will join and contribute on behalf of the SC. An important highlight was on the joint GH EDCTP3-BMGF genomic epidemiology consortia which are in the process of grant agreement finalisation

Further, SEC briefly mentioned several relevant projects and initiatives supported by other EU agencies and directorates (e.g. DG Research and Innovation), and indicated that where possible GH EDCTP3 will be exploring joint strategic investment with similar organisations such INTPA

Research areas still to be addressed and key priority areas for 2024 WP

Kicking off the discussion on areas still to be addressed in 2024 WP onwards, the SEC highlighted the following facts and guiding references:

- Total EU funding available for the calls for proposals in 2024 is approx. EUR 140 M. Final allocation will be decided by the Governing Board which will consider the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.
- The scientific priorities listed in the GH EDCTP3 SRIA are to be addressed over the lifetime of GH EDCTP3 JU and should be spread across years and topics in different annual WPs.
- The WP2024 should not address areas that were already addressed in WP2022 and 2023 unless the SC strongly recommends specific areas for reconsideration
- As WP2023 did not have topics addressing specifically Climate crisis-related infections and antimicrobial resistance, the SC should advise on the best ways address these areas in WP2024 or later.
- In addition to the different priority disease areas, the Scientific Committee could consider transversal areas, in line with the specific objectives of the GH EDCTP3 SRIA such as research capacity development, including new types of Fellowships or other schemes like the Training Networks in 2023 WP.
- In the 2022 Work Programme, there was no dedicated call topics on HIV, TB, or Malaria. However, several proposals selected from the 2022 Calls include HIV, TB or Malaria in their scope, but it should be noted that most of them are in Implementation Research. In addition, projects covering these areas are expected from the from 2023 WP Call Topics (e.g. calls on vaccines, COVID-19-affected EDCTP2-funded projects, diagnostics, maternal and child health)

To focus the discussion on potential priority areas for WP 2024, research areas or topics were grouped as follows:

1) HIV, TB, Malaria
2) Climate crisis-related infections
3) Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs)
4) Antimicrobial Resistance One Health
5) Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTIs)
6) Diarrheal diseases (DD)
7) Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs)
8) Fellowships (new types or Training networks)
9) Framing the 'Global Health' in the GH EDCTP3 Scope
10) Other areas

After extensive exchange on the above-listed categories, having in mind the activities supported by WP2022 and to be potentially supported under WP2023:

- SC members agreed that the SRIA requires some revisions to clarify the inclusions of the co-infections are inevitably part of the **HIV** research questions. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) were highlight as an example of an area that must be clearly expressed in the scope of HIV call topics. While this would be a key reason to amend the SRIA, it was advised that is the SRIA undergoes a revision, the wording in the HIV section of the SRIA should be carefully revisited to ensure a clear mention of the co-infections affecting HIV patients.
- On **Tuberculosis**, it was highlighted that GH EDCTP3 should not lose the momentum in the vaccine R&D, including the promising candidates supported by EDCTP2. Ongoing discussions with potential contributing partners should seek to advance the field further based on the EDCTP2 Global TB Vaccines R&D Roadmap which was commissioned by EDCTP2 (see full Version of the Roadmap).
- On **Malaria**, SC members made a recommendation to align priorities with the Malaria elimination plan 2030, including opportunities efforts to register new vaccines and measures to counter the growing resistance
- Under the "**Climate crisis-related infections**" category, SC members took note of the article shared ahead of the meeting and highlighted a few areas that may be relevance to GH EDCTP3. SC members indicated that this a new area where in-house (with SC) expertise may be limited, and if necessary, a specialists meeting or consultation may be required at some stage to advice on research priority matters in this area. SC members commented that extreme weather conditions have an impact on **vector-borne diseases** and advise on exploring the possibility of a topic that focuses on **vector control** and future innovative mechanisms for surveillance of Rodent-borne diseases and tick-transmitted diseases. SC members advised on the need to investigate cross cutting issues between climate crisis and emerging infectious diseases.
- **Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) –** SC members agreed that **NIDs** are a large group of diseases that require a focussed analysis of currently unmet needs. It was highlighted that the already signed or under preparation grant agreements have addressed a few NIDs in Implementation Research, but more investment is required in areas where products under development can be pushed towards registration.
- In the area of **Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRTIs),** SC members noted the impact of LRTIs across all age groups and increasingly in the elderly but agreed that morality is still a major issue among infants. Therefore, the focus of future calls should be children and infants but research ideas focussing on health in the elderly will not be excluded from the scope.

- While this category was not discussed at length, it was noted that **Diarrheal diseases (DDs)** are still a heavy burden, especially on the children and infants.
- In relation to **Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs)**, a link was made with the Climate crisis-related infectious diseases, indicating a need to tailor call topics to cross cutting strategic investment in surveillance and preparedness in the context of One Health.
- On **Fellowships**, the SC emphasised that new types of Fellowships or repeated schemes like the 2023 Training networks, especially in discussion with potential contributing partners, should consider lessons learnt from EDCTP2-funded Fellowships and their impact over time in developing the clinical research capacity across sub-Saharan Africa. Seen as backbone of clinical research capacity building, Fellowships should stay as priority in GH EDCTP3, and SEC should continue exploring ways to tailor fellowships to the career need of potential fellows and retention options in home countries of skilled researchers.
- In the context of **framing the 'Global Health' in the GH EDCTP3 Scope,** SC members agreed that when the SRIA enters a revision round, those involved will have the opportunity to ensure there is clarification of what global health means in the context of social aspects that affect the control of infectious diseases.
- **Other areas** discussed included the **Networks of Excellence** in the context of a continuous support for clinical research capacity strengthening. SC members expressed their support for the concept of a long-term vision for the networks of Excellence but also highlighted concerns of the potential risks of funding again the same including those that did perform well in the past. The idea of opening space for new consortia, especially a new type of superregional network that can unite the regional silos. An important highlight was the recently signed CTCAN which is aiming to address the same issue of silos by pulling together all existing and relevant networks.
- Further, it was noted that **Implementation research** has been a major focus area for the 2022 and 2023 WP, enabling GH EDCTP3 to address a range of diseases areas including several NTDs. It has been agreed that implementation research should not be prioritized in 2024 as it has been relatively well covered by the 2022 and 2023 WPs. An important advice from the SC is to develop a set of **impact indicators** that the GH EDCTP3 will use to assess the impact of these important IR projects in the coming years.

