

Highlights of 2025

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Co-funded by
the European Union



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1 Foreword

“Over the past two decades, EDCTP has grown from a pioneering vision into the largest health research funding partnership between Europe and Africa.”

Dr Michael Makanga
Executive Director,
Global Health EDCTP3

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Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

I am pleased to present the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (JU) Annual Activity Report 2025. This year focused on **driving new results** and **strategically assessing our journey** of more than two decades of partnership.

Since its establishment in 2003, EDCTP has evolved into a distinctive Europe–Africa research partnership, supported by the European Union and, at the end of 2025, by **46 countries through the EDCTP Association**. It has fostered a dynamic, collaborative ecosystem grounded in equity, scientific excellence and shared purpose to combat infectious diseases.

Over the past two decades, EDCTP-supported research has contributed to at least [14 life-saving health innovations](#) currently in use. These include the first WHO-recommended malaria vaccines, improved child-friendly formulations for HIV and neglected tropical diseases, and point-of-care tuberculosis diagnostics. Moreover, new, easy-to-administer medications have been successfully deployed to treat neglected diseases. More than **3 000 African scientists and health professionals** have also been supported through long-term training and leadership initiatives. Beyond this, extensive short-term training has equipped a large number of researchers with critical skills in clinical research, ethics, and regulatory compliance.

This legacy provided an important reference point to assess [the added value of EDCTP both for Europe and Africa](#).

In 2025, the project portfolio continued to expand, with **33 new projects** starting their activities. By the end of the year, **107 projects had been funded**, with a total JU contribution of **€430 million**. **406 organisations** are participating in the programme.

Dr Michael Makanga
Executive Director,
Global Health EDCTP3



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Global Health EDCTP3 also made strong progress in **mobilising co-investments** for research and capacity-development activities, through additional cash commitments and in-kind contributions from Member States and pledges from Contributing Partners. Taken together, these efforts place the programme firmly **on track to exceed its initial leverage target**, reflecting strong partner engagement and shared commitment.

In parallel, Global Health EDCTP3's **visibility and influence continued to grow** in 2025, with its work referenced in published analyses and reports by leading organisations such as the World Economic Forum, Impact Global Health, the Centre for European Policy Studies and the Danish Alliance for Global Health.

A key highlight of the year was the **Twelfth EDCTP Forum in Kigali**. Bringing together over **1 200 delegates**, the event perfectly embodied our partnership's shared purpose, ambition and sense of community. It also provided an ideal platform to showcase our outstanding research and capacity-development achievements.

As we look ahead, the achievements of 2025 and the lessons of the past two decades provide **a solid foundation** and **increased confidence** on the added value of the partnership to further advance impactful research, expand capacity and strengthen health security globally.



Global Health EDCTP3 project in action in Mozambique.

“ We have built an ecosystem rooted in equity, scientific excellence and shared purpose, delivering solutions for the infectious diseases that continue to threaten the world’s most vulnerable communities and to jeopardise global health security. ”

Dr Michael Makanga

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2 Executive summary

“Funding through the EDCTP helps to establish scientific, regulatory and clinical trial capacity in nations where it has historically been absent, most needed, and where it will benefit also research in other disease areas than neglected diseases.”

Impact Global Health,
February 2025



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Mobilised co-investments

In 2025, Global Health EDCTP3 made **substantial progress in mobilising additional investments** for research and capacity-building in infectious diseases. New and reinforced cash commitments from EDCTP Association members linked to grants and calls for proposals resulted in a cumulative total of **€35 million in additional financial contributions**.

In parallel, EDCTP Association members significantly expanded their planned **in-kind additional activities (IKAAs)** aligned with the Global Health EDCTP3 mandate. The estimated value of these **coordinated national investments now exceeds €700 million**, reflecting strong alignment between national research agendas and the JU's objectives.

IKAAs remain strategically critical for Global Health EDCTP3 because they enable **structural coherence between national research systems and the JU** - particularly in areas such as regulatory capacity, clinical research networks, workforce training and preparedness - that cannot be achieved through cash contributions alone. They also embed JU priorities within initiatives of national institutions, hence ensuring that investments will continue to generate impact beyond the lifetime of JU-funded projects.

Looking ahead, **Contributing Partner commitments** are projected to increase further in 2026 to more than **€150 million**, following the introduction in 2025 of **new co-funding mechanisms** designed to facilitate joint investments and coordinated programming.



Global Health EDCTP3 projects in action in Burkina Faso and Mali.

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Taken together, these developments indicate that **Global Health EDCTP3 is on track to surpass its initial leverage target of mobilising at least 1 euro from partners for every 1 euro invested by the European Union through Horizon Europe.** This reflects sustained confidence in the partnership and a shared commitment to strengthening research capacity, epidemic preparedness and global health security.

Our portfolio as of 2025

Since its launch in 2022, Global Health EDCTP3 has steadily built a **diverse, strategically oriented and demand-driven project portfolio.** Between 2021 and 2025, the programme launched 13 calls across 30 topics, attracting 827 submitted proposals.

As of December 2025, **107 projects have been funded** with a total JU contribution of €430 million, including 33 new projects having started in 2025. Of the 107 funded projects, 91 (€413 million) focus on accelerating the development of medical countermeasures against infectious diseases, while 16 (€17 million) support capacity building, networking and training. This reflects a balanced approach between innovation and system strengthening.

Investments cover all major priority disease areas, with the largest shares directed to malaria, neglected infectious diseases, tuberculosis, HIV and emerging/re-emerging pathogens. In terms of interventions, the portfolio prioritises therapeutics, followed by diagnostics, vaccines and surveillance tools. Beyond disease-specific work, projects contribute to wider scientific and societal priorities, including digital health, antimicrobial resistance, climate adaptation, women's health, and environment and biodiversity.

Signature of Memorandum of Understanding between Africa CDC and Global Health EDCTP3, Addis Ababa, February 2025.



Visit of WHO regional directors for Europe and Africa, Brussels, December 2025.

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A total of 406 organisations participate in the portfolio. In the spirit of a partnership of equals, 50% of participating entities are based in Africa, 44% in Europe, and 6% in other regions of the world.

