

Highlights of 2024

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

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1 Foreword

“ Together, we continue to progress towards a healthier and safer world for everyone, no matter where we live. ”

Dr Michael Makanga
Global Health EDCTP3
Executive Director

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Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

I am pleased to present the Global Health EDCTP3 Annual Activity Report 2024, which highlights the key achievements of the Joint Undertaking (JU) in its second year as a fully autonomous body of the European Union.

2024 has been a year of growth and increasing regional and global recognition of the value of our partnership, building on over 20 years of impactful outcomes in addressing infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our total budget grew from EUR 1.6 billion to EUR 1.86 billion, thanks to increased contributions from the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the EDCTP Association.

Eswatini and Namibia joined the EDCTP Association in 2024, bringing the total number of African countries participating in the partnership to 30, alongside 15 European countries. This expansion means entities from these countries can now engage in and receive funding for Global Health EDCTP3 initiatives – a positive development for the partnership.

However, 2024 was also marked by a new public health challenge, with the **mpox outbreak** in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In response, Global Health EDCTP3 demonstrated its **rapid mobilisation capabilities, swiftly launching an emergency response call** to address this crisis, leveraging substantial cofunding from the EDCTP Association member countries to ultimately support nine projects.

In terms of our project portfolio, **46 new projects were signed in 2024**, bringing the total number of projects funded by Global Health EDCTP3 to 74, with a cumulative Joint Undertaking contribution of EUR 234 million. **A total of 305 entities from 56 countries were involved in our funded projects at the end of 2024**, ensuring a balanced collaboration between African and European institutions.

Dr Michael Makanga
Global Health EDCTP3
Executive Director



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Numerous advocacy, networking, and outreach activities in 2024 also supported the achievement of Global Health EDCTP3’s strategic objectives. Notably, **BioNTech joined as a Contributing Partner** for the 2024 call on training fellowships, and Global Health EDCTP3 became a full member of the **Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness** (GloPID-R).

Preparations also began for the **Twelfth EDCTP Forum**, scheduled to take place from 15–20 June 2025 at the Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda, with over 1,000 participants expected to attend this flagship event.

2024 saw Global Health EDCTP3 highlighted as a key initiative for scientific collaboration with Africa in the final communiqué of the G7 Ministers Meeting on Science and Technology. We were also recognised by the Africa CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) as a key partner for research and innovation in response to the mpox outbreak through the Mpox Continental Preparedness and Response Plan.

These acknowledgments underscore the significant value and contribution of Global Health EDCTP3. I would like to extend my gratitude to our Governing Board, Scientific Committee, Stakeholders Group, and the growing Programme Office in Brussels for their strategic vision, constructive feedback, and unwavering support in guiding this partnership.

Together, we continue to progress towards a healthier and safer world for everyone, no matter where we live.



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“ A key initiative for scientific collaboration with Africa. ”

G7 Ministers Meeting on Science and Technology



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Growing partnership

In 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 continued to grow in terms of the contributions provided by its members, the European Union (EU), represented by the European Commission, and the EDCTP Association. This resulted in a total budget increase from EUR 1.6 billion to EUR 1.86 billion.

Global Health EDCTP3 was mentioned as a key initiative for scientific collaboration with Africa in the [final communiqué of the G7 Ministers Meeting on Science and Technology](#) in July 2024. This recognition builds on the tangible outcomes achieved by the partnership over more than 20 years.

Additionally, as part of the EU global health strategy implementers, Global Health EDCTP3 was actively involved in the high-level AU-EU dialogue to strengthen the health partnership, which was followed by the high-level event on “deepening the EU-AU partnership in global health for equitable access”, organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU in March 2024.

In 2024, Eswatini and Namibia became members of the [EDCTP Association](#), bringing the total number of African countries represented in the decision making of the partnership to 30. By joining the EDCTP Association, entities established in these countries will be eligible to receive funding through Global Health EDCTP3 activities.

Portfolio of projects

During 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 concluded the grant agreement preparations of **46 new projects** with a JU requested contribution of EUR 131 million, bringing the total number of active projects to 74, corresponding to a requested JU contribution of EUR 234 million.



High-level event on ‘Deepening the EU-AU partnership in global health for equitable access’

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Out of the 46 signed projects in 2024, 40 are dedicated to **research and innovation actions** (RIAs) tackling infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, while the remaining six will focus on **capacity development, networking and training activities through coordination and support actions** (CSAs). These projects span across a variety of infectious diseases, including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with epidemic potential, malaria, neglected infectious diseases, tuberculosis, lower respiratory tract infections, HIV, diarrhoeal diseases, childhood cross-infections, and other. They address the identified research gaps related to medical countermeasures R&D, including support to the development of drugs/therapies, vaccines, diagnostics, surveillance tools, and other prevention tools.

A total of **219 unique participants** are involved in the implementation of the 46 new projects, bringing the total number of entities involved in the implementation of ongoing projects funded by Global Health EDCTP3 to 305 since 2022. Among these 219 participants, 109 (50%) are in Africa, with 49 (45%) of them in countries with French or Portuguese as one of their official languages, addressing the equity gaps involving previously underrepresented areas in EDCTP-funded projects.

Among the 219 unique participants, most represent the research or education sector, amounting to 67% (146 participants), while the private for-profit sector reached 13% (29 participants), and SMEs 9% (19 participants).

The 46 new projects also expanded the geographical footprint of Global Health EDCTP3, with 14 additional countries joining activities funded by the JU. As a result, the number of countries with participants in projects grew from 42 in December 2023 to 56 in December 2024. Among these additional 14 countries, eight are in Africa.



