



BG Input to the Meeting on April 15th, 2020

Action Plan

- Bulgaria supports the notion that the whole range of R&I actions should be covered in the **First priority action** (coordination of R&I funding). Bulgaria insists the ad-hoc WG to be established as soon as possible.
- Although several Priority actions will be mostly discussed in various WGs, we support the current practice to discuss the key issues and ideas in the current format between DGs on a weekly basis.
- Regarding the **Second priority action** (EU-wide clinical trials), we believe additional EU funding is necessary to be provided so that hospital research sites from all MS can participate in large-scale trials throughout Europe. Bulgarian University Hospitals network has the capacity to be actively involved.
- Concerning the new 'Expression for interest' in Horizon 2020 we sent to the EC information with profiles of excellent Bulgarian researchers. We continue our efforts for mapping of excellence in Bulgaria.
- We call the Commission to increase efforts to ensure participation from (ideally) all MS in the upcoming wave of R&I projects. We are disappointed to see that the R&I gap in the ERA persists. We call on the Commission to focus on new calls, since organisations from very few MS had the chance and time to establish consortiums for the Covid-19 call in the beginning of 2020.
- We believe the Strategic Configuration Programme Committee should be regularly briefed on decisions and discussions in other PCs.
- We appreciate the efforts put in by the EC and EIB for reallocating resources. Bulgaria continues to support the **inclusiveness principle**.
- On **Seventh priority action**, we support the Commission to draft a set of rules for the ad-hoc High-Level R&I Task Force, which should be established as soon as possible.
- On **Priority action 8**, we would like to receive more information and elaboration on the implementation of 'top-up' funding. A more comprehensive list of relevant RIs is needed, incl. those which will have a role in the post-Covid-19 era, such as those in SSH.
- On the **possible new actions**:
 - Bulgaria could support **reorienting/refocusing existing and upcoming Horizon 2020 projects calls**, but more information is needed. We believe this should also be discussed in the Strategic Configuration PC. We also support any measures oriented toward inclusiveness. It is still uncertain how will the 'topping-up' could be implemented.
 - We could also support shifting budget to finance reserve list projects from the first Covid-19 call. We urge the Commission to look into whether other organisations could join (hop-on) these projects before signing the Grant Agreement. This would provide EU-wide participation in these projects.
- On **vaccines**, Bulgaria supports the idea for discussing these questions, and the strategic approach, by the ad-hoc Working Group. Vertical and horizontal coordination between all relevant authorities (incl. on High-Level) is crucial.
- We call on the Commission to allocate the resources needed to ensure the EU-wide Clinical trials network includes as many MS as possible. More information is needed.

- We support the other MSs proposal for joint, coordinated and collaborative development of treatments, as well as ensuring EU strategic autonomy, thus we call the Commission to explore the possibility of an EU joint procurement mechanism, incl. for research equipment and consumables.
- We could support to notion of EU coordinated exit approach, but more information is needed.
- We support the active involvement of JRC.
- We support the idea for a dedicated H2020 call on understanding populations' immunity and identify adequate immune responses.

Vaccines, treatment and diagnostics: development and manufacturing

1. *Do you agree with a consolidated EU approach as stepping stone for the EU pledging conference?*

Regarding the Pledging Initiative, we believe that a consolidated EU approach could be more effective in closing the funding gap. Horizon 2020 already allows the participation of third states. Our closest partners should also be involved. This topic, however, should be also discussed by other Council configurations, especially by Ministers of Health and Ministers of Finances. Nevertheless, a consolidated EU approach is needed also in the relevant discussions on the recipients, the use of funds, etc.

2. *How do you see your national contribution to this pledging event?*

The current situation is very dynamic on both national and EU level. We are currently not ready to discuss this question.