Education and research organisations represent 64% of participants. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), product development partnerships (PDPs), and private for-profit organisations together are involved in close to 60% of funded projects, signalling a growing role for diverse actors in **translating research into practical health solutions.**

Looking ahead, on 3 December 2025 Global Health EDCTP3 published its [Work Programme 2026](#), setting out an indicative budget of €160 million for upcoming calls. The programme prioritises tuberculosis, lower respiratory tract infections, HIV and climate-related infectious diseases, among other strategic areas. Preparatory work completed in 2025 enabled calls to open in mid-January 2026, supported by online multilingual Info Days and a [networking platform](#) to facilitate partnership-building and high-quality consortia. The Work Programme also confirms the continuation of Global Collaboration Action calls, allowing Contributing Partners to align investments across four research and innovation topics.

Evolution of the programme

Over the past two decades, EDCTP has grown into the largest health research funding partnership between Europe and Africa.

This progress is driven by steadily increasing investments across its three iterations - EDCTP1, EDCTP2 and now Global Health EDCTP3.



Global Health EDCTP3 project in action in Burkina Faso.

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After steady growth in the mid-2000s, funding surged in 2016 and accelerated further with the 2022 launch of Global Health EDCTP3. By 2025, cumulative funding for signed grants across all three programmes reached over €1.5 billion, and this centrally managed impact is nearly doubled when including additional activities independently managed by EDCTP-Association member countries.

This trajectory demonstrates how **consistent commitment from the European Union, EDCTP Association member countries and Contributing Partners** has enabled the partnership to broaden its reach, enhance its scientific efforts, and increase its impact on global health and preparedness.

Growing external recognition

In 2025, Global Health EDCTP3’s **visibility, footprint and impact continued to expand** across the global health and policy landscape. The programme was referenced in published analyses by organisations such as the [World Economic Forum](#), [Impact Global Health](#), [the Centre for European Policy Studies](#), and [the Danish Alliance for Global Health](#), reflecting growing external attention to its role in evidence generation and policy discussions.

Throughout the year, Global Health EDCTP3 was represented at more than **45 scientific and policy fora across Europe, Africa and beyond**, including the World Health Summit, the EU-AU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation, the POLITICO Health Care Summit, the Union World Conference on Lung Health, and the United Nations General Assembly Science Summit. The programme’s digital presence also increased, reaching over 25 000 [LinkedIn](#) followers, approximately 47 000 [website](#) visitors, and more than 4 000 newsletter subscribers.



PEP4LEP 2.0 awareness raising campaign on leprosy in Mozambique.

“ **Success in global health is measured in millions of lives saved every year, in healthier and more resilient communities, and in greater opportunities for those who are too often left behind. ,**

Dr Michael Makanga

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New perspectives to our Governing Board and Advisory Bodies

Equity remained a defining principle of the EDCTP partnership in 2025, reflected in its governance arrangements. The composition of the [Governing Board](#), [Scientific Committee](#) and [Stakeholders' Group](#) was renewed partially or fully, to guide the programme through its next critical phase.

The Governing Board welcomed María Pilar Aguar Fernández, Director for People: Health and Society at DG Research and Innovation, as Vice-Chairperson, and soon Chairperson. The Scientific Committee was also renewed, with Professor Harleen Grewal appointed Chairperson, continuing to provide independent scientific guidance and shape research priorities. In 2025, Global Health EDCTP3 launched a call for expressions of interest for membership of the Stakeholders' Group, with new appointments finalised in January 2026.

Internal control and financial management

Global Health EDCTP3 has systematically examined the available control results and indicators, as well as the observations and recommendations issued by the internal auditor and the European Court of Auditors to assess their impact on management's assurance about the achievement of control objectives.

In its '[Annual report on the EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2024](#)', the **European Court of Auditors (ECA) issued an unqualified ("clean") audit opinion on the accounts of the JU** and on the legality and regularity of the payments and revenue underlying the 2024 annual accounts.



PROTECT project, which aims at creating a network of sites to monitor the safety of vaccines administered during pregnancy in East Africa.

“ **Global health leadership is ultimately about equitable partnership.** ”

Dr Michael Makanga

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In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated.

Celebrating the EDCTP movement

A major milestone of 2025 was the [Twelfth EDCTP Forum](#) in Kigali, Rwanda, which brought together approximately 1 200 delegates. The Forum showcased scientific achievements, strengthened networks, and reaffirmed shared commitment to clinical research, health equity and preparedness.

Preparations were initiated for the [Thirteenth EDCTP Forum](#), scheduled for 5–9 April 2027 in Madrid, Spain, expected to be a key moment for reflection on the EDCTP legacy and future priorities.

More broadly, 2025 reinforced the cohesion of the EDCTP community – researchers, funders, policymakers and partners.

Their ongoing collaboration remains critical as Global Health EDCTP3 enters its final phase and helps shape its successor.

Opening ceremony of the Twelfth EDCTP forum, Kigali, Rwanda, June 2025.



Global Health EDCTP3 team at the Twelfth EDCTP Forum.