Pan-Africa Network for Genomic Surveillance of Poverty Related Disease and Emerging Pathogens (PANGenS)

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Responding to emerging epidemics

In 2024, the world, and Africa especially, witnessed a surge in Mpox cases, with thousands of infections reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other African countries. Global Health EDCTP3 reacted swiftly, activating its emergency funding mechanism and opening a dedicated call for proposals on 14 May 2024.

As a result, nine [projects dedicated to the emergency research response to the 2024 Mpox outbreak](#) were funded in 2024 for a total budget of €12.1 million, including additional funding from the EDCTP Association



High-level meeting on “Communities at the centre of the mpox emergency response: driving local level impact through social and behavioural science”

(via the UK Department of Health and Social Care and ANRS *Maladies infectieuses émergentes*) and [supplementary funding from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations \(CEPI\)](#). The role of Global Health EDCTP3 as a key partner for research and innovation in response to the Mpox outbreak was recognised by Africa CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the [Mpox Continental Preparedness and Response Plan](#).

In June 2024, a Global Health EDCTP3 [news article](#) was published on the role of Global Health EDCTP3 in preparedness and research response to public health emergencies.

In December 2024, a [high-level meeting](#) on “Communities at the centre of the mpox emergency response: driving local level impact through social and behavioural science” was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Co-convened by the WHO, Global Health EDCTP3, Elrha, and Africa CDC and hosted by the Ministry of Health of the DRC, the meeting aimed to take stock of the research being, or planned to be, conducted as well as to identify evidence gaps regarding social and behavioural aspects of mpox outbreaks.

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Launching new calls / evaluating ongoing calls for proposals

During 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 launched and concluded **three calls for proposals** under Work Programme 2024, including two two-stage calls and one single-stage call, attracting a significant response from the research community.

- For the two-stage calls, a total of 250 short proposals (of which, 205 eligible proposals) were submitted for the first stage by 4 April 2024, followed by 67 complete proposals received for the second stage by 1 October 2024.
- For the single-stage call (Mpox emergency call) 17 complete proposals (of which, 16 eligible proposals) were submitted by 29 May 2024.

Also in 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 concluded a two-stage call for proposals launched under Work Programme 2023. Following the first stage evaluation process initiated in 2023, 36 complete proposals were received for the second stage by 3 April 2024. From this call for proposals, ten projects have been awarded and signed in 2024.

Engaging partners

In 2024, numerous advocacy, networking and outreach activities were conducted in support of achieving Global Health EDCTP3's strategic objectives. Our efforts covered the following areas:

- Regular exchanges and bilateral discussions with current and potential external partners, with the aim to align health research agendas and develop joint funding strategies with **Contributing Partners**;
- Active participation in funders groups, global health research platforms and other initiatives to promote the Global Health EDCTP3 programme

and engage in relevant discussions with **key stakeholders**;

- Regular exchanges with **European and African government representatives** on key issues.

Alongside funding partnerships in response to the mpox outbreak, 2024 saw an increased level of engagement with both longstanding and new strategic partners in other areas, including to reinforce the partnership with the European Commission and EDCTP Association countries.

In May 2024, a Global Health EDCTP3 [news article](#) was published which highlighted working in partnership as being a core value of Global Health EDCTP3, including ensuring coordination with the different European Commission Directorates-General and EU agencies. To further reinforce this, Global Health EDCTP3 hosted in September 2024 [a high-level meeting](#) with key EU research and health leaders moderated by the editors-in-chief of *The Lancet*, to exchange on the EU investments and future perspectives in global health and explore areas for close collaboration across EU initiatives going forward. In November 2024, the Global Health EDCTP3 Executive Director also accompanied Mr Marc Lemaître, Director General of the

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Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, during a two-day visit to Cape Town, South Africa, which showcased significant strides in health research and innovation supported by EU partnerships.

Outreach to like-minded organisations was ramped up during the course of 2024, including engagement with a variety of current and prospective strategic partners. As a result of these exchanges, **BioNTech** became a Global Health EDCTP3 Contributing Partner in June 2024 for the 2024 call on training fellowships and discussions advanced with other prospective Contributing Partners.

In March 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 became a full member of the **Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R)** and was subsequently elected for representation in the GloPID-R Board in December 2024. Global Health EDCTP3 was also represented as a Steering Committee member of **ESSENCE in Health Research** in 2024, in addition to actively participating as a member of the **Product Development Partnerships (PDP) Funders Group**, including attendance at PDP donor roundtables in South Africa (through EDCTP Africa Office representation) and the Netherlands in June and November 2024 respectively.

Participating in events

Global Health EDCTP3 was represented in numerous events and international conferences during 2024, with the aim of raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the organisation.

One example of major presence is a virtual session co-organised by Global Health EDCTP3 and the EDCTP Association as part of the 10th edition of the **Science Summit during the 79th United Nations General Assembly (SSUNGA79)**, which illustrated the value of investing in collaborative clinical

High-level event with key EU research and health leaders



Visit to the University of Western Cape with Director General Marc Lemaitre

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research in Africa to develop local solutions with broader application against the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The event featured a combination of EDCTP2 and Global Health EDCTP3–supported project presentations and a panel discussion on identifying the priority areas for mitigating AMR that Global Health EDCTP3 and its partners can take forward.

Communication and dissemination

In 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 communication activities focused on enhancing the branding and digital presence of the partnership.

The Global Health EDCTP3 communication strategy and branding manual were endorsed by the Governing Board in June 2024, a monthly newsletter was launched in July 2024 and a new [website](#) on the europa.eu domain was released in December 2024. Social media presence (especially on LinkedIn) was reinforced throughout the year, with a 240% increase in the number of followers.

