



## Ad hoc meeting on need for urgent R&I actions to address the increased threat of SARS-CoV-2 variants

Programme Committee for the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) – Configuration 'Health, demographic change and well-being'

And the

Shadow Health Configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee

15 February 2021, 15.30 – 17.30

Videoconference

### Meetings with WebEx



•Make sure you are correctly identified  
(COUNTRY – full name)



•Respect confidentiality



•Please **keep your microphone muted and your camera off** during the meeting.



•How to ask questions or the floor?

Please use the Chat function.  
Unmute your mic only when the chair invites you to take the floor.  
Do not use the Chat function to start discussions.

# Draft agenda



- 15.30**      **1. Welcome and Introduction**
- 2. Policy context**
- 16.00**      **3. Discussion of new emergency actions for Horizon2020 funding**
- 3A.** Vaccine clinical network – VACCELERATE (the European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform)
- 3B.** Support of other projects for the COVID 19 data portal for data collection, analysis and detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants and their spread, further support for clinical trials & the monitoring of COVID through cohort studies
- 16.30**      **4. Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme**
- 17.00**      **5. Next steps to launch a HorizonEurope Pandemic Preparedness Partnership**
- 17.30**      **6. End of the meeting**





# 1. Welcome and Introduction





## 2. Policy context





## **3A. Setting up EU-wide vaccine trials network: State of play**





### 3A. Setting up EU-wide vaccine trials network

VACCELERATE, European Corona Vaccine Trial Accelerator Platform

[www.vaccelerate.eu](http://www.vaccelerate.eu)

- Horizon2020 SC1 Health Programme Committee information webinar 18 November 2020 to discuss the development of an EU wide COVID19 vaccine trial network
- Horizon2020 SC1 Health Programme Committee of 24 November: additional funding under **'other action 6 of the SC1 Work Programme 2020'** to deliver on the commitment outlined in Communication of November 11 'Building a European Health Union: reinforce the EU's resilience for cross border threats'.
- Request for funding received from German Centre for Infection Research on 11 December
- Reference to prepare proposal: Concept note "Towards an EU-wide network for COVID-19 Vaccine trials"





## VACCELERATE : [www.vacCELERATE.eu](http://www.vacCELERATE.eu)

**Vision:** Pan-European structure to accelerate strategic phase 2 & 3 clinical COVID-19 vaccine development:

- Provide a pan-European platform, combining expertise into 1 network, for strategic scientific leadership and guidance on vaccine trials in Europe
- Support closing gaps in public health knowledge and improving knowledge transfer
- Connect European stakeholders involved in vaccine development, incl. EMA & ECDC
- Ensure preparedness beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, through tested and established network, underpinning Europe's capacity for vaccine trials





## VACCELERATE

### Key objectives

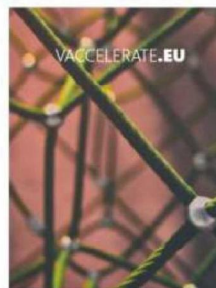
- Single entry point for European stakeholders in vaccine development
- Contribute to public health knowledge in vaccine development for vaccination strategies
- Capacity mapping of clinical trial and laboratory sites, for individual phase 2 & 3 vaccine trials  
<https://www.euvap.eu/index.html>
- Capacity building to ensure high quality data output in sites across Europe
- Volunteer registries to facilitate recruitment of trial participants
- Access to laboratories, comprehensive standardised methods essential for Phase 2 & 3 trials
- Harmonised data collection, open data sharing and pooling of data for stronger analysis



## Vaccine clinical network – VACCELERATE

- Grant to be signed ASAP
- 26 partners in consortium, from 16 MS and 5 Associated Countries

DE	PL	TR
SK	AT	RS
PT	IE	IL
EL	DK	CH
FR	BE	NO
CY	NL	
ES	IT	
SE	LT	





## **3B. Discussion of new emergency actions for Horizon2020 funding**



### 3B. A plan to prepare Europe for the increased threat of SARS-COV-2 variants: Mobilising H2020 funds – possibilities:

Activity	Budget (EUR million)	Responsible
<b>1.1 Detection and assessment of variants</b>		
COVID-19 data platform and other related infrastructures (ELIXER-CONVERGE, EVA-global)	3.5	Commission
Reinforcement of virus monitoring – (VEO)	1	Commission
<b>1.2 Cohorts</b>		
Assessments of long-term safety and efficacy for vaccines – Expand Pan European Cohort (ORCHESTRA)	8	Commission, EMA
<b>1.3 Clinical trials and observational studies</b>		
Reinforcement of research on treatments specific to the new variants (ATAC)	2.5	Commission, EMA, ECDC
EU-wide Vaccine trial network (VACCELERATE)	15	Commission, EMA, Member States and other



## **4. Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme**



## Next steps to urgently mobilise emergency funding from Horizon Europe – ahead of the normal Work Programme

Further development of the COVID19 data platform (open data sharing) and infrastructure services for rapid research response to epidemics	30	Commission
<b>1.2. Cohorts</b>		
Support for the development of large scale, international/worldwide COVID19 cohorts & networks	30	Commission, ECDC, EMA, WHO
<b>1.3. Clinical trials and observational studies</b>		
Conduct of vaccine & therapeutic trials to further inform public health policy and clinical management	60	Commission, EMA, ECDC

## Possible actions in research infrastructures

From the HorizonEurope 2021-22 Research Infrastructures Work Programme

- Destination 2: **HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-06: FAIR and open data sharing in support of European preparedness for infectious diseases**
- Destination 3: **HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-01: Research Infrastructure services for rapid research responses to infectious disease epidemics**



## **5. Next steps to launch a HorizonEurope Pandemic Preparedness Partnership**





## Update on the European R&I Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (1)

- **Objectives:**

- improve the EU's preparedness to prevent, predict and respond to emerging infectious health threats
- develop a Strategic Research and Innovation pandemic preparedness agenda with common objectives

- **Was discussed in:**

- Shadow Health Cluster 1 meeting of 27 November 2020 and
- HorizonEurope SPC meeting of 4 December 2020

- **Scope was limited to health threats** (focus can be revised or broadened later).

- **11 Member States nominated representatives for the development of the partnership**

- **Fiche is being revised following Member States written comments**





## Update on the European R&I Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (2)

### How:

- Quickly operational; co-programmed Partnership,
- supported by a CSA in Cluster 1 - 2021 and R&I actions in Cluster 1 - 2022
- Links with proposed Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA), ECDC and EMA, EU Health Security Committee, etc.

### Next steps:

- 24 February 2021: first meeting with core group of Member States
- Presentation of revised fiche and first discussion





## 6. End of the meeting

