

# Guidelines for Applicants



**Calls for support of integrated projects on clinical trials, capacity building and networking**

**Version 3.2**

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For more information, please go to the EDCTP website: [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)

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# 1. Introduction

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) makes its funding decisions based on proposals submitted in response to calls published by EDCTP or, in exceptional cases, EDCTP decides to fund **projects** after successful brokering. Proposals should describe the **project management**, the planned clinical trial, capacity building and networking activities, including information on who will carry out these plans. In addition, it is very important to give an indication of how much the proposed work would cost and who, in addition to EDCTP, will contribute funding to a project.

This Guideline for Applicants takes the applicant through the process of preparing and submitting a **proposal** in response to an EDCTP **Call for Proposals** and is essential reading. Chapter 2, 'Preparation of a proposal,' gives important information necessary for applicants to prepare a well-described and focussed proposal. Information about the new EDCTP funding scheme, requirements of the consortium, required language, cofunding and budget requirements and ethical and regulatory issues are given. For some subjects, we refer to the annexes of these guidelines, which are also essential reading.

Chapter 3, 'How to fill in the application form,' gives all the practical information required in order to correctly fill in the application form. Chapter 3 starts in section 3.0 with general information and proceeds with explanatory notes and requirements per work package: section 3.1 – work package 1 'Project Management;' section 3.2 – work package 2 'Clinical Trial;' section 3.3 – work package 3 'Capacity Building;' section 3.4 – Work package 4 'Networking'.

Chapter 4 is a checklist that provides a summary of all eligibility criteria and annexes that the applicant should attach to the full proposal.

In chapter 5, 'Submitting your proposal,' there is information about the requested format of the application.

Chapter 6 'What happens next' deals with the registration and evaluation procedure and aims to provide information on the selection criteria and what can be expected if the proposal is selected for funding.

Chapter 7 consists of a provisional timetable that indicates what is expected from the applicant as well as from EDCTP and how the different stages in the process from the launch of the call to the funding of a project relate to each other.

Finally, there are four annexes to these guidelines, namely: Annex I Guidelines for Good Partnership with Developing Countries, Annex II EDCTP General Contract Terms, Annex III Cofunding guidelines for EDCTP grants (including letter templates for cofunding) and Annex IV. EDCTP selection procedure and evaluation criteria.

Applicants are encouraged to read the EDCTP **Joint Programme** available on our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org). Other documents such as the **World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki** or the **ICH** guidelines, which can be found at the links page of the EDCTP website are suggested reading.

*This Guideline for Applicants includes a Glossary containing explanations and definitions used in this guideline. All words in **bold** are explained in the Glossary.*

## 2. Preparation of a proposal

### 2.1 About the funding scheme

*The funding scheme presented here is generally applicable to all EDCTP integrated calls. For the specific requirements per call, please read the specific **call text!***

EDCTP, bringing together 14 EU countries, Norway, Switzerland (together the **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**) and 47 **sub-Saharan African countries**, aims to support the development of new or improved clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis through European research integration and in partnership with African countries (please refer to Annex I). To ensure closer collaboration between National Programmes in the North and to create new and more effective North-South **joint activities**, EDCTP encourages multiple site activities. Coordination of European research collaborations with African scientists will benefit all partners and strengthen the visibility and impact of their work. In addition, EDCTP aims to improve the general environment for carrying out clinical trial activities in Africa. To integrate and raise the role and profile of African sites, centres and researchers is one of the major challenges at this stage. Success and sustainability of the EDCTP programme depends greatly on political commitments, co-ownership and leadership by the African partners.

In order to realise these objectives, EDCTP is looking to support **projects**, which combine a clinical trial with capacity building and networking activities. These three components should be closely integrated. The scope of the call for proposals was determined through consultation with experts in the field and based on products currently in the pipeline. The capacity building and networking elements of the **project** should enhance the environment in Africa for carrying out clinical trials on the subject of the call. Each **project** will consist of the following four work packages: **project management**, clinical trial, capacity building and networking. It will be managed by the **Project Coordinator** who also serves as the leader of **work package 1: Project Management**.

EDCTP differs from many other funding bodies in that it was established under Article 169 of the Treaty of the European Union. This allows the **European Commission** to contribute to research in conjunction with the national research programmes of the **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**. One effect of this is that research funded by EDCTP normally incorporates cofunding from individual European member states alongside funding provided to EDCTP by the European Commission. In addition, one of the objectives of the EDCTP initiative is to integrate European national research programmes into **Joint Programme** activities involving at least two European member states. For this reason, European **applicants** to EDCTP calls are normally required to seek cofunding from their member state and a successful proposal will have secured cofunding from at least two member states.

Please refer to the scheme below to see how these work packages relate.

WP1  
Project Management  
**Project Coordinator**

Purpose of WP1	Resulting activities
Development of <u>project plan</u> integrating clinical trial, capacity building and networking components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Clear project management</li> <li>•Impact of project on public health</li> <li>•Clear plan on how collected data will be shared among participating institutions.</li> </ul>
Maximum budget:	100,000 euros

WP2  
Clinical Trial

**Work package Leader CT**

Purpose of WP2	Resulting activities
Development of clinical trial plan (and protocol).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Execution of phase II or III clinical trial according to international ethical and regulatory requirements.</li> </ul>
Maximum budget:	Maximum budget per project as in <b>call text</b> minus the maximum budget for the other components.

WP3  
Capacity Building

**Work package Leader CB**

Purpose of WP3	Resulting activities
To increase the quality and number of institutions in ssAfrica with the capacity to conduct of high quality clinical trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Upgrading of ssAfrican institutions / sites as well as of human resource capacity.</li> </ul>

WP4  
Networking

**Work package Leader NW**

Purpose of WP4	Resulting activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To strength linkages/networking of institutions and sites within the project</li> <li>• To establish joint capacity building activities and facilitate sharing of information within and beyond the project partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Introduction of mentorship programmes.</li> <li>•Development of new networks and support of existing networks.</li> <li>•Dissemination of knowledge to policy and practice.</li> </ul>
Maximum budget:	200,000 euros

**Component Coordinator A**

**Component Coordinator B**

**Component Coordinator C**

**Supervisor of the Candidate**

**Supervisor of the Candidate**

Maximum budget per component :

A. Baseline Epidemiological study (optional)	B. Site Infrastructure Upgrading (mandatory)	C. Short term training (optional)	D. MSc studentship (optional)	E. PhD Scholarship (optional)	F. Post doctoral Fellowship (optional)
200,000 euros	250,000 euros	100,000 euros	25,000 euros	100,000 euros	100,000 euros



## 2.2 Who can apply?

### 2.2.1 Overall consortium requirements

There is a mandatory requirement for the **project** to involve **collaborators** employed by at least two public institutions from different **EDCTP-EEIG Member States** as well as two from **sub-Saharan African countries**. The mandatory African partner institutions should include at least one institution with the capacity to execute the clinical trial (level 3 or 4 in the table below). This **Established African Institution** should play a major role in the clinical trial work package (WP 2, section 3.2). In addition, at least one institution that will develop capacity to execute clinical trials in the future through the **project** needs to be involved. This so called **African sister institution** should be at level 1 or 2 as described in the table below. The **proposal** should indicate how the proposed African partner institutions measure against the components listed in the table below (see question 1.6 of the application form & section 3.1 of these Guidelines).

Criteria for classification of research institutions into various levels				
Level				
Components	1 Epidemiologically relevant population and interested investigators	2 Identified cohort and follow-up capability	3 Sites with some clinical trial capacity (Phase III)	4 Fully capable site for phase I-III trials
<b>1. Investigators</b>	Lack of GCP training	GCP exposure	GCP qualified with limited experience	GCP qualified with experience
<b>2. Subjects</b>	Target population identified	Demonstrated ability to follow-up Community involvement	Demonstrated ability to follow-up community involvement formalised	Demonstrated ability to follow-up community development programme
<b>3. Ethics</b>	Institutional Review Board (IRB) not yet established	IRB and national ethics committee exist	IRB and National guidelines for clinical trials exist	IRB National guidelines for clinical trials exist
<b>4. Laboratories</b>	Some access to laboratory facilities	GCLP compliant	GCLP compliant	GCLP compliant
<b>5. Clinical facilities</b>	Ability to measure clinical outcomes	Access to facilities with staff	Adequate facilities and qualified staff	Excellent facilities with qualified staff
<b>6. Data management</b>	Data collection field staff	Some computer infra-structure and basic data-processing skills	Sufficient computer hardware and software. Experienced data processing staff	Biostatistics, sufficient computer hardware and software. Experienced data processing staff



<b>7. Sample repository</b>	Absent	Absent	Part of laboratory	Available
<b>8. Information Technology (IT)</b>	No internet access	Some computer infrastructure with limited internet access (dial-up access)	Sufficient computer hardware and software; broad band access and some IT support	Excellent IT facilities established with adequate qualified support staff
<b>9. Library facilities</b>	None	Limited on-line literature access	Adequate facilities both on-line and hard copies	Excellent facilities both on-line access and hard copies
<b>10. Finance and Administration</b>	Weak administrative capability	Basic administrative capability	Accounting and administrative systems available	Well established and audited accounting and administrative systems

If you need to find new partners to comply with the requirements for this proposal you may use **Project Partners**. Project Partners is a new web-database available at our website ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)), developed to promote networking between European and African partners.

### 2.2.2 The Project Coordinator

The **Project Coordinator** is the coordinator of the full project, consisting of the Management, Clinical Trial, Capacity Building and Networking component. The **Project Coordinator** is considered the only contact point with EDCTP for the proposed **project** during the review procedure and Grant Agreement preparations.

The **Project Coordinator** of the submitted project needs to adhere to the following requirements:

- The application can only have one Project Coordinator. All other researchers fulfil the role of collaborators.
- It is expected that the Project Coordinator has been awarded a PhD or equivalent (Please note that EDCTP may require a copy of your certificate). Individuals with less experience and qualifications should normally apply as a **collaborator**.
- EDCTP strongly supports African leadership and encourages African nationals that reside in Africa to take on the role of Project Coordinator.
- If the Project Coordinator is not an African national then the project must contain an element of training to ensure that an African national involved with the project is able to act as Project Coordinator in the future.
- The Project Coordinator needs to be employed by a **public institution** from one the following countries:

**Sub-Saharan African countries:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho,



Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**EDCTP-EEIG Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

- If the Project Coordinator retires during the course of the study, he or she needs to identify a successor in the application. Retired researchers are requested to take the role of **collaborator** in the application.
- If the Project Coordinator knows that he or she will change employment during the course of the study, his or her new employer and, if applicable, his or her successor, need to be mentioned in the application.

### 2.2.3 Work package leaders

The **project** consists of four Work packages for each of which a **Work package leader** is appointed. The **Project Coordinator** automatically serves as leader for work package 1 (WP1): Project Management.

The **Work package leader** of the submitted project needs to adhere to the following requirements:

- It is expected that the work package leader has been awarded a PhD or equivalent (please note that EDCTP may require a copy of your certificate). Individuals with less experience and qualifications should normally apply as a **collaborator**.
- The Work package leader needs to be employed by a **public institution** from one of the following countries:

**sub-Saharan African countries:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**EDCTP-EEIG Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

- If the Work package leader retires during the course of the study, he or she needs to identify a successor in the application. Retired researchers are requested to take the role of **collaborator** in the application.
- If the Work package leader knows that he or she will change employment during the course of the study his or her new employer and, if applicable, his or her successor, need to be mentioned in the application.



#### 2.2.4 Candidates for the MSc studentship, PhD scholarship and Postdoctoral fellowship

- Candidates for the MSc-studentship, PhD-scholarship and Postdoctoral fellowship proposed in the **project** as part of the Capacity Building work package, must be of African nationality and working at an institution in a **sub-Saharan African country**.
- Females are especially encouraged to apply.
- Applicants for the MSc studentship should be in the early stages of their career as researcher. They should hold a BSc degree with honours (first class or upper second class).
- Applicants for the PhD scholarship should be in the early stages of their career as researcher. They should have a university degree and preferably hold post-graduate qualifications such as a MD, Pharm D or MSc.
- Applicants for the Postdoctoral fellowship should be in the early to midterm stage of their career as a researcher. They should hold an MD or PhD degree.

#### 2.2.5 Supervisors of the candidates for the MSc studentship, PhD scholarship and/or Postdoctoral fellowship

The supervisors of the MSc-student, PhD-scholar and Postdoctoral fellow need to adhere to the same requirements as the **Work package leader** as stipulated in section 2.2.3.

#### 2.2.6 Other collaborators

In principle, any person from a **legal entity** from any country may participate as **collaborator** in an EDCTP funded **project** as long as the minimal consortium requirements (section 2.2.1 of these guidelines) are met.

The **collaborators** of the submitted **project** need to adhere to the following requirements:

- All collaborators involved should hold at least a graduate degree (please note that EDCTP may require a copy of your certificate). Collaborators with less experience should normally apply in collaboration with a more experienced and senior colleague.
- Retired researchers may have the role of collaborator in the application.
- Any collaborator who knows that he or she will change employment during the course of the trial needs to state his or her new employer and, if applicable, his or her successor, in the application.

*All applicants should check our conflict of interest policy which can be found at our website ([www.edctp.org/Terms-Requirements](http://www.edctp.org/Terms-Requirements)) in the 'Calls and Grants' section under 'Guidelines and forms'.*

### 2.3 How to apply

The work described in the **proposal** must correspond to a particular EDCTP **Call for Proposals** or in exceptional cases has to correspond to the indications given by invitation for a brokering approach. The **proposal** has to meet all **eligibility criteria** described in the **call text** and in these Guidelines (section 4.1). Proposals that fail to do so will be



considered ineligible. The **selection criteria** (given in section 6.4), against which each proposal will be reviewed, must be taken into account.

Every project must include **cofunding** from the **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**.

In this chapter *2.3 How to apply?* we aim to give all information necessary for the preparation phase of the proposal. Please refer to the annexes of these guidelines for more background information on the following subjects:

- Annex I: Guidelines for Good Partnership with Developing Countries
- Annex II: [EDCTP](#) General [Contract](#) Terms
- Annex III: Cofunding and Financial Guidelines [for EDCTP Grants](#)

### 2.3.1 Language

The proposal must be written in the English language.

### 2.3.2 Cofunding

#### 2.3.2.1 Cofunding from the EDCTP-EEIG Member States

The EDCTP-EEIG Member States contribute at least 50% in cofunding to the EDCTP programme. In each **proposal**, the eventual participation of at least two different **EDCTP-EEIG Member States** (MS) is required. The more MSs you can find to participate in your project, the more chance you have to secure the amount of cofunding needed for your project. Before you submit a proposal, EDCTP encourages you to contact the EDCTP Networking team. The Networking team will be able to explain the possibilities of cofunding by MSs and the conditions under which cofunding may be available and provide you with the contact details of the European Networking Officers (ENO) of the MSs concerned.

All collaborators in a **proposal** with MS nationality, including those working in sub-Saharan African countries, or working in a MS institution must each apply for cofunding. In order for a **proposal** to be **eligible** for evaluation, applicants must demonstrate that **cofunding** has been applied for as EDCTP expects to receive at least one supporting letter per participating MS as an annex to the **proposal** (annex 4a, ~~b, c~~, b, c etc. to the application form). The following letters should be appended to the application (see example templates in Annex III of these guidelines):

1. A letter from the legal representatives of any **public institution** (e.g. University, Medical Centre or other research institution) cofunding the project, with details on the type and amount of cofunding requested by the applicant/collaborator of the project, and confirmation on whether this has been secured or is still under review. A copy of this letter should be send to the relevant ENO.
2. A letter from the ENO confirming that they are aware of the application and the cofunding pledged or requested from the public institution and detailing the institutions and collaborators that have applied for cofunding

If there are several collaborators from the same partner institution in a MS, then only one letter will be required from that MS.

Any applications to the MSs should comply with the national or local legal requirements for funding applications.



African scientists are also encouraged to apply for cofunding from EDCTP-EEIG Member States, but in their case, it is not an eligibility criterion. For more information about the possibilities of cofunding by EDCTP-EEIG Member States, see Annex III of these guidelines.

Please refer to the cofunding section of the EDCTP website ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)) for MS conditions and requirements for cofunding.

### 2.3.2.2 Role of the European Networking Officer

Each **EDCTP-EEIG Member State** has assigned a **European Networking Officer (ENO)** to EDCTP. Each **ENO** understands their national research programme and funding procedures and is aware of the **cofunding** possibilities in his or her country. They serve as the main point of advice on the possibilities for cofunding. ENO´s can be contacted through the 'contact ENO form' on the EDCTP website.

### 2.3.2.3 Cofunding from African partners

Cofunding from African partners is strongly encouraged but not compulsory. EDCTP would however, like where possible to demonstrate any direct or indirect African financial contribution to the partnership. Applicants are therefore asked to indicate any African cofunding contributions, whether in cash or in kind or from third parties.