Funding opportunities, funded projects, speaking engagements and cooperation with like-minded organisations were extensively promoted on different channels, raising awareness about the partnership and highlighting its mission and impact. Info Days were organised in February 2024 in English, French and Portuguese.

In June 2024, preparations commenced for the organisation of the **Twelfth EDCTP Forum**, scheduled to take place on 15–20 June 2025 at the Kigali Convention Centre in Kigali, Rwanda. Hosted by the Ministry of Health of Rwanda and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, and jointly organised by Global Health EDCTP3 and the EDCTP Association, the theme for the 2025 Forum is “**Better health through global research partnerships**”. The Programme and Organising Committees were established, preparations started for the

organisation of the event, the Forum website was launched, and calls for abstracts and scientific symposia were launched.

Governance

After achieving financial autonomy in November 2023, 2024 was the first full year that Global Health EDCTP3 functioned as a **fully autonomous EU body, independently executing its work programme and budget**. Under the strategic guidance of the Governing Board, and the scientific and strategic advice of the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group, the Executive Director led the Programme Office from the successful implementation of the Work Programme 2024 to the preparation and timely adoption of the Work Programme 2025.

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Preparing the Work Programme for 2025

The preparation of the Work Programme 2025 was initiated in December 2023. In February 2024, an *Annual Research and Innovation Agenda (ARIA)* was developed within the framework of the [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#), incorporating insights from previous Global Health EDCTP3 investments, a literature review on research and innovation gaps, potential partner contributions, as well as inputs from the Stakeholders Group and the Scientific Committee.

A first draft of the Work Programme 2025 was ready by May 2024 and discussed at the Governing Board’s June 2024 meeting. These discussions informed a second draft in September 2024, which underwent final consultation before being presented at the October 2024 Governing Board meeting and EDCTP Association Joint Undertaking Committee meeting.

Subsequently, feedback from the EDCTP Association and the European Commission, as well as inputs from the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group, where relevant and justified was incorporated. The Programme Office prepared the final version, which was discussed at the 3 December 2024 Governing Board meeting and subsequently adopted by written procedure.

On 17 December 2024, Global Health EDCTP3 published the [Work Programme 2025](#), the most ambitious since the creation of the JU, with a total indicative budget of EUR 214 million, featuring four calls for proposals with seven topics addressing both specific disease areas and overarching global health challenges.

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Highlights of 2024 in numbers



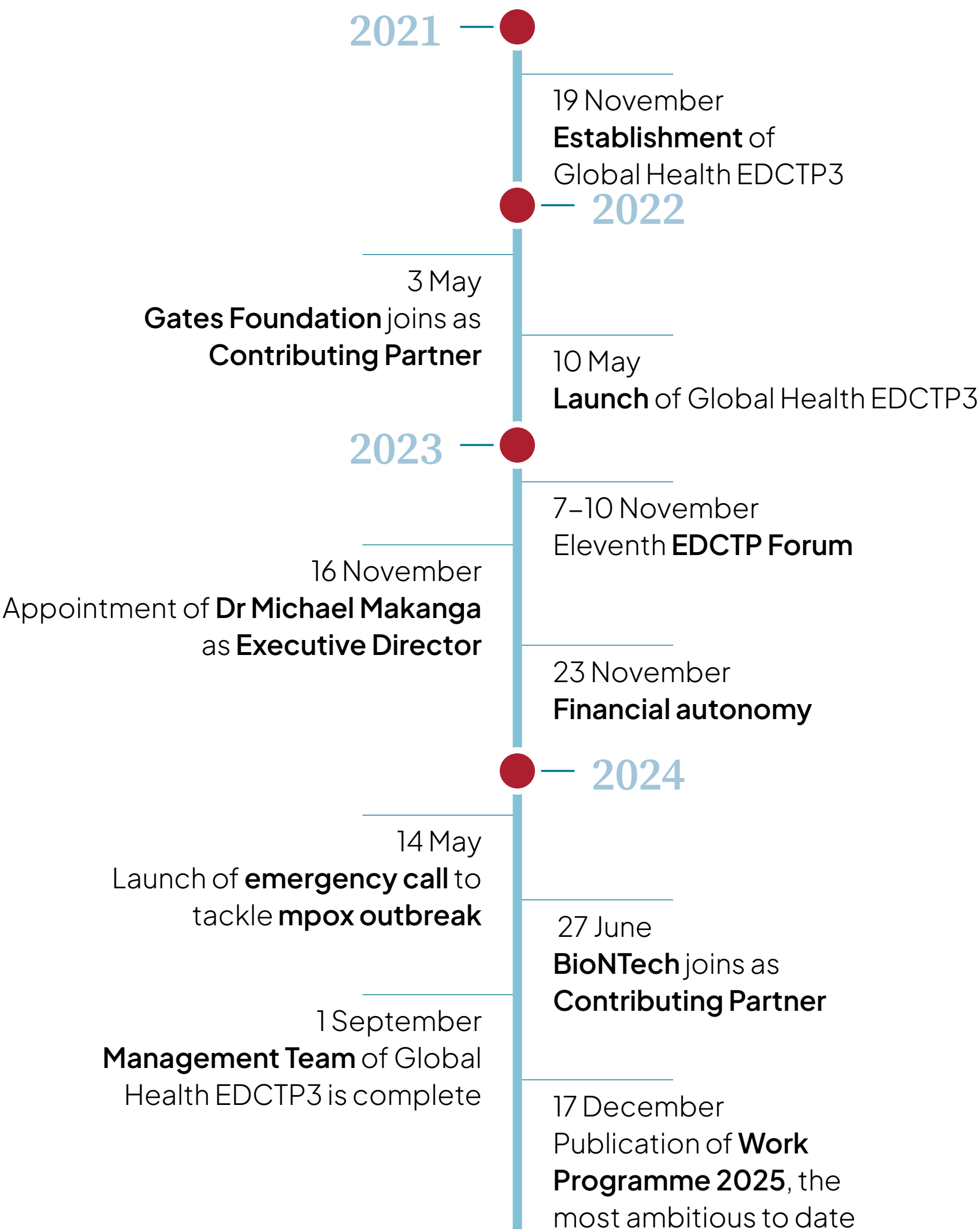
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Key milestones



