



## EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.A – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts  
A.4 – MSCA and Citizens, COFUND and Support Activities

### GRANT AGREEMENT

#### **Project 101177199 — SciLifeLab PULSE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

**on the one part,**

the **European Research Executive Agency (REA)** ('EU executive agency' or 'granting authority'), under the powers delegated by the European Commission ('European Commission'),

**and**

**on the other part,**

1. 'the coordinator':

**KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN (KTH)**, PIC 999990946, established in BRINELLVAGEN 8, STOCKHOLM 100 44, Sweden,

Unless otherwise specified, references to 'beneficiary' or 'beneficiaries' include the coordinator and affiliated entities (if any).

If only one beneficiary signs the grant agreement ('mono-beneficiary grant'), all provisions referring to the 'coordinator' or the 'beneficiaries' will be considered — *mutatis mutandis* — as referring to the beneficiary.

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into the Agreement.

By signing the Agreement and the accession forms, the beneficiaries accept the grant and agree to implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with the Agreement, with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

The Agreement is composed of:

Preamble

Terms and Conditions (including Data Sheet)

- Annex 1 Description of the action<sup>1</sup>
- Annex 2 Estimated budget for the action
- Annex 2a Additional information on unit costs and contributions (if applicable)
- Annex 3 Accession forms (if applicable)<sup>2</sup>
- Annex 3a Declaration on joint and several liability of affiliated entities (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>
- Annex 4 Model for the financial statements
- Annex 5 Specific rules (if applicable)

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<sup>1</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>2</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

<sup>3</sup> Template published on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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## DATA SHEET

### 1. General data

Project summary:

Project summary
<p>SciLifeLab PULSE is a MSCA-COFUND postdoctoral programme of excellence in Life Sciences coordinated by the Swedish research infrastructure SciLifeLab. PULSE will recruit 48 postdocs in academic and entrepreneurial tracks, that will receive 3 years of international interdisciplinary and intersectoral career training focused on preparing them as impactful leaders in academia and/or industry. PULSE postdocs will be immersed in the internationally recognised scientific community of Universities (10), Research Institutes (4), Infrastructures (3), Companies (12) and Associations (4), providing joint core career and specialised training and access to cutting-edge high-technology infrastructures that comprise the foundation of SciLifeLab. At the heart of PULSE is a well-conceived core training programme, augmented by secondments to ensure necessary breadth and tailored individualised training adapted and relevant to academia and industry, and to facilitate international scientific exchange. The PULSE output will be a new breed of scientists, well-prepared in the application of high-throughput technologies and data-dense analytical approaches, and who can confidently meet the emerging societal challenges confronting the European Research Area, specifically in precision medicine, pandemic laboratory preparedness, planetary biology and drug discovery and development. PULSE is aligned with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and takes into account the MSCA supervision guidelines and Green Charter. PULSE will have an impact that extends beyond its duration, establishing dialogues with multiple stakeholders in the non-academic sector and by setting new standards in postgraduate research training in Life Sciences internationally. PULSE will be administered by the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), and has an overall budget of 19.0 MEUR, of which 36% stems from the EC and 64% from participating institutions.</p>

Keywords:

- Postdoctoral training, Career Development, Life Sciences, Open Science, FAIR, Data, Technology, Precision Medicine, Planetary Biology, Pandemic preparedness, Drug Discovery, Drug Development

Project number: 101177199

Project name: SciLifeLab Programme for fUtUre Leaders in life ScienceE

Project acronym: SciLifeLab PULSE

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01

Type of action: HORIZON TMA MSCA Cofund Postdoctoral programme

Granting authority: European Research Executive Agency

Grant managed through EU Funding & Tenders Portal: Yes (eGrants)

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 September 2025

Project end date: 31 August 2030

Project duration: 60 months

Consortium agreement: No

### 2. Participants

List of participants:

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible contrib.	Max grant amount
1	COO	KTH	KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN	SE	999990946	6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00
2	AP	AFFIBODY AB	AFFIBODY AB	SE	998736930	0.00	0.00
3	AP	AKIRAM	AKIRAM THERAPEUTICS AB	SE	883556220	0.00	0.00

