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LIMITE

ERAC-SFIC

WORKING PAPER

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WORKING DOCUMENT

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| From: | SFIC Secretariat |
| To: | ERAC (SFIC) |
| Subject: | Impact of the pandemic and COVID-19 actions in the Associated Countries |

Delegations will find attached PPT presentation given during the informal videoconference of the members of SFIC on 27 May 2020.



Impact of the pandemic and COVID-19 actions in the Associated Countries



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The following countries are associated to Horizon 2020:

- Iceland
- Norway
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- North Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Israel
- Moldova
- Switzerland
- Faroe Islands
- Ukraine
- Tunisia
- Georgia
- Armenia

Context in the Associated Countries

- Very different situations and levels of resources
 - Current prevalence: from the (nearly) highest in the world (Iceland: 5290 per million inhabitants) to very low prevalence rates (Tunisia 89, Georgia 183)
 - Current mortality rates: high maxima (Switzerland: 221 per million inhabitant) and low minima (Ukraine 14, Albania 11, Tunisia 4, Georgia 3)
- DG R&I conducts a monitoring of relevant activities
 - All countries have mobilised their health sector
 - Research and development activities are many

Context in the Associated Countries

- DG R&I organises regular DG-level exchanges with all Associated Countries (last meeting: 26 May)
- Some examples of actions
 - Western Balkans: an important item in the virtual policy dialogue meetings with WB6; the countries were particularly active during the Hackathon
 - Advanced vaccine or treatment research; mobilisation of countries' own funding instruments (Switzerland, Israel, Iceland, Turkey, Faroe Islands, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia)
 - R&D mobilisation in research institutes and companies to produce relevant medical equipment (most countries)

Implementation of ERAvsCorona Action Plan

- Instruments open to Associated Countries by construction (H2020 instruments)
 - Horizon 2020 Call for Expression of Interest (launched 20 May)
 - EIC Accelerator Call and increased budget
 - Creation of further opportunities / other funding sources (e.g. Seal of Excellence)
 - Access to Research Infrastructures (e.g. via EMBL) and Open access/data sharing (COVID-19 data platform, role of EOSC)

Implementation of ERAvsCorona Action Plan

- A measurable input – 2 examples
- The Pan-European Hackathon (24-26 April):
 - 2 out of 6 overall challenge winners
 - 24 out of 117 winner teams among the solutions invited to Matchathon (22-25 May)
- Funding Marathon:
 - Among the conveners (Norway)
 - Among the donors (Israel, Serbia, Switzerland)

Implementation of ERAvsCorona Action Plan

- *Further potential for possible cooperation:*
- One-stop-shop (sharing funding opportunities) – See link to the EC's funding portal:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/covid-19?tabId=5>
- Clinical trials: Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey are giving indications of areas of work and infrastructures that could be shared