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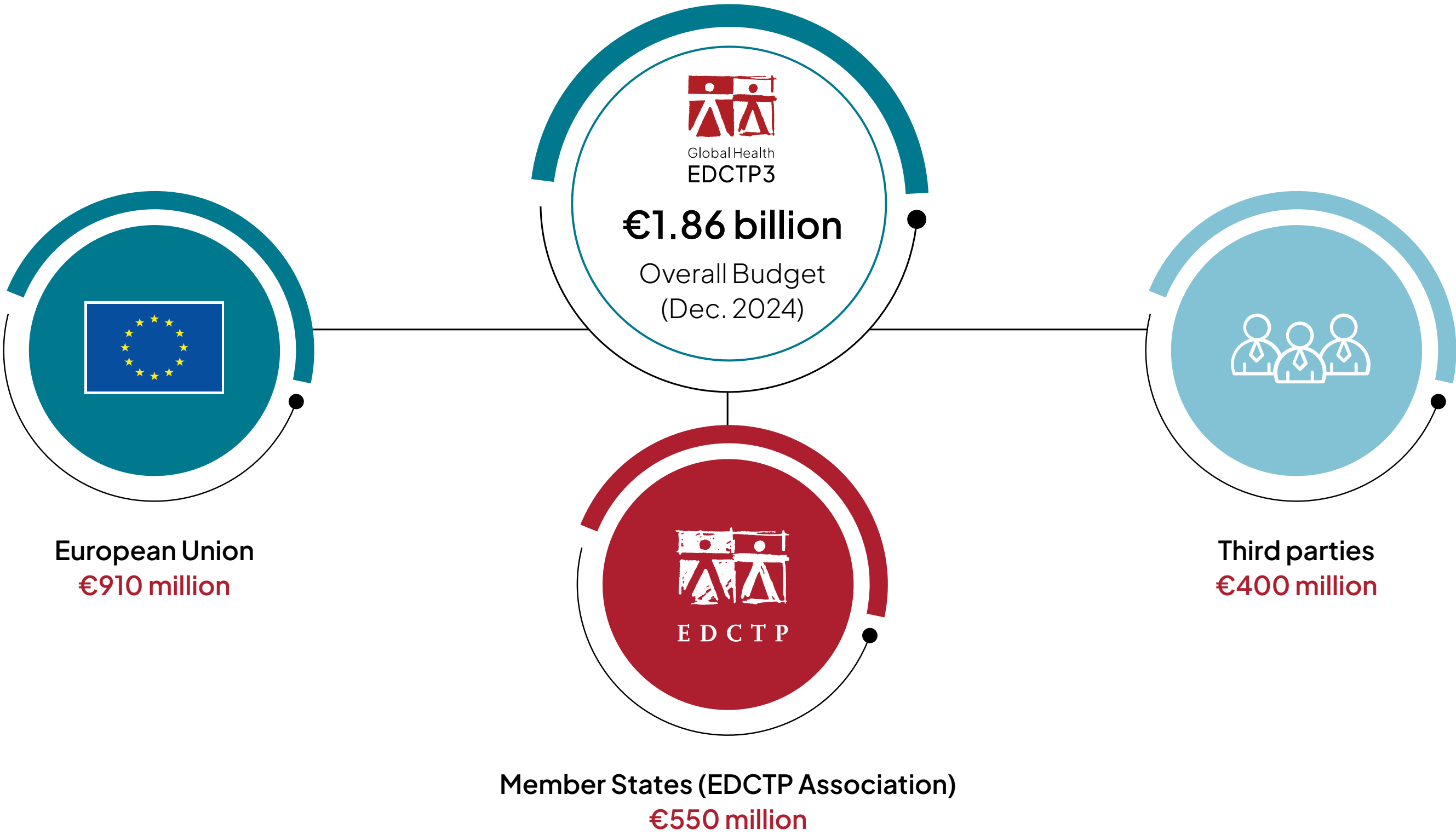
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Programme budget 2021-2031

