

Grant Agreement Preparation in EDCTP2 projects



European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

www.fitforhealth.eu



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Content





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- b) The process step-by-step
- c) Helpful advice





EDCTP2 Background and Mission

Background

- Established in 2003 by a co-decision of the European Parliament and Council under Article 185 Initiative (Ex 169)
 - Pool research, activities to achieve greater impact against poverty-related diseases (PRDs)
 - Promote integrated approach to health research in Europe
- Contribute to the achievement of MDGs and global health crises caused by Poverty-Related Diseases (PRDs)
 - No economic incentive for private investment in PRDs
 - Public investment is sparse and fragmented

Mission

• To reduce poverty in sub-Saharan Africa through improved health by funding collaborative research to accelerate the development of new or improved medical interventions against poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases (PRNIDs).

EDCTP1: completed in December 2015

EDCTP2: will run from 2014-2024





EDCTP2 Objectives

- Support collaborative research in sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate the clinical development of medical interventions for poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases.
- 2. Support international alignment of national research agendas for poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases.
- 3. Seek the advice, support and collaboration of many stakeholders.
- 4. Offer a single **European-African platform for research** cooperation and funding.
- 5. Promote African co-ownership of the EDCTP programme and the development of scientific leadership.
- 6. Support capacity for conducting research in sub-Saharan Africa compliant with regulatory standards.

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EDCTP Association





EDCTP2 Participating States (PSs)

14 European Countries

Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom

14 African Countries

Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Rep of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, Zambia

1 Aspirant Member

Switzerland

Countries that can receive funding

- All sub-Saharan African countries
- All EU MSs and Associated Countries to H2020



What EDCTP2 funds





Registration of a new Medicinal Product (MP) Therapeutic use **New indications or formulation of a marketed MP Discovery & Implementation Phase III Phase IV Pre-clinical Phase I Phase II** research research Clinical studies product Clinical trial formulation, Safety and or efficacy of on specific populations investigational medicinal dosing recommendations product Low interventional trial Biomarkers, Pharmacogenomics Effectiveness Pragmatic trial **Product focused** Comparing medical intervention strategies implementation research



What EDCTP2 funds

- Diseases: HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, NIDs, emerging infectious diseases of particular relevance for Africa (incl. Ebola), diarrhoeal diseases, lower respiratory tract infections
- Results: New tools and interventions (diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and microbicides)
- Capacity Development: Fellowships, Networks, Ethics, Regulatory





Project Types

Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) incl. Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials

- Primarily clinical research and clinical trials
- Phase I to IV trials
- Additional activities such as sub-studies, networking, capacity development, etc.

Coordination & Support Actions (CSA)

- Accompanying measures such as
 - a. Strengthening research capacities in sub-Saharan Africa
 - b. Promoting networking and collaboration
 - c. Fostering cooperation between public and private funders

Activities may comprise: dissemination, awareness-raising, communication, networking, support services, policy dialogues, mutual learning exercises, strategic planning, etc.





Project Types

Training and Mobility Actions (TMA)

- Fostering career development of sub-Saharan African fellows
- Training and mentorship of researchers
- Promoting mobility of individual researchers and research staff





Calls for proposals in EDCTP2

- Annual Work Plan: Outline of calls and timetable
- Priority setting through thematic stakeholder meetings; SAC; other
- Approval by EC and EDCTP General Assembly
- → Calls for proposals (published on <u>www.EDCTP.org</u>)
- → Submission (electronic submission)
- > Evaluation by independent experts and selection for funding