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3 Fact sheet

Highlights of 2025 in numbers



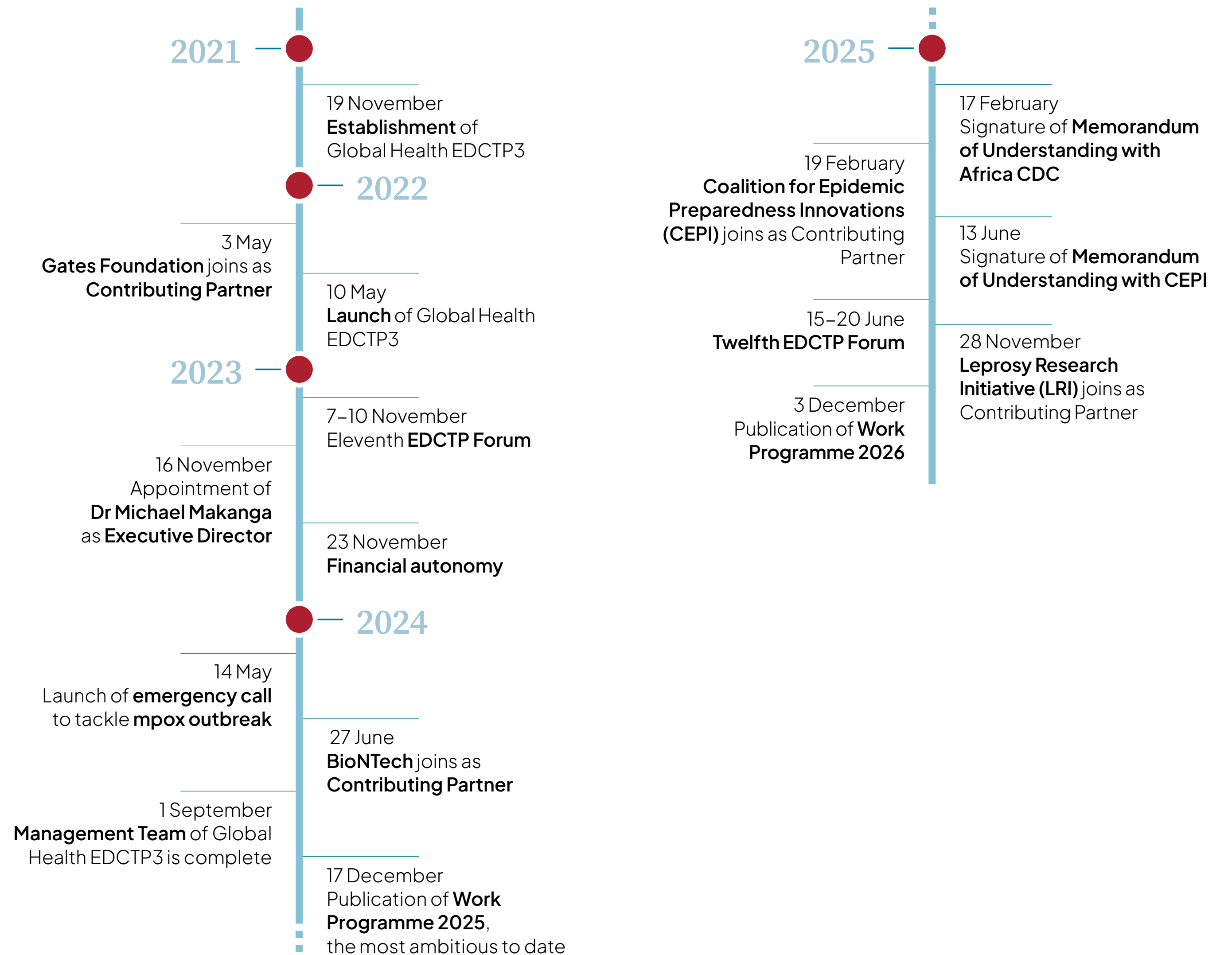
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Key milestones



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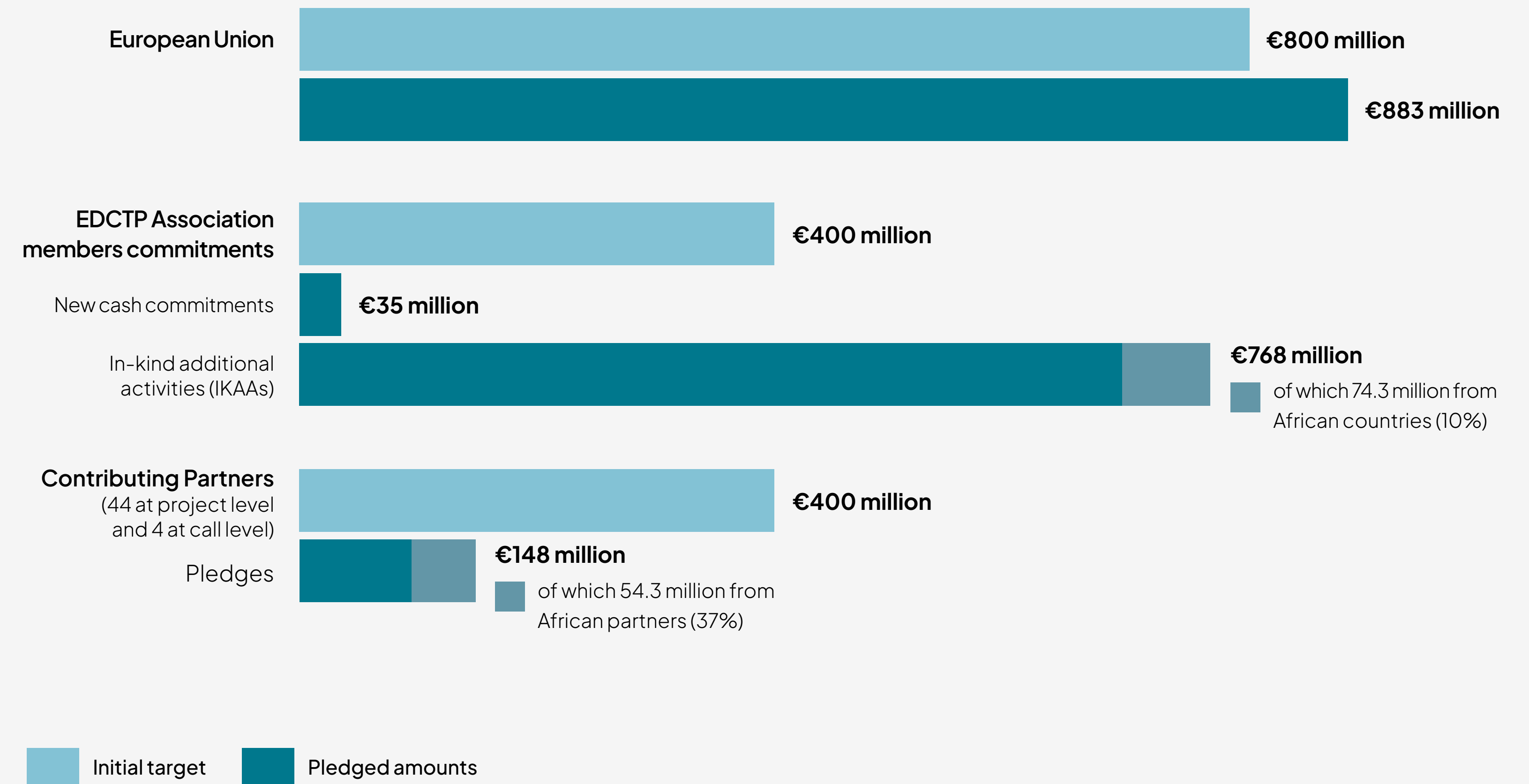
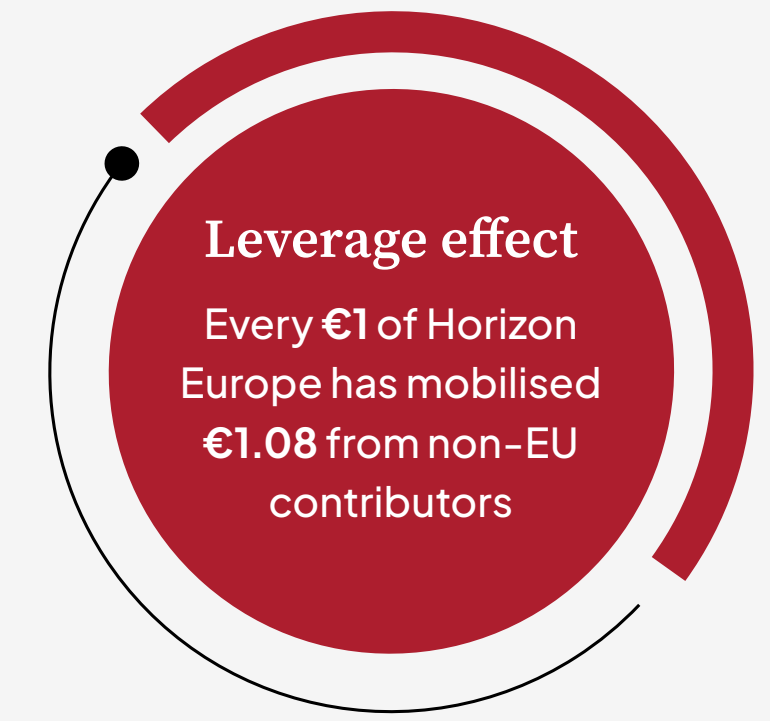
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Co-investments

