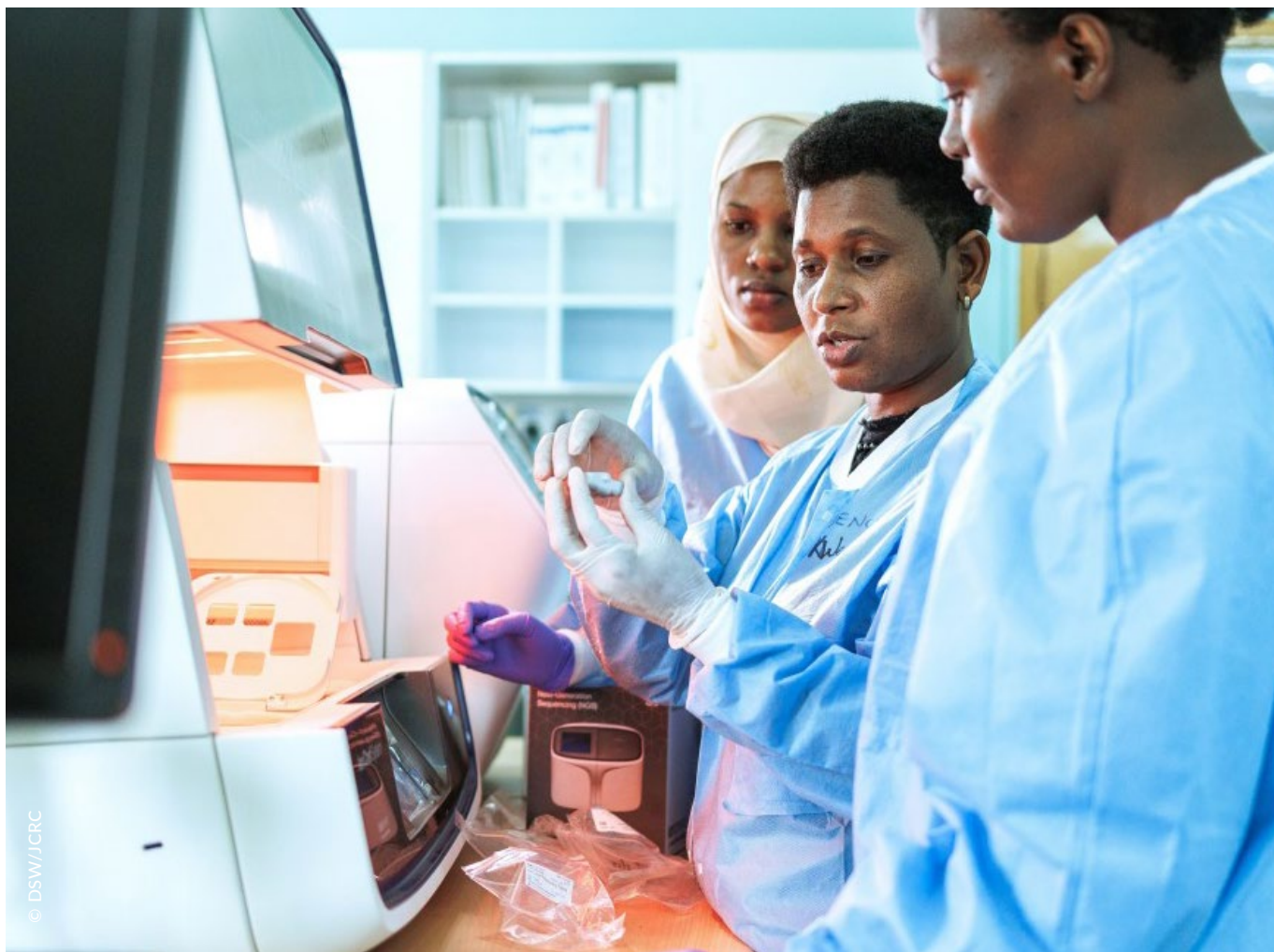




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SHAPING THE FUTURE EDCTP

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS
OF THE EU'S FLAGSHIP GLOBAL
HEALTH R&I PARTNERSHIP

ADDRESSING UNMET GLOBAL HEALTH NEEDS

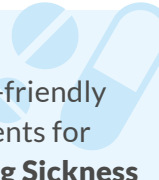
The **persistent knowledge and product gaps to prevent, diagnose, or treat poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs) affect more than 1 billion people worldwide** with devastating health, social, and economic consequences. The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) supports the clinical development, evaluation, and implementation of new health technologies for PRNDs, emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), and adjacent health challenges while strengthening research, regulatory, manufacturing and preparedness capacities across Africa and Europe.

