ERAvsCORONA ACTION PLAN – STATE OF PLAY (3 June 2020)

	Action	What ?	State of play
1	**Coordination of R&I funding against the Coronavirus.**	**To create effective European pipelines for vaccine, therapy and diagnostic developments from research to deployment:** • Clinical trials - support the implementation of large-scale, multi-centric clinical trials across Europe, paving the way for an EU Wide clinical trials network. • Manufacturing – to take stock of all possible vaccine production facilities that could be used for any successful vaccine candidate. • Testing – to identify R&D strategies for advancing testing techniques and equipment (both direct virus detection and detection of antibodies) and harmonization of tests' performance criteria. • Funding – funding must be available to secure the full development of the most successful vaccine candidates; mapping of national research funding efforts.	Ad-hoc working group was set-up. First meeting 17 April (DG R&I/SANTE/JRC; all MS + Switzerland, Norway; EMA, ECDC and EIB). Four sub-groups created and started to meet: 1) Clinical trials: met on 27 April and 6 May. 2) Manufacturing: met on 8 May and 15 May. 3) Testing: Met on 30 April. 4) Financing: met on 27 April and 6 May. VC with Associated Countries on 22 April and 26 May. Following the VC, a number of Associated Countries have indicated willingness to be associated to different aspects of this action (Armenia to diagnostic developments; Turkey, Moldova, Tunisia and Israel to the action more generally, with existing trials and competences nationally). An international match-making event will be organised on 10 June in collaboration with the EU Science Counsellors to link Horizon 2020 funded projects with their international counterparts where it makes sense.
2	**Extending and supporting large EU wide clinical trials for clinical management of Coronavirus patients**	**In order to have enough evidence about what works and what does not, it is essential to avoid fragmentation of study initiatives. Studies need to enroll a sufficient number of patients, and use standardized and agreed upon protocols to reach conclusive results on efficacy.** • Joining forces around setting up EU wide clinical trials, such as the DisCoVery and REMAP-CAP trials, to investigate the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 therapeutic approaches. • The Commission will provide additional	Sub-group on clinical trials met on 27 April and 6 May The **H2020 Health Programme Committee** has approved changes in the WP2018-2020 of SC1-Health to support the activities of the ERAvsCoronaAction Plan. The update of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme will be adopted soon. Several Associated Countries have explicitly shared their interest, some of them having already developed active clinical trials or proposing to share facilities and/or cohorts (Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey). Internationally, collaboration on clinical trials takes place with the

		funding so that hospital research sites from all MS can participate in large scale trials throughout Europe, using the same standard protocols and collecting data in a harmonised manner. • When plausible vaccine candidates become available, the clinical trial network could also be extended beyond testing of treatments, to also include vaccines.	European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). In April, three calls were launched. Collaboration also takes place through the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform of the WHO.
3	**New call 'Expression of interest' in Horizon2020 for innovative and rapid health-related approaches for responding to Coronavirus and deliver quick results relevant to society and a higher level of preparedness of health systems.**	**Call(s) for innovative approaches to deliver quick results relevant to society:** (1) Social and economic impacts of the outbreak response; (2) European COVID-19 cohorts; (3) Repurposing of manufacturing for vital medical supplies and equipment" 4) Medical technologies, Digital tools and Artificial Intelligence analytics to improve surveillance and care at high Technology Readiness Levels Deliver results within 3-18 months to end-users at scale. Data shared in 'real time' in Coronavirus-dedicated results platforms .	The **H2020 Health Programme Committee** has approved changes in the WP2018-2020 of SC1-Health to support the activities of the ERAvsCoronaAction Plan. EU Science Counsellors will inform research communities in international partner countries in a timely manner about upcoming funding opportunities.
4	**Increasing support to innovative companies**	• **Increase support the recently closed Horizon 2020 EIC pilot Accelerator** addressing Coronavirus related issues. • **Increase support to R&I financial instruments addressing Coronavirus related issues** both by Commission and Member States	EURO 150 million additional budget specifically for Coronavirus relevant innovations submitted to 20 March EIC Accelerator call is included in revised EIC Work Programme adopted on 30 April (following fast-track procedure with Programme Committee). 93 SMEs who submitted Coronavirus relevant applications were invited to the live interviews taking place from 11-20 May. 36 of them were selected for funding, while 139 other excellent proposals will receive a special Coronavirus "Seal of Excellence". EC and EIB agreed a reallocation of EURO 401 million for the InnovFin IDFF to allow key innovative players developing innovative vaccines candidates, drugs, medical and diagnostic

		• Establish a **Coronavirus EIC Platform for matchmaking services**	devices or novel critical research and innovation infrastructures (including production facilities).