In 2025, Global Health EDCTP3 made substantial progress in **mobilising additional investments** for research and capacity-building in infectious diseases.



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Calls for proposals launched in 2025



* Total budget available for calls for proposals in 2025 following two Work Programme amendments.

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Call topics concluded in 2025

	Budget	Proposals submitted at stage 1	Proposals submitted at stage 2	Projects selected for funding
Accelerating the development of prophylactic vaccines against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in sub-Saharan Africa	€45.9 million	18	12	3
Global collaboration action on malaria therapeutics and clinical development of new antimalarial candidates	€30.9 million	27	9	3
Global collaboration action on vaccines development for reducing the disease burden of tuberculosis in sub-Saharan Africa	€45.9 million	8	6	3
Global collaboration action for regional networks of excellence and epidemic preparedness consortia	€51 million	20	11	4
Global collaboration action tackling diarrhoeal diseases in the context of climate and health	€32 million	55	10	4
Strategic training hubs for fellowships in public health covering biostatistics, epidemiology and modelling	€14.4 million	53	30	11
Transformative innovations in global health	€17.1 million	106	26	7
Support for the Africa office of the EDCTP Association	€3 million	1	1	1
Totals	€240.2 million	288	104	36

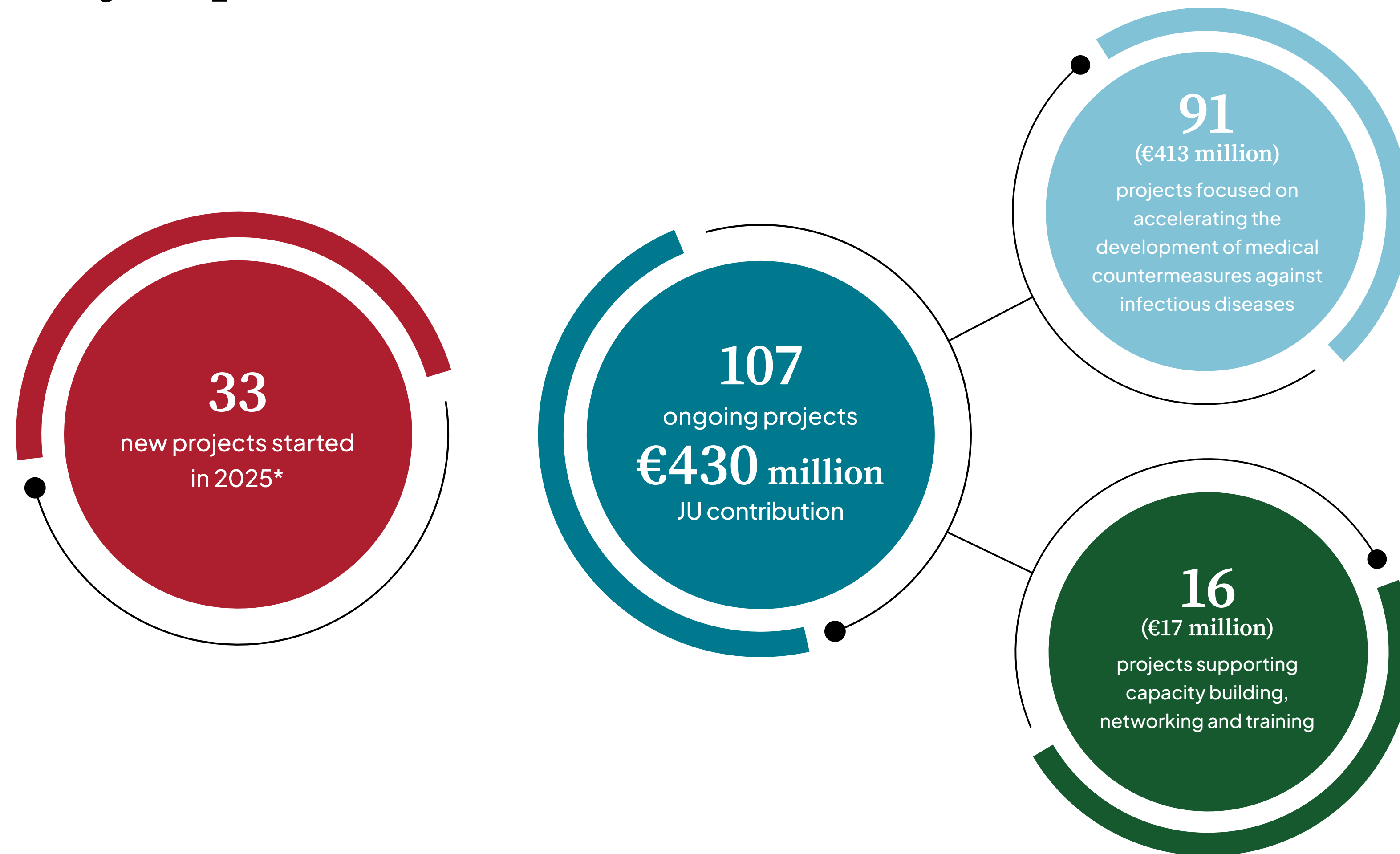
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Project portfolio in 2025



* As an outcome of the calls for proposals launched under Work Programme 2024.