### 2.3.2.4 Cofunding from third parties

EDCTP actively encourages third party contributions to a **project**. These may be from any non-public funding source including commercial companies, **private institutions** or foundations or countries other than the **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**. Please note that contributions from **public-private partnerships (PPP)** or other international organisations aimed at product development that receive public funding from governments of EDCTP-EEIG Member States count as third party funding. Similar contributions from consortia funded by the European Commission count as third party funding.

## 2.4 How to prepare your budget

Every application sent to EDCTP should be accompanied by the budget form (a separate Excel document, which should be downloaded from our website) and a statement that the project can be carried out for the budget requested (including EDCTP and cofunding money, see question 1.15 of the application form). Please note that in the budget form overhead costs are automatically calculated according to the EDCTP regulations. You therefore need to ensure that the total value of your requested budget is not taken above the ceiling per grant as stated in the call text. Not all costs are eligible. A detailed explanation of which costs are eligible and which are not eligible can be found in the EDCTP Financial Guidelines in Annex III. Please read these carefully.

For more detailed information on how to fill in the budget form, please refer to section 3.5 of these guidelines. Please note that EDCTP has set the following budget limits per work package component:

Budget component	Max budget per component
Local project administration costs	100,000
Clinical trials	Depends on call text (effectively maximum budget per project as stated in call text minus the budget for the other components)



<b>Baseline epidemiological study</b>	200,000
<b>Site infrastructure upgrading</b>	250,000
<b>Short-term training</b>	100,000
<b>MSc studentship</b>	25,000
<b>PhD scholarship</b>	100,000
<b>Postdoctoral fellowship</b>	100,000
<b>Networking</b>	200,000

## ***2.5 Ethical considerations***

Regulatory authorities require that all new investigational medicinal products intended for use in humans must be shown to be safe, effective and of the highest quality.

All studies that are funded by EDCTP must be implemented in accordance with the standards and codes of conduct accepted by the **International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH)** guidelines (follow the link on the links page of our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)) and in compliance with the local ethics requirements of the countries where these studies are to be conducted.

In accordance with these guidelines, all clinical studies have to be submitted to and approved by an **independent Ethics Committee** that complies with the World Health Organisation Operational Guidelines for Ethics Committees That Review Biomedical Research (TDR/PRD/ETHICS/2000.1). A link to this document can be found at [the links page of our website \(www.edctp.org\)](http://www.edctp.org) under the 'Calls and Grants' section in 'Guidelines and forms' together with the complementary guidelines to Operational Guidelines for Ethics Committees That Review Biomedical Research: Surveying and Evaluating Ethical Review Practices (TDR/PRD/ETHICS/2002.1).

"Compliance with these guidelines helps to ensure that rights, safety and well-being of research participants are promoted and that the results of the investigations are credible". The role of the Ethics Committee is to safeguard the interest of volunteers taking part in studies.

***EDCTP will not support any studies that have not obtained approval from the local Ethics Committee.***

Applicants are therefore encouraged to pay due attention to the various ethical aspects in the planning of studies including the process of obtaining verbal/ written **informed consent**, the obligations of investigators and **sponsors**, benefits and risks of study participation, recruitment, cultural values, and confidentiality measures in accordance to the **World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki** ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects (follow the link on the links page of our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)). You will be asked to identify potential ethical issues in the application form (questions 2.12 and 2.13).

## ***2.6 Regulatory requirements for conducting clinical trials***

**Regulatory requirements** are part of the process of drug discovery and drug development and describe what is necessary for a new medicinal product to be approved for marketing in any country. Prior to testing on humans in clinical trials, medicinal products must be subjected to rigorous testing in the laboratory (preclinical trials) for which animals are used and must be approved by a competent authority for use in humans.



Although EDCTP's mandate focuses on phase II and III clinical trials, all investigational products used in EDCTP supported trials must have sufficient efficacy and safety data available from preclinical and phase I evaluation studies and must have been approved by a competent body. This is in order to ensure safety and enable future registration of these products in compliance with the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (**ICH**).

It is important that the rights, safety and well being of volunteers participating in clinical trials of new medicines are observed in sub-Saharan Africa. Although regulatory capacities in different countries may differ, all EDCTP supported studies must comply with the international ethical and scientific standards (**GCP - Good Clinical Practice**).

*In countries where approval of clinical trials from the **National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)** is a prerequisite, EDCTP will require this clearance before funding these studies.*

The acting **sponsor** of the clinical trial components of the EDCTP application needs to be an identified legal entity with documented experience to act as a sponsor.

Clear guidance is also available from the **World Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki** (follow the link on the links page of our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)), the MRC Guidelines for **Good Clinical Practice** in Clinical Trials (to be downloaded from our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)) and the EU Directive 2001/20/EC on Good Clinical Practice (to be downloaded from our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)).

### 3. How to fill in your application form

EDCTP is supporting multidisciplinary projects which combine clinical trials with capacity building and networking. We expect the applicant to cover these different subjects in their proposal, including ethical and regulatory aspects (see sections 2.5 and 2.6 of these guidelines). The application form is designed for the applicant to go through step by step to cover all aspects required for the design of a **Project** and an effective **proposal**. Please download the application and budget forms from our website. The application form consists of four Work packages (1. Project Management, 2. the Clinical Trial, 3. Capacity Building and 4. Networking). Refer to the scheme on page 65 to see how the work packages relate. Clearly distinguish between the work packages and avoid duplication of information.

You may provide your information in tables, schemes or figures but please do not use any colour. The **proposal** will be reviewed in a black and white.

#### 3.0 General information

##### 3.0.1 EDCTP code

In the top right corner of the application form you will find a reference to the EDCTP code. The EDCTP code will be assigned by the EDCTP secretariat. Please leave this field empty.

##### 3.0.2 Project Title

The project title should reflect the main objective of the submitted **project** and should not consist of more than 40 words.



### 3.0.3 Call Identifier

Please fill in the call identifier as stated in the **call text**. The call identifier will be used for correct registration of the application in our project database.

### 3.0.4 Start Date and End Date

**Projects** are normally expected to last a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 years.

### 3.0.5 Contact details

The format of the contact details section for participants is designed to be compatible with the EDCTP database. Please, enter the official name of your organisation, as is used on the website, and indicate all levels of your organisation from the highest to the lowest. For example: Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Erasmus Medical Centre, Department of Infectious Diseases.

EDCTP registers every proposal in its project database. All data in the EDCTP database are handled according to the Dutch personal data protection act.

### 3.0.6 Gender and nationality issues

EDCTP aims for gender diversity in its supported projects. Therefore, a balanced representation of women and men at all levels in the **project** should be sought. For this reason we request that applicants indicate the gender of the **project** participants on the application. EDCTP encourages diversity in geographical background, however only African nationals can apply for training in Capacity Building **Work package 3**. We ask you to indicate your nationality on the application form.

### 3.0.7 Questions sections

At the beginning of each questions section of you will find the **selection criteria** (please, refer to section 6.4) that is most applicable to those questions.

Some information is required as an Annex. Please, keep the same numbering of annexes as indicated in the application form. For example: when no ethical approval is required for the PhD project you propose in work package 3 part E, do not add annex 7c. If in your case only ethical approval is required for the proposed Baseline Epidemiological study (part 3A) and the postdoctoral fellowship (part 3F), then only include the required letters as annex 7a and annex 7d.

## ***3.1 Work package 1. Project Management***

### **3.1.1 Aim**

The aim of this work package is to provide a framework under which day-to-day activities of the **project** are going to be managed. This will include **project management** and project resources. This work package should contain information on the objectives of the **project** and explain how the different work packages contribute to these objectives.



*PLEASE NOTE – THE FOLLOWING ARE ALWAYS REQUIRED:*

- A collaboration declaration (as annex 3 to the application form) containing declarations & signatures of all **collaborators** to prove they are aware that they are listed as partners in the proposal.
- Statements regarding the provision of cofunding from legal funding authorities and **ENO's** (under annex 4 of these guidelines).
- A statement that the proposed work can be carried out with the requested budget (total sum of EDCTP and cofunding, as annex 5 to the application form).

## Length

All information on this work package should be confined to nine pages, including the organogram, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt. Please note that any information that is supplied on a separate sheet (unless specifically required) or that is listed on pages additional to the specified maximum will not be reviewed. Specific instructions on the length of the response to some questions are detailed below.

## More information on the questions

Most questions in the application form are self-explanatory. Please find below a list of specific instructions that apply for certain questions:

- Question 1.1: The **project** summary should include research objectives, specific aims, rationale and the expected outcome. The objectives should be those achievable within a period of three to five years. Please note that a summary of the clinical trial is required in WP 2. Please be succinct and do not duplicate information. The **project** overview or summary of the **project** should not exceed 1/2 page.
- Question 1.2: The description of the goal and objectives of the **project** should not exceed one page.
- Question 1.3: Make a clear division between the work packages and do not duplicate information. The description of the contribution of each work package should be limited to two pages.
- Question 1.7: The declarations and signatures of all collaborators are added as annex 3 to the application form and therefore do not contribute to the total length of work package 1, which is limited to nine pages.
- Question 1.8: An organogram showing all levels of the **project management** is required. Use of colour codes in the pictures or drawings to show different management structures is not allowed as printing of all copies going out to reviewers is done in black and white ink. The organogram should be confined to one page.
- Question 1.11: Activities that fall under “core business” of the project can never be subcontracted. Please note that EDCTP limits the budget for subcontracted activities to 15%.
- Question 1.12: EDCTP encourages the participation of women in staff development. You should explain if there are any gender issues in the application.



- Question 1.13: Refer to section 2.3.2 about the **cofunding** requirements. The statements concerning cofunding are added as annexes 4a, 4b etc to the application form and therefore do not add to the total length of work package 1, which is limited to nine pages.
- Question 1.15: the EDCTP budget form is a separate form that can be downloaded from the EDCTP website. The statement that the project can be carried out with the budget requested is added as annex 5 to the application form and therefore does not contribute to the total length of work package 1, which is limited to nine pages. Please declare any third party funding that you envisage during the course of the project. Please note that EDCTP would treat this as purely supplementary funding and not in any way to replace or reduce EDCTP funding agreed at the signing of the Grant Agreement.

## **3.2 Work package 2. Clinical Trial**

### **3.2.1 Aim**

The aim of this work package is to provide information about the planned clinical trial activities. Please note that training and other capacity building elements related to the clinical trials should be presented in the Capacity Building Work Package 3.

*PLEASE NOTE – THE FOLLOWING ARE ALWAYS REQUIRED:*

- *A letter from the clinical trial sponsor to confirm that they are willing to take on the task of sponsor (as annex 6 of the application form).*
- *All clinical trials under EDCTP support should comply with the **Good Clinical Practices (GCP)***
- *All EDCTP funded clinical trials should be registered in an official **clinical trials registry***
- *The clinical **protocol** should comply with **ICH-GCP guidelines***
- *Proof that the **clinical trial protocol** is approved by the appropriate local **ethics committee** before proceeding with payment. See also section 2.5 / 2.6 of these guidelines.*

### **3.2.2 Length**

All information on this work package should be confined to fourteen pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt. Please note that any information that is supplied on a separate sheet (unless specifically required) or that is listed on pages additional to the specified maximum will not be reviewed. Specific instructions on the length of the response to some questions are detailed below.



### 3.2.3 More information on the questions

- Question 2.1: The applicants are required to provide the title of the clinical trial, different from the title of the **project**.
- Question 2.2: Without exceeding 1/2 page ( $\leq 1/2$  p.), the hypothesis that will be tested in the proposed clinical research has to be given.
- Question 2.3: The clinical trial summary should include objectives, specific aims, rationale and the expected outcome. This should not exceed 1/2 page.
- Question 2.4: The objectives should be those achievable within a period of three to five years.
- Question 2.5: You need to indicate the location names (village or city) where the study subjects will be enrolled in the clinical trial.
- Question 2.6: Please refer to Annex II of these Guidelines for further information on Intellectual Property Rights in EDCTP projects.
- Question 2.8: You should provide clear background information in relation to the clinical trial and the significance of the study. This information should not exceed more than one and a half pages.
- Question 2.9: The answer to this question should be limited to a maximum of seven pages
- Question 2.10: You are required to provide primary and secondary endpoints of the clinical study, including details of how primary evaluations will be carried out in no more than 1/2 page
- Question 2.14: You should include an explanation on how you will deal with any amendments requested by ethics committees and provide a clear plan including timelines for probable dates of the ethics committee(s) submissions and approvals. You should enclose all proofs of ethical clearance for any preceding studies.
- Question 2.22: When more than one Sponsors are involved (related to the amount of Clinical Trials that are included in the application) please copy and paste the scheme and fill in a scheme for every Sponsor. Do not include here the Sponsors that act for the different parts of Work package 3 (PhD, Senior Fellowship etc.), information on those are required in Work package 3.

## 3.3 Work package 3. Capacity Building

### 3.3.1 Aim

The aim of this work package is to provide information on the planned Capacity Building activities. This work package is divided into the following 6 parts:

- Part A Baseline Epidemiological Study: Part A aims to support the epidemiological characterisation of new cohorts. These studies are limited for the sister institutions included in the consortia.
- Part B Site Infrastructure Upgrading: Part B aims to support infrastructural upgrading of the African sites involved with the **project**. This includes support for both infrastructure as well equipment in the following areas: laboratories and



sample repositories, clinical facilities, data management and information technology facilities, library facilities and finance and administrative structures. This component is mainly targeted for the sister institutions included in the consortia, however, established institutions that have any of the components listed in the table in section 2.2.1 below level 3 may apply for infrastructure upgrading as well.

- **Part C Short term Training:** Part C aims to support short training for staff working at the African sites involved with the **project**. Involvement of African **training institutions** is encouraged. This component is mandatory tailored to the institutional requirements to facilitate conduct of clinical trial or baseline epidemiological study.

*Note that mentorship programmes to improve participants skills such as review capabilities, proposal writing etc. do not belong to this work package but will be introduced as part of work package 4 'Networking' (see section 3.4).*

- **Good Clinical Practice (GCP)** training for all investigator study teams
- Information Technology (IT), data management and biostatistics training: for each trial. Training aims to strengthen data management, communication, data analysis and computer networking.
- Training of internal clinical research monitors.
- Training of nurses/clinicians/scientists to gain experience in human volunteer management, data storage and maintenance of confidentiality.
- Laboratory staff: the training of at least one QA/QC staff member and the ongoing training of laboratory staff in general and specialized techniques, standardisation of assays and **GCLP**
- Financial management: the training of program managers on essentials of good accounting procedures
- **Project management:** the training of project managers on project management skills in the context of clinical trial projects
- Training of community representatives for advocacy of intended trials in local communities or trial sites.

*EDCTP is particularly interested to enhance capacity of financial and administrative management of research programmes.*

- **Part D MSc studentship:** Part D aims to support an MSc studentship on a project or course that is relevant for the overall **project**.
- **Part E PhD scholarship:** Part E aims to support a PhD scholar on a subject that is relevant for the overall **project**. So called "sandwich" PhD training constructs are strongly encouraged. These involves the trainee carrying out field studies at his or hers home institution or other African institution and obtaining skills not locally available from institutions in any of the EDCTP-EEIG Member States that contribute to EDCTP, or African institutions which offer similar facilities.
- **Part F Postdoctoral Fellowship:** Part F aims to support a Postdoctoral Fellow on a subject that is relevant for the overall **project**.



*PLEASE NOTE – THE FOLLOWING ARE ALWAYS REQUIRED:*

- Your application for part B “Site Infrastructure Upgrading” and part C “Short term training” are mandatory. Additionally, you need to apply for two out of the following three components: part D “MSc studentship”, part E “PhD Scholarship” and part F “Post doctoral Fellowship”. Part A “Baseline epidemiological study” is fully optional.*
- Proof that the applications for ethics committee approval (for all identified potential ethical and safety related issues of all parts of work package 3) have been submitted to the appropriate local **ethics committee** as annex 8 a, b, c or d to the application form. Funding for the **work packages** that include these type of activities are subject to ethical approval. See also section 2.5 of these guidelines.*
- Annual progress reports on the supported candidates. The consortium is responsible for the selection of the suitable candidates for the MSc studentship, PhD scholarship and postdoctoral fellowship.*
- Duration of the postdoctoral fellowship should not exceed 2 years.*

### **3.3.2 Length**

Please note that any information that is supplied on a separate sheet (unless specifically required) or that is listed on pages additional to the maximum that is specified below will not be reviewed.

- Part A Baseline Epidemiological Study: The total information on this **work package** should be confined to eight pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.
- Part B Site Infrastructure Upgrading: The total information on this **work package** should be confined to four pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.
- Part C Short term Training: The total information on this **work package** should be confined to eight pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.
- Part D MSc studentship: The total information on this **work package** should be confined to four pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.
- Part E PhD scholarship: The total information on this **work package** should be confined to four pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.
- Part F Postdoctoral Fellowship: The total information on this **work package** should be s confined to six pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt.

