



# Funding Opportunities for COVID-19 R&D

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## COVID-19 R&D Funding Opportunities

This compendium of funding opportunities is aimed for all parties working on COVID-19 R&D and that are looking for new funds to further develop and deliver products related to COVID-19 diagnosis, vaccine development and therapies.

This document covers the current publications regarding the **specific COVID-19 related funding opportunities for EU-wide and/or Dutch applicants**. Updates regarding potential new funding for advancing R&D related to COVID-19 are also included.

Main European non-dilutive funding options:

- **EDCTP Grant** - For COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa (Deadline 17<sup>th</sup> April)

Main Dutch non-dilutive funding (as of today):

- **Health Holland Special Announcement COVI-19** - PPP for solutions related to COVID-19 (Deadline 10<sup>th</sup> April).  
*Extension for new applications likely.*
- **Corona: fast-track data**: For collection of data from current patients (continuous application up to 1<sup>st</sup> September)
- Information regarding new upcoming funding opportunities for COVID-19 research through NWO, ZonMw and other Dutch organizations is detailed in this document, including opportunities to collaborate with existing consortiums tackling COVID-19.

This document is prepared by the Dutch consulting company **FFUND BV**. We have a team of experts in biotech business development, strategic financing and project management in the Health and Life Sciences. FFUND performs recurrent funding opportunity scans as part of our services to help you to design your strategic financing path. We are here to help you when support is needed in the preparation of funding applications, business plans and/ or identification of potential partners. Please feel free to request us to extend our overviews to cover your interests. Thank you and good luck in the next step on your path to success.

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## I. EDCTP funding opportunities

### I.1 Mobilization of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa

<b>Amount of funding per project</b>	€500,000	<b>Funding Name</b>	Mobilization of funding for COVID-19 research in sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Funding versus total project costs</b>	100%	<b>Funding Organization</b>	EDCTP (with support from EU)
<b>Funding type</b>	Grant		
<b>Close date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020		
<b>Duration of eligible projects</b>	6-24 months		
<b>Evaluation results expected</b>	By 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2020		

#### Background

The EDCTP "Emergency Funding Mechanism" allows rapid mobilization of research funding based on a call for expressions of interest in exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies. EDCTP considers a situation as an emergency if it is unforeseen and presents a serious and immediate risk to human health. The "Emergency" status is adopted only after an official declaration of a situation as 1) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) according to the World Health Organization, or 2) a public health emergency under Decision 1082/2013/EU or 3) an emergency under applicable national frameworks and regulations.

In the light of rising numbers of cases being reported from affected countries, including several sub-Saharan African countries, the EDCTP Association has agreed to activate the emergency funding mechanism to support Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs) as part of the European response to the COVID-19 emergency.

#### Expected Impact

Proposals funded under this mechanism should answer the most pressing questions raised by responders in sub-Saharan Africa to the ongoing Public Health Emergency, as part of the efforts to manage and prevent the spread of the current pandemic. Proposals should result in new knowledge to manage and prevent the current COVID-19 outbreak, as well as strengthen the capacities of at-risk countries to manage outbreaks.

#### Scope & Eligibility

EDCTP invites expressions of interest proposals for RIAs to support research activities in sub-Saharan Africa to manage and/or prevent the spread of the current COVID-19 outbreak. Proposals must demonstrate the following:

- Addressing urgent research questions in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak, in line with the research priorities of the Global Research Roadmap (4) and the WHO R&D Blueprint for rapid activation of R&D activities during epidemics.
- Strengthening of national and local research capacity.
- Coordination and collaboration with other research and/or humanitarian activities operational in the countries affected, following principles of good participatory practice for emerging and re-emerging pathogens.
- Compliance with International Council on Harmonization - Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP), regulatory and ethical standards.

- Commitment to open access and data sharing principles.

Proposals should provide novel, critical and timely insights into the COVID-19 outbreak in sub-Saharan Africa and/or potential avenues for its management or prevention. Proposals must be timely, with rapid activation, to enable early and valuable outcomes to be established and/or to access time-dependent resources.

Proposals submitted under this expression of interest must address one or more of the following research gaps:

- Understanding of the natural history of infection to better define the period of infectiousness and transmissibility; improve surveillance capabilities to more accurately estimate the reproductive number in various outbreak settings and improve understanding of the role of asymptomatic infection in transmission.
- Promote the development, adaptation, evaluation, and implementation of point-of-care diagnostic tests that can be used to screen all patients presenting with a history consistent with COVID-19 infection.
- Support standardized, best evidence-based approaches for clinical management and better health outcomes for patients by contributing to the implementation of randomized, controlled trials for diagnostics and therapeutics as promising agents emerge, taking usability, including multi-center/country trials and access in resource-constrained settings, into account.
- Validation and adaptation of existing serological tests, including those that have been developed by commercial entities, and establishment of biobanks and serum panels of well characterized COVID-19 sera to support such efforts.