Revision of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda – timing and rationale for revisions

Regarding the revision of the SRIA, SC members agreed to prepare a draft note on the rationale for proposing a revision. The note which will lead to a white paper will be drafted via a shared

Teams document which will be discussed and finalised and discussed in a brief online meeting that will take place outside the framework of meetings described in the SC members contracts.

2022 SC Annual Report

A draft of the annual report for the SC activities in 2022 was shared with the SC members prior to the meeting. The main components were the minutes of the 1st and 2nd SC meeting held in March and August 2022, respectively. The draft report was discussed, and SC members were asked to comment suggest edits. One SC member indicated that the summary does not accurately capture comments sent in November 2022, in response to the request to review the draft minutes of the August 2023 SC meeting. The GH EDCTP3 SEC confirmed that all comments were considered and promised to have another look at the comment and asse the need to re-edit.

The SEC reminded the SC members of the obligation of publish SC meeting reports and annual reports on the GH EDCTP3 Website, and emphasised on the need to review the report, keeping in mind that it is a document which will go in the public domain.

The SEC and SC agreed to work on an expedited process to finalise the report with the aim of submitting it to the Board by end of June 2023.

As this is the first report, the draft was produced by the SEC, but it was agreed that going forward, the drafting of the SC annual report will be a task of the SC. The SC Chair will agree with SC members on the process of drafting and finalising the report. The SEC will ensure all necessary and available data are timely provided to the SC.

The EDCTP bi-annual Forum

This session was proposed to discuss and gather input for the 2023 EDCTP Forum, and to discuss ways forward in the implementation of the next fora as of 2025 onwards.

The SEC presented the latest draft agenda of the 11th EDCTP Forum, taking place in Paris in Nov 2023, and recalled the historical background of this bi-annual conference as major global health event that started in the early days of EDCTP1 in 2005.

The 11th Forum coincides with the 20th anniversary EDCTP and comes at a point in time when GH EDCTP3 is implementing its second annual work programme.

SC Members noted the importance of ensuring good continuity of this important conference and agreed with the need to add as a key activity to be budgeted for in the 2024 WP.

SC members were reminded that the 2025 Forum hosting should be by a French speaking country in sub-Saharan Africa, in line with the alternance tradition vis-à-vis Africa and Europe, and in the context of Anglophone-Francophone-Lusophone Africa.

Actions:

a) SEC will coordinate with the SC Chair to determine the time for the SC meeting in Paris, and this will be communicated as soon as possible, to have time for travel arrangements.
b) Members of the SC who would like to see their countries hosting the 2025 Forum can approach the representatives in the EDCTP Association and sensitise them on the procedure of candidature to host the conference.

Working groups

As part of the agreed actions from the August 2022 meeting, SC members had proposed an establishment of working groups (see above) to advise the GH EDCTP3 on matters related to ethics, data governance, gender and equity etc. The SEC had subsequently advised on establishing just 2 working groups to tackle the following themes: a group focussing on Ethics and Data Sciences and another focussing on Gender Equality and Community Engagement.

Memberships per working group are as follows:

Working Group on Ethics and Data Sciences: **Nicki Tiffin, Keymanthri Moodley, Electra Gizeli, Selidji T. Agnandji, Xavier Anglaret, Joachim Doua, Juliet Nabyonga-Orem, Martin Meremiku, Claudia Filippone, John Gyapong**

Working group on Gender Equality and Community Engagement (name change – see below): **Nicola Viebig, Marleen Temmerman, Ali Zumla, Christine Stabell Benn, Paulo Ferrinho and Halidou Tinto.**

In their first meeting, on 31 May 2023, members of the GDWG agreed on the following:

- The name of the WG has to be formally changed through amendment of DECISION N° SC 02/2023 establishing working groups of the Scientific Committee. Specifically, Article 2 should be revised to rename the second WG as Working Group on "Gender and Diversity" in replacement of the initially adopted name "Gender Equality and Community Engagement"

N.B. SC Members who were not present on Day 2 will be informed of the WG memberships and redefined objectives so they can confirm which group they would like to join.

The Draft minutes of each WG meeting are attached to this report as Annexes

Planning for the next SC meeting

The meeting was concluded by a planning for the next SC meeting with a focus on 1) items and timing for the Fourth SC meeting, 2) content and timelines for the annual report on the SC activities in 2023, and 3) any other issues that that SC members would like to raise and bring to the attention of the SEC.

Following a discussion that led to a consensus on the need to revise the SRIA, SC members agreed that in before the 4th meeting, and informal brief online meeting should take place to agree on the way to timely bring forward ideas that to both the call topics and SRIA revisions. The SEC will keep the SC informed on ongoing discussion with partners and other stakeholders contributing to call topics and the finalisation of topics should be concluded after the SC has submitted it advice on the necessity to amend of keep the current SRIA version.