Specific indications on the length of the response to some questions are detailed below.



### 3.3.3 More information on the questions

#### Part A Baseline Epidemiological Study

- Question 3A.1: The **Baseline Epidemiological Study** summary should include objectives, specific aims, rationale and the expected outcome. The objectives should be those achievable within a period of three to five years. You are required to provide the summary of the study in a maximum of ½ page (<½ p.).
- Question 3A.2: The detailed study description should have a maximum length of four pages. It should include tasks, **milestones**, timelines, a critical literature review, description of the research methods, including: the overall research design and strategy and reasons for choosing the proposed study design, description of the population and sample to be studied, projected study size, statistical precision, and the basis for their determination, and methods to be used in assembling the study data information on data management.
- Question 3A.3: Note that payment for the **work packages** that include ethical issues are subject to ethical approval of the appropriate local **ethics committee**. See also section 2.5 of these guidelines.

#### Part D: MSc studentship

- Question 3D.1 or 3D.2: The candidate for the MSc studentship can either propose to follow a course or a research MSc project. Please answer the relevant question. The work description should have a maximum length of two pages (≤2p.).
- Question 3D.3: Note that funding for the **work packages** that include ethical issues are subject to ethical approval of the project component by the appropriate local **ethics committee**. See also section 2.5 of these guidelines.

#### Part E: PhD scholarship

- Question 3E.1: The work description should have a maximum length of two pages (≤2p.).
- Question 3E.2: Note that funding for the **work packages** that include ethical issues is subject to ethical approval of project component by the appropriate local **ethics committee**. See also section 2.5 of these guidelines.

#### Part F: Postdoctoral fellowship

*General: the duration of the postdoctoral fellowship should be no more than 2 years.*

- Question 3F.2: The post-doctoral project summary should include objectives, specific aims, rationale and the expected outcome. You are required to provide the summary of the study in a maximum of ½ page (≤½ p.).
- Question 3F.3: The objectives should be those achievable within a period of two years. The research plan should have a maximum length of four pages.
- Question 3F.4: Note that funding for the **work packages** that include ethical issues is subject to ethical approval of the project component by the appropriate local **ethics committee**. See also section 2.5 of these guidelines.



## ***3.4 Work package 4. Networking***

### **3.4.1 Aim**

The aim of this **work package** is strengthening linkages/networking of institutions and sites within the **project**, establishing joint capacity building activities and facilitating sharing of information within and beyond the **Project Partners**. The objectives of the **work package** are:

1. To improve connectivity of African sites through development of new networks or support to existing ones
2. To establish a quality **mentorship** programme within the **project** that would improve skills of participants that include review capabilities, **proposal** writing etc.
3. To facilitate sharing of information including influencing change of policy and practice through organisation of meetings and workshops or participation in similar activities

### **3.4.2 Length**

The total information on this **work package** should be confined to ten pages, using the format of the application form and Arial font 9 pt. Please note that any information that is supplied on a separate sheet (unless specifically required) or that is listed on pages additional to the specified maximum will not be reviewed. Specific indications on the length of the response to some questions are detailed below.

### **3.4.3 More information on the questions**

- Question 4.1: The summary should include objectives, specific aims, rationale and the expected outcome. The objectives should be those achievable within a period of three to five years. You are required to provide the summary of the study in a maximum of ½ page (≤½ p).
- Question 4.4: In no more than one page you will be required to provide details of **mentorship** programmes that they will establish in the **project**.
- Question 4.5 If **exchange visits** between different institutions in the **project** are planned, detailed objective and expected outcomes have to be described. Similar details will be required if workshops are proposed. Please restrict your answer to two pages.
- Question 4.8: Provide a plan or strategy of communication in the proposed **project**. This should include a plan on information that will be shared between partners in the **project** and how **project** constitutes a new network or fits into an existing one. This will not exceed two pages in length.

## ***3.5 Budget Form***

Your application should be accompanied by a budget form. Each work package component requires a separate budget. The budget form can be downloaded from our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org). The total budget that can be requested from EDCTP is determined by the effective maximum budget as stated in the call text, but please note that maximum budgets are set for the different components of the proposal as is indicated in the scheme on page 6, section 2.1 of these guidelines.



The budget is composed of the following categories:

- Project Personnel
- Oversees travel & Subsidence
- Local travel & Subsidence
- Consumables
- Subcontracts
- Infrastructure Upgrading
- Capital Equipment
- Other
- Training costs

Please note that EDCTP limits the budget for subcontracted activities to 15%. Not all of these categories above apply to all components on the budget form. Please note that the categories per budget component are fixed. Adding new categories or adding additional existing categories to budget components is not allowed. At this stage of the application process, it is enough to specify both the EDCTP as well as the Member State contribution per budget category. If the **project** receives African or third party cofunding, the name of the contributor and amount should be indicated per Work package throughout the budget form. If you are invited to enter the phase of the **Grant Agreement preparations** you will be required to fill in an extended budget form.

Please note that overhead costs are automatically calculated in the form. Make sure that your requested budget is not taken above the ceiling per grant as stated in the call text. The budget form will alert you if this is the case. Please note that applications with a submitted budget that exceeds the limit will be ineligible.

### ***3.6 Curricula vitae***

- Please provide a curriculum vitae of the **Project Coordinator** in Annex 1 of the application form. Do not exceed the maximum stated limits. Any information that is supplied on a separate sheet or that exceeds the specified maximum will not be reviewed.
- A curriculum vitae for each **collaborator** or **component coordinator** on the **project** needs to be provided in Annex 2 of the application form. Please do not exceed the maximum stated limits. Any information that is supplied on a separate sheet or that exceeds the specified maximum will not be reviewed.

## **4. Check list**

### ***4.1 Is your proposal eligible?***

The EDCTP eligibility criteria include:

- Application of **proposal** submission before the **deadline** in pdf-format
- Completeness
- Compliance with the rules stipulated in these Guidelines for applicants



- Correct length of the application form
- Application in the correct language (English)
- The legal status of the applicant
- **Proposals** must involve at least two institutions from **sub-Saharan African countries** as well as two **public institutions** from different European **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**
- Participation from the private sector is encouraged but the **Project Coordinator** must be employed by a public institution and must be a resident from either an **EDCTP-EEIG Member State** or a **sub-Saharan African country**. Preference will be given to **proposals** where the **Project Coordinator** is based in Africa and of a sub-Saharan African nationality.
- **Projects** should last no more than 5 years
- You have met all cofunding requirements as stated in the section on cofunding

#### ***4.2 Are all annexes included?***

These are the same as indicated at the end of the application form. Please keep the numbering of the annexes the same as below:

- Annex 1 & 2: Curricula vitae in the requested format of the **Project Coordinator, Collaborators** and **Component Coordinators**.
- Annex 3: Collaboration declaration
- Annex 4a, 4b etc: letters from relevant authorities (**ENO's**) from **EDCTP-EEIG Member States** confirming a request for cofunding and/or statements from other organisations providing resources.
- Annex 5: Statement that the work presented in the **proposal** can be performed with the budget requested.
- Annex 6: A draft of the informed consent form prepared for the planned study.
- Annex 7: A letter from the clinical trial sponsor confirming that they are willing to take on this task.
- Annex 8: For all clinical research projects in work package 3 (other than the clinical trial): letters of proof that the project has been submitted to the relevant ethics committee(s) or clear and detailed plan for submission.
- Annex 9: If applicable, a recommendation letter from the head of institution employing the proposed MSc student
- Annex 10: If applicable, a recommendation letter from the head of institution employing the proposed PhD scholar.
- Annex 11: If applicable, a recommendation letter from the head of institution employing the proposed Postdoctoral fellow.



## 5. Submitting your proposal

Your **proposal** needs to be submitted in PDF format to the following email address: [proposals@edctp.org](mailto:proposals@edctp.org).

On our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org) you can find a link to a PDF-converter. It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last moment to produce your PDF-file, as especially graphics may sometimes change. Only the PDF-version that has been received before the **deadline** will be reviewed! The **deadline** differs for each **Call for Proposals** and is stated in the specific **call text**.

The annexes to the application form can be send in PDF format as separate files, if the file name clearly states the surname of the **Project Coordinator** as well as the correct number of the annex (as indicated)!

Your application, including all required annexes must be received by EDCTP before the **deadline** as stated in the **call text**. Ineligible proposals will not be reviewed.

It is possible to withdraw a **proposal** at any time during the review process. Correcting or revising of **proposals** is only possible before the **deadline**. EDCTP will use the latest version of the proposal as received in the inbox for review.

## 6. What happens next

### *6.1 Registration & Acknowledgement of receipt*

All received applications will be registered in a database by EDCTP. Every application receives a unique **Project code**, which will stated in all correspondence with the **Project Coordinator**. All future correspondence will contain this unique code, which guarantees quick and correct handling by EDCTP.

Within one week after the closure date of a call (**deadline**) EDCTP will send the **Project Coordinator** an **Acknowledgement of receipt** of the **proposal per email**. The **Acknowledgement of receipt** (as all correspondence) will only be sent to the individual who is registered as **Project Coordinator** (the "person in charge" of the whole project).

If you have not received an **Acknowledgement of receipt** within one week after the **deadline**, you should contact EDCTP.

The sending of an **Acknowledgement of receipt** does not imply that a **proposal** is eligible for evaluation.

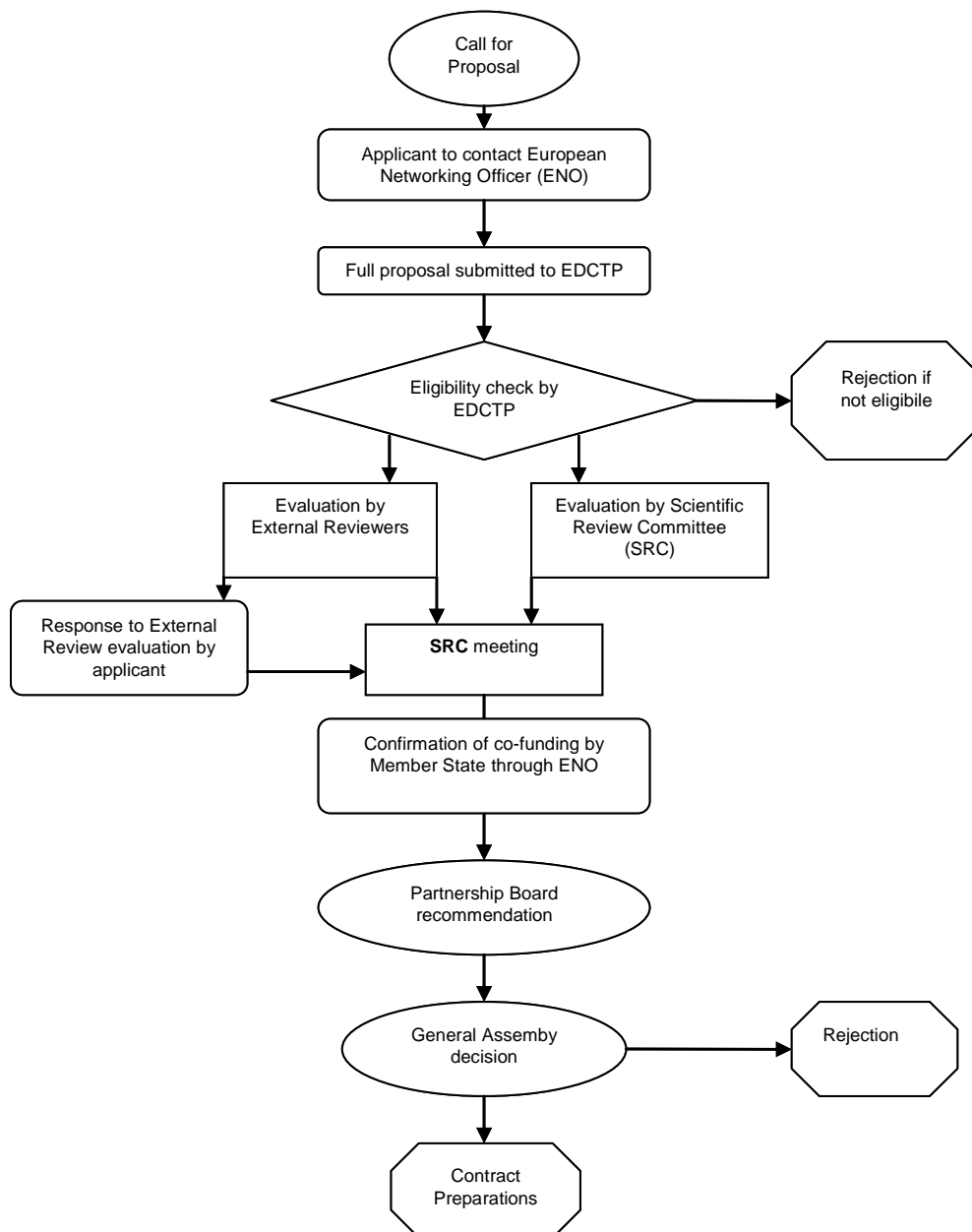
### *6.2 Eligibility check*

EDCTP will check whether **proposals** meet the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the **call text** and these guidelines (section 4.1). Proposals may be excluded from further processing when they fail to meet any of the eligibility criteria. Applicants will receive a letter on the outcome of the **eligibility check** within four weeks after the **deadline** for submission.



### 6.3 Evaluation procedure

EDCTP reviews all eligible **proposals** that are submitted before the **deadline**. Independent experts identify those projects whose quality is sufficiently high for funding by peer review. They prepare a ranking of all submitted projects. This ranking is then discussed by the EDCTP Partnership Board (**PB**) which makes a recommendation on funding to the EDCTP General Assembly (**GA**). The General Assembly makes the final decision on funding. EDCTP will start **Grant Agreement preparations** with one or more **Project Coordinators** of those **proposals** that have successfully passed the evaluation stage. If the **Grant Agreement preparation** stage is successfully concluded, **Grant Agreements** are established with the applicants. This process is summarised in the diagram depicted below. For more information refer to annex IV of these guidelines.





## **6.4 Selection criteria**

Your application will be reviewed against the selection criteria listed below:

Selection criteria:

I. Project excellence: objectives, feasibility, impact, innovation, quality and record of investigators, quality of the proposed methodology.

II. EDCTP relevance: public health relevance for developing countries, adequacy of **proposal** in context of the call, alignment with the priorities of the EDCTP **Joint Programme**.

III. Potential impact: need for strengthening, restructuring existing research capacities, knowledge dissemination, sustainability.

IV. Compliance with national and international standards of research, Good Clinical Practice, ethics and safety related issues.

V. Implementation Plan of Capacity Building: research activities, staff and facilities development, networking activities, training activities, consortium management activities, work planning and package of each participant including **deliverable** list, performance indicators.

VI. Consortium description: role of participants, achievement of objectives, involvement of private sector participation of at least two public institutions from European EEIG Member States as well as two African Institutions)

VII. Project management: organisational structure, decision-making mechanisms, knowledge management

VIII. Clinical Trial Management: steering committee, sponsorship, daily management for the trial.

IX. Project resources: cofunding arrangements, mobilisation of resources - personnel, equipment and finances in accordance with EDCTP financial requirements

X. Gender issues: promotion of gender equality, gender action plan concerning the staff involved in the project.

All selection criteria will be assessed on a scale of five categories from 'Poor' to 'Excellent'. EDCTP has defined an overall **threshold** for all selection criteria of 'Good' (third in the assessment scale) to ensure that all applications meet a minimum level of quality.

Exceptions are made for the following selection criteria:

X. Gender issues: this selection criterion does not include a threshold.

## **6.5 Preparation of clinical protocol**

Applicants should note that if the application is successful, EDCTP will request a copy of the **clinical trial protocol** within four weeks from the start of **Grant Agreement preparations**. EDCTP will review the protocol to check adherence to the **ICH – GCP Guidelines** (see sections 2.5 and 2.6 of these guidelines). The Grant Agreement with EDCTP



cannot be signed until EDCTP has received confirmation that the **clinical trial protocol** as approved by EDCTP has been submitted to all relevant ethical committees.

## ***6.6 Confirmation of cofunding***

At the time of application, EDCTP requires letters confirming applications for cofunding from all participating EDCTP-EEIG member states (as annex 4a, 4b etc. to your application form). We expect you to request at least 50% of the budget for your project from the **EDCTP-EEIG Member States**. The cofunding secured from at least two of the EDCTP-EEIG member states must be confirmed before the EDCTP General Assembly can take a decision on your project. Approximately 2-3 months after you have submitted your proposal you will be contacted by EDCTP to request official letters from all Member States providing cofunding to the project confirming the amount and type of cofunding. Please note this cofunding can be in cash or in kind (for more information refer to annex III of these guidelines).

