



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

September, 19, 2025

Letter of endorsement

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, prof. dr. Bernard Vanheusden, on behalf of Hasselt University, Martelarenlaan 42, 3500 Hasselt Belgium, registered company number 0208.359.859, 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).

As the rector of Hasselt University, I would like to express my support for the project: “Sustainable Training in Epidemiological Analysis and Modelling for Data-Driven Decision Making in Africa (STEAM-3D)”.

The STEAM-3D project seeks to address critical gaps in mathematical and statistical infectious diseases modelling capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing high-quality, multidisciplinary training with a focus on sustainability and policy impact.

Hasselt University (UHasselt) is a young, independent, and innovative university located in the heart of Europe, in Belgium. Today, the university comprises seven faculties, three schools, four researchinstitutes, three research centers, 7,800 students, and 1,800 researchers and staff members. Approximately 35% of all doctorates are joint PhDs, around 46% of UHasselt’s doctoral candidates come from outside Belgium, and 25% of the academic staff are international. UHasselt has been included for the 9th time in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and, in the 2025 edition, is positioned in the 301–350 range. In the 2023 Times Higher Education Young University Rankings, which evaluates institutions under 50 years old, UHasselt was ranked 35th globally and commended for its excellence in education, research, international impact, and contract research income.

The mission of the STEAM-3D resonates well with the **civic mission** of Hasselt University through which we assume our responsibility, commit ourselves, and share our knowledge in ways that benefit society. The involved research institute with Hasselt University, the Data Science Institute, has a strong reputation in innovative statistical, mathematical, and AI research and software development to support data-driven decision-making processes in public health and beyond. In particular, DSI has played a leading role in COVID-19 research in support of policymakers in charge of control measures at the regional, national, and EU levels. UHasselt DSI’s commitment continues through pandemic preparedness projects, which clearly recognize the need to involve and collaborate with partners globally.

As a co-applicant on the project, UHasselt will be involved with the project overall and, in particular, will lead WP6 and participate in WPs 3,4 and 7-14.

To underscore our commitment to the project, UHasselt will support the STEAM-3D project with cofounding through in-kind contributions by expert members of the Data Science Institute (DSI) to



the project activities. This amounts to 10% time investment by senior researchers at postdoctoral or professor level per year, during the duration of the project (equivalent to 82,000 euros in-kind contribution). In addition, Hasselt University will provide office space, materials, and internet connection to all participants in the summer school that will be organized at UHasselt in the second year of the project.

Furthermore, the project and summer school participants will benefit from valuable insights, expertise, and materials gained or developed through previous and ongoing research projects on COVID-19 funded by the EU (e.g. EpiPose, VERDI, and ESCAPE projects) and other funding agencies.

We strongly believe that this project can make an important contribution to increased expertise within the area of infectious diseases modeling and data-driven decisions for policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

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,

Signed by: Bernard Vanheusden
Signed at: 2025-09-19 09:29:08 +02:00
Reason: I approve this document

Bernard Vanheusden

Prof. dr. Bernard Vanheusden
Rector Hasselt University, Belgium