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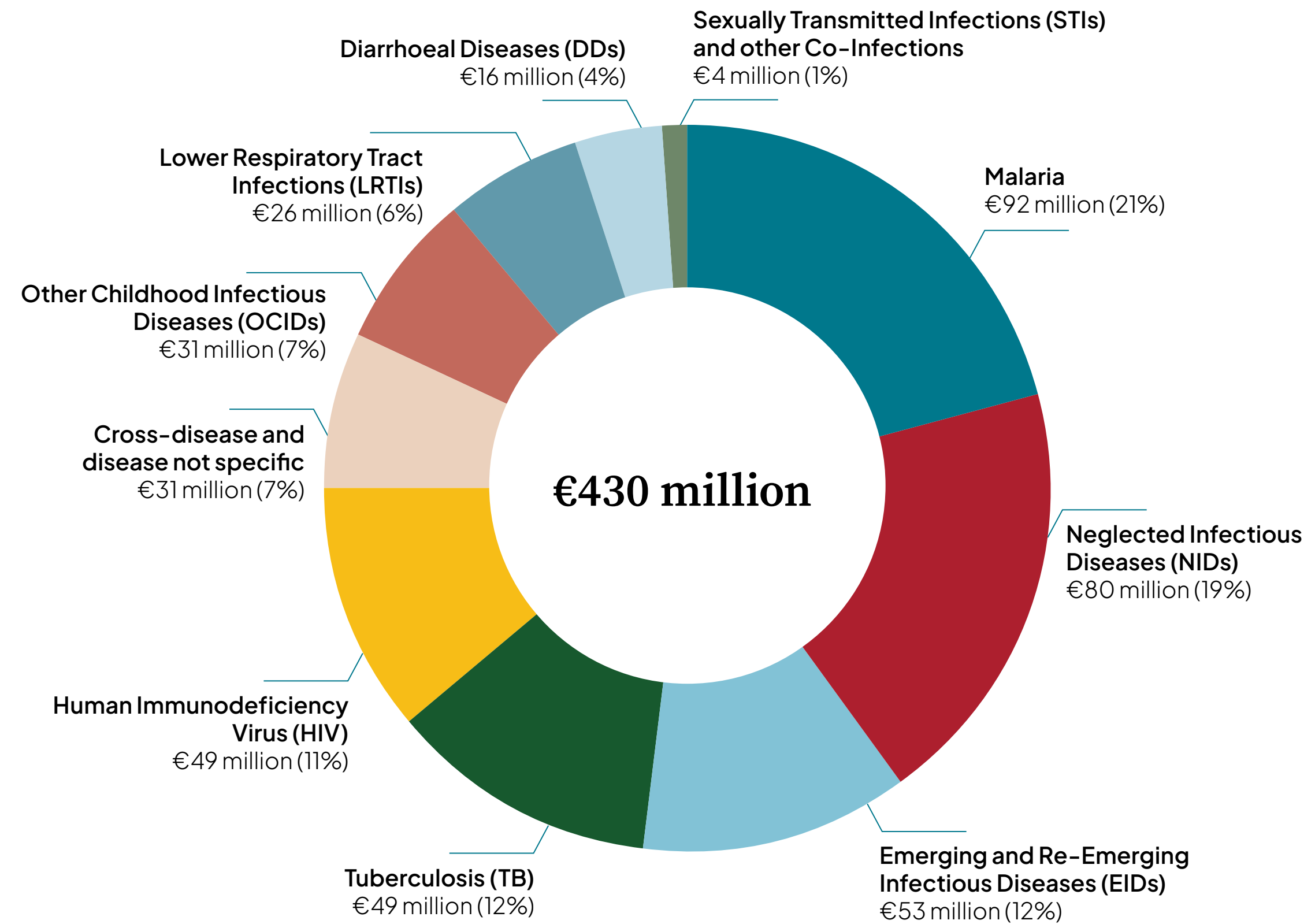
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Investment portfolio across disease areas 2022-2025

By December 2025, **107 projects** were supported by Global Health EDCTP3, with funding amounting to €430 million.



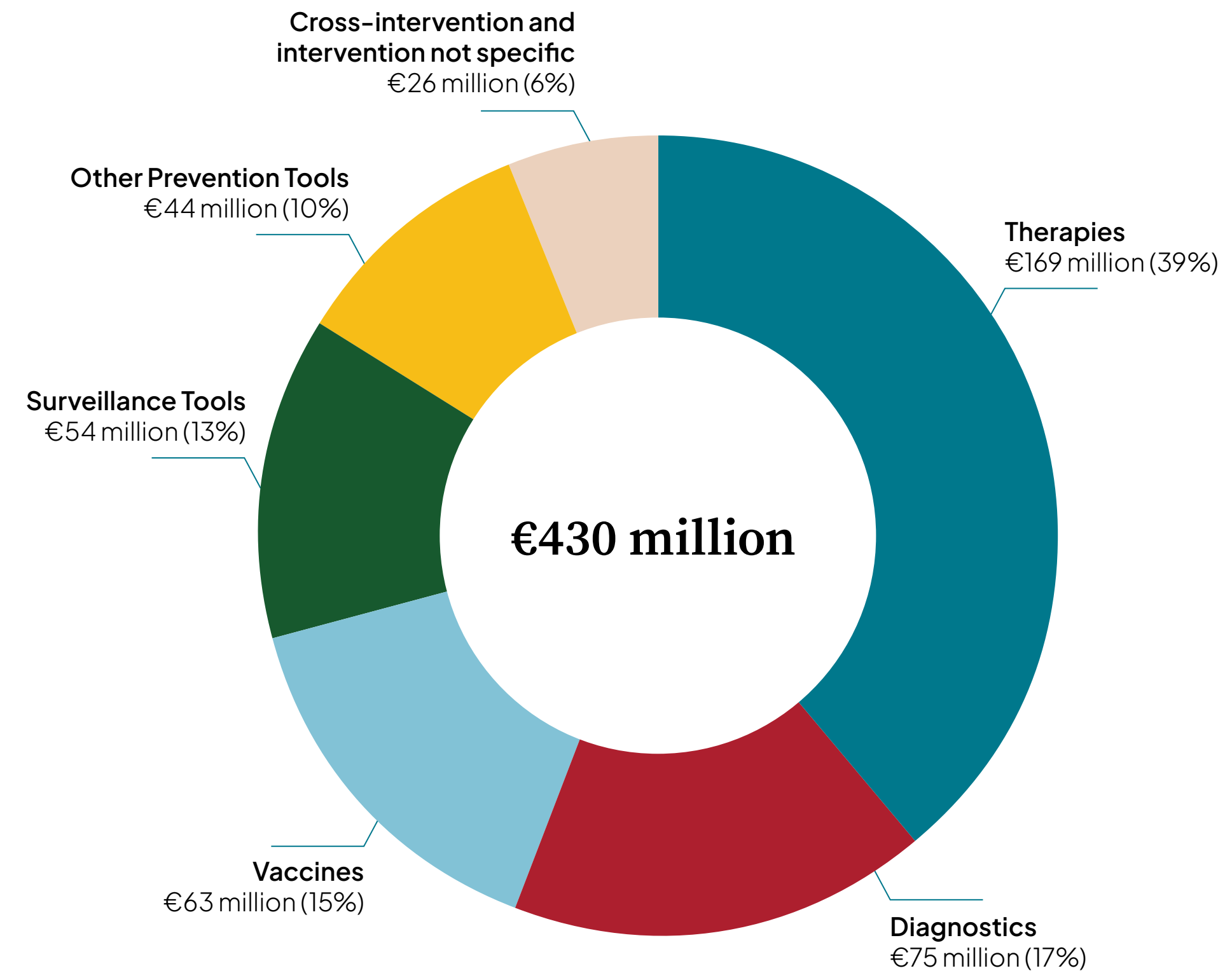
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Investment portfolio across intervention types 2022-2025