It was agreed that for the 4th meeting, all members will be given more time to shape the agenda. In coordination with the SEC, the Chair will issue a call for agenda items early enough to collect ideas from all members.

SC members requested the SEC to send meeting documentation well in advance to give enough time for a proper preparation for the meeting.

Other raised issues relate to comments sent in November, responding to the call for edits of the August 2023 SC meeting minutes. Some comments may have been missed.

Actions:

- SC Chair to convene a brief online meeting before the 4th SC meeting to review the progress of ongoing activities and better prepare for the Paris meeting. The online meeting will focus among on concrete ideas to justify the revisions of the SRIA. It should be noted that this in between meeting will not qualify as an Expert working day (as described in the contract)
- SEC to set up a Microsoft Teams (MT) channel to facilitate sharing, reviewing and editing of documents related to the SC work in the short and medium term.

- The GH EDCTP3 SEC to start drafting themes for the 2024 Work Programme and drafting outlines for call topics to share with the SC for input where necessary.
- SEC to re-verify if all comments have been captured in the final version of the second SC meeting minutes and in the draft 2022 SC activities report.

4. Annexes

List of Participants

1. Prof. John Gyapong, **Chair**
2. Prof. Marleen Temmerman, **Vice-Chair**
3. Prof. Electra Gizeli, SC Member
4. Dr Nicola Viebig, SC Member
5. Prof. Halidou Tinto, SC Member (online)
6. Prof. Nicki Tiffin, SC Member
7. Prof. Christine Stabell Benn, SC Member
8. Dr Selidji T. Agnandji, SC Member
9. Prof. Paulo Ferrinho, SC Member (online)
10. Prof. Keymanthri Moodley, SC Member
11. Dr Xavier Anglaret, SC Member
12. Dr Joachim Doua, SC Member (in person Day 1, online on Day 2)
13. Prof. Sir Ali Zumla, SC Member
14. Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem, SC Member (online)
15. Prof. Martin Meremiku, SC Member (online)
16. Prof. Meta Roestenberg, SC Member (in person Day 1)
17. Dr Claudia Filippone, SC Member
18. Dr Elmar Nimmesgern, GH EDCTP3 Interim Executive Director
19. Dr Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira, GH EDCTP3 Senior Scientific Officer
20. Dr Lydia Boudarene, GH EDCTP3 Senior Scientific Officer
21. Dr Laurent Schell, GH EDCTP3 Legal Officer
22. Mr Milan Popovic, GH EDCTP3 Scientific Project Officer
23. Ms Aleksandra Conversano, GH EDCTP3 Scientific Project Officer
24. Ms Julia Molto-Lopez, GH EDCTP3 Communications Officer
25. Dr Steffi Sowinski, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission
26. Dr Jan Paehler, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission
27. Dr Neeraj Mistry, SG Chair (online Day 1)

Guidance notes and Reference Documents

1.1. Discussion on potential areas to be addressed by the 2024 Work Programme
• Total EU funding available for the calls for proposals in **2024 is approx. EUR 140 M. Final allocation will be decided by the Governing Board considering the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.** • Reference to the scientific priorities listed in the <u>GH EDCTP3 SRIA</u> – to be addressed over the lifetime of GH EDCTP3 JU <u>Specific considerations:</u> • WP2024 should not address areas that were already addressed in WP2023[1] unless the SC strongly recommends specific areas for reconsideration • WP2023 did not have **topics addressing specifically Climate crisis-related infections** and **antimicrobial resistance** – how can we best address this gap in WP2024 or later? • In addition to the different priority disease areas, the Scientific Committee could **consider transversal areas,** in line with the specific objectives of the GH EDCTP3 SRIA such as research capacity development – New type of Fellowship or similar to the Training Networks in 2023 WP? • In the 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes, no dedicated call topics on HIV, TB, or Malaria, but several proposals selected from the 2022 Calls include HIV, TB or Malaria in their scope, in addition, projects covering these areas are expected from the from 2023 Calls (e.g. calls on vaccines, COVID-19-affected EDCTP2-funded projects, diagnostics, maternal and child health)
1.2. List of background/reference documents:
• GH EDCTP3 WP 2023: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/edctp_en#work-programme-2023 • GH EDCTP3 WP 2022, calls for proposals including in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA) plan from EDCTP Association Member States • GH EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) • Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe • *General guidance on documents on Horizon Europe funding* Horizon Europe Guide_en.pdf (europa.eu) • EU Funding & Tenders Online Manual_en.pdf (europa.eu) • General-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf (europa.eu)
1.3. *Meeting Slide deck*
1.4. *Booklet GH EDCTP3 projects portfolio from 2022 Call Topics and 2021 Bridging call*

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[1] Search Funding & Tenders (europa.eu)

topic
1.5. *Scientific Committee Decision adopting the revised Rules of Procedure, Version Mar 2023*
1.6. *Scientific Committee Decision adopting the setting up of 2 working groups, Version Mar 2023*
1.7. *Draft report SC activities in 2022*
1.8. *COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach*
1.9. *Nature 2022. Mora C. et al. Over half of known human pathogenic diseases can be aggravated by climate change*

Minutes of the Ethics and Data Sciences Working Group (WG) meeting

Members of the WG discussion:

- Nicki Tiffin (acting Chair for the purposes of this meeting)
- Keymanthri Moodley
- Electra Gizeli
- Selidji T. Agnandji
- Xavier Anglaret
- Claudia Filippone
- John Gyapong
- Joachim Doua (online)
- Juliet Nabyonga-Orem (online)
- Martin Meremiku (online).