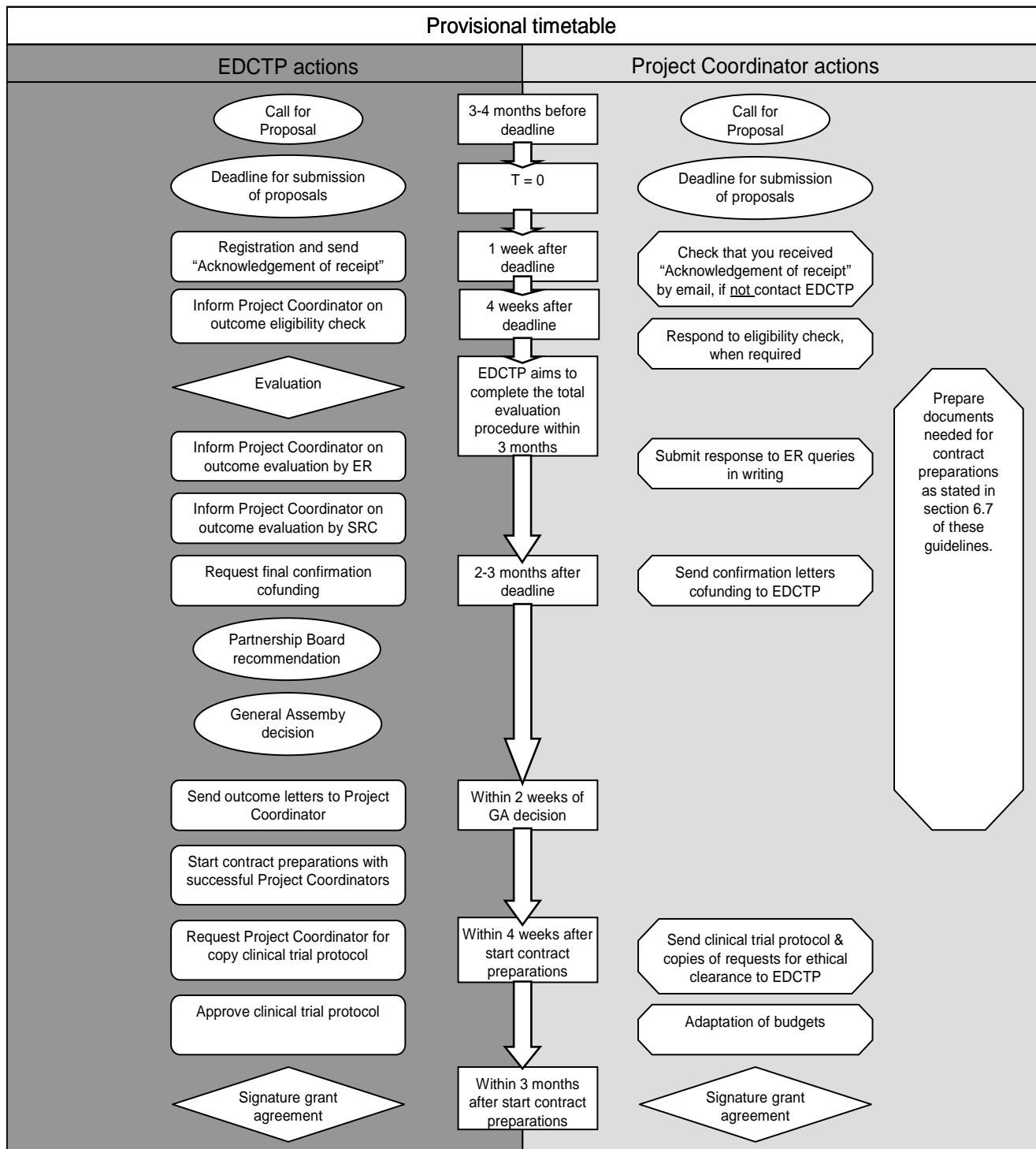
## ***6.7 Start Grant Agreement preparations***

If successful, the application will enter the stage of **Grant Agreement preparations**. As the main contact point for EDCTP, the Grant Agreement preparations will be done with the **Project Coordinator**. The following issues need be addressed before the Grant Agreement can be signed:

- The **Project Coordinator** will be asked to respond to any comments that were made by the **SRC** and make amendments if required.
- The **Project Coordinator** will be asked to submit the **clinical trial protocol** that will be reviewed by EDCTP (see also section 6.5).
- EDCTP will request an official letter from the clinical trial **sponsor** that should include a statement of adherence to the **ICH – GCP** Guidelines.
- EDCTP will require proof that the **clinical trial protocol** has been submitted to the relevant local **ethics committee(s)**.
- EDCTP will require proof of ethical approval by the appropriate **ethics committee(s)** of any additional clinical research projects that are part of the application (as part of work package 3).
- The **Project Coordinator** will be requested to complete and return a Work Plan for the duration of the project.
- The **Project Coordinator** will be asked to fill in detailed budget forms which will be examined by the Financial Department of EDCTP. Any queries from EDCTP need to be addressed before the budget forms can be finalised.
- If applicable EDCTP will request official letters from all African and third parties supplying cofunding to the project confirming the amount and type of cofunding.
- EDCTP will require a statement that the products used in the clinical trial will be readily available at an affordable price in developing countries in case of a successful trial and subsequent registration.
- The **Project Coordinator** will be asked to supply legal information about the partners in project by filling in the 'EDCTP **legal entity** form' for each partner institution.

Please note that EDCTP requires that these Grant Agreement preparations are completed within 3 months of commencement, failure to do so may result in the grant being cancelled.

## 7. Provisional timetable





## Glossary

*The following specific explanations are provided for clarity and easy-reference of the terminology as used by EDCTP in these guidelines for applicants. They have no legal authority, and do not replace any official definitions as given in any other EDCTP document.*

### **A**

#### ***Acknowledgement of receipt:***

Within one week after the **deadline** of a call the applicants are informed electronically that a proposal has been successfully submitted.

#### ***Actual employer:***

The actual employer is the institution or company that determines the daily activities of its employee. In exceptional cases, the actual employer may not be the formal employer, which is the entity that has the employee "on its payroll". In case the host institution of the project is the actual employer, but not the formal employer of the Project Coordinator, additional action is required (see question 1.6 of the application form).

#### ***African sister institution:***

This refers to less developed research institutions in terms of infrastructural and human capacity resources to conduct phase II and III clinical trials. These institutions should however have epidemiologically relevant populations, interested investigators and may have identified cohorts and ability to follow up study subjects. According to EDCTP criteria for classification of research institutions into various levels (table in section 2.2.1 Overall Consortium Requirements) these are either level 1 or 2 institutions.

#### ***Applicant:***

The term applicant generally refers to the main applicant and his or her hosting institution with whom EDCTP will conclude a grant agreement in case of awarding the application. The term **colaborator** or participant is used in a more limited sense for any entity that is co-applicant – in principle through the main applicant – will receive part of the EDCTP grant money for it's role in the performance of the proposed **project**.

### **B**

#### ***Baseline epidemiological study:***

Epidemiological studies in which data on disease incidence and burden are collected to underpin clinical trial design. A high level of scientific rigour is expected to go into the design and conduct of these studies. The support of baseline studies should prepare cohorts for clinical trials.

### **C**



### ***Call for proposals:***

The announcement to invite potential applicants to forward a proposal for research activities in a certain area of interest. The areas of interest to EDCTP are described in the **Joint Programme**, which can be downloaded from the EDCTP website.

### ***Call identifier:***

Code that identifies a certain **Call for Proposals**. The call identifier is used for correct registration of the application in our project database.

### ***Call text:***

Information that is, other than these guidelines, specifically applicable to the different EDCTP calls for proposals (on Malaria vaccines, Malaria drugs, HIV vaccines, HIV drugs, TB vaccines, TB drugs) such as e.g. purpose of the grant, specific selection criteria, available budget and **deadline**. The **call texts** are posted as separate documents on the EDCTP website.

### ***Clinical trial protocol:***

A document that describes the objective(s), design, methodology, statistical consideration(s), and organisation of a trial. The protocol usually also gives the background and rationale for the trial, but these could be provided in other protocol referenced documents. The protocol has the objective to safeguard the health of the participants as well as to answer the specific research questions. A protocol describes what types of people may participate in the trial; the length of the study and the schedule of tests, procedures, medications and dosages.

### ***Clinical trials registry:***

An official record or data base of any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. This process involves assignment of a unique number-the International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number (ISRCTN) as recommended by the World Health Organisation.

All clinical trials supported by EDCTP have to be registered at an official and internationally recognised registration office before starting the trial. EDCTP supported clinical trials are encouraged to be registered with the EDCTP registry of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria trials (ATM registry) which is run by the South African Cochrane Centre and is linked to the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP).

### ***Cofunding:***

The objective of EDCTP is to accelerate clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa through integration of the national research programmes of its participating EDCTP-EEIG Member States. The EDCTP European Member States have agreed to match European Commission funding of the EDCTP's activities to a minimum of 200 Million Euro over the life of the EDCTP programme. Project partners from EDCTP-EEIG Member States are therefore required to seek national cofunding for their project.

Cofunding can be either in the form of "in kind " contributions i.e. the provision of goods or services including salaries costs by the partner towards the carrying out of the project or as



cash directly to EDCTP. Where either is possible, cash cofunding is preferred. For more information on cofunding see annex III.

***Collaborator:***

Any entity, other than the **Project coordinator** and the **hosting institution**, that plays a role in the project proposal and will receive part of the EDCTP grant money for that role. In principle any **legal entity** from any country may participate as collaborator after the minimal requirements on the consortium (section 2.2.1) are met. Collaborators need to adhere to the requirements as given in section 2.2.6.

***Component coordinator:***

The term Component Coordinator only applies to Work package 3. The component coordinator functions under the general responsibility of the work package leader and has the task to coordinate the activities proposed in the different components of the Capacity Building **Work package**. A component coordinator does not necessarily need to have the same employer as the work package leader.

***Consensus discussion:***

The stage in the proposal evaluation process when experts come together to establish a common view on a particular proposal.

## ***D***

***DCCC-Developing Countries Coordinating Committee:***

The Developing Countries Coordinating Committee (**DCCC**) is an independent advisory body of prominent African scientists, health professionals and policy makers. The DCCC is particularly involved in the identification of the institutional and human capacity building needed in Africa. It ensures the input and commitment of the African countries and researchers.

***Deadline:***

The date indicated on the call text is the last date that proposals will be accepted. The date and time of receipt on the server of [proposals@edctp.org](mailto:proposals@edctp.org) will be taken as the time of receipt. Proposals that are received after the **deadline** will not be taken into consideration.

Deadlines are strictly enforced.

***Deliverable:***

A **deliverable** represents a verifiable output of the project. Normally, each **Work package** will produce a certain amount of deliverables. Deliverables can be in the form of written reports, but also as successfully organised meetings, successful graduation of a PhD, etc.

## ***E***

***EC-European Commission:***



The European Commission (formally the Commission of the European Communities) is the executive body of the European Union. Alongside the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, it is one of the three main institutions governing the Union (for further information see <http://ec.europa.eu/>).

***EDCTP-EEIG Member States:***

European states that participate in the EEIG-EDCTP initiative: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

***EEIG- European Economic Interest Grouping:***

EEIG is a legal entity under the EC laws, with the objective to induce synergy between activities of organisations and individuals of the EU Member States. An EEIG is never allowed to gain profits. EDCTP is an EEIG initiative. The objectives are stipulated in the Joint Programme.

***EEIG Assembly:***

The EEIG Assembly or General Assembly (GA) is the ultimate and exclusive decision making body of the EEIG. It acts collectively and the full Members are jointly and severally liable for the actions of the EEIG. The principal responsibility of the Assembly is to ensure that all necessary activities are undertaken to achieve the statutory objectives of EDCTP, and that its resources are properly and efficiently managed.

***Eligibility criteria:***

The minimum conditions that a proposal must fulfil in order to be evaluated for funding. The eligibility criteria are generally the same for most of the EDCTP calls, and relate to e.g. submission before the deadline, application written in English, fulfilled requirements on minimum participation, proposal is complete, proposal is kept within the limits indicated. However, specific eligibility criteria may apply to certain calls, for which applicants have to check the appropriate call text.

***ENNP-European Network of National Programmes:***

The European Network of National Programmes is an advisory body to the EDCTP-EEIG- General Assembly as well as to EDCTP's other constituencies on the integration of the National Programmes of the EDCTP-EEIG Member States into a joint programme.

***ENO-European Networking Officer:***

The European Network of National Programmes consists of representatives of the European national programmes and develops proposals to coordinate and joint national activities and funding. These representatives are the so-called European Networking Officers.

***ER-External Reviewer:***

External reviewers are independent experts in the topic of the proposal who evaluate the proposal separately from the SRC. The outcome of the external reviewers will be corresponded to the applicant who then gets the opportunity to respond. The identity of the ER will not be revealed at any time, not to the applicants and not to the SRC members.

***Established African institution:***

This refers to more developed research institutions in terms of possessing the infrastructure and human capacity resources to conduct phase II and III clinical trials. These institutions



should either have some clinical trial capacity to conduct phase III clinical trials or be fully capable of conducting phases I-III clinical trials. According to EDCTP criteria for classification of research institutions into various levels (table in section 2.2.1 Overall Consortium Requirements). These are either level 3 or 4 institutions.

***Ethics Review Committee:***

An independent body (a review board or a committee, institutional, regional, national, or supranational), constituted of medical professionals and non medical members, whose responsibility it is to ensure the protection of the rights, safety and well-being of human subjects involved in a trial and to provide public assurance of that protection, by among other things, reviewing and approving/providing favourable opinion on, the trial protocol, the suitability of the investigator(s), facilities, the methods and material to be used in obtaining and documenting informed consent of the trial subjects.

***Exchange visits:***

Visits of participants that are conducted within the consortium to facilitate importing of skills that are not (yet) locally available. When people of two institutes plan to exchange a visit, detailed objective and expected outcomes have to be spelt.

## **G**

***GA – EDCTP General Assembly***

See EEIG Assembly

***GCP – Good Clinical Practice:***

GCP is a quality standard for the design, conduct, performance, monitoring, auditing, recording, analyses, and reporting of clinical trials that provides assurance that the data and reported results are credible and accurate, and that the rights, integrity, and confidentiality of trial subjects are protected.

The GCP guidelines are internationally accepted guidelines provided by the **ICH-International Conference on Harmonisation**, are downloadable from EDCTP website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org).

***GCLP – Good Clinical Laboratory Practice:***

Quality system for laboratories that analyse samples from Clinical Trials in accordance with Good Clinical Practice (GCP).

***Grant Agreement:***

The Grant Agreement that provides the arrangements between EDCTP and the **applicant** needed to guarantee the adequate monitoring and the successful performance of the awarded **proposal** in view of the EDCTP objectives, within the due period.

***Grant Agreement preparations:***

Final stage of preparations prior to the Grant Agreement, in which the successful **proposal** is brought in line with the SRC recommendations and the EDCTP conditions comprising the budget and legal issues.



## **H**

### ***Host Institution:***

The legal entity and the employer of the Project Coordinator who, next to the Project Coordinator signs the grant agreement with EDCTP. In case the actual employer (who determines the daily activities) is not the formal employer (who has the Project Coordinator on its payroll) EDCTP requires a declaration of the formal employer approves the role of the Project Coordinator as described in the application.

## **I**

### ***ICH – International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use:***

International Conference under the authority of the European Agency for Evaluation of Medical Products defining the **GCP** guidelines & related aspects for developing and registering new medicinal products in Europe, Japan and the United States. The purpose of ICH is to reduce or obviate the need to duplicate the testing carried out during the research and development of new medicines by recommending ways to achieve greater harmonisation in the interpretation and application of technical guidelines and requirements for product registration. (follow the link on the links page of our website [our website](http://www.edctp.org) [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org).)

A process by which a subject voluntarily confirms his or her willingness to participate in a particular trial, after having been informed of all aspects of the trial that are relevant to the subject's decision to participate. Informed consent is documented by means of a written, signed and dated informed consent form.

### ***IRB – Institutional Review Board:***

An independent body constituted of medical, scientific, and non-scientific members, whose responsibility is to ensure the protection of the rights, safety and well-being of human subjects involved in a trial by, among other things reviewing, approving, and providing continuing review of trial protocol and amendments and of the methods and material to be used in obtaining and documenting informed consent of the trial subjects.

Every institution that conducts or supports biomedical research involving human participants must have an IRB that initially approves and periodically reviews the research in order to protect the rights of human participants.

## **J**

### ***Joint Programme:***

The Joint Programme describes the objectives and activities including specific strategies and action plans to be undertaken by EDCTP. The programme objective is to accelerate the development of new or improved drugs and vaccines against these diseases, with a focus on



phase II and III clinical trials and on sub-Saharan Africa. A public version is available on our website [www.edctp.org/](http://www.edctp.org/) for grant seekers.