Budget implementation for 2021-2027 annual work programmes



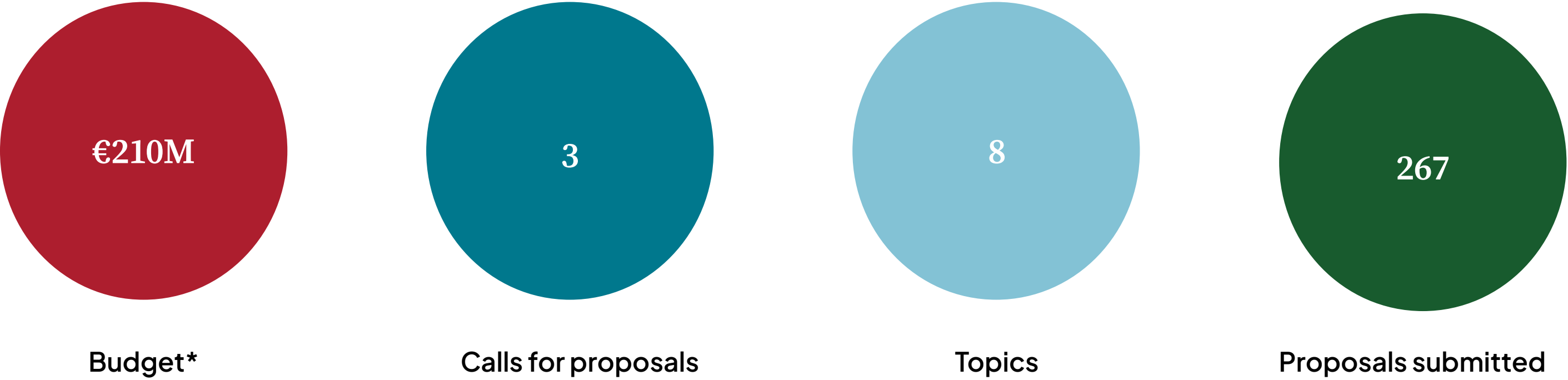
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Calls for proposals launched in 2024



* Indicative budget available for calls for proposals under the 2024 Work Programme











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Call topics concluded in 2024

Improving modes of delivery, deployment, and uptake of vaccines through phase IV/implementation research		Budget	€30M	5 projects selected for funding
Advancing point-of-care diagnostics to the market		Budget	€26M	5 projects selected for funding
Developing novel, innovative HIV therapeutics for reducing the disease burden of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa		Budget	€22M	3 projects selected for funding
Research on existing malaria vaccines and development of new promising candidate		Budget	€30M	2 projects selected for funding
Accelerating development and integration of therapeutics against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa		Budget	€22M	4 projects selected for funding
Tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through R&D in novel and existing antimicrobials		Budget	€24M	4 projects selected for funding
New tools, technologies and approaches for vector control in sub-Saharan Africa		Budget	€18.4M	3 projects selected for funding
Innovative digital health solutions for sub-Saharan Africa		Budget	€20M	3 projects selected for funding
Global Health EDCTP3 JU training fellowship with return phase		Budget	€3.5M	1 project selected for funding
Mobilisation of emergency funding for mpox outbreak research response		Budget	€12.1M	9 projects selected for funding (5 initially selected and 4 from the reserve list)

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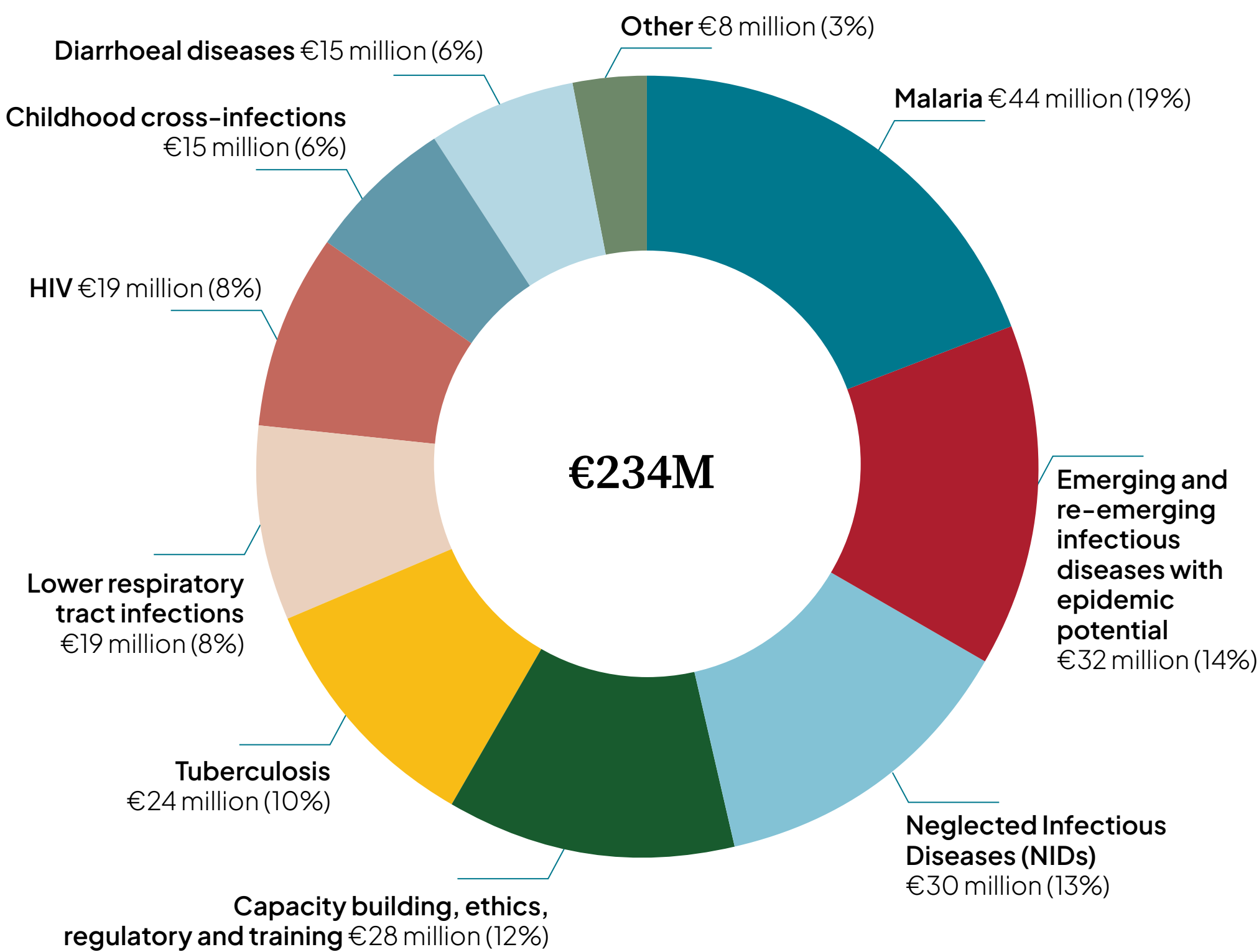
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Investments portfolio across disease areas 2022-2024

(in million EUR)

By December 2024, **74 projects** were supported by Global Health EDCTP3, with funding amounting to €234M and total project costs amounting to €254M EUR.



