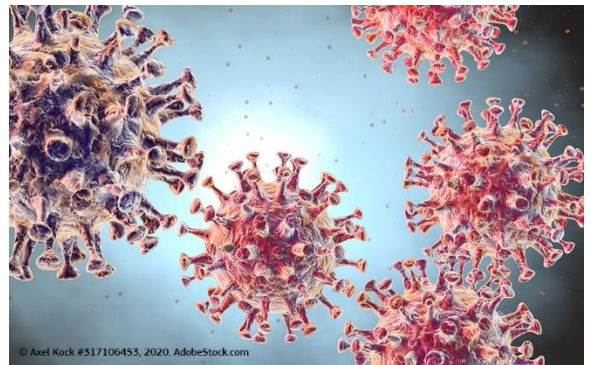


New research projects on Coronavirus (March 2020)

Outcome of emergency funding action for coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 outbreak: 18 new projects

On 30 January 2020, the European Commission launched [a request for expressions of interest entitled “SC1-PHE-CORONAVIRUS-2020: Advancing knowledge for the clinical and public health response to the \[COVID-19\] epidemic”](#) with a budget of €10 million subsequently increased up to €48.5 million.

Such rapid reaction is made possible by the standing budget line for emergency research funds that the Commission maintains as part of the **Horizon 2020** annual work programmes for Health research.



[This enabled 17 projects to be short-listed for funding as the EC announced on 6 March 2020, to which an 18th project was added in late March¹.](#) In total, €48.2 million was awarded to the 18 projects, which involve 151 research teams from across the EU and beyond who will work on:

- **Improving epidemiology and public health, including our preparedness and response to outbreaks.** These projects will help develop better monitoring systems in order to effectively prevent and control the spread of the virus, as well as contribute to the assessment of social dynamics.
- **Rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests.** Increased efforts will concentrate on enabling front-line health workers to make the diagnosis more quickly and more accurately, which will in turn reduce the risk of further spread of the virus.
- **New treatments,** in which a dual approach will be adopted. Firstly, accelerating the development of new treatments currently in the pipeline (including therapeutic peptides, monoclonal antibodies and broad-spectrum antivirals), and secondly, screening and identifying molecules that could work against the virus, using advanced modelling and computing techniques.
- **Development of new vaccines.** The research will focus on developing a prophylactic vaccine and a therapeutic vaccine, which will be used for prevention and treatment respectively.

The projects are listed below. Disclaimer: For each project, funding and composition of the consortium is subject to final European Commission decision and signature of Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement.

[For more information on EC support for coronavirus-related research.](#)

¹ On 30 March, an 18th proposal was added to the initial shortlist after its evaluation was initially suspended pending the provision of some administrative information.

18 Horizon 2020 research projects on coronavirus short-listed for funding (March 2020)

| Acronym/ Title | Description | Project coordinator | Partners |
|---|---|--|---|
| PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE – Total EU funding : € 19.1 million | | | |
| I-MOVE-COVID-19 Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic | To obtain epidemiological, clinical and virological information on coronavirus and infected patients through the I-MOVE surveillance network spanning 11 countries. | Epiconcept (FR) Project details Website | 25 partners: AL, DE, ES(5), FR(5), IE, LT, NL(2), PT(2), RO, SE, UK(5) |
| RECOVER Rapid European COVID-19 Emergency research Response | To gather comprehensive data from clinical and epidemiological studies to strengthen Europe's clinical research preparedness for future emerging infectious diseases. | Universiteit Antwerpen (BE) Project details Website | 11 partners: BE(2), CN, DE, FR(2), IT, NL(3), UK |
| HERoS Health Emergency Response in Interconnected Systems | To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the response to coronavirus outbreak by providing guidelines for improved crisis governance. | Svenska handelshögskolan (FI) Project details Website | 11 partners: FR, FI(2), IT, NL(2), PL(3), UK, US |
| EpiPose Epidemic intelligence to minimize 2019-nCoV's public health, economic and social impact in Europe | To understand epidemiological characteristics COVID-19, social dynamics of the outbreak, public health preparedness and response, and assess economic impact. | Universiteit Hasselt (BE) Project details Website | 6 partners: BE(2), CH, IT, NL, UK |
| CORESMA COVID-19-Outbreak Response combining E-health, Serolomics, Modelling, Artificial Intelligence and Implementation Research | To help devise evidence-based response strategies by combining clinical, epidemiologic and immunological data from field studies and implementation research. | Helmholtz Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (DE) Project details Website | 7 partners: CH, CI, CN, DE(2), NL, NP |
| EXSCALATE4CoV EXaSCale smArt pLatform Against paThogEns for Corona Virus | To exploit powerful computing resources to identify molecules capable of targeting coronavirus and develop an effective tool to counter future pandemics. | Dompé farmaceutici (IT) Project details Website | 18 partners: BE, CH(2), DE(2), ES, IT(10), PL, SE |