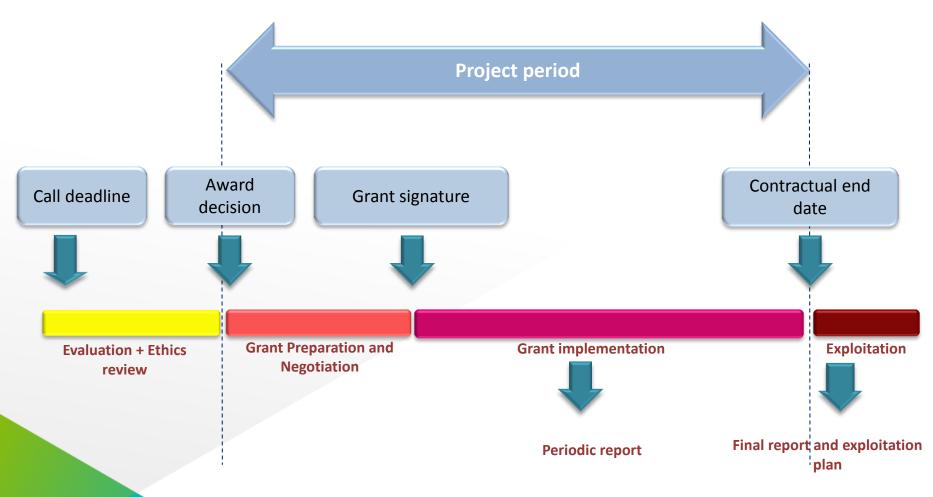
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EDCTP Project Lifecycle







Grant Agreements in EDCTP2

	Type of activities	1 participant	>1 participant
RIA	Must include clinical trials and related research activities. May include aspects of training & networking.	N/A (minimum 3 participants)	Multi-partner Grant Agreement
ТМА	Focus on training and strengthening of clinical research skills.	Mono-partner Grant Agreement (TMA)	N/A
CSA	Coordination activities, networking and strengthening of infrastructures and human resources. Cannot include research activities.	Mono-partner Grant Agreement	Multi-partner Grant Agreement

EDCTP2 uses the same model grant agreements as H2020

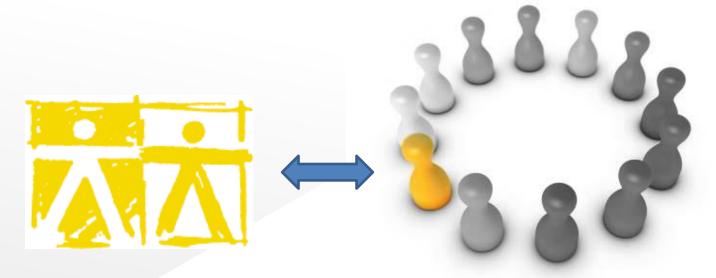
All grant agreements are variations of the same Model Grant Agreement





The Grant Agreement (GA)

defines the relation between the EDCTP and the Coordinator / the Consortium



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Grant Agreement: Overall Structure

- CORE GRANT AGREEMENT
- 2. ANNEX 1: Technical Description of Activities (DoA)
- 3. ANNEX 2: Budget Table
- 4. ANNEX 3: Accession Form
- 5. ANNEX 4: Model for the financial statements
- 6. ANNEX 5: Model for the certificate on the financial statements
- 7. ANNEX 6: Model for the certificate on the methodology





EDCTP Grant Agreement

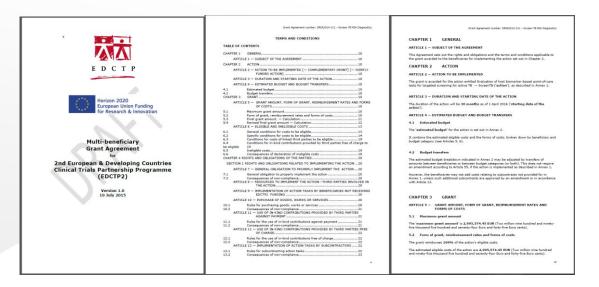
- Grant Agreement is concluded between EDCTP and institutions (not individuals)
- Grant Agreement is signed by the authorized legal representatives
- All partners in the consortium must accede to/sign the Grant Agreement
- Grant "belongs" to the institution with rights and obligations





Core Grant Agreement

The **Core Grant Agreement** contains all essential project details (title, consortium members, amount of pre-financing, maximum funding, etc.) as well as all rights and obligations of the EDCTP and the beneficiaries (including all financial rules and regulations)

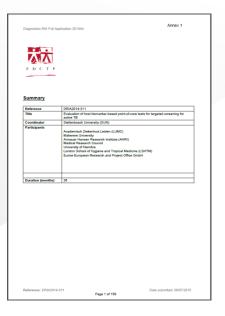






Description of the Action and Budget

The Description of the Action (DoA) is Annex I to the Grant Agreement. It contains the implementation details: work packages, deliverables, milestones – and a detailed narrative description of the work.