## **L**

### ***Legal entity:***

Any corporation, association or other organisation that has, in the eyes of the applicable national law, the capacity to make a contract or an agreement and the abilities to assume an obligation and to pay off its debts. A legal entity is responsible for its actions and can be sued for not performing in accordance with the Grant Agreement or damages.

### ***Legal status:***

In case of a public private partnership there are two possibilities: 1. the partnership has the form of a legal entity under private or public law, in which case the official name and status of this legal entity has to be entered in the form; 2. the partnership has no legal entity, in which case one of the partners fulfils the role of secretary filling in the official name of his or her entity in the application form. In the latter case the secretary is fully responsible and liable for the activities of the partnership.

## **M**

### ***MS-Member states:***

See EDCTP-EEIG Member States.

### ***Mentorship:***

One-on-one learning relationship between a student and an expert in a specific topic or discipline. The mentor supports and supervises the student to develop in that area of interest.

### ***Milestone:***

Milestones is a project checkpoint signifying the completion of a major deliverable or set of deliverables. For example, a milestone may occur when a major result has been achieved if its successful attainment is a pre-requisite for the next phase of work.

## **N**

### ***NRA – National Regulatory Authority:***

The public authority within any nation responsible for the health of its inhabitants and therefore having the power to regulate and to inspect public health within that nation. Permission and adherence to the conditions of the NRA are absolute requirements for any interference or actions in public health.



The NRA are responsible for registration of medicines, licensing and enforcement, authorisation and control of clinical trials, monitoring of adverse drug reactions, quality control of medicines and medical devices, training of evaluators of GMP inspectors and analysts etc.

## **P**

### ***PB-Partnership Board:***

The Partnership Board is a scientifically independent expert panel of experts of which full members have voting rights. The Partnership Board designs the strategic framework of the EDCTP and advises the Assembly on technical and scientific matters relating to the EDCTP programme.

### ***PPP - Public Private Partnership:***

Cooperation between one or more public parties (government) and one or more private sector companies to realise governmental policies. For that reason the PPP (or P3) receives public funding.

### ***Private institution:***

Any institution operating under a private legal entity, which means an entity erected in conformity with civil law.

### ***Project code:***

Upon registration by EDCTP every application receives a unique project code, which will be communicated to the principle coordinator. All future correspondence will contain this unique code, which guarantees a quick and correct handling by EDCTP.

### ***Project:***

The term project is used for description of the complete proposal submitted to and approved by EDCTP and consisting of clinical trial(s), capacity building and networking components.

### ***Project Coordinator:***

The overall manager of the project who signs – next to the **host institution** – the grant agreement with EDCTP and consequently acts as the point of contact to EDCTP. The **Project Coordinator** must adhere to the requirements as stipulated in section 2.2.1 of these guidelines.

### ***Project Management:***

The leadership role concerned with the overall planning and co-ordination of a **project** from inception to completion. The project management should be described in Work Package 1 and should include information on the overall objectives and plans, the consortium, co-ordination mechanisms, project resources and the budget.

### ***Project Partners:***

An internet search program on the EDCTP website that allows scientists to create a profile of themselves which is searchable by other scientists all over the world.



***Proposal:***

The proposed application to EDCTP, describing planned research activities, information on who will carry them out, how much they will cost and how much is required for EDCTP funding.

***Public institution:***

Any institution supported primarily by public funds and operated by publicly elected or appointed officials who control the program and activities. For example, colleges or universities.

## **R**

***Regulatory requirements:***

Regulatory requirements are part of the process of drug discovery and drug development and describe what is necessary for a new medicinal product to be approved for marketing in any country.

## **S**

***Selection criteria:***

The criteria against which the independent experts assess eligible **proposals**. The selection criteria relate to quality, EDCTP relevance, impact, implementation, consortium, management and resources. Specific selection criteria are stipulated in section 6.4 of these guidelines.

***SME- Small medium enterprise:***

Please note that a new definition of SME entered into force on 1 January 2005. According to this, an SME (Micro, Small or Medium-sized Enterprise) is an enterprise that has fewer than 250 employees, has an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro and/or an annual balance-sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro.

For further information please consult the SME definition (Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003), in particular Articles 1-6 of the Annex on:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/sme\\_definition/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm)

***Sponsor:***

An individual, company, institution, or organisation which takes responsibility for the initiation, management, and / or financing of a clinical trial

***SRC-Scientific Review Committee:***



The assessment committee consists of independent experts selected by EDCTP. The SRC evaluates the proposals by peer review and on the basis of the selection criteria as outlined in section 6.4, resulting in a ranking of the proposals. Based on this ranking the PB and GA decide on which projects will be funded by EDCTP.

***Stakeholders Meeting:***

A stakeholder meeting is a meeting where invited stakeholders start the process that leads to the decision of EDCTP funding of one or more projects through a call or brokering procedure. For more information see our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org).

***Sub-contractor:***

All individuals or entities that are engaged by the host institution or one of the collaborators to execute part of the activities under the project. EDCTP supposes that no core-activities will be outsourced (to a maximum of 15% of the budget of the involved institution)

***Sub-Saharan African countries:***

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## ***T***

***Threshold:***

For a proposal to be considered for funding, certain selection criteria must be evaluated a minimum score or threshold ('good', third in the assessment scale of five categories from 'poor' to 'excellent'). Also refer to section 6.4 of these guidelines).

***Training institution:***

Institutions like universities that are traditionally involved in training, but may have limited clinical trial research activities.

## ***W***



***WP - Work package:***

The work packages indicate a major subdivision between the Project Management, Clinical Trial, Capacity Building and Networking components of the **proposal**. All work packages are verifiable with deliverables and milestones in the overall project.

***World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki:***

The declaration of Helsinki was developed by the World Medical Association and originally adopted in June 1964 in Helsinki, Finland. The most recent version is from 2000. It is a statement of ethical principles for the medical community regarding medical research involving human subjects. (follow the link on our website [www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org) or directly go to <http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>).

***Work package leader:***

The work package leader is a research manager that has the responsibility that the activities proposed in the work package are executed and objectives are met. Work package leaders need to adhere to the same requirements as the **Project Coordinator** as stipulated in section 2.2.1 of these guidelines.



## **Annex I. Guidelines for Good Partnership with Developing Countries**

To achieve the balance between scientific research in developing countries and the scientists, public and its stakeholders the implementation of EDCTP will require good practice in partnership with Developing Countries. Networking is a major EDCTP instrument to exploit and to mobilise the human and financial resources necessary to combat the three diseases in the developing countries. Through networking, the participating EEIG Member States commit to interact through EDCTP in their relations with other international initiatives, industry or other activities. This leads to (new) partnerships with international initiatives, and industry, with which EDCTP could develop joint projects.

A major principle is that EDCTP will not seek to compete with, or replace, successful initiatives already existing in this area. Rather the EDCTP will seek to form partnerships with such initiatives. Therefore, a partnership with international initiatives that provide a mutual surplus value will help EDCTP to succeed in achieving its objectives.

EDCTP has adapted the following 11 principles<sup>1</sup> for research in partnership between the participating Member States and developing countries:

### **1. Decide on the objectives together**

It is essential to form collaboration among the partners to find appropriate answers to socially significant problems. Research priorities must be set which fit in with the interest of all those involved to avoid one-sided interests coming into play. These general priorities must be distinguished from the research question to be answered by a particular project. Wherever possible, local traditional knowledge should be taken into account. This can be useful to avoid misunderstanding of the situation by outsiders and can prepare the ground at an early stage for achieving the expected results going into practice. The purpose of the partnership should be explicitly defined in terms of long-term vision, goals and activities, and should have a manageable focus.

### **2. Build up mutual trust**

The creation of mutual trust can contribute largely to an honest and open collaboration. Besides a common framework new contacts and relationships are important to strengthen the networks of collaborating institutions. Therefore prejudice needs to be avoided to bridge the time and patience gaps in reaching a level of mutual trust.

### **3. Share information; develop networks**

It is vital to set up a well-organised and effective communication system between the partners to reach a comparable level of information and knowledge about the joint research activities and its environment. If the communication infrastructure is inadequate, it is better to take action to acquire the necessary communication means for regular exchange of information. Apart from facilitating the North-North, North-South and South-South

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<sup>1</sup> "Guidelines for Research in Partnership with Developing Countries, 11 Principles", developed by KFPE/Swiss Commission for Research Partnership with Developing Countries, KFPE, 1998.  
[http://www.kfpe.ch/download/Guidelines\\_e.pdf](http://www.kfpe.ch/download/Guidelines_e.pdf)



networks, partnerships need to facilitate strong link between institutions doing research and disease control programmes in countries where this is weak.

#### **4. Share responsibility**

All partners should be able to share the scientific and the technical leadership and management responsibility for the project implementation, taking into account the competence and the resources. It is advisable to discuss the division of tasks and responsibilities at an early stage. The roles and responsibilities of the partners ought to be consistent with their capabilities and competences, both current and envisaged. The involvement of all partners will provide those with less experience the opportunity to gain expertise in research management.

#### **5. Create transparency**

Partnership plans should be developed jointly from conception. It is necessary to disclose all contributions either in commitments or financial resources received from all partners to avoid conflict and possible misunderstandings. It is practical to prepare a binding agreement in writing which lays down the contribution to be made by all partners along with their rights and duties. There should be transparency on all aspects of the partnership planning especially managerial issues, authorship, ownership of results of research, access to resources, and other results of starting the partnership. Regular review of the accounts, audits, and periodic checking of inventories are essential to creating transparency.

#### **6. Monitor and evaluate the collaboration**

Monitoring the progress of research and development and the functioning of the partnership is critical. This requires continuous comparison of deliverables against the defined indicators to allow sufficient flexibility in responding to a dynamic and rapidly changing environment. Regular internal or external evaluations could assess the partnership in all of its aspects: management, communication, decision-making, implementation, and any improvement of partner's capacities, etc. The evaluation needs to be conducted in an impartial and independent manner.

#### **7. Disseminate the results**

It is a basic principle that there should be unlimited access to the results of research. Since research projects in partnerships between industrialised and developing countries are directed towards concrete problems, care must therefore be taken to ensure that the research results are communicated adequately and accessibly through appropriate media. This will smooth the path of bringing the results into fruition with the active participation of the local community. The dissemination of knowledge can occur in many ways, as long as the research results can be understood by a wider public than just the scientific community. Very often, the responses to these research efforts can be useful for other future work.

#### **8. Apply the results**

Partnerships projects raise expectations among the partners from the developing countries and within their own communities. Therefore the research teams are obligated to ensure and follow up on the results to benefit the target audience. The process of converting scientific results into practical projects and actual implementation is extremely complex. It is always wise to keep the local political decision-makers and/or government bodies well



informed on the research progress and its results to ensure their active participation and to fulfil the expectations of the community.

### **9. Share contributions and profits equitably**

Research results have intellectual value and may also have commercial value. All partners should share equally in the benefits of both values. The legal rights of all partners in the expected results should be discussed at an early stage and recorded in writing. International law (e.g. concerning patent rights) and the national regulations of the host country must be considered.

### **10. Increase research capacity**

The main concern when research partnerships are established is to strengthen the capacity of all those involved for carrying out effective research, at the individual and institutional level. Moreover the South-South collaboration needs to be promoted in order to raise the level of achievements in research in those countries that have not reached the level of those in industrialised countries, and yet they bear the greatest burden of disease. The industrialised countries should provide support to achieve this goal. Gathering valuable experience can have other meaning when the participating research workers from the developing countries will be able to attend further education or training in an industrialised country to learn new methods, exchange information and enlarge the network. Use of local resources, expertise and budgets (engagement of governments) should be optimised to ensure mutually respectful, effective and sustainable partnerships.

### **11. Build on achievements**

In following a successful project there are three valuable outcomes: new knowledge, contribution to sustainable development, and new or more highly developed research capacity. New knowledge is recorded in publications. The contribution to sustainable development means the new knowledge is put into policy and practice in a sustainable way. However, to maintain the new research capacity means that existing institutions need to continue to thrive or new ones need to be established and the research workers involved in the project need to find suitable employment under acceptable conditions. Many developing countries participants face employment problems once the research project is completed. It happens all too often that good scientists leave their own country to find better job prospects in an industrialised country. The follow up after the finalisation of a research project is essential to overcome intellectual isolation. There should be measures to enable and ensure that partners can find future professional employment (e.g. by involving large international organisations). Partnerships should also develop institutional capacity and provide an enabling environment for training and research to better equip good scientists to apply and receive more competitive research grants.



## Annex II EDCTP General Contract Terms

EDCTP GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS (August 2008)

WHEREAS, these General Terms shall, where applicable, as an **Annex A** be part of agreements providing grants to third parties;

NOW THEREFORE, the General Terms are:

### ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 The definitions given in ICH/GCP (CPMP/ICH/135/95. status: September 1997, version July 2002) are applicable.

1.2 The following expressions shall have the meanings specified.

Background Intellectual Property:	IP-rights relating to the subject matter of the Project and already existing at the Effective Date;
Collaborators:	all investigators of the research team other than the Project Coordinator (normally institutions) and, if any, their employees, and including any subcontractors who are hired by the Collaborators to carry out specific parts of the grant;
Confidential Information:	information regarding the Project that is designated 'confidential', or the nature of such information itself and/or the circumstances of such information's disclosure reasonably indicate that such information is considered confidential;
Contractor:	the party/parties – normally the Project Coordinator ( <u>PC</u> ) and his/her employer - with whom the EDCTP enters into a (grant) Agreement before contributing to the investigations and - if any - other proposed activities, and including any subcontractors who are hired by the Contractor or the PC to carry out specific parts of the grant;
EMEA:	the European Medicines Agency, a decentralized body of the European Union with its headquarters in London, United Kingdom;
Financiers:	third parties providing/having provided a substantial financial contribution to the Action under this Agreement through EDCTP, being the sole counter-party of Contractor;
Force Major:	any unforeseeable occurrence beyond the reasonable control of Parties (inclusive strikes and lockouts) which prevents defaulting Party from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement, not attributable to error or negligence of the defaulting Party, and/or not being defects in equipment or material needed for the performance of the project or delays in



making them available, and/or not being financial difficulties other than cessation of funding to EDCTP;

Foreground Intellectual Property:	IP-rights generated in or arising out of the Project;
IP-rights:	copyright and related rights as well as Industrial Property Rights, in particular patents;
Patent:	any and all patents and patent applications, including all related patents anywhere in the world or claiming priority there from;
Project:	the conduct and/or performance of research activities as described in the Project Document's Work Plan;
Results:	the results, conclusions and findings of the funded activities;
Subcontractors:	all consultants and subcontractors working for the Project directly or indirectly supervised by the PC other than Collaborators;
Trial Data:	all Information needed for the filing of the Investigational Product for a marketing authorization with the EMEA or similar regulatory agencies;
Knowledge management:	The procedure to protect, publish and/or translate any new findings from the study in order to make them available to the benefit of the general public.

## ARTICLE 2: CURRENCY

- 2.1 All monetary amounts are in Euro. For reporting purposes foreign currency expenditure needs to be translated into Euro at the monthly rate which the expenditure is incurred as quoted by the European Commission (last known internet address being: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/infoneuro/index.cfm?Language=en>).
- 2.2 Where there is a significant movement in the exchange rate (i.e. greater than 15%) between local currency and the Euro from the effective date of the contract, which would lead to any grantee or contractor not being able to carry out the action as originally intended without suffering losses, then, following a written application from the Project Coordinator to the Executive Director, EDCTP may, renegotiate all or part of the grant at its sole discretion. The renegotiation could cover either altering the size of the budget or the scope of the work to be carried out, or a combination of both. A new, revised budget will be required from the Project Coordinator which must be agreed as justified and reasonable by both the ED and FM in order for the amendment to be put before the General Assembly for formal approval.

## ARTICLE 3: APPLICABLE STANDARDS

- 3.1 Contractor shall ensure a high level of scientific excellence and shall undertake the Project in conformity with fundamental and international accepted standards and ethical principles as well



as in conformity with the current legislation and regulations in the countries where the research will be carried out and where the Project Coordinator is located.

- 3.2 As a specification of article 3.1 applies that documentation of research shall be consistent with the need to establish corroborated dates of invention and reduction to practice with respect to inventions where this is relevant.
- 3.3 Institutional policies regarding what care will be provided to personnel who are injured (for example but not exclusively by the so called needle stick injuries) as a result of their work to the Project shall be developed, approved and implemented with notice to employees similarly to the care and/or referrals available through participation in the Study.
- 3.4 Any reference to generally accepted accounting principles refers to International accounting standards.
- 3.5 Contractor warrants that it shall exercise reasonable care and take the precautions necessary to ensure that it shall not employ, contract with or retain any individual directly or indirectly to perform services under the Agreement if such a individual is debarred or disqualified by an internationally recognised drug authority or ethics committee, or is known as a person supporting or promoting violence, terrorist activity or related training, or money laundering. In the event that Contractor or its employees become aware of, or receive notification of, the debarment or disqualification of any individual and/or institution taking part in the performance of the Agreement, Contractor agrees hereby to notify EDCTP immediately and address the issue as mutually agreed by the Parties, such address including, but not limited to immediate removal of any such debarred or disqualified individual and/or institution from performance of the Project. The forgoing applies also when Contractor becomes aware of any fraud including attempts thereto, related to the Project.
- 3.6 There are potential negative environmental impacts associated with the development and production of drugs. These include handling and disposal of hazardous medical wastes and chemicals which have potential impact on the environment (pollution) and can also have impact on human health. Therefore Contractor agrees:
  - a. to conform to international guidelines minimizing environmental impact, and
  - b. to supply all relevant information requested by EDCTP on this area.