| Acronym/ Title | Description | Project coordinator | Partners |
|--|--|---|---|
| DIAGNOSTICS – Total EU funding: € 6.4 million | | | |
| CoNVat Combating 2019-nCoV: Advanced Nanobiosensing platforms for POC global diagnostics and surveillance | To develop a point-of-care device using optical biosensor technology for rapid diagnosis and monitoring, and also monitor the evolution of viruses in animals and help prevent future outbreaks. | Fundacio Institut Catala de Nanociencia i Nanotecnologia (ES) Project details Website | 5 partners: ES(3), FR, IT |
| CoronaDX Three Rapid Diagnostic tests (Point-of-Care) for COVID-19 Coronavirus, improving epidemic preparedness, public health and socio-economic benefits | To deliver three complementary diagnostic tools, including one point-of-care diagnostic that can be used with minimal training. | Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DK) Project details Website | 8 partners: AT, CN(2), DK(2), IT(2), SE |
| HG nCoV19 test Development and validation of rapid molecular diagnostic test for nCoV19 | To develop and validate a novel rapid molecular diagnostic test for coronavirus. | Hibergene Diagnostics (IE) Project details Website | 4 partners: CN, IE, IT, UK |
| TREATMENT – Total EU funding: € 17.0 million | | | |
| Fight-nCoV Fighting-off Coronavirus with broad-spectrum antivirals: establishing animal challenge model | To prepare the way towards broad-spectrum antiviral treatments that can be taken intranasally. | Stockholms Universitet (SE) Project details Project news | 6 partners: DE(2), DK, FR, SE(2) |
| SCORE Swift COronavirus therapeutics Response | To develop a combination of anti-viral treatments for patients infected with the coronavirus. | Academisch Ziekenhuis Leiden (NL) Project details Project news | 10 partners: BE(3), CH, DE(2), FR(2), NL(2) |
| Solnatide Exploration of safety, tolerability and clinical efficacy of Solnatide IMP in patients infected with the 2019 new coronavirus | To test peptide-based treatments targeting life-threatening pulmonary diseases in COVID-19 patients. | RTDS Association (AT) Project details Website | 6 partners: AT, DE(2), ES, IT, NL |

| Acronym/ Title | Description | Project coordinator | Partners |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| TREATMENT – Total EU funding : € 17.0 million (cont.) | | | |
| ATAC Antibody therapy against coronavirus (COVID-2019) | To optimise, produce and test antibody therapies against coronavirus based on donated blood samples from recovered COVID-19 patients. | Karolinska Institutet (SE) Project details Website | 5 partners: BE, CH, DE, IT, SE |
| MANCO Monoclonal Antibodies against 2019- New Coronavirus | To develop and evaluate monoclonal antibodies as treatments against coronavirus. | Erasmus Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (NL) Project details | 8 partners: DE, ES, FR(2), NL(4) |
| CoroNAb Nanobodies and antibodies against 2019-nCoV | To rapidly identify, validate and produce antibodies that block the ability of the virus to infect cells, which could be used for treatment and prevention in humans. | Karolinska Institutet (SE) Project details Project news | 4 partners: CH, DK, SE, UK |
| RiPCoN Rapid interaction profiling of 2019-nCoV for network-based deep drug-repurpose learning (DDRL) | To identify approved drugs that can be repurposed to treat coronavirus by profiling how they interact with viral components using artificial intelligence. | Helmholtz Zentrum München (DE) Project details Project news | 3 partners: DE, ES, FR |
| VACCINES – Total EU funding : € 5.7 million | | | |
| OPENCORONA Rapid therapy development through Open Coronavirus Vaccine Platform | To develop a vaccine that can also be used as a therapy against the coronavirus using a DNA vaccine platform. | Karolinska Institutet (SE) Project details Website | 7 partners: DE, IT, SE(5) |
| Prevent-nCoV Prevention of 2019 nCoV infection through development and clinical testing of a novel Virus Like Particle (VLP) vaccine | To develop and evaluate a potential vaccine that uses virus-like particles to expose coronavirus proteins to the immune system. | Københavns Universitet (DK) Project details Project news | 6 partners: DE, DK(3), NL(2) |

To contact project coordinators of shorted-listed proposals: RTD-CORONAVIRUS@ec.europa.eu