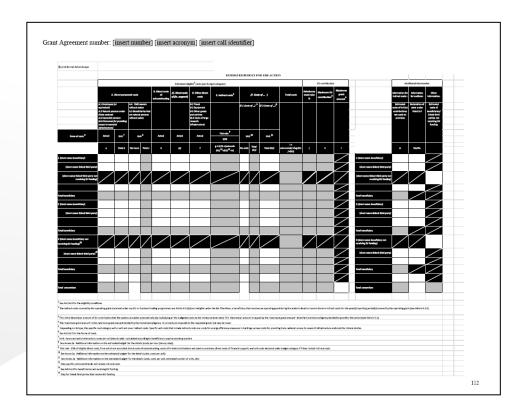






Description of the Action and Budget

The budget Table is Annex II to the Grant Agreement





Project Structure

Coordinator

Monitors project implementation

Acts as focal point for EDCTP communication

Collects and submits reporting to EDCTP

Receives and distributes EDCTP funding

Partners

Notify of any changes in name, address, legal representative, ownership etc.

Events that affect/delay project

Timely submit financial and technical reports, ethics and clinical trials approvals and other relevant documentation







Project Consortium

- The Coordinator is the main (only) point of contact between the EDCTP and the consortium
- Principles of equal partnership and consensus decisions





The Consortium Agreement (CA)

regulates the relation between consortium partners (= beneficiaries)



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Consortium Agreement

- **Consortium Agreement** is **mandatory** in EDCTP projects for multi-beneficiary actions!
- Consortium Agreement is building on GA as a legal basis
- Should be negotiated and concluded **before signing the GA**
- Aspects to be addressed:

Management and decision making; Ownership of results; Settlement of disputes; Reporting obligations and timelines; Sharing of costs; Distribution of EDCTP funds between partners, etc.





DESCA – an established CA model



- Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement
- European Initiative by key FP actors, co-developed by the FP community
- www.desca-2020.eu





Grant Agreement & Consortium Agreement

Why do we need another agreement if we already have the GA?

- The GA is largely a standard agreement and sets the main frame;
- The CA regulates all project specific aspects in detail, incl. IP management;
- The CA is in no way allowed to contradict the Grant Agreement; the latter always takes precedence!
- The CA makes project management (decision making) quicker and easier;
- In case of conflict, the CA provides clear guidance.





Time to Grant

Two primary time limits for EDCTP grants:

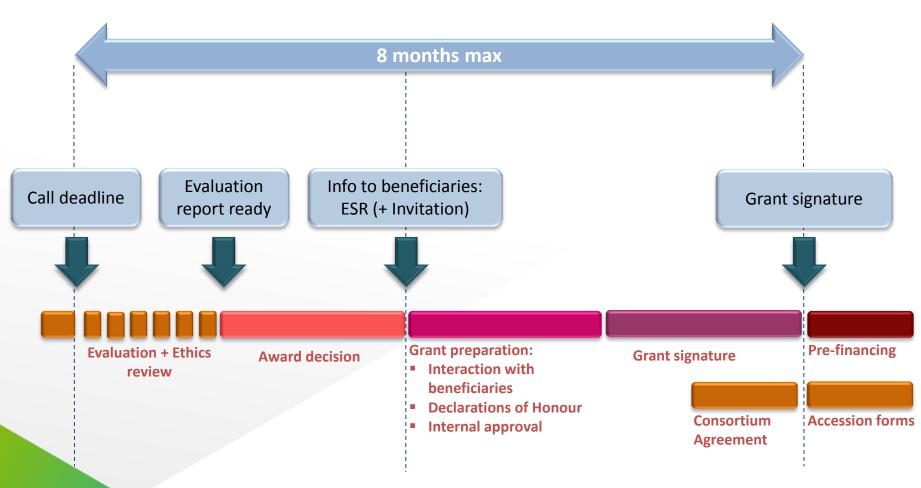
- maximum of 8 months between call deadline and grant signature
- maximum of 5 months to inform applicants of the outcome of the scientific evaluation (i.e. evaluation by the experts)