#### ARTICLE 4: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 The Contractor shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any possible conflict of interest. In a situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest the Contractor shall take immediately all necessary measures to remedy the situation. A conflict of interest may arise in particular from economic interest, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other common interest that are liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of the Agreement.
- 4.2 Contractor declares that it has not granted and shall not grant, has not sought and shall not seek, has not attempted and shall not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and shall not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal practice or involving corruption or supporting or promoting violence, terrorist activity or related training, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to the performance of the Agreement;



- 4.3 Contractor shall pass on the obligations laid down in the first three paragraphs of this Article in writing to his/her staff, and directors (if any) as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Agreement. A copy of the instructions given and the undertakings made in this respect shall be sent to EDCTP if requested.
- 4.4 In case EDCTP encounters a conflict of interest in the context of the Project, EDCTP reserves the right to impose additional measures after consultation with Contractor. In case the conflict of interest is sufficiently serious and its consequences cannot be corrected, the EDCTP may stop to financially contribute to the Project.

#### ARTICLE 5: DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND PROMOTIAL ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Contractor shall take care that the investigator(s) shall disseminate as soon as practical the Results in scientific journals and/or the internet, irrespective of the success of the Project, and make oral and visual presentations at conferences where appropriate.
- 5.2 Any communication or publication by the Contractor about the Agreement, the performance thereof and the Results, including at a conferences or seminars, shall state in readable format:  
"The author of this publication received funding from the EDCTP through a project entitled "(PROJECT TITLE)". However EDCTP can not accept any responsibility for information or views expressed herein."

Contractor shall not make any statement or otherwise imply to the media, the general public or any other donor or investor that Contractors organisation, its operations, or its participation to this Project is supported by any organisation other than the EDCTP, unless Contractors organisation has directly received funds from the other organisation.

- 5.3 EDCTP retains the right to react without further notification to any dissemination having a direct or indirect relation with this Agreement or EDCTP and to disclose other views, and Trial Data or other Information regarding the Clinical Trial (where at stake) at its sole discretion.
- 5.4 The Contractor authorizes EDCTP and its Financiers to publish in any form and medium, including via the Internet, (i) the Contractors name and address, (ii) a summary of the Project including the subject and purpose of the Project, (iii) the amount granted, (iv) the proportion of the Studies total cost covered by the funding, and (v) the holder of the IP-rights of Information and Investigational Product (wherever applicable) used or generated in the Project. However, upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the Contractor, EDCTP may agree to forgo such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Contractors security or prejudicing his commercial interests.
- 5.5 In the event the Contractor and/or investigator(s) do not disseminate (part of) the Results within 2 years time, then EDCTP retains the right to publish such Information via its website, or otherwise in the public interest.

#### ARTICLE 6: OWNERSHIP/USE OF THE RESULTS AND IP-RIGHTS



- 6.1 In case the (specific granting) Agreement with Contractor does not contain any stipulations regarding intellectual property rights regulating the ownership of the results or Foreground Intellectual Property generated during the contingency of the Project, the terms as contained herein, shall apply to such Agreement.
- 6.2 All background intellectual property owned by the Contractor shall remain so vested.
- 6.3 Any background intellectual property owned by EDCTP shall remain so vested.
- 6.4 Any Foreground Intellectual Property Rights or results developed during the contingency of the Project shall be owned by the Contractor, however subject to the Contractor granting EDCTP the rights to make use of the results and/or such Foreground Intellectual Property of the Project as it deems fit, but at its own risk, and subject to the Contractor not being in breach of its obligations of confidentiality or - at the date of forwarding the application of the project - existing industrial and intellectual property rights, and provided that such use does not jeopardise the Project.
- 6.5 In spite of the previous paragraphs EDCTP shall, without any (further) action required or needed by the Contractor, in any case have and hold a transferable, non-exclusive and irrevocable (/sub)license at most favorable conditions to make use of the IP-rights anywhere and everywhere in the world to ensure that the Investigational Product or its successors shall in product form obtain and maintain the status of tiered priced product as pursuant in the Council regulation (EC) No 953/2003 of May 2003, regarding tiered priced products.
- 6.6 All know-how and other results of studies that were funded by EDCTP and for which it was decided not to apply for a patent or which results have appeared not to be patentable, shall become public knowledge and be easily accessible for the public.
- 6.7 EDCTP has the right to share according to a fair standard in any profits made with the Foreground Intellectual Property by Contractor and/or Collaborator(s) or their eventual successors in the Foreground Intellectual Property.



## ARTICLE 7: CHECKS AND AUDITS

- 7.1 EDCTP and its Financiers may visit the Trial Site(s) and/or any other location where the Project is actually conducted and/or performed, at reasonable times and with reasonable frequency, to conduct financial and technical audits in order to verify the progress and conduct of the Project.
- 7.2 Contractor undertakes to allow EDCTP and its Financiers appropriate access to sites and premises of Contractor and to all the Information, including Information in electronic format, needed in order to conduct said audits. Duly authorised officers of Contractor who are dedicated to the Project shall assist EDCTP (officer) on its first request in scheduling such visits, and providing direct access to source data.
- 7.3 For Trials, the Contractor shall keep at the disposal of EDCTP and its Financiers all original documents, especially accounting, tax records and Results, or in exceptional and duly justified cases certified copies of original documents, relating to the Agreement for a period of six years after the date of termination of the Agreement.
- 7.4 EDCTP and its Financiers shall enjoy the rights under this Article throughout the term of the Agreement and for a period of six years thereafter. At first written request of EDCTP to the Contractor, any third party designated by EDCTP as having a financial interest in this Agreement shall enjoy the same rights as EDCTP but only for the purpose of the audits as referred to in paragraph 7.1. Employees, agents, and authorized representatives from the organizations referred to in this paragraph shall enjoy the same rights as granted to their respective organizations.

## ARTICLE 8: CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 The Parties and its (/ex-)employees agree to keep the Confidential Information confidential for the duration of 6 (six) years after it received this confidential information for the first time and to take all reasonable precautions to prevent the disclosure of the Confidential Information to any third-party.
- 8.2 Notwithstanding the preceding, information shall not be considered Confidential Information if it:
  - (i) is rightfully in the public domain other than by a breach of a duty to the disclosing party; or
  - (ii) is proven by written records to be rightfully received from a third party without any obligations of confidentiality; or
  - (iii) is proven to be rightfully known to Recipient Party or its employees without any limitation on use or disclosure prior to its receipt from the disclosing party; or
  - (iv) is in the Agreement explicitly except from being Confidential Information or is disclosed after written permission of the Disclosing Party; or
  - (v) has to be disclosed pursuant any judicial or governmental requirement or order, and only for that particular disclosure. In such a case the one Party shall inform the other Party prior to disclosure thereof, and the Party required to disclose shall limit the disclosure to the amount necessary, and shall place a confidentiality notice on all such Information.

## ARTICLE 9: LEGAL AUTHORITY



- 9.1 Each of EDCTP and Contractor represents and warrants that it has the legal authority and is qualified to enter into the Agreement and that the terms of the Agreement are not inconsistent with its other contractual arrangements. Each of EDCTP and Contractor represents and warrants that it is not constrained by any existing agreement in performing its obligations under the Agreement.
- 9.2 For Trials, the Contractor represents and warrants nor currently being involved in any litigation, nor being aware of any pending litigation proceedings relating to its role in the conduct of a clinical trial, nor having received any warnings from the EMEA or other regulatory authority that deals with registration of pharmaceutical products.

## ARTICLE 10: LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATIONS

- 10.1 The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him/her/it under the Agreement and cannot recoup consequences/losses resulting from these obligations on EDCTP, its members or the Financiers and their members or financiers.
- 10.2 The EDCTP takes in good faith any signed statement by the legal representative(s) of Contractor, its Subcontractor(s), its financial manager(s), and/or the Project Coordinator of the Project that the figures in the financial reports, including the co funding figures, forwarded to EDCTP, are accurate and complete. If a financial or technical audit as meant in article 7 reveals that those figures are actually incorrect, the Hosting Institution(s) in deficit and the Contractor agree that they shall be held jointly and severally liable for the deficit(s) assessed by the audit.
- 10.3 Contractor shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless EDCTP and the Financiers, including the directors, officers, employees, representatives and agents of EDCTP and the Financiers, from and against any and all claims, suits, losses, damages, costs, fees and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), and other liabilities asserted by any third party, resulting from or arising out of any breach, violation or non-performance of this Agreement by Contractor, safe to the extent that such claims, suits, losses, damages, costs, fees and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), and other liabilities asserted by any third party are due to the breach, violation or non-performance of this Agreement by EDCTP.
- 10.4 The Contractor shall not, in any circumstances or on any grounds, hold EDCTP, its members or the Financiers and their members or financiers liable in the event of any claim of any third party relating to any damage caused during the execution of the Agreement and not falling under paragraph 10.2, safe to the extent that such claim is due to the breach, violation or non-performance of this Agreement by EDCTP.
- 10.5 The indemnity of the paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 shall not apply to the EDCTP, being the sole counterparty of Contractor (a) if EDCTP fails to give Contractor prompt written notification of any claim it receives and such failure materially infringes Contractors rights, and (b) unless Contractor is given the opportunity to approve any settlement. Furthermore, Contractor shall not be liable for attorneys' fees or expenses of litigation of EDCTP unless EDCTP gives Contractor the opportunity to assume control of the defense or settlement. In addition, if Contractor assumes such control, it shall only be responsible for the legal fees and litigation expenses of the attorneys it designates to assume control of the litigation unless the competent judge decides



differently. In no event shall Contractor assume control of the defense of EDCTP without the consent of EDCTP (which consent shall be given or not at its sole discretion).

- 10.6 The Contractor shall obtain adequate Clinical Trials insurance coverage and up until the Clinical Trial has been completed, be able at any time to produce a proof of the insurance coverage.
- 10.7 EDCTP and the Financiers assume no responsibility or liability in respect of any losses or injuries sustained by any party who's travel is funded by an EDCTP-grant. The Contractor is expected to obtain adequate insurance coverage for these purposes.

#### ARTICLE 11: FORCE MAJOR

- 11.1 Subject to Force Major, the Contractor shall use reasonable endeavours to fulfil the results intended for the project. The Contractor shall use reasonable endeavours to fulfil obligations of a defaulting Subcontractor. The Contractor shall not be liable to take actions beyond its reasonable control or to reimburse money due to a defaulting Subcontractor unless he/she/it has contributed to the default. Measures to be taken in the event of Force Major shall be agreed between EDCTP and Contractor.
- 11.2 Contractor shall notify the EDCTP in writing of the reason of the delay or failure within five (5) working days of the due date.

#### ARTICLE 12: TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- 12.1 Either Party may terminate the Agreement immediately by written notification to the other Party upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
- (i) If the defaulting Party commits a material breach of its obligations under the Agreement, and – if the breach is capable of remedy – fails to remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of being specifically required in writing to do so by the other Party; or
  - (ii) If any execution, sequestration or other similar process is levied or enforced upon or against the property of the defaulting Party which is not discharged within thirty (30) days, or a liquidator is appointed over the whole or any substantial part of the defaulting Party's undertaking, property or assets, or an order is made or a resolution is passed for the winding-up or analogous proceedings in any jurisdiction of the defaulting Party; or
  - (iii) That it becomes known to Parties that the Investigational Product is not safe to use or that the Project shall not achieve its objectives; or
  - (iv) EDCTP shall cease to receive funding, in which case the already paid upfront payments shall be the final payments for the Project.
- 12.2 In the event of termination by EDCTP the disbursement of EDCTP contribution shall be suspended and EDCTP shall decide, in view of the concrete facts and circumstances, which percentage of the amounts already transferred to Contractors pursuant to Article 3 of this Agreement Contractor(s) shall have to pay back to EDCTP and within which term(s).
- 12.3 Should the Contractor fail to execute this Agreement as intended, EDCTP may decide to exclude Contractor from future grant calls.



Contractor agrees that EDCTP may deploy the means of reimbursement and financial penalties in cases of overstated expenses, for example following regular audits, without necessarily involving the termination/exclusion of the Contractor.

### ARTICLE 13: REQUIRED INFORMATION

- 13.1 Any delay in receiving the signed clinical protocol and/or ethical clearance exceeding 3 months from the signing date of the Contract (the Effective Date), may prima facie result in EDCTP suspending or canceling the grant. If such delay is likely to occur, the Contractor must write to the Executive Director (ED) of EDCTP setting out the reasons for the delay and a time scale for the situation to be resolved.
- 13.2 Where the Project Coordinator signs (an) agreement(s) with the Subcontractor(s) which differ(s) in financial amount from the budget accepted by EDCTP in the signed contract, then a written explanation needs to be provided to the EDCTP Project Officer by the Project Coordinator. In case that explanation is not accepted, this may lead to a change in the approved Budget.

### ARTICLE 14: MISCELLANEOUS

#### *No waiver and sever ability*

- 14.1 Either Party's failure to require the other party to comply with any provision of the Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or any other provision of the Agreement. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in the Agreement shall be held invalid in any respect, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of the Agreement, and the applicable provision shall be deemed to be construed in the spirit of the Agreement.

#### *Ban on making profits*

- 14.2 Contractor declares not to make any profit, now or in the future, from the receipt of the Grant.

#### *Notifications*

- 14.3 Notifications shall be deemed received:
- (i) immediately, in case delivered personally, or
  - (ii) five (5) business days after sent if sent by recognized courier, as evidenced by such courier's written records, or
  - (iii) on the date transmitted if sent via facsimile with confirmation of receipt, or
  - (iv) within 7 (seven) days of posting if sent to the Parties at the addresses stated in the Agreement, or such other addresses as the Parties may designate in writing, or
  - (v) send via internet where acknowledged as received by EDCTP.

#### *Assignment*

- 14.4 The Agreement and/or any rights or obligations hereunder shall not be assignable or transferred by Contractor without the prior written consent of EDCTP; any such attempted assignment shall be deemed to be void.

#### *Independent contractor*



14.5 For the purpose of the Agreement each Party shall (deemed to) be an independent contractor and not an agent or employee of the other Party. Neither Party shall have authority to make any statements, representations or commitments of any kind, or to take any action, which shall be binding on the other Party. EDCTP shall not be responsible for the employment of any individual employed or otherwise engaged by Contractor. Neither Party shall be responsible for acts or omissions of individuals engaged by the other Party or for the health, safety and security of such individuals and their property. The foregoing takes exception in case Parties in writing explicitly agree differently.

*Breach of General Terms/ Agreement*

14.6 Any action or omission not in accordance with these terms and conditions set forth above is deemed to be null and void between Parties, unless the Agreement specifically provides for such act or omission. EDCTP is entitled to recover from Contractor any financial damage incurred by EDCTP pursuant of such non-compliant act or omission.

*Modification of Agreement*

14.7 Any modification to a signed Agreement concluded with EDCTP shall be made by an amendment signed by both of the Parties.



## Annex III Cofunding & Financial guidelines for EDCTP grants

### Principles of cofunding

The objective of EDCTP is to accelerate clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa through integration of the national research programmes of its participating Member States. The **EDCTP-EEIG Member States** have agreed to match European Commission funding of the EDCTP's activities to a minimum of 200 Million Euro over the life of the EDCTP programme. Project partners from EDCTP-EEIG Member States are therefore required to seek national cofunding for their project.

Cofunding can be of two types:

- 1) "in kind" contributions i.e. the provision of goods or services including salaries costs by the partner towards the carrying out of the project
- 2) "in cash" paid either directly to the project or via EDCTP. Where either is possible, cash cofunding via EDCTP is preferred.

The level of cofunding secured will be taken into account during proposal evaluation. Where an African partner wishes to apply for EDCTP funding but does not have the necessary cofunding from European partners on the project or is unable to identify two EDCTP-EEIG Member States to participate in the project, it is possible that EDCTP may be able to help with the sourcing of the European member state funding to reach the requirements. In this case applicants should contact the Cape Town office of EDCTP or the relevant regional member of the EDCTP **DCCC**.

