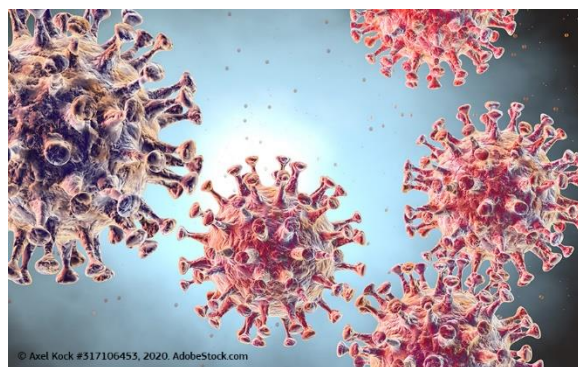


## New research projects on Coronavirus (March 2020)

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> project was added in late March<sup>1</sup>.](#) 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.](#)

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<sup>1</sup> On 30 March, an 18<sup>th</sup> 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  |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</b> – Total <b>EU funding</b> : € 19.1 million   |   |  |   |
| <b>I-MOVE-COVID-19</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                                | 25 partners:<br>AL, DE, ES(5), FR(5), IE, LT, NL(2), PT(2), RO, SE, UK(5) |
| <b>RECOVER</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                    | 11 partners:<br>BE(2), CN, DE, FR(2), IT, NL(3), UK                       |
| <b>HERoS</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                  | 11 partners:<br>FR, FI(2), IT, NL(2), PL(3), UK, US                       |
| <b>EpiPose</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                      | 6 partners:<br>BE(2), CH, IT, NL, UK                                      |
| <b>CORESMA</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a> | 7 partners:<br>CH, CI, CN, DE(2), NL, NP                                  |
| <b>EXSCALATE4CoV</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                        | 18 partners:<br>BE, CH(2), DE(2), ES, IT(10), PL, SE                      |

| Acronym/ Title   | Description  | Project coordinator   | Partners                                    |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>DIAGNOSTICS</b> – Total <b>EU funding:</b> € 6.4 million  |  |   |   |
| <b>CoNVat</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a> | 5 partners: ES(3), FR, IT                   |
| <b>CoronaDX</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                            | 8 partners: AT, CN(2), DK(2), IT(2), SE     |
| <b>HG nCoV19 test</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>                                    | 4 partners: CN, IE, IT, UK                  |
| <b>TREATMENT</b> – Total <b>EU funding:</b> € 17.0 million   |  |   |   |
| <b>Fight-nCoV</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Project news</a>                              | 6 partners: DE(2), DK, FR, SE(2)            |
| <b>SCORE</b><br>Swift COronavirus therapeutics Response  | To develop a combination of anti-viral treatments for patients infected with the coronavirus.  | Academisch Ziekenhuis Leiden (NL)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Project news</a>                        | 10 partners: BE(3), CH, DE(2), FR(2), NL(2) |
| <b>Solnatide</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>   | 6 partners: AT, DE(2), ES, IT, NL           |

| Acronym/ Title   | Description   | Project coordinator   | Partners                            |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>TREATMENT</b> – Total <b>EU funding</b> : € 17.0 million (cont.)  |   |   |                                     |
| <b>ATAC</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>          | 5 partners:<br>BE, CH, DE, IT, SE   |
| <b>MANCO</b><br>Monoclonal Antibodies against 2019- New Coronavirus  | To develop and evaluate monoclonal antibodies as treatments against coronavirus.  | Erasmus Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (NL)<br><a href="#">Project details</a>            | 8 partners:<br>DE, ES, FR(2), NL(4) |
| <b>CoroNAB</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Project news</a>     | 4 partners:<br>CH, DK, SE, UK       |
| <b>RiPCoN</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Project news</a> | 3 partners:<br>DE, ES, FR           |
| <b>VACCINES</b> – Total <b>EU funding</b> : € 5.7 million  |   |   |                                     |
| <b>OPENCORONA</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Website</a>          | 7 partners:<br>DE, IT, SE(5)        |
| <b>Prevent-nCoV</b><br>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)<br><a href="#">Project details</a><br><a href="#">Project news</a>    | 6 partners:<br>DE, DK(3), NL(2)     |

To contact project coordinators of shorted-listed proposals: [RTD-CORONAVIRUS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-CORONAVIRUS@ec.europa.eu)