The period for preparing and signing grants may exceed 3 months as long as the overall time-to-grant remains a maximum of 8 months (i.e., time saved during the evaluation may be used for grant preparation).





Grant Agreement Preparation







First step: Declaration of Honour

to be signed by all project partners

Proposal number: DRIA2014-311 ScreenTB Diagnostics RIA EDCTP

(To be filled out by the applicant and signed by its legal representative)

p for natural persons; in my own name

ofor legal persons or 'legal entities without legal personality'1 : representing the following legal

as legal representative of

[insert full official name] [insert official legal form] insert full official address

hereby certify

that (subject to the additional declarations below):

- 1. The information provided to EDCTP for the grant agreement preparation is correct and
- 2. The information concerning the legal status given in EDCTPgrants is correct; My organisation commits to comply with all the eligibility criteria, as defined in the EDCTP2 work plan and the call for proposals;
- is committed to participate in the action:
- has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the action and to provide any counterpart funding necessary,
- and has or will have the necessary resources as and when needed to carry out its involvement in the abovementioned action;

 [OPTION for coordinators only is committed to act as the coordinator.]
- 5. My organisation is not in one of the situations which would exclude it from receiving
- is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not a standard and a subject of proceedings concerning.
 - suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning suspensed useness activities, is not in assigned up proceedings concerning those matters, or is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

 • it (or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control
 - over it) have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;

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EDCTD is registered in the Hanse. The Netherlands: Chamber of Commerce file no. 60471700.

Proposal number: DRIA2014-311 ScreenTB Diagnostics RIA



- · has not been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which EDCTP can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international
- organisations; is in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes, in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established and with those of the country of the authorising officer responsible and those of the country where the action is to be performed:
- It (or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it) have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicate for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to EDCTP's financial interests;
- is not currently subject to an adm istrative penalty under Article 131(5) of
- Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012;
 is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the grant;
 will inform EDCTP, without delay, of any situation considered a conflict of interests or which could give rise to a conflict of interests; has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not
- accept any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating
- to the award of the grant;

 has not made false declarations in supplying the information required by EDCTP as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or does not fail to supply this information.
- I will inform EDCTP of any other grant applications or grants from other organisations, including the EU, related to this action.
- 7. My organisation is aware that the Commission may impose administrative or financial penalties on legal entities which:
 - are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information:
 - have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under any contract/grant agreement covered by the budget of the Commission

Such penalties will be proportionate to the importance of the contract/grant agreement and Such periatues will be proportionate to a magnetic the seriousness of the misconduct, and may consist in their exclusion from contracts/grants financed by the EU or Euratom budget and payment of financial penalties.

- 8. Grants will be managed electronically through EDCTPgrants, EDCTP's online application and grants management system
- 9. Access and use of EDCTPgrants is subject to the terms and conditions published in
- Personal data submitted or otherwise collected by EDCTP will be handled in compliance

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protection of personal data)", dated 6 July 2000, which Act is based on Directive nr. 95/46/EG (PbEG L 281) and adapted to the General Data Protection Regulation dated 25 January 2012 (Com 2012 11 final; 2012/0011 COD).