N°	Role	Short name	Legal name	Ctry	PIC	Total eligible contrib.	Max grant amount
4	AP	ASTRAZENECA AB	ASTRAZENECA AB	SE	999941379	0.00	0.00
5	AP	BEACTICA	BEACTICA THERAPEUTICS AB	SE	999676763	0.00	0.00
6	AP	CoVaRR-Net	Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net)	CA	879064150	0.00	0.00
7	AP	Cytiva	GE HEALTHCARE BIO-SCIENCES AB	SE	998941406	0.00	0.00
8	AP	EATRIS	EATRIS ERIC	NL	941506445	0.00	0.00
9	AP (IO)	EMBL	EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY	DE	999988230	0.00	0.00
10	AP	HT	FONDAZIONE HUMAN TECHNOPOLE	IT	895748732	0.00	0.00
11	AP	Lif	Läkemedelsindustriföreningens Service AB	SE	877004937	0.00	0.00
12	AP	LIPUM AB	LIPUM AB	SE	919391318	0.00	0.00
13	AP	MAU	MALMO UNIVERSITET	SE	999847192	0.00	0.00
14	AP	MAX IV	LUNDS UNIVERSITET	SE	999901318	0.00	0.00
15	AP	Orion	ORION OYJ	FI	999790544	0.00	0.00
16	AP	Prosilico	Prosilico	SE	883614129	0.00	0.00
17	AP	QTB	Quretech Bio AB	SE	915310819	0.00	0.00
18	AP	RGD	RED GLEAD DISCOVERY AB	SE	952888425	0.00	0.00
19	AP	RISE	RISE Research Institutes of Sweden	SE	893893801	0.00	0.00
20	AP	STRIKE	Strike Pharma AB	SE	883606078	0.00	0.00
21	AP	SweDeliver	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	SE	999985029	0.00	0.00
22	AP	SwedenBIO	SwedenBIO Service AB	SE	952812571	0.00	0.00
23	AP	Testa Center	Cytiva Testa Center AB	SE	880736042	0.00	0.00
24	AP	TOL	TOLERANZIA AB	SE	921188728	0.00	0.00
25	AP	VIB	VIB VZW	BE	999651931	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>						6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00

**Coordinator:**

- KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN (KTH)

**3. Grant****Maximum grant amount, total estimated eligible costs and contributions and funding rate:**

Total eligible contributions (unit, flat-rate and lump sum contributions and financing not linked to costs)	Maximum grant amount (Annex 2)	Maximum grant amount (award decision)
6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00

**Grant form:** Unit**Grant mode:** Action grant**Budget categories/activity types:**

- A.1 COFUND allowance
- A.4 Long-term leave allowance
- A.5 Special needs allowance

**Cost eligibility options:**

- In-kind contributions eligible costs

**Budget flexibility:** Yes (flexibility with conditions)

#### **4. Reporting, payments and recoveries**

##### **4.1 Continuous reporting** (art 21)

**Deliverables:** see Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool

##### **4.2 Periodic reporting and payments**

**Reporting and payment schedule** (art 21, 22):

Reporting					Payments	
Reporting periods			Type	Deadline	Type	Deadline (time to pay)
RP No	Month from	Month to				
					Initial prefinancing	30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date – whichever is the latest
1	1	24	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Interim payment	90 days from receiving periodic report
2	25	60	Periodic report	60 days after end of reporting period	Final payment	90 days from receiving periodic report

**Prefinancing payments and guarantees:**

Prefinancing payment	
Type	Amount
Prefinancing 1 (initial)	3 782 592.00

**Reporting and payment modalities** (art 21, 22):

Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM): Yes

MIM contribution: 5% of the maximum grant amount (343 872.00), retained from the initial prefinancing

Restrictions on distribution of initial prefinancing: The prefinancing may be distributed only if the minimum number of beneficiaries set out in the call conditions (if any) have acceded to the Agreement and only to beneficiaries that have acceded.