The WG discussed several issues relating to the mandate of the WG:

- Data science was described as encompassing data governance and data use
- Ethics was described as meaning that EDCTP3 should practice research ethically, uphold equitable partnership practices and ensure good international practice for research.

The WG particularly noted that many guidelines already exist, and some guidelines and frameworks were specifically mentioned e.g. African Academy of Sciences Data and Biospecimen governance policy [1], GDPR and other data governance frameworks e.g. [2]

The WG also noted that different hierarchies exist to describe how data governance and ethics topics relate to eachother, and that it would be prudent for the WG to decide on a descriptive hierarchy and work with that consistently.

The WG noted that a Chair should be elected for the WG.

Particular areas were identified as important, including:

- **Data management**

Noted that funded projects already do need to demonstrate that they can properly manage data, that they have data and research infrastructure that can support responsible data use.

Data structures: ensuring the use of appropriate data standards and ontologies (e.g. OMOP), data harmonisation, interoperability standards where appropriate (e.g. FHIR in mobile health)

Ensuring human resources are sufficient for data management: data managers, data engineering and management should be budgeted for, technicians, systems administration, etc

- **Data governance**

Existing requirement for details about how data are collected, stored and used, and for sufficient data infrastructure

Adherence to relevant legislation – both of African countries and GDPR

- **Data sharing and access, ethics and informed consent**

Requirement that data should be FAIR, and where possible they should be Open – also noting that not all data can be made Open Access without appropriate oversight.

- **Research equity**

Ensuring appropriate power balance between African and EU research groups

Managing retention of data, biospecimens and researchers within Africa

Some of the areas recognised as being current are:

- Good scientific and research practice
- The transition from paper-based to digital health data across Africa
- AI and research integrity e.g. [3]
- GDPR compliance, and what does it mean for researchers – recognising that African countries also have their own legislation to uphold.
- Governance and ethics for commercial collaboration

WG can potentially advise on:

- How EDCTP3 drafts certain topics, and the language used; e.g. for ensuring equity in research; for ensuring use of appropriate data standards and ontologies
- Ensuring there are sufficient project resources available for ethical research and appropriate data governance, including budget
- Providing policy guidance in areas of ethics and data governance
- Reviewing climate impact of data storage and analysis
- Reviewing and augmenting existing ethics and data management checklist that includes standard elements, those highlighted above, as well as sometimes overlooked elements such as long-term follow up of data use, non-exclusive licenses, data use information in the future, how to follow up data use (use of licences?)

References:

1   Policy Paper: Recommendations for Data and Biospecimen Governance in Africa | The AAS. https://www.aasciences.africa/publications/policy-paper-recommendations-data-and-biospecimen-governance-africa (accessed 15 Mar 2021).

2   Tiffin N, George A, LeFevre AE. How to use relevant data for maximal benefit with minimal risk: digital health data governance to protect vulnerable populations in low-income and middle-income countries. *BMJ Global Health* 2019;**4**:e001395. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001395

3   South African Journal of Science. Special issue on 'Big data and AI in health sciences research in sub-Saharan Africa'. May/June 2023 https://www.sajs.co.za/v119n5-6

Minutes Working group on Gender and Diversity

1st Working Group Meeting & Plenary Feedback Session – Summary Notes

Brussels, White Atrium Building, 31 May 2023

Working Group (WG) on Equity and Diversity:

1. Name: Equity and Diversity

- *Rationale:*
  - o Diversity not necessarily included in equity as it covers only part of equity.
  - o Community engagement to be covered under a different Working group, to be reflected "**Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking DECISION N° SC 02/2023 establishing working groups of the Scientific Committee**

2. Composition

Members: Marleen Temmerman, Ali Zumla, Halidou Tinto, Christine Stabell Benn, Nicola Viebig, Paulo Ferrinho

GH EDCTP3 JU Representative/Observer: Jean Marie Habarugira

- **Chair:** Marleen Temmerman to chair this meeting, election of WG chair to be postponed to next meeting allowing attendance of all members
- **Rapporteur:** Nicola Viebig

3. Objectives

- To ensure equity and diversity in all EDCTP3 JHU activities by focusing on: gender, language (anglophone/lusophone/francophone), geography (North/South, as well within SSA) and others (e.g. social inequities)

4. Deliverables (short- and long-term)

- Define short- and long-term deliverables specific for the EDCTP3 program
- Define the WG Terms of Reference (ToR) – next meeting

5. Activities & Information

Statistics:

Specific statistics on grants awarded in each EDCTP3 call for proposals, proposal round and/or annual work program:

- Statistics on gender and geography, and grouped by lusophone, francophone, anglophone participants for the JHU EDCTP3 calls:
  - o Data to be presented stratified on the above variables for coordinator, scientific leader, and each participant for Projects and Training calls (submitted and awarded)
  - o Data to be presented stratified on the above variables for publication outputs:
    - ▪ Lead authors (first and last/corresponding author)
  - o Statistics to be published on EDCTP3 website
  - o Presentation should focus on both absolute numbers and percentages:
  - o Any other relevant statistics?

Steps and Activities to be considered:

- Increase participation and/or success rate of non-English speaking participants? How can lusophone/francophone participants be supported?
  - o Existing possibility of lusophone/francophone participants to submit proposals in their language under the European Commission schemes (with some challenges on proposal evaluations)
  - o Balance project membership across different regions/countries?
    - ▪ Proposal drafting in e.g. French/Spanish/Portuguese with translation by other consortium partners and/or revision/correction of proposals by anglophone consortium members prior to submission
  - o Training in English writing skills? Training in grant submission procedures in respective languages.
  - o Support for translations of proposals prior to submission?