11. Registration with EDCTPgrants and grant proposal submission will involve the recording and processing of personal data. These data will be held securely, processed lawfully and retained for no longer than necessary by EDCTP. Data may be used to compile lists including project details, of EDCTP grants, which will be made publicly available. By submitting the application, the participants in the project give EDCTP their consent to

SIGNATURE

For the applicant Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director (Research and Innovation), Stellenbosch University

Date/Place

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Second step: Legal Entity Form

- to be stamped and signed by all partners
- must be submitted to EDCTP

	ED CYP			
Legal Entity Form				
Full legal name:				
Acronym : (where applicable)				
Legal Status : (e.g. state whether the applicant is a for profit or not for profit organisation)				
VAT registration number: (where applicable)				
Participant Identification Code: (PIC number)				
Official address:				
Internet site: (where applicable)				
Name of Director/Legal Representative:				
Name of Chief Financial Officer:				
Name of Project Coordinator (PC):				
Telephone number of PC:				
Fax number of PC:				
Email address of PC:				
Bank details of coordinating site:				
Account name of beneficiary:				
Address of beneficiary:				
Account number:				
Sort Code:				
Swift code:				
IBAN Number				
(Essential if within Europe):				
Currency of the account:				
Name and address of bank:				
Comments:				
Name of Director/Legal Representativ Dr. Therina Theron	re: Name of Chief Financial Officer:			
Signature:	Signature:			
_				





Coordinator: Financial Management Assessment Questionnaire

to be submitted to EDCTP

Financial Management Assessment **Questionnaire for Coordinators** (FMAQC)



Title of action (project): Budget for this action in Euros: Name of coordinating site: Country of coordinating site Name of coordinator: Date:

This questionnaire is prepared by for internal use of EDCTP to assess financial management capacity of the coordinating site.

1 Introduction

This questionnaire is divided into five areas:

- 1. Organisation of the finance department
- Accounting system
 Time recording system (Timesheets)
- 4. Fixed asset register Bank accounts
- 6. Experience of managing donor funded projects

The purpose of this questionnaire is to assist EDCTP Grant Finance Officers and Grant Finance Assistants to form an informed opinion of new coordinating site's internal financial control systems with the objectives of:

- Deciding whether the control environment is strong enough for EDCTP funds to be paid into an existing bank account of the coordinating site (pooled bank account), an account into which funds from EDCTP and those from other donors may be paid into: or to request the coordinating site to open a new bank account (EDCTP designated project bank account), an account into which only funds for the particular EDCTP project under consideration may be paid into
- Getting an overview of the financial management systems and procedures, and to identify areas where improvements are required.

2 Organisation

(Click here to type Title)

- 2.1 Is there a designated person within the finance department that will be responsible for preparing the financial reports for this project?
- 2.2 Is the staffing in the finance department adequate? Submit the CVs of staff that will be responsible for the financial management of this project.

3 Accounting system

- 3.1 Do you have an accounting procedures manual? If yes, when was it last updated? Please send us a copy of this manual.
- 3.2 Is your accounting system computerised? If yes, please provide the name of the software and the date it was implemented; if no, what financial records do you maintain to record financial transactions?
- 3.3 If your accounting system is computerised, how regularly is it backed up? Who is responsible for taking back-ups and the frequency?
- 3.5 What controls exist to ensure adequate segregation of costs by project?
 3.6 How do you ensure the budget of a project is not exceeded?

3.4 Is each project assigned a unique cost centre code?

4 Time recording system (Timesheets)

- 4.1 Do you have a reliable time recording system? If yes, is it paper or computer based? If it is paper based, please send us your template. If it is computer based, please send us a sample of a time report generated from this system for at least one employee, preferably one who works on different projects.
- 4.2 Has your site ever managed a grant that requires timesheets to be prepared regularly? If the answer is yes, did the independent auditors raise any observations regarding the reliability of your time recording system?

5 Fixed asset register

Do you maintain a fixed asset register? If the answer is yes, is it sufficiently detailed to allow easy identification of individual assets, particularly by funding source?