The use of WHO harmonized protocols (such as the solidarity protocol and the generic protocol on the surveillance and clinical epidemiology) is highly recommended for this purpose. Proposals must also commit to open access to results and publications generated from the action, and to fair access to products developed or evaluated under this funding mechanism to address the declared Public Health Emergency.

Beneficiaries in grants awarded under actions relating to this Public Health Emergency will be allowed to charge the cost of clinical studies on the basis of unit costs established in line with a methodology set up in the Commission Decision C(2016) 7553, which is available on the H2020 Funding and tenders Portal.

## Eligibility

A proposal/application will only be considered eligible if:

- Its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic/contest description for which it is submitted
- It complies with the eligibility conditions set out below, depending on the type of action:
  - Consortia comprising a minimum of three independent legal entities are eligible to apply. Two of the legal entities shall be established in two different Participating States (European Partner States) (6) and one of the legal entities must be established in a sub-Saharan African country (7). All three legal entities shall be independent of each other.
  - 'Sole participants' formed by several legal entities (e.g. European Research Infrastructure Consortia, European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, central purchasing bodies) are eligible if the above-mentioned minimum conditions are satisfied by the legal entities forming together the sole participant.
  - Applicants from non-EU and non-sub-Saharan African countries are free to take part in the EDCTP2 programme, however, they are not automatically entitled to funding. Applicants may

be granted funding if their participation is considered essential for carrying out actions in the grant. It has to be demonstrated that participation by the applicant has clear benefits to the consortium such as outstanding expertise/competence, access to research infrastructure, particular geographical environments and/or data.

## Procedure and application process

For more information and application: <http://www.edctp.org/call/mobilisation-of-funding-for-covid-19-research-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

## II. Funding opportunities through the Dutch government

### II.1 Health Holland Special Announcement COVID-19

**Aim and objectives:** Topsector Life Sciences & Health (Health~Holland) intends to invest in the field of COVID-19. If you have a high-end public-private research proposal in the field of COVID-19, we are inviting you to send us an e-mail including:

1. a short description of the project
  2. a list of (potential) consortium partners
  3. a rough estimate of the budget
  4. the expected start- and end date
- Please note that any definite projects must comply with the **match call regulations**. Please see <https://www.health-holland.com/public/calls/match-call-2020/tki-lsh-match-call-2020-nederlands.pdf> (Dutch) and <https://www.health-holland.com/public/calls/match-call-2020/tki-lsh-match-call-2020-engels.pdf> (English) for the match call regulations.
  - After receiving your e-mail, we will aim to contact you by cell phone within 1 working day to discuss the possibilities. Please include your cell phone details in your email.

Finally, the email can be sent to: [zijlstra@health-holland.com](mailto:zijlstra@health-holland.com), until the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.

**Duration:** 2-4 years

**Costs:** €0,5-1 Million/ per project, €5,55 Million available in total (can include a PhD)

#### Co-financing (according to match call regulations)

Type of research	Fundamental Research	Industrial Research	Experimental Development
Maximum % allowance to be deployed	75%	50%	25%
Research organization(s)	min. 10%	min. 10%	min. 10%
For-profit enterprise(s)	min. 15%	min. 30%	min. 45%
-Large	- min. 2/3rd in cash*	- min. 2/3rd in cash*	- min. 2/3rd in cash*
-SME**	- may be fully in kind	- may be fully in kind	- may be fully in kind

\* At least 2/3 of the required minimum contribution of a large enterprise must consist of a cash contribution. This minimum contribution depends on the type of research and is based on their total project contribution.

\*\* May be fully in kind. However, a cash contribution is encouraged.

**For more information:** <https://www.health-holland.com/news/2020/03/special-announcement-covid-19>

## II.2 Corona: fast-track data

### Amount of funding per project

€ 1,5 Million

### Close date

Continuous or until 1<sup>st</sup> Sept

### Duration of eligible projects

6 months

### Evaluation results expected

1-3 months later

### Funding Name

Corona: fast-track data

### Funding

### Organization

NWO, ZonMw

## Background

NWO and the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) facilitate research funding for researchers who are able to make a meaningful contribution based on their expertise. This call for proposals focuses on research to be conducted now, i.e. at the height of the corona crisis, and specifically research into issues, other than medical and healthcare issues, that arise in society during the crisis.

ZonMw has made funding available for research into creative solutions required for practical technological issues in healthcare, including hospital care. Examples include research into medical devices and solutions that help to deliver the right care and support for vulnerable groups, their careers and health professionals.

## Scope

Besides the possibility of conducting research under their regular funding instruments, NWO and ZonMw make funding available for:

- research to provide knowledge that is needed now, at the height of the corona crisis, or research that can only be conducted during the crisis, and
- research to provide knowledge that is or might become relevant in the course of the pandemic: research that can be conducted in the slightly longer term (and for which NWO will issue a special call at a later date).

Many data monitoring and data analysis projects are already in progress to gather essential information that can only be collected now. This call is intended to support these existing projects, but grants may also be requested for projects that have yet to begin.