- Options in the EC systems & application forms to be checked: "Male, female and others/prefer not to do disclose" to be included/implemented (if not yet covered)

- WG to review call documents to ensure equity and diversity is built into future call texts:
  - o To be implemented for the next calls for 2024
    - ▪ Strict wording to be included into the call text, across all call texts
      - • Adapted to each topic
  - o Requirement to have a resource-poor countries in a project with an essential role and a fair share of funding.
    - ▪ Ensure fair split of funding across countries

- Contribution to be further considered for publication?

- EU Membership, Associated Countries and Science & Technology Agreement:
  - Currently the only African entities that can formally coordinate projects, are South African organizations
    - Risk of biasing towards South Africa partners/coordinators while, creating imbalance of participation of other African countries/organizations, causing further inequity
    - Change of underlying regulation to be explored.
      - What is the legal basis? How can this be changed?
  - How can we get more countries to pay membership fees/become a member?
    - Membership fee is still blocking, even if it is a small amount, further increasing inequity. GA to change rules allowing more members to join?

6. WG Meetings

- Next meeting in first two weeks of July 2023, Nicola to circulate a Doodle for date finding.
- Meeting frequency to be decided, with e.g. higher frequency in the beginning and e.g. further meetings every 2 months, and ad hoc, if required

2.2. Minutes the fourth Meeting of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee

Report on the fourth Meeting of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Scientific Committee

7 November 2023

Hybrid – Online / Paris, France

Table of Contents

Introduction

The purpose of the Third Scientific Committee meeting was 1) to advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed for the work programme 2024 (WP2024) of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) and the scope of calls for proposals, specifically the draft Call topics under WP2024; 2) to discuss and advise on any other themes the Scientific Committee would like to address, considering its mandate and tasks as defined in the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, and 3) to hold the first Joint Meeting with the Global Health EDCTP3 Stakeholders Group

The meeting hybrid with in-person attendees meeting at the Paris Marriot Champs-Elysées, 70 avenue des Champs-Elysees, 75008 Paris, France.

The SC meeting was chaired by Professor Gyapong

Agenda Items

The one-day meeting agenda included the following sessions:

12) Session 1 - Welcome, Agenda Adoption, Discussion on 2024 WP draft Call topics
    1.1. Welcome
    1.2. Agenda Adoption
    1.3. Follow up Actions from previous meetings.
    1.4. Summary on areas covered by 2022 and 2023 WPs
    1.5. Discussion and final feedback on 2024 WP draft Call topics

    - Topic 1: Towards achieving the 2030 UNAIDS 95-95-95 target in Sub-Saharan Africa and developing novel tests and interventions for HIV
    - Topic 2: Malaria vaccines comparison and development of new promising candidates
    - Topic 3: Accelerating development of therapeutics and non-pharmaceutical interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa
    - Topic 4: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): R&D in existing and novel antimicrobials, and Antimicrobial Stewardship
    - Topic 5: New tools, technologies and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa
    - Topic 6: Innovative digital health solutions for Africa
    - Topic 7: Global Health EDCTP3 Academia/Industry Fellowship with return phase

13) Session 2 - Summary from Rapporteurs and Meeting conclusions
    2.1. A summary feedback per topic
    2.2. A.O.B.
    2.3. Conclusions and wrap-up
14) Session 3 - Joint meeting of the SC and SG

Summary – updates, discussions and agreed actions

Welcome and Agenda Adoption

After a brief welcome address by a representative of the GH EDCTP3 Programme Office (PRO), the Scientific Committee Chair (SC Chair) opened the meeting and gave the opportunity for members to comment on the draft agenda. All members present in person and online adopted the proposed agenda without further changes.

Updates 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes (WPs)

2022

The PRO gave an update on 2022 and 2023 Work Programmes (WPs), with informative data Calls process and output. Starting with an outline of the GH EDCTP3 diseases scope, the PRO presented an overview of the 5 call topics launched as part of the 2022 WP and provided key statistics on projects being implemented as part of the first year of implementation (WP2022).

2023

Updating the SC on the call topics under the 2023 WP, the PRO highlighted the diseases areas to be potentially covered by projects (call topics still under review):

8) Under the "*Global Health EDCTP3 Training Networks*" call topic, proposals focussed on any disease in the Global Health EDCTP3 scope.

9) The call topic on "*Funding to successfully finalise EDCTP2-funded clinical trials that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (RIA)*" focussed on pre-identified clinical studies funded by EDCTP2 covering malaria, Onchocerciasis, leprosy, typhoid infection, TB/HIV and other areas in EDCTP2 scope.

10) This call on "*Implementation research/real life assessment of existing interventions in women and children's health (RIA)*" was restricted to HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, bacterial infections (especially those where AMR is an issue), sepsis and lower respiratory tract infections.

11) The call on "*Research to rapidly evaluate interventions on Ebola outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa (RIA)*" accepted proposals on Ebola.

12) The fifth topic was a repeat of the "Ethics and Regulatory *capacity*" call.

13) The sixth call topic on "Improving modes of delivery, deployment, and uptake of vaccines through phase IV/implementation research (RIA)" accepted proposals on any disease in the Global Health EDCTP3 scope.

14) Under the seventh call topic on "Advancing point-of-care diagnostics to the market (RIA)", all diseases in the Global Health EDCTP3 scope, except Ebola, were eligible.

