

Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office

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Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office



A division of the Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Henning Gädeke - Chair (Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Governing Board)
c/o **Michael Makanga** - Executive Director (Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking)
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d'Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

26 August 2025

RE: Letter of endorsement – EPIDEMIC Fellowship Program

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the **Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE²RO) of the Wits Health Consortium (WHC)**, 32 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg 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, we hereby submit an application to become a contributing partner to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (Global Health EDCTP3 JU).

HE²RO was established in 2004 as a collaboration between WHC and the Center for Global Health and Development at Boston University in the United States. Our work focuses on understanding the economic and epidemiological consequences of infectious diseases epidemics including HIV, TB and COVID-19 and the effectiveness, benefits, and costs of interventions. It responds directly to requests for information and technical assistance from the National Department of Health, National Health Laboratory Service, provincial departments of health, PEPFAR partners, and healthcare providers, answering questions of immediate practical relevance to these stakeholders.

The HE²RO team of approximately sixty Johannesburg-based senior and junior researchers and staff includes expertise in health economics, epidemiology, study design, data management, and quantitative and qualitative research methods. As a research entity working at the intersection of health economics and epidemiology, we are uniquely positioned to contribute to the EDCTP3 goals. Already entrenched in training and capacity building efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, HE²RO will lead Work package 8 providing current methodological training in epidemiology, biostatistics and health economics. We will also contribute our extensive experience in infectious disease modelling to Work package 10. EPIDEMIC Fellows will also benefit from HE²RO's access to diverse observational and clinical trial datasets as well as unique costing and transmission models that HE²RO has developed and applied to South Africa's most pressing public health challenges. During Year 2 of the program, Fellows seconded to HE²RO will be provided with access to our workstation spaces and facilities to conduct their research projects as well as additional academic enhancement opportunities through our regular research meetings and journal clubs.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be **EUR 323,871.00** over the two year period.

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,

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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,



Jacqui Miot, PhD

Division Director, Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE²RO)

Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences

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