

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d’Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

HerpeZ
Department of Paediatrics and Child Health
D-Block Research Office
University Teaching Hospital
Tel: +260963942556
31st July 2025

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of HerpeZ, D-Block Research Office University Teaching Hospital , and in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 of 19th November 2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe and specifically Article 9 therein, I hereby submit an application to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU).

HerpeZ is a not-for-profit medical research organisation founded in 2012 by Dr. Matthew Bates, PhD, and Dr. Kunda Musonda, MBChB, PhD, with the mission to advance infectious disease research and strengthen healthcare capacity in Zambia. Based within the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka — the nation’s principal referral facility — HerpeZ integrates cutting-edge research with diagnostics and policy engagement to improve health outcomes. The organisation’s reach extends through collaborations with over twenty community clinics, district hospitals, and regional facilities, and partnerships with key departments at the University Teaching Hospital as well as the University of Zambia School of Medicine, the Zambian Ministry of Health, and global research institutions including University College London, University of Tübingen, and University of Lincoln. Equipped with a state-of-the-art research laboratory, HerpeZ has delivered high-impact contributions to national and international guidelines, led EDCTP-funded clinical trials such as EMPIRICAL and DATURA, and played a pivotal role in outbreak preparedness initiatives through PANDORA-ID-NET and Ebola response training.

HerpeZ’s mission and activities strongly align with the vision and objectives of the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking. Like EDCTP3, we are dedicated to reducing the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa by driving the development, evaluation, and implementation of innovative diagnostics, treatments, and preventive interventions. Our work in clinical trials, molecular diagnostics, and translational research mirrors EDCTP3’s emphasis on advancing biomedical interventions and generating evidence that informs policy and practice. HerpeZ’s sustained investment in training and mentoring the next generation of African scientists directly supports EDCTP3’s objective of strengthening research capacity, fostering gender and regional equity, and building sustainable scientific leadership. Our deep engagement with our national ministries, international partners, and multi-level health systems reflects EDCTP3’s commitment to coordinated, multi-sectoral collaboration, North–South and South–South partnerships, and enhanced epidemic preparedness. In both vision and execution, HerpeZ and EDCTP3 share a common goal: to translate high-quality research into tangible health improvements for vulnerable populations across Africa.

HERPEZ will contribute to the PRESERVE project through active participation in Work Packages 1, 3, and 4. Under **Work Package 1** (Evaluation of Diagnostic Tools), we will conduct tuberculosis diagnostic trials as outlined in the protocol, leveraging our state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka to generate high-quality data that informs clinical and policy decision-making. In **Work Package 3** (Strengthening One Health Clinical Research), we will engage in research aimed at elucidating the zoonotic transmission dynamics of tuberculosis, working in close collaboration with partners to integrate human, animal, and environmental health data within a One Health framework. For **Work Package 4**, HERPEZ will provide technical expertise and operational support to ensure effective delivery of its assigned tasks, drawing on our extensive experience in infectious disease research, capacity development, and policy engagement. Through these contributions, we aim to enhance the scientific outputs and translational impact of PRESERVE across the region.

We are committed to contributing our expertise and resources to ensure the successful delivery of the project's objectives, particularly within **Work Packages 1, 3, and 4**.

As part of our in-kind contribution, HERPEZ will provide:

- **Access to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities** located at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, equipped for advanced molecular diagnostics and sequencing. These will be utilised for tuberculosis sequencing and molecular testing required under Work Package 1, as well as zoonotic TB testing under Work Package 3.
- **Access to autopsy facilities** through our established collaborations, enabling animal autopsy investigations essential for zoonotic transmission studies.
- **Training infrastructure and expertise**, including use of our access to the ECHO platform, for capacity building and delivery of training modules developed under Work Package 4 to strengthen outbreak preparedness and response.

In accordance with EU grant costing guidelines, the estimated value of this in-kind contribution — covering facility use, equipment time, personnel effort, and training platform access — is **EUR 30,500** over the course of the project.

Contribution Item	Unit Cost (EUR)	Estimated Units	Total (EUR)
Lab & equipment use (sequencing, PCR, biosafety facilities)	€150/hour	150 hours	€22,500
Autopsy facility & staff	€500/day	10 days	€5,000
Training facilities & ECHO platform	€200/session	15 sessions	€3,000
Total Estimated In-Kind Contribution			€30,500

HERPEZ has a proven record of delivering on EDCTP-funded projects such as EMPIRICAL and DATURA, and we are confident in our ability to meet our responsibilities under PRESERVE. We look forward to working closely with EDCTP, the consortium partners, and all stakeholders to achieve the project's goals and deliver sustainable impact in the field of infectious disease research and outbreak response.

HERPEZ is proud to join the PRESERVE consortium and contribute our expertise to advancing the project's objectives. Our track record of delivering impactful research, including multiple EDCTP-funded projects such as EMPIRICAL and DATURA, demonstrates our reliability as a partner capable of meeting scientific, operational, and policy translation goals. Through these initiatives, we have successfully conducted complex clinical trials, strengthened diagnostic capacity, and informed both national and international health guidelines. As an established centre for infectious disease research and capacity development in Zambia, we bring not only technical capability but also strong collaborative networks across healthcare, academia, and government. We look forward to working closely with EDCTP and our fellow PRESERVE partners to generate high-quality evidence, strengthen One Health research capacity, and translate outcomes into sustainable health improvements across the region.

We confirm the following:

1. We will comply with the Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) No 2021/695; Council Regulation (EU) No 2085/2021 establishing the joint undertakings under Horizon Europe; the Model Grant Agreement for Horizon Europe and applicable Global Health EDCTP3 JU rules, including the relevant work programmes and in particular the call conditions therein.
2. We will keep all information received in the context of our involvement as contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 JU confidential. This confidentiality obligation applies in particular but is not limited to the areas of Global Health EDCTP3 JU call topic preparation and publication, proposal submission and evaluation, and consortium formation. We further understand that this obligation strictly prohibits the release of confidential information to any legal entities save where specifically authorised by Global Health EDCTP3 JU. Internal dissemination of information within our organisation will be done on the basis of the "need-to-know" principle.
3. We are confident of our ability to fulfil the above commitments and further confirm our understanding that the Global Health EDCTP3 JU will allocate resources to the above topic based on these commitments.
4. The value of our contribution will be based on costs calculated in accordance with Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.
5. We accept that additional modalities regarding the provision of our contribution may be defined in subsequent agreements or documents, such as a funding agreement and topic text.

Yours faithfully,



Dr John Tembo
Scientific Coordinator
HerpeZ
University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia.
Tel: +260963942556
Email: John.tembo@herpez.org ,
john.tembo@gmail.com