Interim payment ceiling (if any): 90% of the maximum grant amount

No-profit rule: n/a

Late payment interest: ECB + 3.5%

Bank account for payments:

SE521200000012810118175 DABASESX

Conversion into euros: n/a

Reporting language: Language of the Agreement

**4.3 Certificates** (art 24): n/a

**4.4 Recoveries** (art 22)

**First-line liability for recoveries:**

Beneficiary termination: Beneficiary concerned

Final payment: Each beneficiary for their own debt

After final payment: Beneficiary concerned

**Joint and several liability for enforced recoveries (in case of non-payment):**

Individual financial responsibility: Each beneficiary is liable only for its own debts (and those of its affiliated entities, if any)

Joint and several liability of affiliated entities — n/a

**5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law & dispute settlement forum**

**Suspension and termination:**

Additional suspension grounds (art 31)

Additional termination grounds (art 32)

**Applicable law** (art 43):

Standard applicable law regime: EU law + law of Belgium

**Dispute settlement forum** (art 43):

Standard dispute settlement forum:

EU beneficiaries: EU General Court + EU Court of Justice (on appeal)

Non-EU beneficiaries: Courts of Brussels, Belgium (unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements)

**6. Other**

**Specific rules (Annex 5):** Yes

**Standard time-limits after project end:**

Confidentiality (for X years after final payment): 5

Record-keeping (for X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

Reviews (up to X years after final payment): 2

Audits (up to X years after final payment): 2

Extension of findings from other grants to this grant (no later than X years after final payment): 2

Impact evaluation (up to X years after final payment): 5 (or 3 for grants of not more than EUR 60 000)

## CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

### ARTICLE 1 — SUBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded for the implementation of the action set out in Chapter 2.

### ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions apply:

**Actions** — The project which is being funded in the context of this Agreement.

**Grant** — The grant awarded in the context of this Agreement.

**EU grants** — Grants awarded by EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies (including EU executive agencies, EU regulatory agencies, EDA, joint undertakings, etc.).

**Participants** — Entities participating in the action as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

**Beneficiaries (BEN)** — The signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

**Affiliated entities (AE)** — Entities affiliated to a beneficiary within the meaning of Article 187 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).

**Associated partners (AP)** — Entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.

**Purchases** — Contracts for goods, works or services needed to carry out the action (e.g. equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are not part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

**Subcontracting** — Contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks (see Annex 1).

**In-kind contributions** — In-kind contributions within the meaning of Article 2(36) of EU Financial

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<sup>4</sup> For the definition, see Article 187 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1): "**affiliated entities** [are]:

- (a) entities that form a sole beneficiary [(i.e. where an entity is formed of several entities that satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing an action to be financed by a grant)];
- (b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 136(1) and 141(1) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation".

Regulation 2018/1046, i.e. non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to a beneficiary.

**Fraud** — Fraud within the meaning of Article 3 of EU Directive 2017/1371<sup>5</sup> and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995<sup>6</sup>, as well as any other wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

**Irregularities** — Any type of breach (regulatory or contractual) which could impact the EU financial interests, including irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95<sup>7</sup>.

**Grave professional misconduct** — Any type of unacceptable or improper behaviour in exercising one's profession, especially by employees, including grave professional misconduct within the meaning of Article 136(1)(c) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

**Applicable EU, international and national law** — Any legal acts or other (binding or non-binding) rules and guidance in the area concerned.

**Portal** — EU Funding & Tenders Portal; electronic portal and exchange system managed by the European Commission and used by itself and other EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for the management of their funding programmes (grants, procurements, prizes, etc.).

## **CHAPTER 2 ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 3 — ACTION**

The grant is awarded for the action **101177199 — SciLifeLab PULSE** ('action'), as described in Annex 1.

### **ARTICLE 4 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE**

The duration and the starting date of the action are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 1).

## **CHAPTER 3 GRANT**

### **ARTICLE 5 — GRANT**

#### **5.1 Form of grant**

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<sup>5</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

<sup>7</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

The grant is an action grant<sup>8</sup> which takes the form of a unit grant.

## 5.2 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount is set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) and in the estimated budget (Annex 2).

## 5.3 Funding rate

Not applicable

## 5.4 Estimated budget, budget categories and forms of funding

The estimated budget for the action is set out in Annex 2.

It contains the estimated eligible contributions for the action (unit contributions), broken down by participant and budget category.

Annex 2 also shows the types of contributions (forms of funding)<sup>9</sup> to be used for each budget category.

The details on the calculation of the unit contributions will be explained in Annex 2a.

