

Dr Henning Gädeke
c/o Dr Michael Makanga
Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking
56 – 60 Avenue de la Toison d’Or
1060 Brussels
Belgium

February 4, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of endorsement

On behalf of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Post box 1030, Hoff, 0218 (registration number 917.687.811) 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).

Introduction to CEPI

Launched in 2017, CEPI is an international coalition of governments, academic, philanthropic, private, public, and intergovernmental institutions whose vision is to create a world in which epidemics and pandemics are no longer a threat to humanity. Our mission is to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats so they can be accessible to all people in need. CEPI is organised as a not-for-profit association under Norwegian Law and has offices in Oslo (HQ), London, and Washington, DC. More details about CEPI and our mission can be found on our website: www.cepi.net

CEPI’s mission is to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats so they can be accessible to all people in need. In pursuit of this mission CEPI manages a portfolio of vaccines at various stages of development, targeting pathogens selected from the WHO Blueprint list of priority diseases. CEPI also engages in promoting vaccine development more widely for the benefit of global health initiatives.

CEPI’s contribution to Global Health EDCTP3 JU

Capacity building and strengthening of the research environment is at the core of Global Health EDCTP3 objectives and in line with the implementation of the Global Health Strategy’s Guiding Principle 6 and 7 to “address workforce imbalances and foster skills” and “strengthen capacities for prevention, preparedness and response and early detection of health threats globally”.

In addition to epidemiology and biostatistics (from EDCTP3 fellowships), and expand scientific expertise in computational skills and infectious disease modelling there is also an urgent need for strengthening the Regional Networks of Clinical Trial Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia.

CEPI’s proposed involvement

Financial contributions from CEPI will support consortia that will provide successful applications to the call "HORIZON-JU-GH-EDCTP3-2025-03-NETWORKS-01-two-stage global collaborative action for strengthening the Regional Networks of Excellence and Epidemic Preparedness Consortia".

CEPI's contribution will be for projects that clearly define goals for the topic as mentioned in the call text:

- Strengthening expertise and preparedness for research response to emerging and re-emerging diseases with epidemic potential. Proposals aiming to strengthen expertise and preparedness for research response to emerging and re-emerging diseases with epidemic potential are encouraged to align with activities supported by other funders; and
- Additionally, consortia receiving CEPI funding must be structured and/or consist of clinical research sites in-line with Africa CDC's hub and spoke model. Global Health EDCTP3 will use its best endeavours to ensure awardees commit contractually through their grant agreement with EDCTP to create a work package to align with Africa CDC's strategy to allow for sustainable use of the established capacities and collaborate with Africa CDC and sites and networks of other funders, especially CEPI.

We estimate the total value of this contribution to be up to a maximum of EUR 9,755,000 (an equivalent of US\$10,000,000 as of 10 January 2025 on www.xe.com). Please note that this contribution is subject to CEPI and EDCTP entering into a funding agreement. It is CEPI's intention to provide the maximum amount and make this amount as flexible as possible to EDCTP. However, CEPI needs to ensure its own due diligence and ensure funded activities are within its mandate and mission. Therefore, after the review and award of the request for proposal, CEPI will at its sole discretion select specific projects awarded by EDCTP under the call to be allocated with CEPI's financial contribution and such CEPI co-funded projects will be specified in the funding agreement between CEPI and EDCTP.

Expectations and needs from CEPI on the joint agreement

The specific funding conditions and other requirements will be agreed upon in the funding agreement between CEPI and EDCTP.

CEPI requests to be allowed to propose independent evaluators for the applicant selection process, and to participate in the evaluation process as observers.

EDCTP will use its best endeavours to ensure awardees accept CEPI's usual award conditions via the grant agreement between EDCTP and the awardees, which will be further detailed in the funding agreement between EDCTP and CEPI and flow down to the call for proposal.

CEPI also requires that any deliverables containing reports and materials developed by funded projects are public. CEPI has the right to review and comment on submitted deliverables and periodic reports.

Contractual agreements

The specific needs that relate to the recipient institutions, outlined in this letter, should clearly be specified in any contractual agreements with those institutions. This will ensure a mutual understanding and agreement on the use of funds, reporting requirements, and conditions for continued funding.

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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, CEPI is not prohibited from i) disclosing confidential information that it is required to disclose under applicable laws; ii) disclosing confidential information to any external legal or professional advisors who would also be bound by confidentiality, if authorised by the Global Health EDCTP3 JU; and iii) disclosing the existence of a relationship between CEPI and the Global Health EDCTP3 for the purpose of declaring a potential conflict of interest. For the avoidance of doubt, CEPI is obligated to disclose confidential information to its investors through CEPI’s Investor Council for the purpose of reviewing and approving CEPI investment proposals, and to facilitate their oversight and monitoring function over CEPI’s activities.
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. It will furthermore be subject to final approval by CEPI governance and the agreement on the size and allocation of funding to awarded proposals.
5. We accept that, with CEPI’s prior agreement, additional modalities regarding the provision of our contribution may be defined in subsequent agreements or documents, such as a funding agreement and call text.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Hatchett
CEO