6 Bank accounts

- 6.1 How many hank accounts are currently maintained at your institution? Please provide a list of the bank accounts, showing the name of the bank where each account is maintained, name of the account, type of account (interest or non-interest bearing) and
- 6.2 Who are the bank account signatories? How many signatories are required for each bank transaction? Please provide a list of bank account signatories and their designation within
- 6.3 Do you regularly prepare monthly bank reconciliation statements? If yes, please provide
- the name and job title of the preparer and reviewer.

 6.4 How long does it take your institution to open a foreign currency bank account in the

7 Experience of managing donor funded projects

- 7.1 Do you currently manage any donor funded projects? If yes, please provide a list of these projects, including the names of the funding agencies.
- Has any of the projects managed by your site been recently audited? If yes, please provide a copy of the audit report and management letter.
- Has your site been recently audited? If yes, please provide a copy of the audit report and the management letter.





Coordinator: Ethics self assessment template

- narrative part + ethics tables
- guidance notes are provided

Section 1:	HUMAN EMBRYOS/ FOETUSES	Page	Information to be provided	Documents to be provided
	our research involve Human : Stem Cells (hESCs)?			
If YES:	Will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?		Research cannot be funded.	Research cannot be funded.
	Are they previously established cells lines?		Origin and line of cells. Details on learning and control measures by the competent authorities of the Nember States involved.	Copies of Ethics Approval. A statement that the human embryonic stem cell lines used in the project are registered in the Buropean BTEC registry (www.lescreges.) — bond for BTECS and human-induced pluripotent stem cell (BLEC) lines.

				A statement confirming that the 6 specific conditions (see below) for research activities involving human embryonic stem cells are met.
Does your research involve the use of human embryos?		Origin of embryos. Details on recruitment, inclusion and exclusion criteria and informed consent procedures. Confirm that informed consent has been obtained.	Copies of Ethics Approval Informed Consent Forms + Information Sheets.	
Does your research involve the use of human foetal tissues / cells?			Origin of human foetal, tissues/cells. Details on informed consent procedures. Confirm that informed consent has been obtained.	Copies of Ethics Approval Informed Consent Forms + Information Sheets.





Grant Preparation TO DOs

- Transfer information from the proposal into the grant agreement
- Ensure consistency between proposal and grant agreement
- Collect additional information not present in the proposal (e.g. legal representatives, budget details, third parties)
- Implement any requirements from the expert evaluators, ethics review or security scrutiny
- Ensure proper implementation of legal provisions, including financial viability check if needed





Changes to be implemented

Successful proposals are expected to be **mature and ready** to be implemented.

No substantial changes are allowed between the proposal and the project. NO NEGO approach!

Optional changes:

Obvious errors or inconsistencies may be removed

Coordinator may correct minor shortcomings identified by the experts during evaluation

Necessary changes:

Ethics review or security scrutiny

Removal or replacement of a participant (if agreed with EDCTP)

Major shortcomings identified by the expert evaluators or the EDCTP secretariat during evaluation or grant preparation





Examples of changes

- Adjustment of number of deliverables (depending on project, but normally <20)
- Periodic reports removed from list of deliverables
- Correct description of subcontracts in the right section (4.2)
- Addition of mandatory website deliverable (with basic structure available soon, final version max. 6 months after project start)
- Clarification on adequate management structure and decision making process to secure implementation
- Check of realistic timelines

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Examples of changes

- Sufficient contingency plans in place?
- Adequate plans for open access and data sharing
- Adequate plans for exploitation and uptake of results
- Synergies with other (EDCTP)-projects: Joint meetings, SAB members etc.

Changes to be made by the Coordinator in the electronic system (EDCTPgrants)

→ <u>BUT</u> at the moment process is still based on exchange of Excel/Word files with EDCTP!

You will be guided by your EDCTP Project Officer in charge.