If, at the end of the project, the eligible costs claimed by the participating collaborators from EDCTP-EEIG Member States are less than the amount of cofunding originally secured towards the total eligible costs, the EDCTP financial contribution shall be adjusted downwards accordingly. Regardless of the overall level of cofunding from member states or third parties, the total EDCTP contribution to the project shall not exceed the amount stated in the **call text**.

Eligible costs for cofunding incurred by the collaborators from EDCTP-EEIG Member States or their national institutions should be certified by having the annual financial return and budget signed by the legal representative of the partner (usually the Head of the Hosting institution), along with the Chief Financial officer. This must be sent to EDCTP along with the annual financial return that details how EDCTP funding has been spent for each partner where cofunding has been used. Should a subsequent audit by EDCTP uncover any inaccuracies in this figure then the Hosting institution is liable for making up the deficit in cash to EDCTP.

These contributions will only be considered if they have arisen wholly, exclusively and specifically in relation to the co-funded project, they shall not be considered eligible if the cost or expenditure arising is a pre-existing cost not being used in connection with the project (i.e. a general contribution to the running costs of the organisation) or their use is at the management discretion of the donor i.e. can be used on purposes other than the cofunded project. Contributions in kind are eligible provided that their general value can be independently assessed and audited from a paper audit trail which must include receipts, invoices and timesheets.



The contribution of the participating collaborators (EDCTP-EEIG Member States or their national contributions) can consist of:

1. Direct Financial transfers to EDCTP

EDCTP welcomes cash contributions of national programme resources. Funds will be held in the EDCTP sponsorship account and an annual statement will be produced.

2. Direct Financial transfers from Member State to project partner

While most Member States will contribute cofunding through EDCTP in some cases internal regulations may require them to transfer grant funds directly to the researcher in the project. Such transfers must be accounted for and audited as part of the project accounts.

3. Contributions in kind excluding real estate and internal recharges e.g. bench fees

These may include:

a. *Personnel*

- Time charged for personnel may only be considered as eligible costs if the personnel concerned are involved directly on the project
- Costs for remuneration of salary should be taken from the payroll account and reflect the gross remuneration plus the employer's portion of social charges provided that this does not exceed the average rates corresponding to the Grantee's usual policy on basic remuneration.
- Working time to be charged must be recorded throughout the duration of the project. There must be a system of monthly timesheets that allows the time of anyone working on the project to be verified and audited. These timesheets should be signed off by the line manager of the person concerned.

b. *Durable equipment*

- The cost for durable equipment are considered eligible costs if the equipment is necessary for the carrying out of the project and future benefits associated with the equipment will flow to the project site and if the cost of the asset can be verified accurately i.e. with an invoice. Where an item of equipment is very expensive (over €20,000) then an estimate of the total eligible cost should be based on the proportion of its use by the project versus its useful economic life.
- Costs for equipment can include all costs necessary to bring the asset to working condition for its intended use. This may include the original purchase price as well as costs for site preparation, delivery and handling, installation and maintenance.

c. *Travel and subsistence*



- Travel and related subsistence costs related to the project may be considered as eligible costs providing they comply with EDCTP usual terms as specified in the financial guidelines available on the EDCTP website ([www.edctp.org](http://www.edctp.org)). Business or first-class travel expenses are not eligible.

*d. Subcontracting*

- Costs entailed by subcontracts awarded by the Grantee for the purposes of carrying out the Grant are considered eligible costs, provided it has been awarded to the bid offering best-value for money following a transparent and equal treatment of potential subcontractors taking care in avoiding any conflict of interest.

*e. Consumables*

- Any consumables necessary for the implementation of the project may be considered as eligible costs, provided that they are separately identifiable and assigned to the Grant.

*f. Training*

- Costs arising from organising and providing training courses or practical workshops for African partners may be considered eligible costs providing that the training is directly relevant for the project and personnel receiving the training are associated with the project.
- Training costs may include funding PhD and/or MSc students associated with the project as well as
  - Specific training for laboratory staff (new techniques, **GCLP**)
  - Training of volunteer management and counselling for nurses and other staff that work with patients
  - Training on advocacy of the project in the local community
  - Bio-statistical and IT training
  - Training of financial staff
  - Project management training
  - Training of clinical monitors

*g. Financial and administration*

- Legal fees for advice, notary fees, insurance/indemnities, the costs of bank guarantees, the costs of technical and financial expertise and accountancy or audit costs are considered eligible costs if they are directly linked to the project



and necessary for the preparation or implementation or if they relate to the requirements made by EDCTP.

### ***In cash cofunding contributions***

When a cofunding institution makes a cash contribution to a specific EDCTP funded grant it may elect to do so either:

- a. directly to the institution receiving the grant
- b. directly to EDCTP who then pay over the cash to the grantee on the cofunders' behalf

EDCTP much prefers that cofunders use method (b) for the following reasons:

For the grantee to have to prepare multiple sets of technical and financial reports in differing formats is very time consuming, inefficient and confusing. It is far easier for them to complete the EDCTP reports, which would include both the EDCTP and cofunders' contributions, and which can then be forwarded as copies to the cofunding institution(s). This also frees the cofunder of any administrative duties which they have towards the project which they can delegate, at no cost to themselves, to the EDCTP Secretariat. These can include some or all of the following; negotiating budgets, drafting contracts and legal affairs, reviewing annual financial and technical reports, monitoring and financial auditing.

When a grantee reports to two separate bodies the risks of error and double counting of costs between the financial reports of the funders' increases many fold. EDCTP requires an audit certificate for all grants over €250,000 therefore the cofunders' money can be included within this audit too.

EDCTP will also test audit a sample of annual returns from its grant portfolio with an international firm of auditors annually, as this would cover the cofunders' money too this is extra assurance the donor organization is getting that their money has been used appropriately, although obviously there can never be any cast iron guarantees over this.

The cofunder who deposits money with the EDCTP will receive interest on their unspent balances which will be credited to their accounts and can be used as the institution directs. All deposits will be held in Euro and all payments will and bank charges relating to account movements will be charged to the EDCTP not the cofunder. Each year a signed statement will be sent to the cofunder illustrating how the monies have been used, interest earned and the year end balances. All funds will be deposited with Fortis bank in The Netherlands, a secure high credit rated bank.

Each year EDCTP itself is subject to an annual audit which checks all of the bank balances, this means the deposits are secure.

The money sent directly to the EDCTP is more readily identifiable to the auditors as a member state contribution than an amount sent directly to the grantee.

The cofunder and EDCTP can agree between them how the payments will be received by EDCTP; typically on signing the Grant Agreement between the EDCTP and the grantee, and then on reporting dates with a final payment at the end.

The cofunder may specify to EDCTP which elements of the budget it wishes its funds to be applied to which are in line with its own priorities, the other parts up to the EDCTP grant



limit can be covered by EDCTP own funds. It would not be able to do this so easily if it was funding a grantee directly.

Please note, that where the cofounder wishes to take advantage of delegating the administration to the EDCTP, then for reasons of practicality, they must waive any rights to dispute the findings of the Secretariat in administering the grants. For reasons of time and staff practicality only the annual reports will be made available to the cofunder. Also cofunders should be aware that any shortfall in pledged funding by themselves either due to shortages of funds or lateness of payment would not be covered by EDCTP's own money.



## ***Templates confirmation letters for cofunding***

- a. ***Template letter to be submitted by the deadline of the call indicating that ENO is aware of the proposal***

Name and address of Project Officer

Date

**Subject: Cofunding of Applicant's name Proposal**

**Call for Proposal:**

**Applicant:**

**Title of proposed project:**

Dear name of Project Officer,

With reference to the above mentioned application in response to the above call for proposals, I would like to inform you that the following collaborator(s) of the proposal has/have contacted **name of the Member State** and applied for cofunding.

Collaborator 1

Name and institution: name collaborator and name of institution of collaborator

Cofunding requested: € .. <in cash> and/or €<in kind>

Applied for cofunding from: name of funding institution or ministry

Collaborator 2

Name and institution: name collaborator and name of institution of collaborator

Cofunding requested: € .. <in cash> and/or €<in kind>

Applied for cofunding from: name of funding institution or ministry

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Name



**a1. Template letter to be submitted by the deadline of the call indicating that the public institution requested for cofunding is aware of the proposal**

Name and address of Project Officer

Date

**Subject: Cofunding of Applicant's name Proposal**

**Call for Proposal:**

**Applicant:**

**Title of proposed project:**

Dear name of Project Officer,

With reference to the above mentioned application in response to the above call for proposals, I would like to inform you that the following collaborator(s) of the proposal has/have contacted **name of public institution** and applied for cofunding.

Collaborator 1

Name and institution: name collaborator and name of institution of collaborator

Cofunding requested: € .. <in cash> and/or €<in kind>

Status confirmation: cofunding is secured or under review

Collaborator 2

Name and institution: name collaborator and name of institution of collaborator

Cofunding requested: € .. <in cash> and/or €<in kind>

Status confirmation: cofunding is secured or under review

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Name

person authorised on behalf of the funding body

Cc: to ENO



***b. Template letter to be submitted at the latest 2 months after the deadline of the call.***

I. The MS confirms that it is **not able** to co-fund the project

Name and address of Project Officer	
Date	
<b>Subject: Cofunding of Applicant's name Proposal</b>	
<b>Call for Proposal:</b>	
<b>Applicant:</b>	
<b>Title of proposed project:</b>	
Dear name of Project Officer,	
With reference to the above mentioned application in response to the above call for proposals, I regret to confirm that <b>name of the Member State</b> through name of funding institution or ministry is unable to allocate cofunding to the project.	
Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.	
Kind regards,	
Name	
Member state ENO or person authorised on behalf of the funding body	



II. The MS confirms that it is able to co-fund the project with **“new” funds**

Name and address of Project Officer

Date

**Subject: Cofunding of Applicant's name Proposal**

**Call for Proposal:**

**Applicant:**

**Title of proposed project:**

Dear name of Project Officer,

With reference to the above mentioned application in response to the above call for proposals, I am pleased to confirm that **name of the Member State** through **name of funding institution or ministry** is willing to allocate cofunding this project.

Funding will be subject to the proposal being selected according to the EDCTP procedures. **If applicable, please state any other conditions applicable to the funding.**

The amount requested by the applicant is € and we confirm that **name of funding organisation** will co fund €. Please treat the cofunding as member state contribution to EDCTP from **Name of country**.

Cofunding will be € **<in cash> and/or €<in kind>**, the composition of any "in kind" contribution will be as detailed in the EDCTP budget application form . The funds will be made available **<through EDCTP> or <directly to the project>**.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Name**

**Member state ENO or person authorised on behalf of the funding body**



- III. The MS confirms that it is able to co-fund the project with funds coming from the **“core” funding**

Name and address of Project Officer

Date

**Subject: Cofunding of Applicant's name Proposal**

**Call for Proposal:**

**Applicant:**

**Title of proposed project:**

Dear name of Project Officer,

With reference to the above mentioned application in response to the above call for proposals, I am pleased to confirm that **name of the Member State** through **name of funding institution or ministry** would like to allocate cofunding to this project, through the core funding that **MS** has allocated to EDCTP.

Funding will be subject to the proposal being selected according to the EDCTP procedures  
If applicable, please state any other conditions applicable to the funding

The amount requested by the applicant is €. We confirm that **MS** is willing to co fund the project up to € from the core funding held by EDCTP with the final amount being determined at the end of the EDCTP evaluation process

Please provide **name of funding organisation** with copies of each of the annual and technical reports received from the grantee at each reporting period.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Name

Member state ENO or person authorised on behalf of the funding body



## ***Financial requirements***

### **Financial records**

All financial documents relating to the use of EDCTP funding should be held for a minimum period of 6 years from the date of the invoice or expenditure.

### **Budget format**

For each grant with a value in excess of €100,000 a standard EDCTP budget form should be completed and forwarded with the final grant proposal for review by the FM. Following this review, further information substantiating costs may be required or the amounts requested reduced. EDCTP budget forms can be downloaded from the EDCTP website.

There are instructions on the budget sheets which should be followed carefully when allocating the cofunding institutions' money.

The budget form includes a sheet which should be completed to show how the member state financial contribution will be made across the different expenditure items.

Where grants do not exceed €100,000 then the applicant may submit a budget in their own format.

Separate budget forms should be completed for each collaborator; a summary on the back sheet totals all of the figures.

### **Criteria for eligible costs**

Only eligible costs may be entered on the budget and in the annual financial statement, these eligible costs must satisfy the following general criteria:

- they must be incurred by the Grantee (PI or Collaborator).
- they must be directly concerned with the Grant.
- they must be necessary for performance of the Grant covered by the Grant Agreement.
- they must be reasonable and justified and accord with the principles of sound financial management, in particular in terms of value for money and cost effectiveness.
- they must be generated during the lifetime of the Grant only. Any costs incurred in advance to the signing of the Grant Agreement or after the expiry date will not be eligible.
- they must be actually incurred by the Grantee (PI or Collaborator) and recorded in his accounts and tax documents to be readily identifiable and verifiable.

### **Direct costs**

Direct costs are the costs of a project that can be clearly identified and specifically related to a particular grant.

In particular the following direct costs are eligible:



- the costs of staff assigned to the Grant comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration provided that this does not exceed the average rates corresponding to the Grantee's usual policy on basic remuneration. Please note that under no circumstances are EDCTP funds to be used for loans or salary advances to staff.
- travel and subsistence allowance for the staff taking part in the Grant provided that they are in line with the Grantee's policy on costs, the purchase costs of equipment (new or second-hand). The allowable costs of equipment purchased by the Grantee shall be calculated without taking into account depreciation, provided the equipment remains on the premises of the Grantee for the duration and after the completion of the Grant.
- costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the Grant.
- costs entailed by subcontracts awarded by the Grantee for the purposes of carrying out the Grant, provided it has been awarded to the bid offering best-value for money following a transparent and equal treatment of potential subcontractors taking care in avoiding any conflict of interest.
- The costs of obtaining an audit certificate at the end of the grant for any grant which exceeds 250,000 Euro, (a separate audit certificate being required for each beneficiary of the grant).
- Clinical trial indemnity and clinical trials regulatory costs.

### **Period of first and last financial report**

The first financial report is due 6 weeks after the anniversary of the date of the signing of the protocol, in the case of a clinical trial this means that the first financial report may cover a period longer than 12 months from the signing date of the Grant Agreement "the effective date" until the anniversary of the signing of the Protocol and thereafter on the anniversaries of the signing of the protocol. The last period may be less than 12 months as it runs from the last anniversary of the signing of the protocol until the end date of the grant.

### **Tendering**

All goods or services including (sub) contracts with a separate value exceeding €5,000 shall be required to be put out to tender in the case of a contract, and in the case of a good then 3 separate quotes are required. In the case where the cheapest bid is not the accepted bid then the reasons why this has not been accepted need to be clearly minuted and signed by the PI or collaborator and the head of finance at the site and made available at the time of any audit.

### **Overhead costs**

All grantees are required to observe the EDCTP rates on overheads for grants and in no circumstances to apply the overhead rates of their own organisation. The overheads are intended to cover administrative and support costs, telecommunications, rent, bench fees, computing and shipping charges.

Where a grantee requests less overhead to accommodate more direct costs this can be accommodated in the Grant Agreement budget.



## **Ineligible costs**

The following costs shall be considered as ineligible:

- debt and debt service charges
- Any costs incurred by the Grantee before the effective date i.e. any backdated costs
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities
- other interest owed
- doubtful debts
- exchange losses
- any fiscal deductions from funding sent by EDCTP to the Grantee whether by the government of the country of the Grantee or any other body
- costs declared by the Grantee within another grant or work programme receiving an EDCTP Grant
- any legal or financial compensation arising from accident or loss in respect of any travel paid for in an EDCTP grant
- excessive or reckless expenditure
- business or first-class travel expenses
- loans
- any expenditures not included in the final approved budget
- Salary top ups for staff at European institutions but not those working at African ones, where this is the normal policy of the institution and where it is reasonable when combined with all other sources of income for the staff member concerned

Contributions in kind shall not count as actual expenditure by the Grantee and shall not constitute eligible costs.

## **Determination of Final Grant**

The total amount to the Grantee by EDCTP may not in any circumstances exceed the maximum amount of the Grant laid out in the budget to the Grant Agreement.

The Grant may not in any circumstances produce a profit for the Grantee. Profit shall mean any surplus in actual receipts over the eligible costs when the request for the final payment is made. Where eligible costs over the life of the Grant are less than the amount awarded in the Grant Agreement, then the excess will be deducted from the final payment or if necessary by requesting the Grantee to repay the amounts overpaid if the total amount already paid by EDCTP exceeds the final amount which is actually due.

Non-eligible costs shall always be covered by non-EDCTP resources. Any ineligible costs discovered shall result in a corresponding reduction by EDCTP of the grant, and may therefore result in (partial) recovery of already transferred amounts which will be complied without hesitation by the Contractor.

Interest and investment income earned by the Grantee on EDCTP deposited funds should be declared on the annual financial statement and be ploughed back into the project.