Call topics	Available Budget (EUR)	Single or Two-stage
Global Health EDCTP3 **Training Networks** - Clinical Research Fellowships (RIA)	15 300 000	Single stage
Funding to successfully **finalise EDCTP2-funded clinical trials** that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (RIA)	14 000 000	
Implementation research/real life assessment of existing interventions in **women and children's** health (RIA)	26 000 000	
Research to rapidly evaluate **interventions on Ebola outbreaks** in sub-Saharan Africa (RIA)	11 000 000	
Strengthening **ethics and regulatory** capacity (CSA)	8 000 000	
Improving modes of delivery, deployment, and uptake of **vaccines** through phase **IV/implementation** research (RIA)	30 000 000	Two-stage*
Advancing **point-of-care diagnostics** to the market (RIA)	26 000 000	

Discussion and recommendations on draft call topics in the draft 2024 WP

To focus the discussion on potential priority areas for WP 2024, a volunteer or nominated rapporteurs summarised the feedback provided by other members on each of the draft topics which were shared for input. The following are the discussed draft topics and summaries feedback per topic:

Topic 1 – Towards achieving the 2030 UNAIDS 95-95-95 target in Sub-Saharan Africa and developing novel tests and interventions for HIV

Rapporteur summary

- Recommendation to emphasize on access to affordable, easy to use home tests with specific instructions with availability of helpline or AI (overlap with Topic 6-Digital health) in the context of tools to guide appropriate treatment.
- There should be an emphasis on more access to diagnostic tests, specifically to viral load, to guide appropriate treatment.
- The draft topic says "at least 2 outcomes" these might be too much; it was advised to reduce to at least one outcome.
- The effects of the interventions should prioritize morbidity (hospitalization) and mortality more than surrogate markers.
- SC members expressed a concern that the draft HIV call topic text (and other draft topics) prioritizes 1) Artificial intelligence and 2) Countries that already got EDCTP funding. The concern is that this could leave the weakest African countries behind.
- **Important note: Pediatric HIV is still a great problem, and it should be clearly stated in the call (key point)**
- The topic is very broad, covering prevention, diagnostics and treatment. If it is kept too broad, it will be important to discuss if there would be a need for 2 stages. Otherwise, there may be a risk of wasting many research group's resources, if the call is so broad that it attracts hundreds of applicants, leading to a very low success rate.
- The PRO clarified that all 7 topics are planned to be 2-stage.

Topic 2 – Malaria vaccines comparison and development of new promising candidates

Rapporteur summary

- A point was made on the need to have a call targeting development of new vaccines rather than just head-to-head-comparison between the two vaccines.
- For both registered vaccines: Investment in phase 4 studies is very important.
- SC members raised the point that there are lingering safety signals in relation to all-cause, particularly female, mortality from both RTS' S and R21 that could be resolved by doing head-to-head-comparison with better follow-up than the pilot implementation studies where there was no individual registration of children, no denominator and very crude collection of mortality data. There were concerns that worst case scenario is to introduce a vaccine that increases mortality, this should be avoided.
- SC members indicated:
  - o that the safety signal was sufficiently refuted by the pilot implementation.
  - o Maybe it is not possible to measure all-cause mortality.

- o Instead of comparing just the two existing vaccines, there should be also comparison of other vaccines.
- Referring to previous discussions on phase I/II trials where there was consensus to focus studies of later stages, a question was raised on what is meant with earlier stage vaccines and whether there should be investment towards phase I/II.

- The PRO clarified that focus will remain on late-stage testing. And in the case of malaria vaccines, some candidates are quite advanced (in phase II/III)

Topic 3 – Accelerating development of therapeutics and non-pharmaceutical interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa

Rapporteur summary

- A general comment was that crosscutting themes (e.g. translational findings to policy; networking, incorporating lessons learned from COVID)) could be put upfront because they apply to all areas in the draft call topics.
- SC members indicated that social determinants of health, at household level need not to be a standalone bullet but instead can be expanded on community engagement. In this regard, the following addition was suggested:

  - Engagement of communities to improve uptake of non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., water, sanitation and hygiene, health education or other programmes) for several NTDs at household level.

- A question was raised why Mpox is not in the scope and the PRO indicated that Mpox is in the emerging diseases section.
- Further comments indicated that:

  - Emerging diseases alongside NTDs, may not be misplaced, as evolving cross-cutting problems may need more funding attention. NTDs and Emerging diseases could be put together in future topics. But, for this specific 2024 WP, it was advised to keep focus on the proposed list of NTDs.
  - There is a need to understand the effect of therapeutics deployed in Mass Drug Administration (MDA) programmes targeting specific populations/regions. Questions on which populations to include in MDA programmes should be addressed, especially where deployment is limited. For example: under-5's neglected in Schistosomiasis – sustained transmission in paediatrics. Schistosomiasis has been less neglected in EDCTP2, Phase 3 not always adequate for guidelines; global guidance needs a larger number of studies, incl. phase 4 studies.

Topic 4 – Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): R&D in existing and novel antimicrobials, and Antimicrobial Stewardship

Rapporteur summary

- SC members indicated that AMR prevention is significantly impacted by vaccination, and that therefore the draft topic should not exclude vaccines.
- the same comment was made on neutralizing antibodies: *e.g. neutralizing antibodies to prevent neonatal infections, like E. coli or Klebsiella, that allows to decrease antibiotic use*
- SC members indicated that approaches for host immune strengthening (host directed therapies) should be included.
- Further, besides strategies related to host response, there should be also strengthening through other interventions:

  - Live bacterial products and medical nutrition to strengthen colonization resistance;
  - Novel Antibiotics with reduced toxicity or reduced price

- AMR prevention is significantly impacted by a much wider set of tools than only pharmaceutical interventions, and these include vaccination, neutralizing antibodies and general host immune response strengthening.