EDCTP’s third iteration (Global Health EDCTP3) is co-funded under the EU’s research and innovation (R&I) Framework Programme Horizon Europe (2020 – 2027) and unites the European Commission, 16 European and 33 African member countries to address this shared global health challenge and improve health security through collaborative science.

EDCTP has been the EU’s main instrument for supporting R&I on infectious diseases since 2003, with no comparison globally in scale and focus. It has demonstrated impact worldwide, including its pivotal contribution to life saving innovations such as:



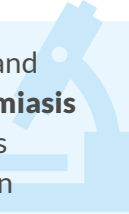
First and second ever **Malaria** vaccines



New patient-friendly treatments for **Sleeping Sickness**



New rapid **Tuberculosis** diagnostic tools



New **HIV** and **Schistosomiasis** treatments for children

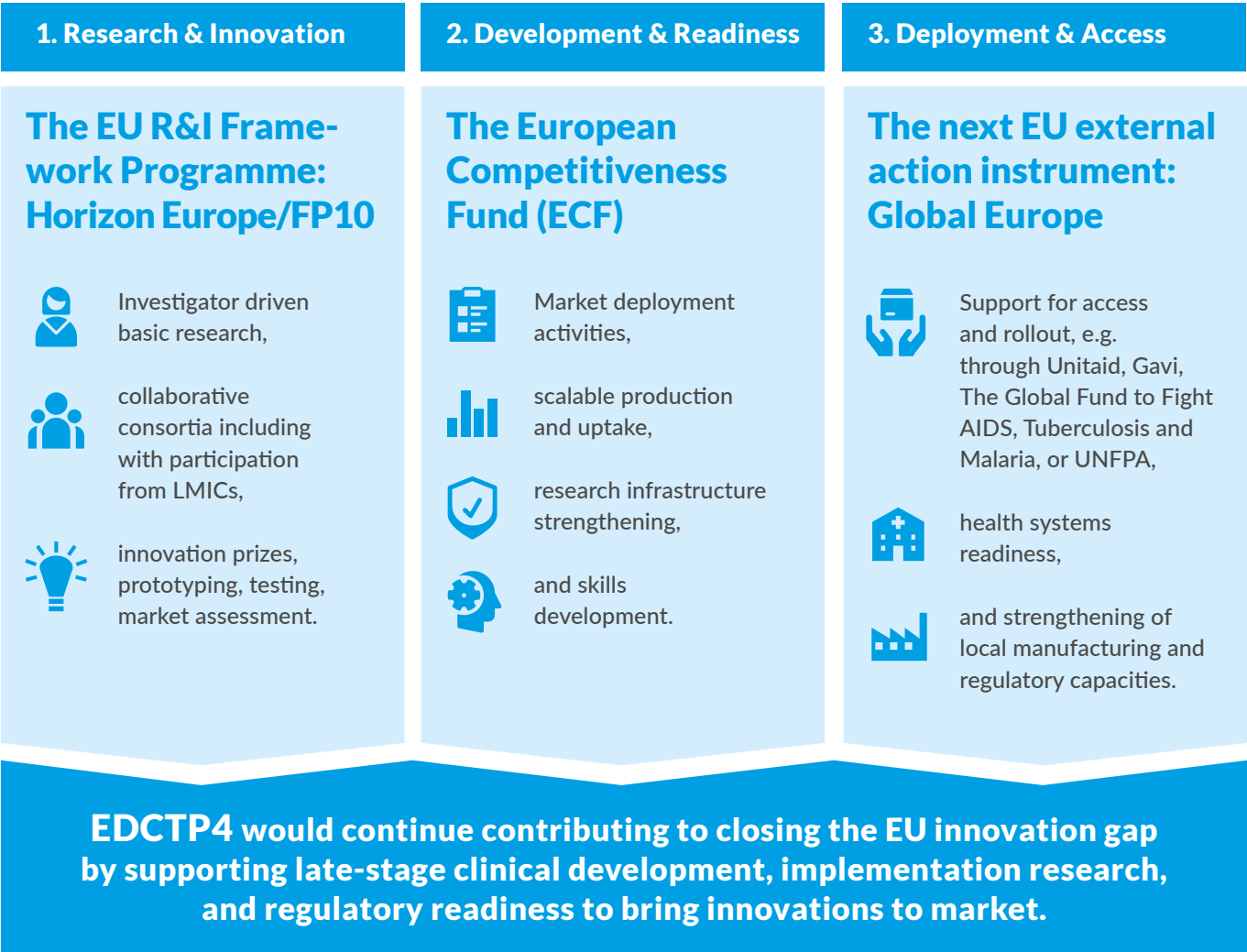
EU SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH IS NOW AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE