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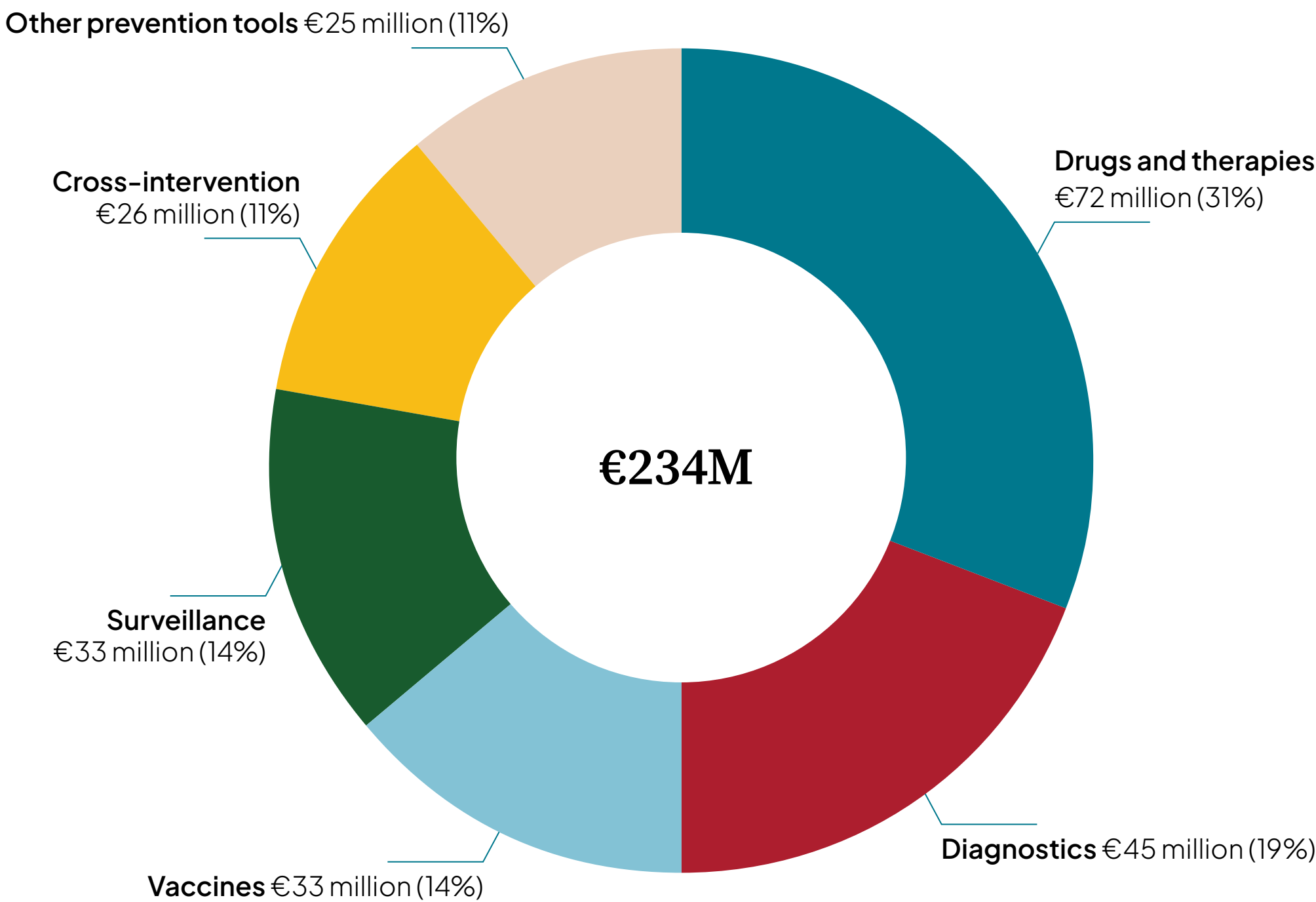
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Investments portfolio per type of intervention 2022-2024

(in million EUR)