First e-pitching event with investors and EIC companies on 15 April. First match-making with health procurers and EIC companies on 23 April. **Second E-pitching on 19 May. Third** E-Pitching for COVID SME Seal of Excellence on 23 June.

The EIC COVID Community Platform has been launched as a concrete follow-up to the Hackathon. |
| 5 | **Creating opportunities for other funding sources to contribute to R&I actions on Coronavirus** | • Award of **Seal of Excellence** for Coronavirus relevant innovations by SMEs/startups evaluated as excellent, but unfunded, under EIC calls. | COVID-19 response Seal of Excellence' (COVID-Seals) have already been awarded to 82 proposals submitted in the EIC pilot Accelerator call with a cut-off date of 20 March that passed the quality thresholds but were not invited to the interview. It is estimated that in overall approx. 150 COVID-Seals (together with those that will not pass the interview) will be awarded to SMEs in over 20 Member States and associated countries.

Seals are signed by both Commissioners (Gabriel and Ferreira). |
| | | • Ensure **State Aid** favorable treatment to COVID seal proposals > done in the second revision of the Temporary Framework. | New state aid rules includes an explicit reference to COVID Seal of excellence projects. This means that such projects are eligible for aid intensities significantly higher than under 'regular' State aid rules. The Commission has already approved a number of State aid measures that support R&D into the Coronavirus.
The Commission publishes all Coronavirus-related State aid decisions on its website. |
| | | • Explore additional and complementary opportunities for the Seals: national / regional funding, private foundations, European Investment Project Portal (EIPP), Access2EIC project, also in interaction with EIC COVID Community Platform | A meeting with the Seal Community of Practice, whose members represents regional/national public funding bodies, took place on 27 April. Several MS/regions expressed intention to support the Seals. Next action: follow-up of those interested countries/regions through dedicated guidance on CRII use, State Aid application and access to relevant data.

In the coming weeks, the *Access2EIC – Seal of Excellence online community* will promote 2 e-Pitching session targeted to the COVID seals for potential investors. In addition, the EIPP |

			(European Investment Project Portal) will flag the COVID seals and promote them towards specific investors. Besides SoE, work is ongoing on promotion of uptake of existing Covid R&i project results towards Managing Authorities, regional/ national funding bodies.
6	**Establish a one-stop shop for Coronavirus R&I funding**	Extend the existing platform with information on Commission funding to a **"ERA Corona platform"** with information on both Commission and national calls on Coronavirus.	Member States have been asked to send information according to a template. The platform exists with information on Commission funding and should immediately be expanded with information from national authorities. See https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/covid-19 List of countries for which information was received (as of 03/06/2020): Total: **104.310** unique views so far. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden. ACs: Norway, Switzerland, Faroe Islands and Turkey. Still missing : Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxemburg, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia.
7	**Establish an ad-hoc High Level R&I Task Force on the Coronavirus**	The Task Force could advise in a more scientific and coherent way on possible R&I actions of EU relevance on medium and long-term priorities, and communicate about coordinated R&I actions to the general public.	Discussed during DGs meeting of 14 May. Did not find broad support. To be further reflected when discussing longer term preparedness.
8	**Access to Research Infrastructures (RIs)**	Many research infrastructure highlighted their availability to support COVID-19 research, including contributing to the creation of the COVID-19 data sharing platform launched by the EC and EMBL-EBI.	Grant amendments are needed for many of the RIs concerned (about 15 in total), to refocus the activities. Among these, one grant amendment has already been processed while further five are currently under discussion. In three cases (for TRANSVAC2 and EVA-GLOBAL grants), the need for top-up budget emerged, to offer specific services to accelerate CoVid19 vaccine development (TRANSVAC2), to widely distribute virus/reference materials for SARSCov2 diagnostics (EVA-global) and to carry out SARSCov2 experimental work under high risk pathogen BSL3/4

containment conditions (ERINHA-Advance).