A shifting landscape of support for global health is interrupting innovation, undermining scientific progress, threatening pandemic preparedness, and eroding human rights. The new Global Health Resilience Initiative reaffirms the EU’s commitment to global health, with geopolitical tremors and evolving health threats, serving as a reminder of the need to nurture successful partnerships.

The negotiations of the **EU’s next long-term budget (the ‘MFF’)** are well underway, including the instruments that will shape EU support for global health R&I. Institutionalised partnerships will continue to be funded through Horizon Europe (HEU 2028–2034) and likely also through the new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). The European Commission will propose **future Joint Undertakings as part of a single basic act**, similar to the legal basis of the current EDCTP.

Launching a successor programme to EDCTP3 is a ‘once in seven years’ opportunity to reinforce global health support, in line with the EU’s science and competitiveness goals, Global Health Strategy and the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

The central role of EDCTP in the EU’s global health ecosystem



In its first twenty years of operations, EDCTP has:



DELIVERING HIGHEST RETURNS ON INVESTMENT

COMPETITIVENESS

Global health R&I investments are not a mere “expenditure”, but a strategic pillar of sustainable economic development, security and stability. EDCTP creates **quality jobs** in Europe, supporting **economic activity, private sector engagement**, and intellectual property development. For every 1 EUR invested by the EU, EDCTP **mobilises** 1.08 EUR from other contributors. Overall, the **return on investment for neglected diseases R&I funding is conservatively estimated to be at 405 EUR for every 1 EUR invested.**

SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

Europe has a thriving biotech sector and world-leading health research institutes focusing on tropical medicine and infectious diseases, which the EDCTP has fostered since its initiation in 2003. **EDCTP has strengthened Europe’s edge in digital health** by investing in artificial intelligence (AI), data, and digital technologies, while also building skills among researchers in areas such as bioinformatics and genomic epidemiology.

