

Dr Michael Makanga
Executive Director
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU)

The Hague, 16 December 2024

Subject: Request from the EDCTP Association regarding information sharing with Global Health EDCTP3 JU Members

Dear Dr Makanga,

At the EDCTP Association General Assembly held on 7 October 2024, Portugal raised concerns over transparency and access to information on the evaluation results (such as the list of the successful, proposals on the reserve list and unsuccessful proposals) of the Global Health EDCTP3 JU calls.

Further to the concerns raised by Portugal, the EDCTP Association's management is of the view that it is important for JU committee members of the EDCTP Association to have access to information on the outcome of the evaluations of the applications submitted to each call, in addition to the project details after Grant Agreement signature.

In particular access is requested to the below information:

- Information following eligibility check of the applications (Aggregated country level data: number of applicants, funding requested, organization type), and
- Project information following Grant Agreement signature (signature date of the GA; number, acronym, title, and duration of projects; role, country, legal name, PIC, legal type, URL, total cost, requested JU contribution, FC received, FC given, and IKOP of participants).
- **For successful proposals** (number; acronym; title; duration; role; country; legal name; PIC; legal type; total cost; requested JU contribution)
- **For proposals on the reserve list and unsuccessful proposals** (number; acronym; title; duration; role; country; legal name; PIC; legal type; total cost; requested JU contribution)

Timely access to information on successful proposals, proposals on the reserve list, and unsuccessful proposals is essential for JU Committee members of the EDCTP Association, whilst also respecting the confidentiality principles, to effectively carry out their responsibilities based on the EDCTP Association Internal Regulations. In particular, granting JU Committee members of the EDCTP Association access to this information is consistent with the Internal Regulations of the EDCTP Association (described in Annex *EDCTP 3 Joint Undertaking Committee Rules and Regulations*, page 40), as set out in the two extracts below:

1. While the Association Board Members represent the EDCTP Association on the Global Health EDCTP3 JU Governing Board, certain resolutions require prior approval from the JU Committee members of the EDCTP Association. The Board needs prior approval from the Global Health EDCTP3 JU Committee members to cast a vote on any of the following Governing Board decisions:
 - The acceptance or rejection of applications of prospective contributing partners
 - The adoption of the financial rules of the Joint Undertaking
 - The adoption of the annual budget and the staff establishment plan
 - The appointment, dismissal, or extension of the term of office of the Executive Director of the JU
 - The adoption of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda as well as any updates
 - The adoption of the work programme and corresponding expenditure estimates
 - The approval of the annual additional activities plan
 - The approval of the consolidated annual activity report, including the corresponding expenditure.
2. In addition to this, the Association Board requires prior approval to cast a vote in the Global Health EDCTP3 JU Governing Board on any other topic if seventy-five per cent of the JU Committee members indicate that a certain resolution requires prior approval.

Based on the above, the sharing of information (including the proposals in the reserve list and the unsuccessful proposals) is crucial for the JU Committee in order to have the necessary information to provide their prior approval to their GB representatives of the EDCTP Association regarding all the above-listed decisions. These decisions encompass **the overall implementation of the Global Health EDCTP3 JU programme, such as to provide early appropriate input on the preparation of the work programmes and their strategic orientations, as well as timely information on all actions proposed or funded.** This enables the JU Committee members to make informed decisions on the adoption of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and any updates to it, as well as on the adoption of the work programme and corresponding expenditure estimates that should be firstly approved by them, based on the Internal Regulations of the Association. Furthermore, this is also a requirement of the Council Regulation 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, including the Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Specifically, recital 69 of the Regulation highlights that the Association should provide meaningful participation and involvement of the sub-Saharan countries in the decision-making process, which is essential for tackling the burden of diseases in sub-Saharan countries.



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Additionally, based on Article 104(1) of Council Regulation 2021/2085, "Additional activities of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking shall be developed and implemented in an **aligned, integrated and coherent manner by the EDCTP Association and its constituent or affiliated entities** and shall follow the Global Health EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda." Furthermore, Article 104(2) of the Regulation states that "additional activities (i.e. IKAAs) may include activities directly linked to the activities of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking and contributing to its objectives, including the following: (a) **activities of constituent or affiliated entities of the EDCTP Association aligned with similar activities from other constituent or affiliated entities of the EDCTP Association and independently managed in accordance with national funding rules**". Therefore, the above requested information (including information on reserve list and unsuccessful proposals) is necessary to enable Association members to prepare IKAAs for the work programmes of Global Health EDCTP3 JU in an aligned, integrated and coherent manner, towards the Global Health EDCTP3 Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, at a national level.

The EDCTP Association remains available to follow-up with the JU Committee members of the EDCTP Association should they need to sign a non-disclosure agreement, in addition to the Declaration of Conflict of Interests and the Confidentiality Agreement, to further ensure the safeguarding of confidentiality.

We sincerely thank you for your collaboration and cooperation on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Abdoulaye Barry
Acting Executive Director & Director of Administration and Finance
EDCTP Association