NB. On concerns that the topic may be too wide in scope, PRO reminded SC that all seven topics will be through a two-stage procedure.

Topic 5 – New tools, technologies, and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa

Rapporteur Summary

- SC advised to take into account the barriers of vector control at different levels in the health system. An emphasis was made on the importance of introducing the role of community level interventions.
- PRO indicated that the scope focused on the most important SSA vector related infections, hence the exclusion of West Nile and Zika in the draft call topic text.
- SC advised to consider including monitoring and use surveillance tools in the draft call topic text.
- There was a discussion on whether to exclude malaria or not from the call, as it has been well-funded by other calls and other funders. However, the consensus was to include all vector-borne diseases of relevance to sub-Saharan Africa (including Malaria). The suggestion to exclude malaria was not adopted as consensus.
- The SC advised that it is important to ensure that the applicants provide a very specific explanation of the gap their work will address (and for all the topics!)

Topic 6 – Innovative digital health solutions for Africa

Rapporteur: summary

- The SC commented that there is a multiplicity of digital innovations that are never scaled up, all remain in pilots. The urgent issue is to support countries to effectively coordinate the development, adoption and scaling of digital innovations.
- The limited consultation with users in the development process negatively impacts uptake. The draft call topic text should address this concern.
- It is essential to have the health service involved from the start for any digital health products that are involved in health service delivery, otherwise the products made may be totally inappropriate for integration in health care in that context.
- SC members commented that the call topic does do not need to repeat work done by the WHO to get the status of digital innovations in SSA. WHO conducts surveys on digital innovations in Africa every two years and produces a detailed report on what digital innovations are being used in countries and level of coverage.
- Further comments were made on the need to be careful not to disadvantage weaker countries with limited capacity to embrace digital innovation.
- A strong advice was made on the need to focus on integration of existing data systems, standardization, and interoperability (data linkage). There was also an advice to consider data harmonization, standardization and integration as fundable activities.
- SC members proposed that genomic medicine (human health genomics) is removed from this topic, with an agreement to return to this subject at a future meeting.
- Further comments were made on the need to avoid repeating a history of digital health innovations that get piloted but are not fit for use or integration with health services. The advice is to ensure explicit involvement/partnership of health services from the proposal stage. Academic programmes alone are unlikely to solve these problems, and there should be possibility for projects to work with National/Provincial health services to standardise, harmonise, integrate, link data. And it is worth including this language in the call topic text.

Topic 7 – Global Health EDCTP3 Academia/Industry Fellowship with return phase

Rapporteur Summary

- It was clarified that the return phase included in the draft call topic text refers to the phase in which funding will be provided to fellows to carry out research after return to home institutions.
- It was indicated that discussions were still ongoing with two pharma companies as potential contributing partners.
- SC members advised to plan a similar follow-up call incl. additional training partners (e.g. PDPs, companies, philanthropic).

- A key advice was to increase the number of training partners if possible.
- N.B. It was clarified that consortium will be built through 2-stage procedure, where implementing partners will come together in stage 1 before merging with contributing partners in stage 2.

Joint Meeting with the Stakeholders Group.

The two advisory bodies met for a one-hour joint session to discuss and align their work on following key tasks described Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085:

Tasks of the **Scientific Committee** (Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 **Art 21 & 108**) include:

- Assist in the design of the strategic and scientific planning of the activities of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
- Advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work programmes including on scope of calls for proposals, in line with the Strategic Research and Innovation agenda and the Horizon Europe strategic planning.
- Provide independent advice and scientific analysis on specific issues.

Tasks of the **Stakeholders Group** (Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 **Art 22 & 109**) include:

- Providing input on the scientific, strategic, and technological priorities to be addressed by the Global Health EDCTP3 JU
- Providing suggestions to enable concrete synergies to take place between the Global Health EDCTP3 JU and the adjacent sectors or any sectors whith which synergies will be deemed of added value.
- Providing input to the EDCTP Forum

It was agreed that further meetings will involve the Chair of each group joining as observer the meeting of the other, to ensure a streamlined and complementary generation of advice to the Joint Undertaking.

After the Joint Session with the Stakeholders Group, the Chair of the Scientific Committee joined the Governing Board and provided a briefing on the deliberations and recommendations by SC members to the JU , after a thorough review and discussion on draft call topics included in the 2024 Work Programmes.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Meeting Agenda

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee

7 Nov 2023, Paris, France

Purpose of the meeting

1. In line with the GH EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)[2], advise on the **scientific priorities to be addressed for the work programme 2024 (WP2024)** of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) and the **scope of calls for proposals, specifically the draft Call topics under WP2024.**
2. Discuss and advise on **any other themes the Scientific Committee would like to address**, considering its mandate and tasks as defined in the Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe[3].
3. To hold the first Joint Meeting of the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group

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[2] ec_rtd_edctp3-sria-2022.pdf (europa.eu)
[3] undefined (europa.eu)