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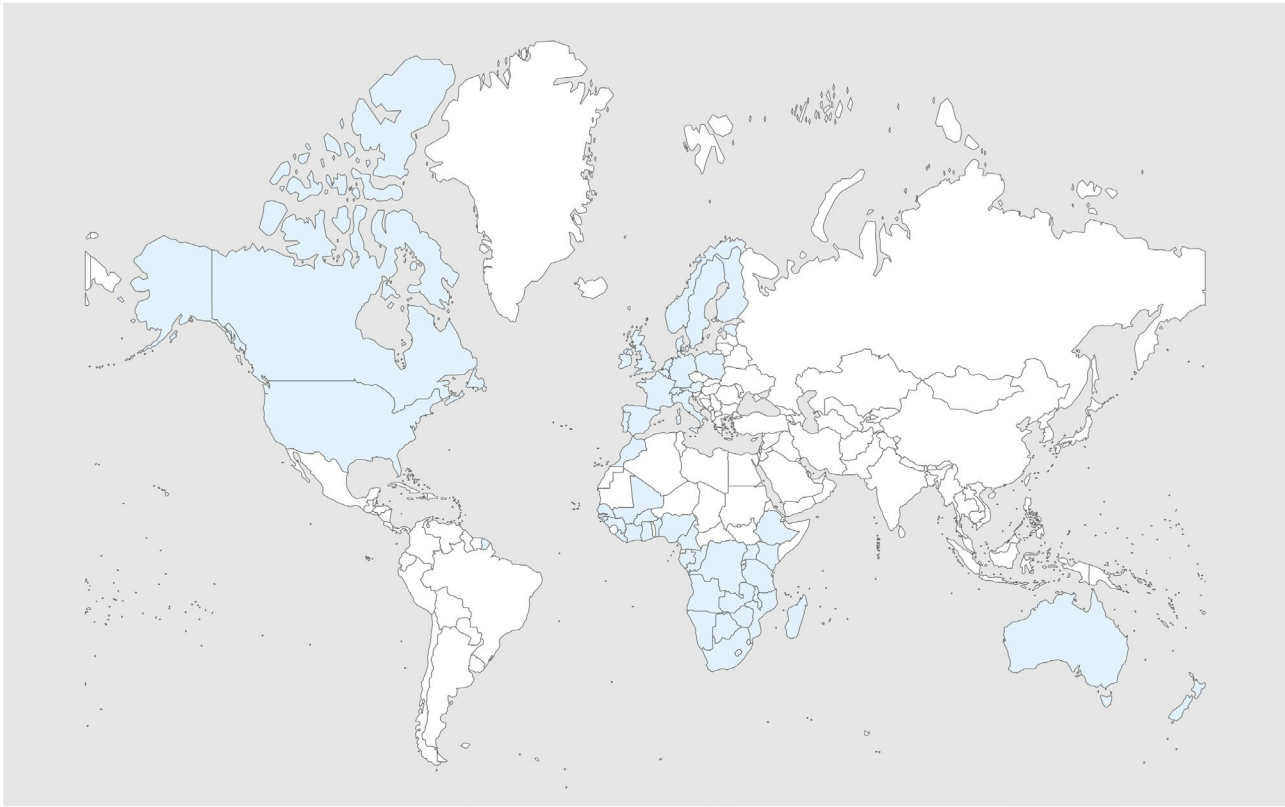
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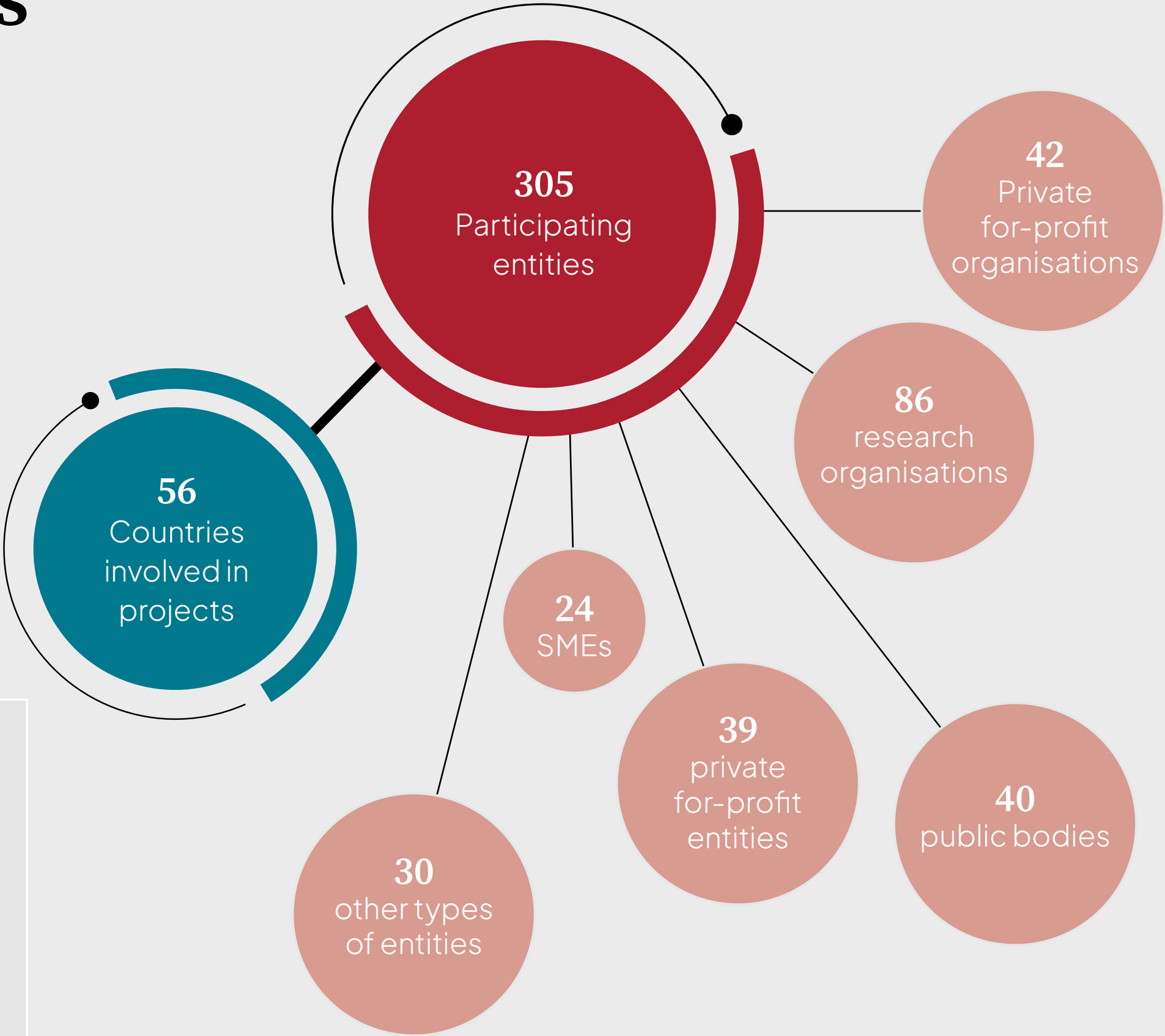
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Participation in grants

Global Health EDCTP3 has gathered a **rich network of stakeholders** actively participating in its projects.