## 5.5 Budget flexibility

The budget breakdown may be adjusted — without an amendment (see Article 39) — by transfers of units between participants, as long as this does not imply any substantive or important change to the description of the action in Annex 1. Transfers between budget categories are not allowed.

# ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

## 6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** for the unit contributions are the following:

(a) the units must:

- be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)
- be necessary for the implementation of the action and

(b) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20).

## 6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

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<sup>8</sup> For the definition, see Article 180(2)(a) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: ‘**action grant**’ means an EU grant to finance “an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective”.

<sup>9</sup> See Article 125 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

## A. COFUND contributions

COFUND contributions (A.1 COFUND allowance, A.4 Long-term leave allowance and A.5 Special needs allowance) are eligible, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit contributions in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a, and if:

### for A.1 COFUND allowance:

- (a) the number of units declared corresponds to the number of months spent by the recruited researchers on the research training activities
- (b) the cofunded programme complies with the following conditions:
  - (i) types of programme:
    - for doctoral programmes: the programme must concern research training activities for recruited researchers that lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
    - for postdoctoral programmes: the programme must concern postdoctoral research training activities for recruited researchers
- (c) the recruited researchers comply with the following conditions:
  - (i) at the date of the call deadline of the co-funded programme:
    - for doctoral programmes:
      - be doctoral candidates (i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree)
      - show transnational mobility by carrying out the research training activities in a country (or — in case of international European research organisations or international organisations — with this organisation) where they have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline of the co-funded programme — unless:
        - otherwise specified in Annex 1 for existing programmes or
        - this time was part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention
      - fulfil any additional conditions set out in Annex 1
    - for postdoctoral programmes:
      - be postdoctoral researchers (i.e. in possession of a doctoral degree)
      - show transnational mobility by carrying out the research training activities in a country (or — in case of international European research organisations or

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As defined in the call conditions.  
1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

international organisations — with this organisation) where they have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline of the co-funded programme — unless:

- otherwise specified in Annex 1 for existing programmes or
- this time was part of a compulsory national service or a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention
- be nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country, in case the main part of the research training activities is carried out in a country other than an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
- fulfil any additional conditions set out in Annex 1

Researchers that are already permanently employed by the entity where the research training activities take place may not be supported.

- (ii) for doctoral programmes: be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
  - (iii) be recruited under an employment contract (or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, including social security coverage) or — if not otherwise possible under national law — under a fixed amount fellowship agreement with minimum social security coverage, including during periods of secondment
  - (iv) be employed full-time, unless the granting authority has approved a part-time employment for personal or family reasons (for postdoctoral programmes: also professional reasons), and
  - (v) be working exclusively for the action (for postdoctoral programmes: unless part-time for professional reasons has been approved)
- (d) the remuneration of researchers complies with the following conditions:
- (i) the total remuneration costs (salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration) per month for each researcher recruited under an employment contract (or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, including social security) is equal to or higher than the corresponding amount set out in the call conditions
  - (ii) for researchers recruited under a fixed-amount-fellowship agreement: the total costs of each fixed-amount fellowship per month is equal to or higher than the corresponding amount set out in the call conditions.

#### **for A.4 Long-term leave<sup>10</sup> allowance:**

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1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

<sup>10</sup> Long-term leave includes maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave of more than 30 days.

- (a) the general and specific eligibility conditions for the COFUND allowance were fulfilled before the long-term leave and
- (b) the number of units declared corresponds to the number of months paid by the beneficiary or implementing partner.

#### **for A.5 Special needs allowance:**

- (a) they are used for recruited researchers with disabilities whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments are certified by a competent national authority and of such nature that their participation in the action would not be possible without the special needs items or services
- (b) the special needs items or services are not already covered from another source (such as social security or health insurance)
- (c) the number of units declared corresponds to the number of special needs units that were needed for implementing the action.

### **6.3 Ineligible contributions**

‘Ineligible contributions’ are:

- (a) units that do not comply with the conditions set out above (see Article 6.1 and 6.2)
- (b) units implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31) and
- (c) units for activities already funded under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following case:
  - (i) Synergy actions: not applicable
- (d) other:
  - (i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable.

### **6.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary declares unit contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **CHAPTER 4 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **SECTION 1 CONSORTIUM: BENEFICIARIES, AFFILIATED ENTITIES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ARTICLE 7 — BENEFICIARIES**

The beneficiaries, as signatories of the Agreement, are fully responsible towards the granting authority for implementing it and for complying with all its obligations.