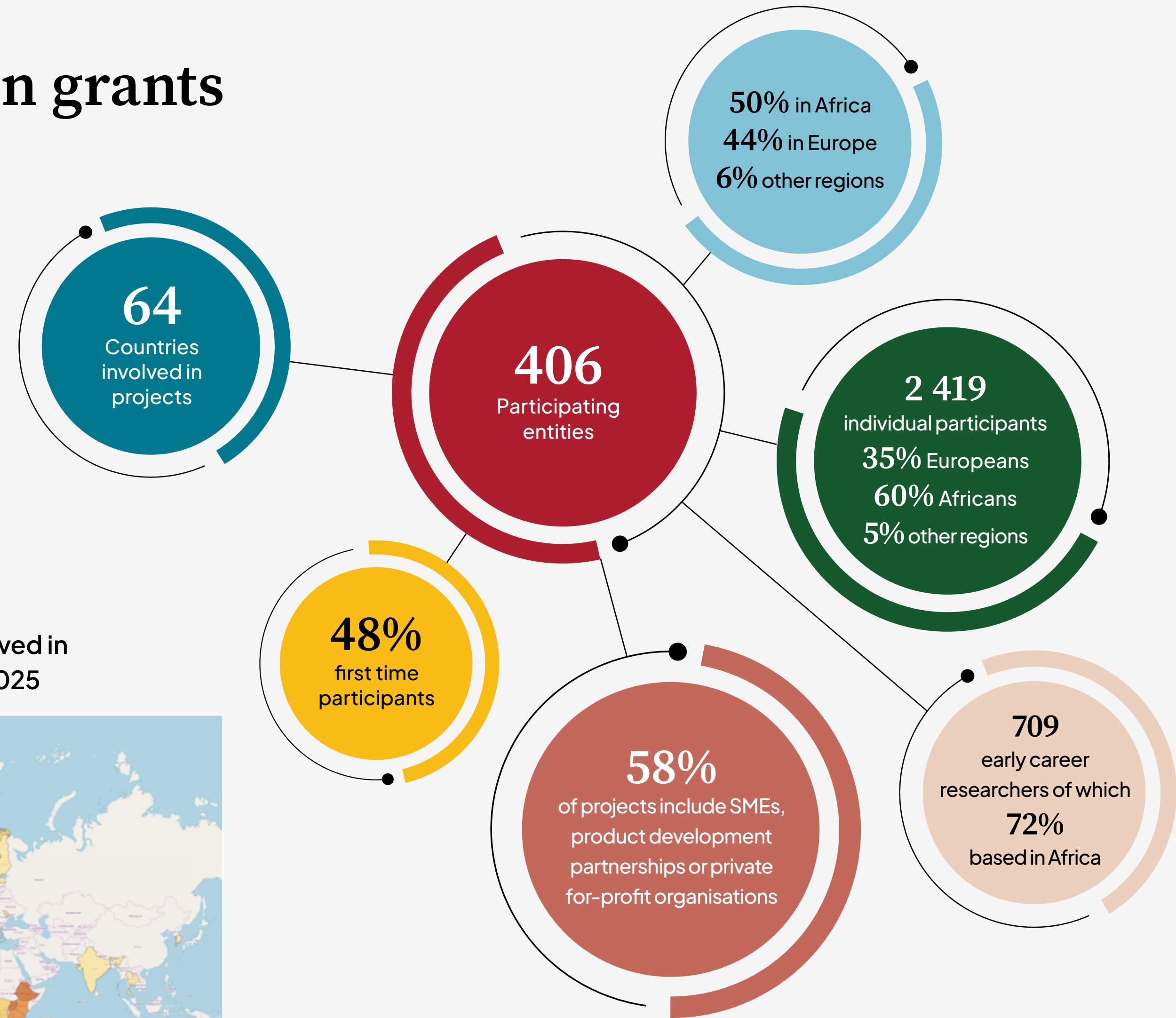
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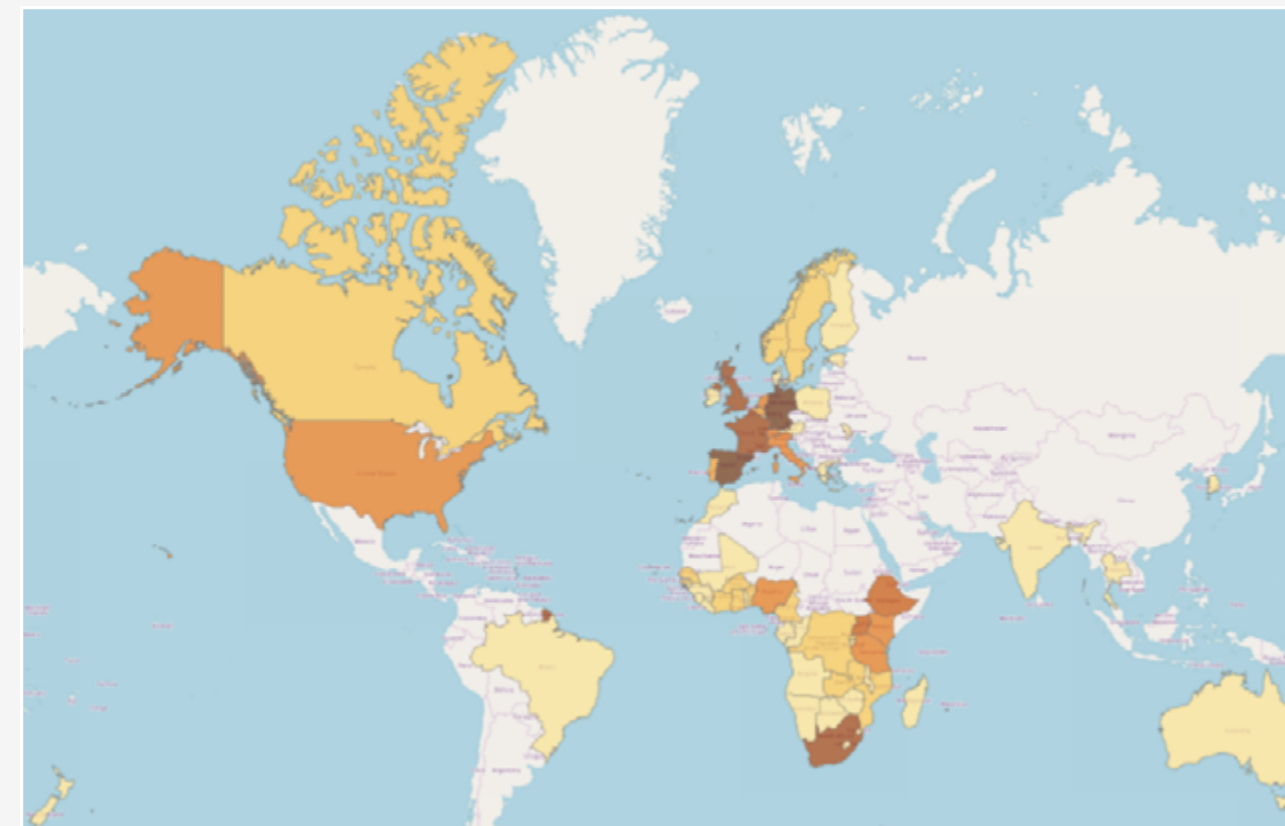
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Participation in grants