Ethics Review and Security Scruitiny

The results of the ethics review and/or a security scrutiny must be implemented in the grant agreement

- Coordinator needs to update the ethics section in Anney I(DoA) to ensure that any 'ethics requirements' are met
- There may be 'ethics requirements' that need to be met before the grant can be signed
- The same applies for security scrutiny





Budget Table

- Currently: Excel file with budget summary and individual site budgets
- Individual budget items might need to be adjusted during Grant Preparation (e.g. remove tuition fees, add audit costs, etc.)
- Plan: Budget to be managed electronically in the future via **EDCTPgrants** system





Formal data and further information

- Authorized legal representative: proof needed
 - → at the moment either through
 - screenshot of corresponding role (LSign) in H2020 Research Participant Portal or
 - legal documents (e.g. university constitution)
- Additional information needed:

Address of legal entity

Type of organization

Registration number in country of origin

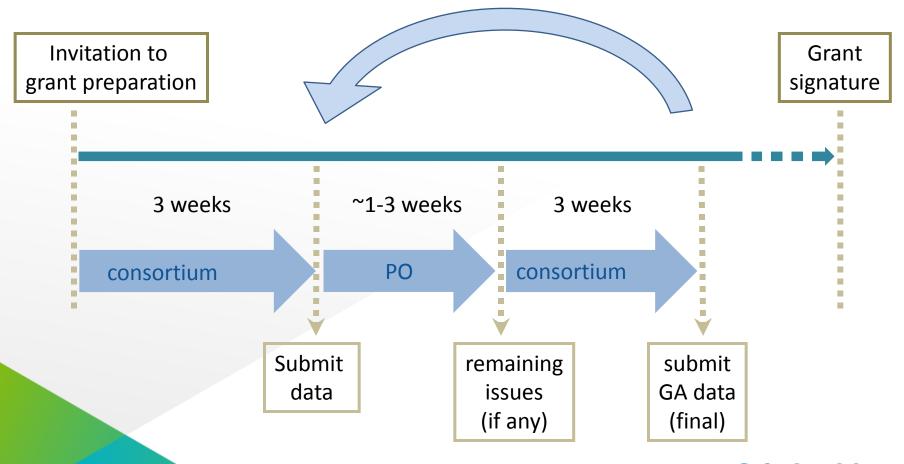
VAT number

CV information of scientists involved must be up-to-date and complete (EDCTPgrants system)





Timing for Grant Agreement Data







Grant Agreement signature process

- The GA is send (by e-mail) to the Coordinator for signature by the legal representative.
- The GA is returned to EDCTP for counter-signing: the GA enters into force.
 Project starts on first day of following month.
- All Partners must sign the Accession Form within 30 days. The Coordinator must collect the Accession Forms and submit them to EDCTP.
- If one (or more) partners do not sign the Accession Form Coordinator must propose an alternative and submit an amendment request within 30 days.





Some helpful advice

- Coordinators: Get in touch with EDCTP Project Officer in charge right away! Frequent and open communication is a benefit.
- Keep deadlines set by EDCTP! If there are delays, inform your Project Officer!
- If someting is unclear ask.





Some helpful advice

- Start early with preparation of Consortium Agreement; use an established Model
 Agreement
- Coordinators: Collect bank details from project partners as you must forward the
 EDCTP payment to them
- Coordinators: Prepare a ,payment table' indicating how much pre-financing each partner will receive
- Payments can only be forwarded to partners once they have signed the Accession
 Forms





Some helpful advice

- Don't be scared: the rules laid out in the GA & CA are relevant and helpful for your project; they provide a safe framework for project implementation
- Familiarize yourself with the Programme rules (GA and Financial Guidelines) NOW.
- GA and CA are complementary agreements: Consistency should be ensured;
 redundancy should be avoided.
- Do not hesitate to seek support!





Further information

European IPR helpdesk:

https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/

Fit for Health 2.0:

http://www.fitforhealth.eu/

(including answers to questions asked today, and future webinar on EDCTP2 project implementation and management)

Proposal submission tool:

https://www.edctpgrants.org/

Current calls:

http://www.edctp.org/funding-opportunities/calls/







Thank you!

Dr Claudia Schacht & Julia Buech | Eurice GmbH edctp@eurice.eu | www.eurice.eu

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