## Eligibility

Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers<sup>1</sup> with a comparable appointment can submit

an application provided that they:

- they are employed (i.e. hold a salaried position) at one of the following organizations:
  - universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
  - university medical centers.
  - NWO and KNAW institutes.
  - the Netherlands Cancer Institute.
  - the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen.

- the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble.
  - Naturalis Biodiversity Center.
  - Advanced Research Centre for Nanolithography (ARCNL).
  - Princess Máxima Center.
- and have a contract of employment (duration of appointment) for at least the duration of the research for which funding is requested. Personnel with a zero-hours appointment are excluded from applying.

*Additional conditions:*

- an applicant may submit a maximum of one application.
- there is no possibility to add co-applicants.

**Medical and healthcare research projects are excluded from participation.** A maximum of € 50,000 can be requested for a research proposal in this round. NWO does not impose any requirements on the form of the research and there are no restrictions on the type of costs for which funding can be requested. However, the allocation of the requested funding must be broken down in a realistic budget accompanied by an explanation geared to the project.

Funding may be requested for short-term personnel appointments, material costs, and travel costs for experiments to be conducted at a different location. The grant will take the form of a lump sum awarded at the start of the project. The project must start within one month after the grant is awarded and the maximum project duration is six months.

### Procedure and application process

For more information and application: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/our-funding-instruments/sgw/corona-fast-track-data/corona-fast-track-data.html>

## III. Anticipated Dutch government grants for COVID-19

### III.1 Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and ZonMW

Have made an additional €20 million available for research for acute corona related research topics.

- € 5 million for topics including: recovering patients, transmission of the virus amongst children and hospital epidemiology, short-term implementable medicine development, antibodies or virus-evolution
- € 5 million for research related to medicine and research that explores the usability of readily available vaccine
- € 10 million for acute and urgent research, based on an ad hoc program as determined by ZonMw

**For more details please contact:** <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/over-zonmw/coronavirus/onderzoek-naar-corona-en-covid-19/>

### III.2 The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and NWO

Have made €15 million available for urgent medical, social and societal research questions for short- and long-term perspectives. Topics included, but not limited to, are combatting the pandemic, medicine, improving the current care situation, behavior and behavioral changes within the Netherlands and its impact on spreading of the virus. Social aspects and economic consequences of the taken measures on

well-being are included. Improving our understanding of spreading and repression of the virus and the effects of social isolation will enable, as well as require, a broad spectrum of research. Available budgets specified:

1. NWO
  - € 1,5 million for acute research in accordance with RIVM and ZonMW
  - € 1,5 million for data-monitoring and analysis
  - € 10 million for urgent research questions
2. OCW
  - € 2 million for general corona-related research questions

**For more details please see:** <https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoek-en-resultaten/programmas/sgw/corona-fast-track-data/index.html> and <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/detail/item/extra-investeren-in-versnelde-onderzoeksprogrammas-naar-corona/>

### III.3 Additional corona-related budgets of Toegepast Onderzoek (Applied Science)

1. € 1,5 - € 2 million for "Brains4Corona": how to apply current knowledge on the short term, i.e. in the area of crisis management (IT, predicting IC-admissions), medical devices (reusable face masks, mobile ventilators), corona testing (improved or alternative methods), vitality (coping mechanisms home-workers)
2. Wageningen Research has made extra test labs available for corona tests
3. Deltares will participate in the precise role of water and soil in relation to the potential survival and spreading of the COVID-19 virus

## IV. Opportunities for collaborations with existing international networks

### IV.1 COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition

The COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition aims to accelerate desperately needed COVID-19 research in those areas where the virus could wreak havoc on already-fragile health systems and cause the greatest health impact on vulnerable populations. The coalition brings together individuals and institutions working to fast-track research that will provide evidence on COVID-19 prevention, diagnosis, and case management in resource-limited settings. This is the evidence needed to guide policies and practices.

Coalition members will work together to map what they could contribute to the research agenda and to form the most effective partnerships. The coalition will promote open sharing of research knowledge and data, and advocate for equitable and affordable access to these interventions.

Please see for more details: <https://covid19crc.org/>

### IV.2 AI-ROBOTICS vs COVID-19 initiative of the European AI Alliance

The European Commission launches an initiative to collect ideas about deployable Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics solutions as well as information on other initiatives that could help face the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

- You have developed an AI system or built a robotic tool that can be deployed either immediately or in the short to mid-term in the context of disease prevention, diagnosis or treatment.
- You are an individual or part of an organization that has already launched an initiative involving your community and other stakeholders in a discussion on the role that technology and AI in particular could play during the current healthcare crisis.

- You have further ideas or would like to share relevant Information (including other initiatives).

Please see for more details: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/join-ai-robotics-vs-covid-19-initiative-european-ai-alliance>

### **IV.3 Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**

CEPI is an innovative global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organizations launched in Davos in 2017 to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. Their mission is to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks. CEPI is involved in close to 20 organizations for vaccine development for COVID-19.

For more details please see: <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>