Countries of organisations involved in funded projects by the end of 2025



Darker colours for higher number of participating organisations.

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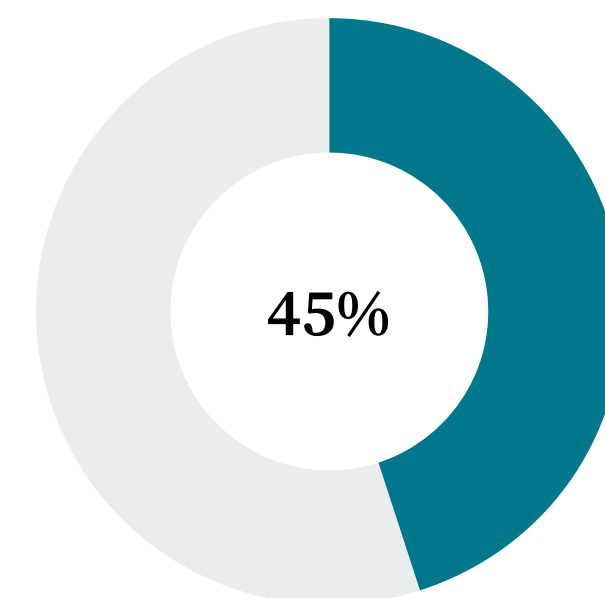
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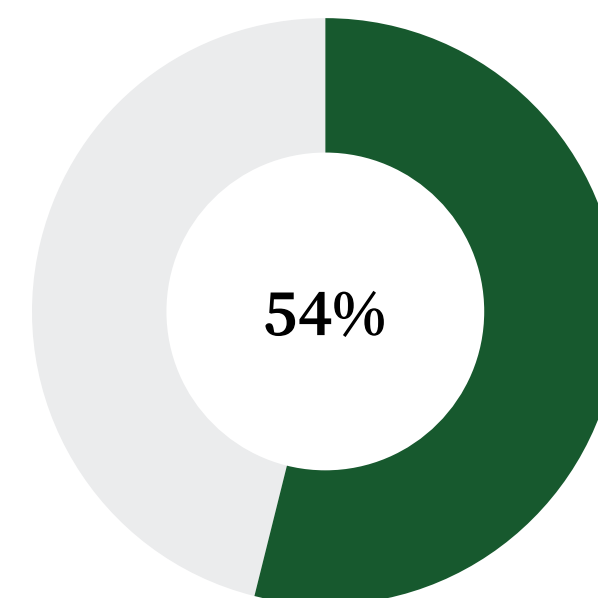
Gender balance in projects

Women's participation is close to parity overall, while the JU's continued efforts focus on strengthening gender balance in leadership, advanced career stages and research-intensive projects.