A specific provision for awarding additional funding to ongoing grant agreements will be included in the amended Work Programme Part for Research Infrastructures currently in consultation with Member States.

A new action for the development of a Population Health Information Research Infrastructure (PHIRI) has also been proposed as part of the amendment of the Work Programme Part for Research Infrastructures. **The Programme Committee** is currently consulted on this amendment **via written procedure**, as the **adoption** is planned for the coming weeks. PHIRI, building on the European Member States Joint Action on Health Information (INFACT)will support research underpinning public health policies for COVID-19 and other future crisis fast responses.

Information on available services are provided on existing Platforms (see for example the EC COVID-19 infrastructures and resources page, the ESFRI COVID-19 site, the ERF website, the Life Science RI platform) and will be continuously updated.

Armenia, Moldova and Tunisia have shown an interest to participate in TRANSVAC-2 / vaccine development. Armenia, Tunisia and Turkey have an interest to participate to PRACE (of which Turkey is already part).
TRANSVAC-2 is open to international cooperation.
The European Virus Archive is delivering reagents all over the world, focusing now also on developing countries.

| 9 | **Research data sharing for SARS-CoV-2 and the Coronavirus** | Establishment of European Data exchange platform for SARS-CoV-2 and Coronavirus-related information exchange, connected to the EOSC, to quickly share research data and results to accelerate discovery.

Joint effort by the European Commission, the European Bioinformatics Institute of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL-EBI), the Elixir infrastructure and several European research | Launched on 20 April (see press release).

Certain Research Infrastructures and SC1 - Health grants, including EOSC-Life, ELIXIR-CONVERGE, VEO and RECODID, will need top-up funding (and grant amendments) to support the deployment of and provide content to the European COVID-19 Data Platform Specific provisions for awarding additional funding to these ongoing grant agreements have been included in the Work Programme Parts for Research Infrastructures and for Societal Challenge 1, Health,. |

		performing organisations, , as well as the EU Member States and other partners.	
			EMBL-EBI presented the state of play on the European COVID-19 Data Platform during the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) Governance Board meeting of April 22. Together with EBML-EBI and partners, EOSC aims to federate national and institutional repositories that can help to advance the data distribution mechanisms.

The EOSC Governance Board is a formal working-group of the Horizon 2020 Strategic Configuration of the Programme Committee running until the end of 2020. The Governance Board is mandated to deliberate on the orientations of the actions funded across Horizon 2020 in support of the implementation of EOSC. Specifically, the GB provides concrete recommendations on measures to foster synergies between the EOSC activities funded at national, regional or transnational levels.
The EOSC Governance Board plays an important advisory and coordination role, and has already contributed by providing a detailed overview of the national landscape, flagging relevant repositories, datasets, and initiatives to be made discoverable from the European COVID-19 research data platform. In addition, to streamline interactions between EMBL-EBI and each Member State and Associated Country on further developing the platform, the Governing Board delegates have been asked to nominate national coordination teams covering multiple angles involving policy, data, the research sector and the health care sector. These national teams will be essential for all the communities within a country to align and interact with EMBL-EBI through a single, coordinated voice. A first meeting between EMBL-EBI and some national contact points took place on 14 May.

Armenia, the Faroe Islands, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey have expressed an interest in participating actively.
The European COVID-19 Data Platform will be promoted internationally as it will host data from all different sources and give open access to research internationally. |

10	**Pan-EU Hackathon to mobilise European innovators and civil society**	Patronage given by the Commission to a pan-European Hackathon (#EUnitedvsVirus). Largest hackathon/event ever organised in the world.	Took place on 24-26 April 2020.
			21000 participants, 2160 solutions.
			Matchathon took take place on **22-25 May**. 120 winners were selected and announced on 30 April, and were invited to the "Matchathon": to match-make the winners with partners who will help the solutions to be turned into actual products and services (facilitated by the new EIC COVID Platform).
			2235 new partnerships created at the Matchathon to help the scaling up of the 120 winning projects of the Hackathon. A final summary report presenting all the results of the Hackathon and Matchathon is available on the EUvsCorona website.
			Group of ministerial representatives met before and after the Hackathon/Machathon to discuss preparations and follow-up**.**
			24 out of the 117 solutions invited to the Matchathon were proposed by teams from Associated Countries.
			40 countries were represented during the Matchathon.
			This Action is completed.