

EU research and innovation programmes in the fight against coronavirus

As part of the common European response to the coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission has mobilised €1 billion under Horizon 2020, and launched several special actions to tackle the coronavirus pandemic in Europe and abroad. These actions address, inter alia, the development of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, and the enhancement of infrastructures and resources that enable research. The European Research Area's action plan prioritises mainly better cooperation, data-sharing, and funding efforts.

Measures under Horizon 2020

[Horizon 2020](#) is the EU's main framework programme and funding tool to support research and innovation (R&I). The [€1 billion](#) dedicated to coronavirus work can be broken down as follows: €400 million acts as guarantee for European Investment Bank (EIB) lending to finance pre-commercial stage investments in Covid-19 research and development. A further €150 million has been allocated to the [European Innovation Council](#) (EIC) to support disruptive innovations on Covid-19. Its [call](#) for ideas to tackle the coronavirus outbreak received the record number of almost 4 000 applications from 45 countries, more than 1 000 of them from start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The remaining €450 million of Horizon 2020 funding will be allocated for developing scientific solutions for testing, treating and preventing coronavirus, and to developing countries' health systems. In this context, the European Commission has allocated some €48 million for [18 new research projects](#) to advance the understanding of the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes, Covid-19. The projects, which involve 151 research teams from across Europe and abroad, have started work on developing rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests, new treatments and vaccines, as well as improving preparedness and response to outbreaks. Horizon 2020 is also [supporting](#), with €45 million, the [Innovative Medicines Initiative](#) (IMI), a public-private partnership, which launched an emergency call for proposals to develop treatments and diagnostics to tackle Covid-19. Furthermore, the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT) Health Knowledge Innovation Community mobilised €7 million for Covid-19 actions. To support the fight against coronavirus abroad, Horizon 2020 is funding, with €25 million, the [European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership](#) (EDCTP) to strengthen research capacities in sub-Saharan Africa.

European Research Area: Action plan against coronavirus

On 7 April 2020, the Member States' research and innovation Ministers supported the European Commission's [ERAvsCorona Action Plan](#). Building on the tools of the [European Research Area](#) (ERA), the action plan will cover short-term coordinated actions based on better cooperation and data-sharing as well as joint funding efforts. The 10 priorities are: (1) coordination of R&I funding against coronavirus; (2) extending large, EU-wide clinical trials for clinical management of coronavirus patients; (3) new funding for innovative and rapid health-related approaches and better preparedness of health systems; (4) increasing support to innovative companies; (5) creating opportunities for other funding sources to contribute to R&I actions on coronavirus; (6) establishing a [one-stop shop for R&I funding](#) to tackle the coronavirus; (7) establishing an ad hoc high-level R&I task force on coronavirus; (8) access to research infrastructures; (9) a research [data-sharing portal](#); and (10) a pan-EU hackathon ([#EUvsVirus](#)) to mobilise European innovators and civil society.

On its dedicated R&I website, the European Commission gives a rolling [overview](#) of the European Union's common response to tackle the coronavirus pandemic - the website is updated on a daily basis.

