



**GOVERNING BOARD OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH EDCTP3 JOINT UNDERTAKING
DECISION N° GB/25/2023**

adopting the internal audit capability

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH EDCTP3 JOINT UNDERTAKING, (hereafter referred as “GH EDCTP3 JU”)

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (hereafter the “Single Basic Act or the “SBA”), and in particular Article 17(2)(r) thereof;

Having regard to the GH EDCTP3 JU Financial Rules adopted by the Governing Board on 3 May 2022 (hereafter the “Financial Rules”) and in particular Article 30 (“Establishment of an internal audit capability”);

Whereas:

- (1) Article 30 of GH EDCTP3 JU Financial Rules states that the Governing Board may establish with due regard to cost effectiveness and added value, an internal audit capability which should perform its duties in compliance with the relevant international standards;
- (2) The purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit capability should be provided for in the internal audit charter and should be subject to the approval of the Governing Board,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The charter of the internal audit capability, as attached in Annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Ms Laura DELGADO GARCIA, staff member of the GH EDCTP3 JU, is assigned to the function of internal audit capability and shall sign the charter mentioned in Article 1 which shall also be countersigned by the Executive Director.

Article 3

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 28.05.2023

For the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking Governing Board


Dr. Henning Gädeke

Chairperson of the Governing Board

Annex:

1. Charter of the internal audit capability

CHARTER OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT CAPABILITY OF THE GH EDCTP3 JOINT UNDERTAKING

Introduction

Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (hereafter the “Single Basic Act or the “SBA”) states in Article 17(2)(r) that the Governing Board shall make arrangements, as appropriate, for the establishment of an internal audit capability of the joint undertaking;

The Financial Rules of GH EDCTP3 JU provide, in Article 30, that the Governing Board may establish an internal audit capability (hereafter “IAC”) and approve the relevant internal audit charter, with such a charter defining the mission, objectives, reporting and working arrangements required by the proper fulfilment of the IAC role within the GH EDCTP3 JU.

1. Mission and objectives

The mission of the IAC is to provide:

- a) Independent, objective assurance and
- b) Consulting services to improve the operations of the GH EDCTP3 JU.

Assurance will rely on activities defined in collaboration with the Internal Auditor (the Internal Audit Service of the European Commission) to assess and express an objective opinion on the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance process.

Consulting services are advisory activities on topics specified by the Executive Director, intended to add value and improve the risk management and the control processes.

The objective of the internal audit capability is to provide the Executive Director with assurance as to the effectiveness and efficiency of risk management, control and governance process in the GH EDCTP3 JU with special reference to the following aspects:

- risks are appropriately and continuously identified and managed;
- significant financial, managerial and operating information is accurate, reliable and timely;
- the GH EDCTP3 JU policies and procedures, as well as the applicable laws and regulations are complied with;
- the GH EDCTP3 JU objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently;

- the development and maintenance of high-quality control processes are promoted throughout the GH EDCTP3 JU and commensurate with the size and scope of its activities.

2. Accountability

The IAC is under the authority of the Executive Director and shall be accountable to the Executive Director to:

- submit for approval an IAC annual work plan based on the Strategic Audit Plan established by the Internal Auditor and adopted by the Governing Board;
- report significant issues related to the control processes and potential improvements;
- express an opinion on the state of control within GH EDCTP3 JU;
- take good account of reports by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and other internal and external providers of relevant assurance and consulting services to ensure adequate follow up on the audit points or observations and avoid duplication of efforts;
- report to the Executive Director at least annually on its activities in relation to the IAC annual work plan.

3. Independence and objectivity

No authority may interfere in the conduct of the IAC to make any alterations to the content of its reports.

The IAC shall address any issues which in fact or appearance might impair its ability to execute its activities or communicate the results in the annual report or in ad-hoc reports to the Executive Director.

In exceptional circumstances, when concluding on the basis of its formal assurance or consultancy work that the Executive Director accepted an unreasonable level of risk, the IAC shall inform the Executive Director before expressing its concerns to the Governing Board.

4. Responsibility

The IAC has a responsibility to the Executive Director to:

- implement the IAC annual work plan and any special tasks or projects requested by the Executive Director;
- promptly validate its findings and related risks and discuss its recommendations with the concerned staff members of the GH EDCTP3 JU and reflect their position in the IAC annual report, particularly in case of disagreement;
- effectively and timely communicate assurance and consultancy results to the Executive Director;
- formally communicate in writing to the Executive Director the situations in which unreasonable high levels of risk have been accepted;
- respect confidentiality with regard to information gathered in its activity;
- disclose and explain any failing or inability to meet and comply with the requirements of its charter in the IAC annual report or in ad-hoc reports;
- collaborate closely and coordinate its activities with the Internal Auditor;
- send the IAC annual report before the end of each calendar year to the Executive Director, with a copy to the Internal Auditor.

5. Authority

The IAC is authorised to:

- have access to all functions, information systems, records, property and personnel within the GH EDCTP3 JU as considered necessary for the fulfilment of the duties;
- obtain necessary assistance of the GH EDCTP3 JU staff;
- apply the techniques required to accomplish the objectives established in the IAC annual work programme;
- be informed at an early stage about any development that may substantially affect the internal control systems.

6. Standards of audit practice

The IAC will adhere to the mandatory guidance of the International Professional Practices Framework promulgated by The Institute of Internal Auditors, commensurate with the GH EDCTP3 JU size and scope of activities, and as long as they are in accordance with the GH EDCTP3 JU applicable regulations.

The mandatory elements of the International Professional Practices Framework are:

- The Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
- The Definition of Internal Auditing.
- The Code of Ethics.
- The International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

Internal Audit Capability Name: Date: Signature:	Executive Director Name: Date: Signature:
--	---