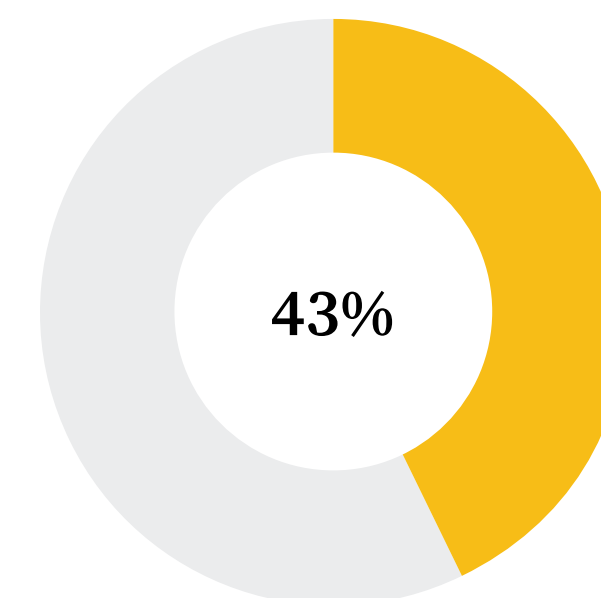
Women's representation



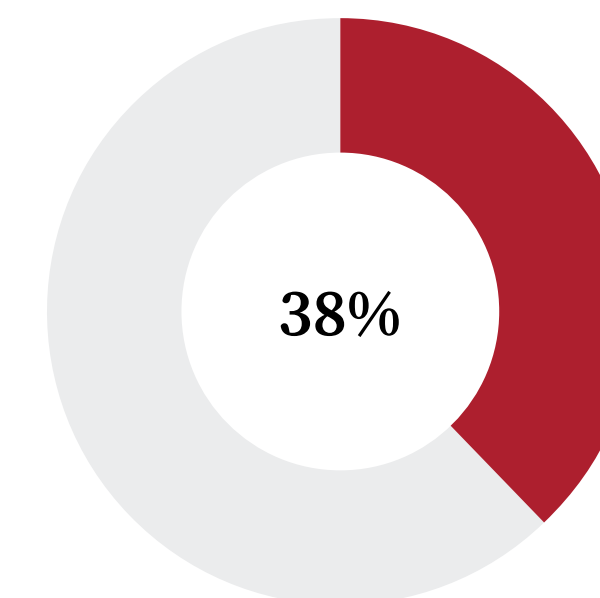
In project teams overall



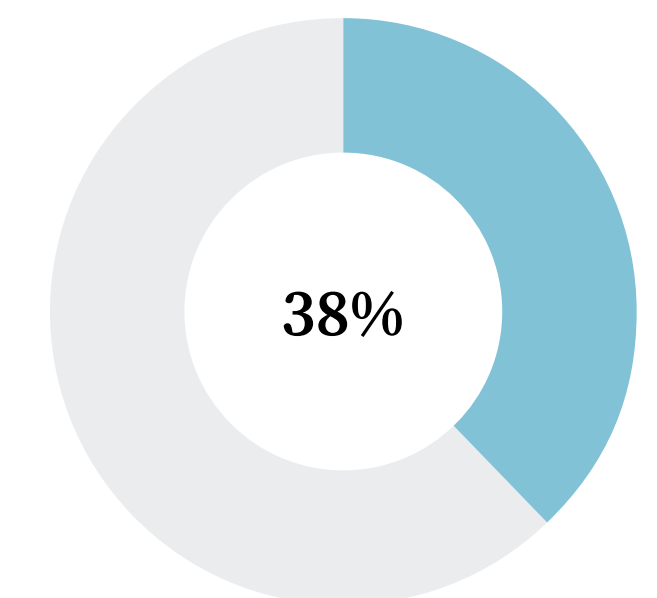
In early career stages



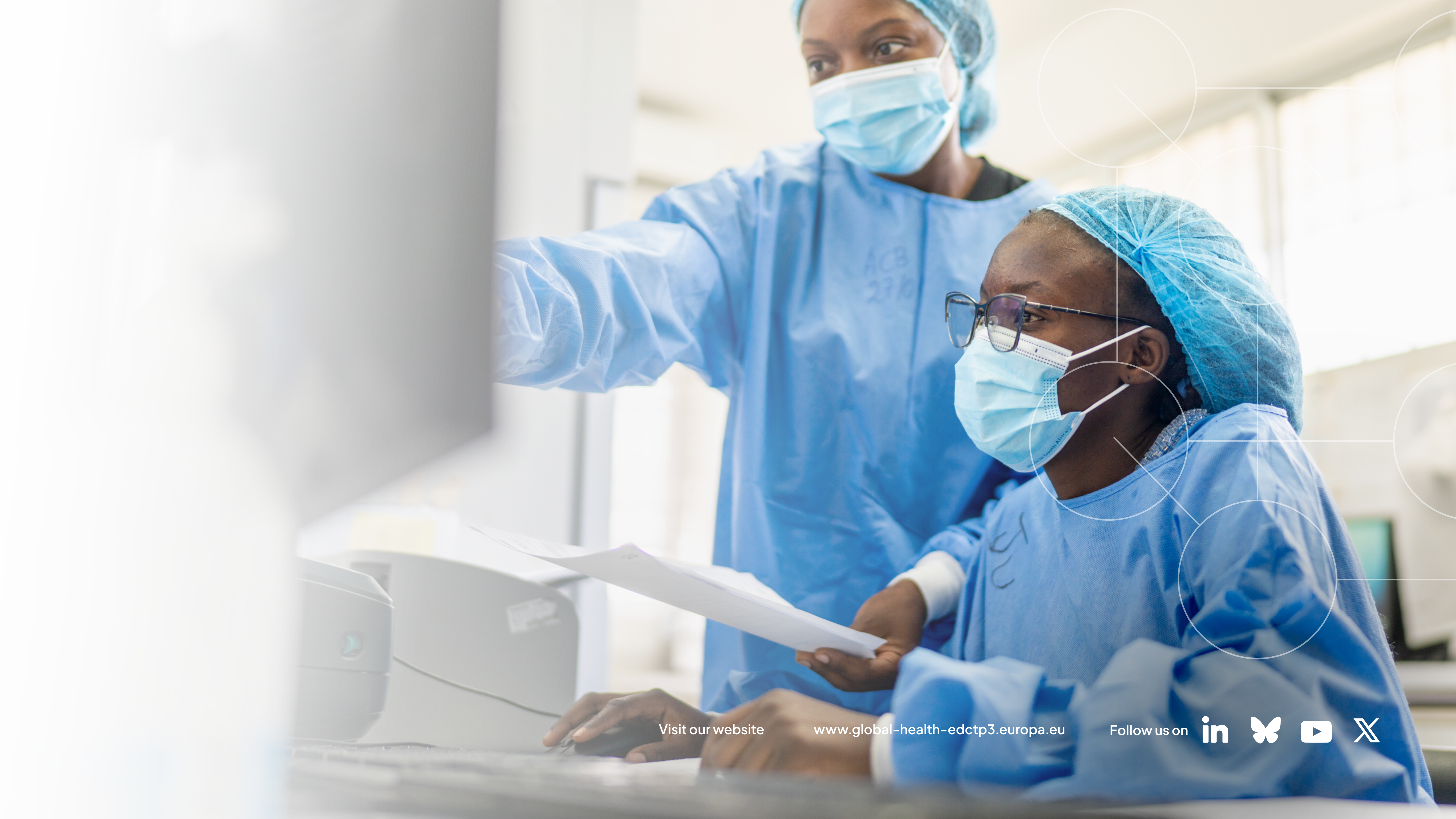
In research and innovation action (RIA) projects



In advanced career stages



In leading roles



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