They must implement the Agreement to their best abilities, in good faith and in accordance with all the obligations and terms and conditions it sets out.

They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action and implement the action under their own responsibility and in accordance with Article 11. If they rely on affiliated entities or other participants (see Articles 8 and 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries.

They are jointly responsible for the *technical* implementation of the action. If one of the beneficiaries fails to implement their part of the action, the other beneficiaries must ensure that this part is implemented by someone else (without being entitled to an increase of the maximum grant amount and subject to an amendment; see Article 39). The *financial* responsibility of each beneficiary in case of recoveries is governed by Article 22.

The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible under the EU programme funding the grant for the entire duration of the action. Unit contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

The **internal roles and responsibilities** of the beneficiaries are divided as follows:

(a) Each beneficiary must:

- (i) keep information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date (see Article 19)
- (ii) inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) immediately of any events or circumstances likely to affect significantly or delay the implementation of the action (see Article 19)
- (iii) submit to the coordinator in good time:
  - the prefinancing guarantees (if required; see Article 23)
  - the financial statements and certificates on the financial statements (CFS) (if required; see Articles 21 and 24.2 and Data Sheet, Point 4.3)
  - the contribution to the deliverables and technical reports (see Article 21)
  - any other documents or information required by the granting authority under the Agreement
- (iv) submit via the Portal data and information related to the participation of their affiliated entities.

(b) The coordinator must:

- (i) monitor that the action is implemented properly (see Article 11)
- (ii) act as the intermediary for all communications between the consortium and the granting authority, unless the Agreement or granting authority specifies otherwise, and in particular:

- submit the prefinancing guarantees to the granting authority (if any)
  - request and review any documents or information required and verify their quality and completeness before passing them on to the granting authority
  - submit the deliverables and reports to the granting authority
  - inform the granting authority about the payments made to the other beneficiaries (report on the distribution of payments; if required, see Articles 22 and 32)
- (iii) distribute the payments received from the granting authority to the other beneficiaries without unjustified delay (see Article 22).

The coordinator may not delegate or subcontract the above-mentioned tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

However, coordinators which are public bodies may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(ii) last indent and (iii) above to entities with ‘authorisation to administer’ which they have created or which are controlled by or affiliated to them. In this case, the coordinator retains sole responsibility for the payments and for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Moreover, coordinators which are ‘sole beneficiaries’<sup>11</sup> (or similar, such as European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may delegate the tasks set out in Point (b)(i) to (iii) above to one of their members. The coordinator retains sole responsibility for compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must have **internal arrangements** regarding their operation and co-ordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly.

If required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 1), these arrangements must be set out in a written **consortium agreement** between the beneficiaries, covering for instance:

- the internal organisation of the consortium
- the management of access to the Portal
- different distribution keys for the payments and financial responsibilities in case of recoveries (if any)
- additional rules on rights and obligations related to background and results (see Article 16)
- settlement of internal disputes
- liability, indemnification and confidentiality arrangements between the beneficiaries.

The internal arrangements must not contain any provision contrary to this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 8 — AFFILIATED ENTITIES

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<sup>11</sup> For the definition, see Article 187(2) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046: “Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the **sole beneficiary**, including where it is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action financed by the grant.”

Not applicable

## **ARTICLE 9 — OTHER PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN THE ACTION**

### **9.1 Associated partners**

The following entities which cooperate with a beneficiary will participate in the action as ‘associated partners’:

- **AFFIBODY AB (AFFIBODY AB), PIC 998736930**
- **AKIRAM THERAPEUTICS AB (AKIRAM), PIC 883556220**
- **ASTRAZENECA AB (ASTRAZENECA AB), PIC 999941379**
- **BEACTICA THERAPEUTICS AB (BEACTICA), PIC 999676763**
- **Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net) (CoVaRR-Net), PIC 879064150**
- **GE HEALTHCARE BIO-SCIENCES AB (Cytiva), PIC 998941406**
- **EATRIS ERIC (EATRIS), PIC 941506445**
- **EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY (EMBL), PIC 999988230**
- **FONDAZIONE HUMAN TECHNOPOLE (HT), PIC 895748732**
- **Läkemedelsindustriföreningens Service AB (Lif), PIC 877004937**
- **LIPUM AB (LIPUM AB), PIC 919391318**
- **MALMO UNIVERSITET (MAU), PIC 999847192**
- **LUNDS UNIVERSITET (MAX IV), PIC 999901318**
- **ORION OYJ (Orion), PIC 999790544**
- **Prosilico (Prosilico), PIC 883614129**
- **Quretech Bio AB (QTB), PIC 915310819**
- **RED GLEAD DISCOVERY AB (RGD), PIC 952888425**
- **RISE Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), PIC 893893801**
- **Strike Pharma AB (STRIKE), PIC 883606078**
- **UPPSALA UNIVERSITET (SweDeliver), PIC 999985029**
- **SwedenBIO Service AB (SwedenBIO), PIC 952812571**
- **Cytiva Testa Center AB (Testa Center), PIC 880736042**

- **TOLERANZIA AB (TOL)**, PIC 921188728
- **VIB VZW (VIB)**, PIC 999651931

Associated partners must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 in accordance with Article 11. They may not charge contributions to the action (no unit contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible.

The tasks must be set out in Annex 1.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the associated partners.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the associated partners.

## **9.2 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action**

Other third parties may give in-kind contributions to the action (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc. which are free-of-charge) if necessary for the implementation.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. They may not charge contributions to the action (no unit contributions) and their costs are considered entirely covered by the unit contributions paid to the beneficiaries.

The third parties and their in-kind contributions should be set out in Annex 1.

## **9.3 Subcontractors**

Subcontractors may participate in the action, if necessary for the implementation.

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The beneficiaries' costs for subcontracting are considered entirely covered by the unit contributions (irrespective of the actual subcontracting costs incurred, if any).

The beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the subcontractors.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the subcontractors.

## **9.4 Recipients of financial support to third parties**

If the action includes providing financial support to third parties (e.g. grants, prizes or similar forms of support), the beneficiaries must ensure that their contractual obligations under Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the third parties receiving the support (recipients).

The beneficiaries must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the recipients.

## **ARTICLE 10 — PARTICIPANTS WITH SPECIAL STATUS**

### **10.1 Non-EU participants**

Participants which are established in a non-EU country (if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use qualified external auditors which are independent and comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC<sup>12</sup>
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for checks, reviews, audits and investigations (including on-the-spot checks, visits and inspections) by the bodies mentioned in that Article (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.).

Special rules on dispute settlement apply (see Data Sheet, Point 5).

### **10.2 Participants which are international organisations**

Participants which are international organisations (IOs; if any) undertake to comply with their obligations under the Agreement and:

- to respect general principles (including fundamental rights, values and ethical principles, environmental and labour standards, rules on classified information, intellectual property rights, visibility of funding and protection of personal data)
- for the submission of certificates under Article 24: to use either independent public officers or external auditors which comply with comparable standards as those set out in EU Directive 2006/43/EC
- for the controls under Article 25: to allow for the checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the bodies mentioned in that Article, taking into account the specific agreements concluded by them and the EU (if any).

For such participants, nothing in the Agreement will be interpreted as a waiver of their privileges or immunities, as accorded by their constituent documents or international law.

Special rules on applicable law and dispute settlement apply (see Article 43 and Data Sheet, Point 5).

### **10.3 Pillar-assessed participants**

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<sup>12</sup> Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts or similar national regulations (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 87).

Pillar-assessed participants (if any) may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in so far as they have been positively assessed and do not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries.

‘Pillar-assessment’ means a review by the European Commission on the systems, rules and procedures which participants use for managing EU grants (in particular internal control system, accounting system, external audits, financing of third parties, rules on recovery and exclusion, information on recipients and protection of personal data; see Article 154 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046).