Countries with participants implementing projects funded by Global Health EDCTP3 (as of Dec. 2024)



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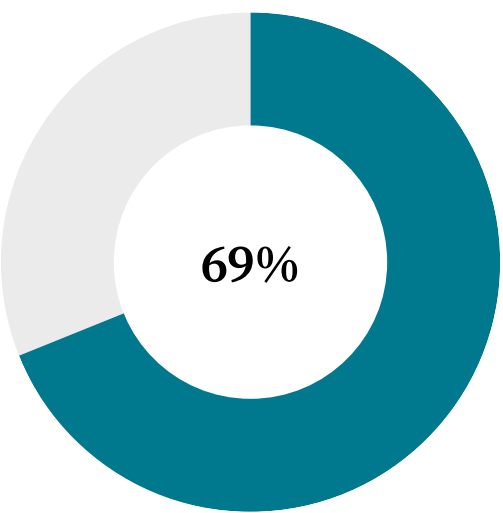
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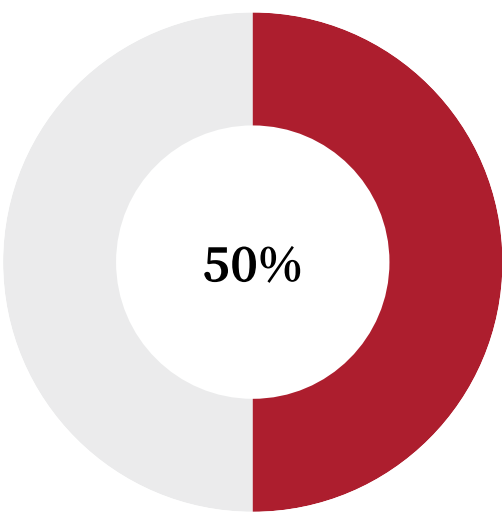
Gender balance

As part of our commitment to promoting gender balance and fostering a more inclusive and diverse environment, the following statistics were observed at the end of 2024.

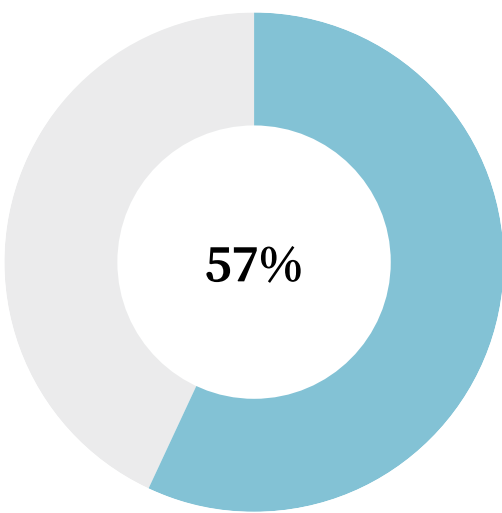
Women’s representation



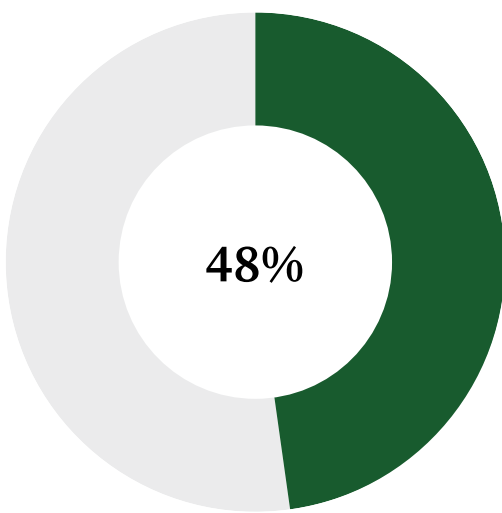
Programme Office



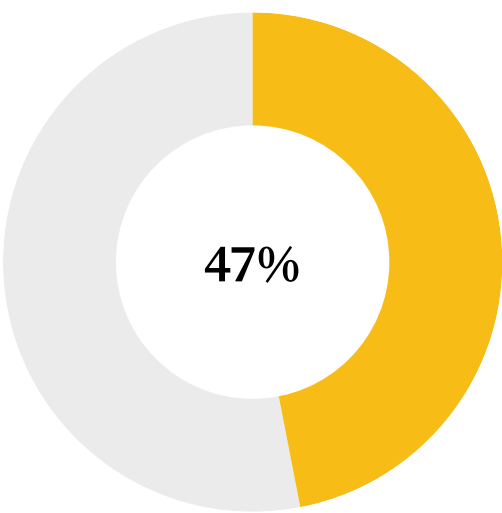
Governing Board



Scientific Committee



Stakeholders Group



Expert evaluators for calls for proposals

Gender balance was also well achieved in leadership positions, with women serving as the Chairperson of the Governing Board and as Vice-Chairpersons of both the Scientific Committee and the Stakeholders Group. Additionally, two out of the three middle management positions in the Programme Office were held by women.



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