Timing & location of the meeting
The meeting is scheduled to be held from 8.15 to 14.10 on Tuesday 7 Nov 2023 in the **Paris Marriot Champs-Elysées, 70 avenue des Champs-Elysees, 75008 Paris, France.** This is a hybrid meeting to allow the active participation of Scientific Committee (SC) members who are unable to join the meeting in person. Webex links for online attendance: **08:45-12:00 (CET) – Session 1 and 2 of the Scientific Committee meeting** https://ecconf.webex.com/ecconf/j.php?MTID=mf8c6009643e3b7857ca1cc2ba3c081a5 **12:10 to 13:10 (CET) – Session 3/Joint Session_Scientific Committee & Stakeholders Group** https://ecconf.webex.com/ecconf/j.php?MTID=m9fff7f3bc169cce5e6fce133c1134b4e

Time	AGENDA	Speakers
8:15-8:45	Welcome Breakfast	
8.45-10.45	**Session 1: Welcome, Agenda Adoption,** **Discussion on 2024 WP draft Call topics**	
	1.1. Welcome	Interim ED & SC Chair
	1.2. Agenda Adoption	SC Chair
	1.3. Follow up Actions from previous meetings. 1.4. Summary on areas covered by 2022 and 2023 WPs	PRO (Jean Marie)
	1.5. Discussion and final feedback on 2024 WP draft Call topics	**All, Rapporteurs***
	Topic 1: Towards achieving the 2030 UNAIDS 95-95-95 target in Sub-Saharan Africa and developing novel tests and interventions for HIV	All, Rapporteur (Pablo Rojo)
	Topic 2: Malaria vaccines comparison and	All, Rapporteur

	development of new promising candidates	(Christine Stabell Benn)
	Topic 3: Accelerating development of therapeutics and non-pharmaceutical interventions against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa	All, Rapporteur (TBD)
	Topic 4: Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): R&D in existing and novel antimicrobials, and Antimicrobial Stewardship	All, Rapporteur (Nicki Tiffin)
	Topic 5: New tools, technologies and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa	All, Rapporteur (Pablo Rojo)
	Topic 6: Innovative digital health solutions for Africa	All, Rapporteur (Juliet Nabyonga)
	Topic 7: Global Health EDCTP3 Academia/Industry Fellowship with return phase	All, Rapporteur (Nicola Viebig)
10:45–11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00–12:00	**Session 2: Summary from Rapporteurs and Meeting conclusions**	
	2.1. A summary feedback per topic (focus on talking points for SC Chair at the GB meeting)	Rapporteurs
	2.2. A.O.B.	All
	2.3. Conclusions and wrap-up	SC Chair
12:00–12:10	**Change of rooms**	
12:10 – 13:10	**Session 3: Joint meeting of the SC and SG**	
	3.1. Introduction of the Joint Meeting: Objectives & Expected Outcomes	SC & SG Chairs, PRO (Jean Marie & Lydia)
	3.2. Discussion on SC-SG Synergies	All
	3.2. Conclusions and wrap-up	SC & SG Chairs
13:10–14:10	**Lunch & Networking** **End of Meeting**	
	SC and SG Chairs to attend the Governing Board Meeting	

*Rapporteurs: SC members volunteer or nominated to take the lead in summarising the feedback on the draft call topics.

Annex 2– List of Participants

Scientific Committee (SC)

28. Prof. John Gyapong, **Chair**
29. Prof. Marleen Temmerman, **Vice-Chair**
30. Prof. Electra Gizeli
31. Dr Nicola Viebig
32. Prof. Halidou Tinto
33. Prof. Nicki Tiffin
34. Prof. Christine Stabell Benn
35. Dr Selidji T. Agnandji
36. Dr Xavier Anglaret
37. Dr Juliet Nabyonga-Orem
38. Dr Claudia Filippone
39. Prof. Paulo Ferrinho (online)
40. Dr Joachim Doua (online)
41. Prof. Sir Ali Zumla (online)
42. Prof. Martin Meremikwu (online)
43. Prof. Meta Roestenberg (online)
44. Prof. Pablo Rojo (online)

Global Health EDCTP3 Programme Office

45. Dr Elmar Nimmesgern, Interim Executive Director
46. Dr Jean Marie Vianney Habarugira, Senior Scientific Officer
47. Ms Claudia GUTIERREZ ARBIZU, Administrative Assistant (Online)

Other Agenda Annexes

Agenda Annex 2 – 2024 Work Programme Draft Call topics (with SC edits and comments sent by 31 Oct)

Agenda Annex 3 – Guidance notes and Reference Documents

1) General guidance for the discussion on draft call topics
   - Total EU funding available for the calls for proposals in **2024 is approx. EUR 140 M. Final allocation will be decided by the Governing Board considering the recommendations of the Scientific Committee.**
   - **Reference to the scientific priorities listed in the** [GH EDCTP3 SRIA](#) **– to be addressed over the lifetime of GH EDCTP3 JU**

   <u>Specific considerations:</u> WP2024 should not address areas that were already addressed in WP2022 and 2023[4] unless the SC strongly recommends specific areas for reconsideration.

2) <u>Other background/reference documents:</u>

More directly relevant for the discussions on scientific priorities for work programme 2024

   - GH EDCTP3 WP 2023: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/edctp_en#work-programme-2023
   - [GH EDCTP3 WP 2022](#), [calls for proposals](#) including [in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA) plan from EDCTP Association Member States](#)
   - [GH EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)](#)

     Legal basis for Global Health EDCTP3

   - [Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe](#) (Article 21 and 108 define the tasks and working modality of the Scientific Committee)

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[4] [Search Funding & Tenders (europa.eu)](#)

General guidance on documents on Horizon Europe funding

- [Horizon Europe Guide_en.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)
- [EU Funding & Tenders Online Manual_en.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)
- [General-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

3) Meeting Slide deck
4) Booklet GH EDCTP3 projects portfolio from 2022 Call Topics