## **Authorised expenditure and cheque signatories**



The grantee should ensure that all expenditures are authorised and approved in line with the normal institutions regulations. In particular cheque signatories to EDCTP funds should only be those people normally authorised to sign cheques under the grantee' s internal regulations.

### **Viring of funds**

Grantees may vire amounts between expenditure lines for recurrent (consumables) and capital expenditure items but not between wages costs and either capital or consumables lines without the prior written permission of EDCTP secretariat.

### **Carrying forward of unused balances**

Under-spent funds may be carried forward from one year to another over the course of the grant but not after the end date of the grant.

### **Euro bank account and foreign exchange fluctuations**

All disbursements by EDCTP will be made in Euro, where possible grantees should open a Euro account. However if the grantee is not responsible as the PI for disbursing further sums under the grant to other collaborators (see section "exchange controls below) then the account may be held in the local currency or another hard currency and the Euros paid over by EDCTP will be converted by the receiving bank automatically into the local or other currency, any charges being the responsibility of the grantee.

It is the responsibility of the Grantee to insure against any exchange rate movements between the Euro and the currency of the recipient bank account, however in cases where there is a severe appreciation of the local currency in which payments are made against the Euro then the EDCTP may renegotiate the size of the budget with the Grantee if the Grantee would not be able to carry out the work as originally envisaged in the project without suffering financial losses. In practice this means an appreciation of over 15% in the local currency against the Euro versus the rate at the signing date of the Grant Agreement.

### **Investment of Grant Funds**

All unspent or uncommitted grant funds must be invested in an interest-bearing bank account with the primary objective of preservation of principal so that they remain available for the funding of the Project in the manner described in the Proposal. Any interest or other income generated by the grant funds, including currency conversion gains, must be applied to the charitable purposes of the Project.

### **Exchange controls & Disbursement of funds from EDCTP**

EDCTP will usually pay grant funds in Euro to the [Project Coordinator \(PC\)](#) who is then responsible for making all further disbursements to the collaborators, also in Euro and without any deductions as allocated in the original budget. However, EDCTP can be flexible in how the grant disbursements are made where exchange controls or government deductions would lead to difficulties in making disbursements to the collaborators on a



project In this case the PC+ will have the option of requesting that EDCTP pays directly to the collaborators. The responsibilities for reporting will always stay with the PI irrespective of which party to the grant is making the payments.

### **Separate or sub bank account**

Grant recipients are strongly advised to open separate or sub bank accounts for EDCTP grant funds so that auditors can easily trace the movement of funds through the accounts and back to the accounting statements. Signatories to the new accounts should be the same as for the existing bank accounts held in the institutions' name, and the name of the account should always be that of the institution. The details of the account are to be clearly stated in the Grant Agreement.

### **Financial report**

For each grant there is one PC+ who is responsible for filing the annual and final financial report for the spending of EDCTP funding which should include a consolidated report for all collaborators on the project plus additional reports for each of the individual collaborators annual expenditure. In the event of unsatisfactory results of financial audit EDCTP retains the right to suspend any further payments under the grant. EDCTP will notify the grantee upon any decision made on financial report.

The annual financial statements are incorporated into the budget sheets in the EDCTP standard report format except for grants below €100,000 where the report can follow the layout of the budget submitted.

The annual financial statement submitted should be completed on cash accounting basis and not an accruals basis.

The annual financial report should be completed within 6 weeks of the anniversaries of the date of signing the protocol of the Grant Agreement in the case of clinical trials, or 6 weeks after the anniversary of the effective date in all other cases, for each year except the last.

The financial report for the final year of the study should be submitted within 12 weeks of the end date of the grant.

All figures quoted on the financial statement should be in Euros. Any conversion of actual costs into Euro shall be made at the daily rate published in the Official Journal of the European Union or, failing that, at the monthly accounting rate established by the European Commission and published on its website applicable on the first working day of the month following the period covered by the financial statement concerned.

The financial report must be signed by the PC+ and the head of Finance of the PC+'s institute. This should be sent by registered mail to the EDCTP office for the attention of the Director of Finance and Administration at EDCTP, Laan van Nieuw Oost Indie 300, 2593 CE Den Haag, The Netherlands. Alternatively a scanned copy with electronic signatures may be sent by email to [belcher@edctp.org](mailto:belcher@edctp.org).

**For each of the co-funding European institutions, a signed annual return also needs to be completed and returned to the EDCTP Director of Finance and Administration at the same time as the financial report, signed by the head of**



finance of the co-funding institution which details how the co funding for the project has been applied to the budget categories of the project either by “in kind” or direct cash contributions.

### VAT

All expenditure should include irrecoverable VAT only; where the institution can recover VAT on expenditure this should not be included in the annual financial report.

### Financial audit certificates at the end of a grant

For grants at each site which exceed the value of €250,000, an audit certificate for each institution that is involved either as Project ~~coordinator~~ Coordinator or collaborator is required at the end of the grant to support the final financial return (covering the whole period of the grant) and to receive the final payment. Grantees should expect interim audit visits from EDCTP and/or the European Commission.

### Charging of staff hours

The EDCTP budget form includes a column for indicating what percentage of an individual staff member time is being spent on this project. As such, monthly records or time sheets should be kept available for inspection by auditors, which substantiate the amount of time each person is working on the project. Appropriate line managers should authorise the time sheets. It is essential that no person included in the budget form is being charged at more than 100% across all projects they are working on. Personnel costs should only be charged from when the staff member is in post. It is not necessarily the same date as the start of the project.

### Other financial resources

The applicant must inform EDCTP when there is a simultaneous application running to other funding bodies/organisations for the same research, or recently have made such an application. EDCTP requires the applicant to state whether any additional financial support from other funding bodies has been applied, is already provided or is being applied for. -

### Ownership of assets

All capital equipment bought with EDCTP funding remains prima facie the property of EDCTP at the end of the grant. The ED and the DFA may decide to donate the equipment to the Grantee institution or request that the asset is sold and the proceeds returned to EDCTP dependent upon the age and condition of the asset and the ease with which it may be sold.

In addition, all assets with an individual value of over €5,000 (plus all laptops and pc's) should be clearly labeled or stenciled as having been provided by EDCTP, insured and listed separately in a register which can be audited.



### **No-cost extensions**

Where a PI wishes to apply for extra time to complete the study, with the approval of the EDCTP ED this can be granted on the conditions that no additional funding will be made available by EDCTP and that the request for the no-cost extension is made at least four months prior to the scheduled end date for the project.



## **Annex IV. EDCTP selection procedure and evaluation criteria-**

This annex aims to provide information on the selection procedure with regard to **proposals** submitted in response to a **Call for Proposals** from EDCTP. All **proposals** that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be evaluated against the pre-set selection criteria as described in the Call for Proposals.

### ***Principles of the selection procedure:***

- i. Quality: all grant applications will be objectively evaluated to reflect the highest scientific merit and relevance to EDCTP to fulfil the objectives of the Joint Programme.**
- ii. Transparency: the decision-making process is described in procedures, and these procedures are available to any interested party upon request.**
- iii. Equality of treatment: all applications will be evaluated following the same standard procedures, irrespective of their origins and/or the identity of the applicants.**
- iv. Integrity and impartiality: all applications will be reviewed thoroughly and objectively to avoid any possible circumstances which might interfere or compromise the result of the evaluation.**
- v. Efficiency and speed: EDCTP aims to ensure that an optimal assessment is achieved in a competent and efficient environment.**
- vi. Ethical consideration: any proposal that violates the fundamental ethical principles may be excluded from the selection process at any stage.**

### ***Identification of reviewers***

EDCTP identifies reviewers by an open call for or nomination of scientific experts in the particular programme area on the basis of their expertise and appropriate range of competencies in pre-defined fields. Selected reviewers are then added to EDCTP's Reviewers Database. Reviewers are commonly individuals from industry and/or research institutions, internationally recognised in a relevant specialist area, and are expected to have the knowledge and expertise within the field in which they are consulted.

All independent experts must also have a high level of professional experience in the public or private sector in one or more of the following areas or activities:

- a. Research in the relevant scientific fields
- b. Evaluation of projects
- c. Use of the results of research and technological development projects
- d. Technology transfer and innovation
- e. International collaboration
- f. Knowledge on the conduct of clinical trials



Reviewers are expected to have an excellent command of English. They may be invited from countries other than EDCTP-EEIG Members States or sub-Saharan African countries. Under no circumstances may reviewers be applicants or collaborators within grant applications submitted in response to the Call for Proposals that they have been selected to review.

Following a **Call for Proposals** the EDCTP Secretariat will draw up a list of appropriate reviewers from the expert's pool based on their experience and appropriate range of competencies in the pre-defined fields relevant to EDCTP. Candidate reviewers are selected on the basis of their experience and appropriate range of competencies in pre-defined fields relevant to EDCTP. Candidate reviewers **cannot** be (co-) applicants.

Selected reviewers might be requested to serve either as External Reviewers or as SRC members. Since SRC members are normally appointed for a three-year period, their possible conflict of interest will be re-assessed each time the SRC members are invited for the peer-review of new grant proposals. EDCTP will take into consideration any arising conflicts while appointing reviewers in compliance with the EDCTP policy on conflict of interest. ERs are solely appointed for one specific Call for Proposals and their identities will remain anonymous.

The EDCTP Secretariat will appoint a Chair and a Deputy Chair for each call. The Chair will lead the discussion during the **SRC** meetings. In case the Chair is absent or has a conflict of interest, the Deputy Chair will perform this task. The EDCTP Secretariat will provide all necessary information on the procedure to the (deputy) Chair prior to the meeting. The (deputy) Chair of the **SRC** may be requested to act as rapporteur in follow up meetings of the Partnership Board or the General Assembly to clarify the consensus report or the meeting discussion.

EDCTP will ask experts to serve as member of a Scientific Review Committee (**SRC**) or as External Referees (**ER**) with the following terms of reference:

- i. To peer-review (comment, score, rank) the complete grant application for EDCTP and make a recommendation to the Partnership Board (PB);
- ii. To assist EDCTP in identifying priority projects and opportunities for the treatment/prevention and capacity building in the fields of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria;
- iii. To review future progress reports (intermediate and final) of grants that are selected for EDCTP support;
- iv. The expert will work in a personal capacity and in performing this function will not represent any organisation/institution;
- v. Reviewers will be accountable to the Executive Director of EDCTP.

A declaration of confidentiality and conflict of interest is sent to all reviewers (**ER** and **SRC** members) before the selection of **proposals**. The reviewers are obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information contained in the **proposals** they evaluate and of the selection process and its outcomes and to act with strict impartiality. The reviewers will also declare any potential conflicts of interests with respect to the **proposals** under review prior to the start of their tasks and upon receipt of the names of applicants in compliance with EDCTP Policy on Conflict of Interest.

When there are circumstances that may lead to a conflict of interest or circumstances that may be perceived by others to be a conflict of interest, the reviewer is required to divulge



sufficient information to EDCTP in order to enable the EDCTP secretariat to determine the case and to agree on the appropriate action.

### ***Evaluation of Proposals***

In general, applications are submitted either following a Call for Proposals that involves a one-stage submission and selection procedure or as a result of a Brokering Initiative. Before an applicant submits the full proposal he/she should contact the European Networking Officer (ENO) in his/her respective country. Alternatively, the applicant can contact the ENO through the EDCTP website.

### **Eligibility check**

After the closing date of a given Call for Proposals, EDCTP performs a preliminary screening to determine if each submitted application meets the eligibility criteria as described in the Call for Proposals. If a proposal does not meet the eligibility criteria, depending on the case, the applicant may be given the opportunity to prove eligibility within a specified time period.

If ineligibility becomes apparent in a later stage of the selection process, the application may be withdrawn at any stage of the evaluation process.

### **Review of proposals**

As scientific consultants participating in the selection of specific grant applications, reviewers are expected to supply a complete report using the standard assessment forms.

EDCTP uses standardised assessment forms for the review of grant applications. In compliance with EDCTP standard procedures, each grant application must be reviewed by at least two ERs and two SRC members. All ER's and SRC members will be requested to carefully assess each application individually. ER reports will be sent to the applicants to give them the opportunity to respond in writing to the ERs' comments. At this stage, SRC members will not have access to the ERs' assessments, to the applicant's response to the ERs' comments, and to the assessment forms completed by their fellow SRC members.

EDCTP will prepare and organise the SRC meetings. Within these meetings, all assessment forms (from SRC members, ERs and the applicant's response to the ERs' comments) and the preliminary ranking of all applications (based on the SRC and the ERs' assessments) will be discussed. SRC meetings aim to reach a final on each application, which may differ from the preliminary ranking.

The assessment forms filled in by ER and SRC members will remain confidential.



## Selection criteria

All proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- I. Project excellence (objectives, feasibility, impact, innovation, quality and record of investigators, quality of the proposed methodology).
- II. EDCTP relevance (public health relevance for developing countries, adequacy of proposal in context of the call, alignment with the priorities of the [EDCTP Joint Programme](#)).
- III. iii. Potential impact (need for strengthening, restructuring existing research capacities, knowledge dissemination, sustainability).
- iv. Compliance with national and international standards of research, Good Clinical Practice, ethics- and safety-related issues (in accordance with EDCTP guidelines, national and EU legislation, international conventions and declaration).
- v. Implementation Plan of Capacity Building (research activities, staff and facilities development, networking activities, training activities, consortium management activities, work planning and package of each participant including deliverable list, performance indicators).
- vi. Consortium description (role of participants, achievement of objectives, involvement of private sector participation of at least two public institutions from European EEIG Member States and two African institutions).
- vii. Project Management (organisational structure, decision-making mechanisms, knowledge management, cofunding arrangements).
- viii. Clinical Trial Management (if applicable – steering committee, sponsorship, daily management for the trial).
- ix. Project resources (mobilisation of resources - personnel, equipment and finances).
- x. Gender issues (promotion of gender equality, gender action plan concerning the staff involved in the project).

## Threshold

All selection criteria will be scored on a scale of five categories from 'Poor' to 'Excellent' as shown in section [6.47-3](#). EDCTP has defined an overall threshold for all selection criteria of 'Good' (third in the assessment scale) to ensure that all applications meet a minimum level of quality. Any application receiving a score category less than a 'Good' for any selection criteria cannot be selected for funding.

Exceptions are made for the following selection criteria:

- x. Gender issues (promotion of gender equality, gender action plan concerning the staff involved in the project).



## Assessment

The **ER** and **SRC** assess the applications against the above-mentioned selection criteria and score each criterion according to the following category scale:

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Weak
5. Poor

On the assessment form the reviewer is required to provide reasons for the selected score category. This explanation should provide clear insight on how the reviewer has come to his/her conclusions.

## Consensus approach

All **SRC** members will be sent all eligible proposals at least 2 weeks before the **SRC** meeting. During the meeting they will receive a summary of the **ER** assessment as well as the response of the applicant to the **ER** queries. Please note that the identity of **ER** will not be revealed to the **SRC** members at any time. The **SRC** members who were assigned to review a particular proposal will present their views during the meeting. All other **SRC** members will also be given the opportunity to voice their opinion. To help the **consensus discussion** during the meeting the EDCTP secretariat will provide a preliminary ranking of the applications based on the average scores given by **ER** and **SRC** members on the assessment forms. The **consensus discussion** will be based on the comments made by the reviewers, the applicants' response and on any other comments that may arise during the meeting. In the event consensus is not reached voting may be necessary. The consensus will result in a final ranking of all proposals.

The EDCTP Secretariat will prepare a **summary review report** on each proposal. A standard summary review report will contain a project summary and list the requested budget, available cofunding, the final ranking as well as comments and recommendations of the **SRC** and the **ER**.

## Partnership Board (PB) recommendation

The Partnership Board (**PB**) is responsible for preparing and maintaining the EDCTP scientific strategy. They assess whether the proposals recommended for funding by the SRC are in line with the EDCTP strategic priorities. The summary review reports and the minutes of SRC meeting will be discussed during a PB meeting. If needed, the SEC clarifies the procedure that was followed. In addition, the Chair of the SRC may be requested to act as rapporteur to clarify the consensus discussion. All participants at the PB meeting are asked to declare any conflicts of interest in compliance with EDCTP Policy on Conflict of Interest prior to the PB meeting. The outcome of the PB discussion on the SRC grant selection process is a list of applications recommended for funding that will be presented to the General Assembly for a final decision.

## General Assembly (GA) decision

The EDCTP Secretariat compiles the summary review reports, the minutes of the SRC meeting and the recommendation of the PB and presents these to the General Assembly



(GA) for their final decision. Again, all participants attending the GA meeting are asked to declare any conflicts of interest in compliance with EDCTP Policy on Conflict of Interest.

Upon final decision from the GA, EDCTP informs the applicants on the results of the selection procedure. If the proposal was selected for funding, the Grant Agreement preparations will commence.