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

EDCTP drives international cooperation, co-funded and co-governed with European and African States, strengthening local ownership in areas in which the EU has been a leading actor and Africa has a vast potential. This also opens new market opportunities for European companies and strengthens long-term partnerships supporting trade, innovation, and investment, helping foster stability and peace in times of geopolitical uncertainty. **Investing in health R&I is estimated to generate 668 billion USD for African economies over the next 20 years.**



HEALTH SECURITY

Over decades, EDCTP has built networks, laboratories, regulatory capacity, and trained researchers across sub-Saharan Africa - all of which were key during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both infrastructure and skills continue to be deployed in outbreak situations such as the recent Ebola virus emergency. Without a follow-up, that capacity and preparedness risks erosion and could reverse years of investment in the face of evolving health threats affecting Africa, Europe, and beyond.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

EDCTP is also contributing to addressing the health impact of climate change, such as the spread of vector-borne diseases in the EU, by anticipating epidemiological trends, strengthening early warning, detection and surveillance, and accelerating the development of medical countermeasures.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

EDCTP advances the EU’s human rights objectives by supporting ethical and inclusive research and by ensuring that innovations reach, and meet the needs of underserved populations. By focusing on areas of market failure such as PRNDs and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), **EDCTP delivers strong public return on investment.**

EDCTP also advances gender equality, incentivising participation of female scientists and raising the standards for sex- and gender-inclusive research. **EDCTP has been a particular champion of addressing the historical exclusion of pregnant and lactating populations from biomedical research**, and serves as an exemplar in ongoing global efforts towards their systematic inclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DELIVER AN AMBITIOUS 'EDCTP4'

We call on the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union to continue the EDCTP success story with the next iteration of this partnership, and to:

1

ENSURE A BUDGET OF AT LEAST 2 BILLION EUR

- The EU contribution should increase from 890 million EUR under the current programme to 1 billion EUR for the new iteration, with predictable investments across the next MFF 2028–2034 through FP10 and ECF.
- Member countries should at a minimum sustain their 550 million EUR contribution, but increase the share of cash contributions to fulfil EDCTP's potential as a pooled funding mechanism.
- Simplified partnership modalities should help increase third party contributions from the private sector and philanthropy beyond the current 400 million EUR.

2

ADDRESS EVOLVING AND PERSISTING GAPS

- Reinforce the role of EDCTP within the EU's health security architecture, leveraging its contribution to pandemic preparedness.
- Ensure that EDCTP addresses current gaps in innovation against vector-borne diseases whose spread is accelerated by climate change.
- Further strengthen the partnership's invaluable contribution to advancing inclusive participation of historically underrepresented populations in clinical trials, including pregnant and lactating people.
- Expand EDCTP's efforts to tackle the gender health gap by including R&I in adjacent and interconnected health areas disproportionately affecting EDCTP's target populations, such as maternal conditions and other sexual and reproductive health challenges.

3

FOSTER COMPLEMENTARITY WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

- Improve collaboration with other relevant EU instruments, such as Global Europe and HERA, and multilateral initiatives such as CEPI, Unitaid and others.
- Member countries should make increased use of EDCTP as an integration mechanism to coordinate and build synergies between different national R&I agendas and activities.

4

RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF RESEARCHERS, END-USERS AND PATIENTS

- Ensure that EDCTP is fit to support researchers and product developers, including not-for-profit Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) leading innovation in this space, expanding on portfolio funding pilots tested under the current programme.
- Defend the principles of open science, transparency and equitable partnerships between EU and AU actors.
- Protect EDCTP's access conditionalities to make sure that products developed are appropriate, available, and affordable to individuals that are disproportionately impacted.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHAMPION 'EDCTP4'?



DEFEND an ambitious and earmarked health (R&I) budget in the future Horizon Europe and ECF with clearly defined lines of activities and a global dimension, maintaining explicit support for PRND R&I in the legal bases.



ENGAGE in discussions on the future Joint Undertakings and support an ambitious and well-resourced successor of EDCTP3.



MOBILISE support from colleagues, decision makers in the European Commission, the European Parliament, and national governments for an ambitious future partnership.



CELEBRATE what EDCTP has achieved by raising awareness of its life-saving contribution to global health security, the EU's life sciences sector and the EU competitiveness agenda.



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT at the 13th edition of the EDCTP Forum which will take place in Madrid, Spain between 5–9 April 2027.

GET IN TOUCH



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