Participants with a positive pillar assessment may rely on their own systems, rules and procedures, in particular for:

- record-keeping (Article 20): may be done in accordance with internal standards, rules and procedures
- currency conversion for financial statements (Article 21): may be done in accordance with usual accounting practices
- guarantees (Article 23): for public law bodies, prefinancing guarantees are not needed
- certificates (Article 24):
  - certificates on the financial statements (CFS): may be provided by their regular internal or external auditors and in accordance with their internal financial regulations and procedures
  - certificates on usual accounting practices (CoMUC): are not needed if those practices are covered by an ex-ante assessment

and use the following specific rules, for:

- recoveries (Article 22): in case of financial support to third parties, there will be no recovery if the participant has done everything possible to retrieve the undue amounts from the third party receiving the support (including legal proceedings) and non-recovery is not due to an error or negligence on its part
- checks, reviews, audits and investigations by the EU (Article 25): will be conducted taking into account the rules and procedures specifically agreed between them and the framework agreement (if any)
- impact evaluation (Article 26): will be conducted in accordance with the participant’s internal rules and procedures and the framework agreement (if any)
- grant agreement suspension (Article 31): certain costs incurred during grant suspension are eligible (notably, minimum costs necessary for a possible resumption of the action and costs relating to contracts which were entered into before the pre-information letter was received and which could not reasonably be suspended, reallocated or terminated on legal grounds)
- grant agreement termination (Article 32): the final grant amount and final payment will be calculated taking into account also costs relating to contracts due for execution only after termination takes effect, if the contract was entered into before the pre-information letter was received and could not reasonably be terminated on legal grounds

- liability for damages (Article 33.2): the granting authority must be compensated for damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement only if the damage is due to an infringement of the participant's internal rules and procedures or due to a violation of third parties' rights by the participant or one of its employees or individual for whom the employees are responsible.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also do purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties (Article 6.2) in accordance with their internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.

Participants whose pillar assessment covers data protection rules may rely on their internal standards, rules and procedures for data protection (Article 15).

The participants may however not rely on provisions which would breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries or call into question the decision awarding the grant, such as in particular:

- eligibility (Article 6)
- consortium roles and set-up (Articles 7-9)
- security and ethics (Articles 13, 14)
- IPR (including background and results, access rights and rights of use), communication, dissemination and visibility (Articles 16 and 17)
- information obligation (Article 19)
- payment, reporting and amendments (Articles 21, 22 and 39)
- rejections, reductions, suspensions and terminations (Articles 27, 28, 29-32)

If the pillar assessment was subject to remedial measures, reliance on the internal systems, rules and procedures is subject to compliance with those remedial measures.

Participants whose assessment has not yet been updated to cover (the new rules on) data protection may rely on their internal systems, rules and procedures, provided that they ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data.

Participants must inform the coordinator without delay of any changes to the systems, rules and procedures that were part of the pillar assessment. The coordinator must immediately inform the granting authority.

Pillar-assessed participants that have also concluded a framework agreement with the EU, may moreover — under the same conditions as those above (i.e. not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants or beneficiaries) — rely on the provisions set out in that framework agreement.

## **SECTION 2 RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION**

### **ARTICLE 11 — PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION**

#### **11.1 Obligation to properly implement the action**

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

#### **11.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

#### **12.1 Conflict of interests**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

#### **12.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY**

### 13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
- (b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

- (a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
- (b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

- (a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
- (b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
- (c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### 13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444<sup>13</sup> and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

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<sup>13</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **13.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 14 — ETHICS AND VALUES**

### **14.1 Ethics**

The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.

Specific ethics rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.2 Values**

The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Specific rules on values (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### **14.3 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 15 — DATA PROTECTION**

### **15.1 Data processing by the granting authority**

Any personal data under the Agreement will be processed under the responsibility of the data controller of the granting authority in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Portal Privacy Statement.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission, an EU regulatory or executive agency, joint undertaking or other EU body, the processing will be subject to Regulation 2018/1725<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

## 15.2 Data processing by the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679<sup>15</sup>).

They must ensure that personal data is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.

The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation.

The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

## 15.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

### 16.1 Background and access rights to background

The beneficiaries must give each other and the other participants access to the background identified as needed for implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Agreement and

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<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (‘GDPR’) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

(b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Agreement.

## 16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

## 16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) **use for its own purposes** (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) **distribution to the public** (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) **editing or redrafting** (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) **translation**
- (e) **storage** in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) **archiving**, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise **third parties** to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity of the granting authority
- (h) **processing**, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and **producing derivative works**.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the beneficiaries must ensure that they comply with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

#### **16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background**

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

#### **16.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

### **ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY**

#### **17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action**

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

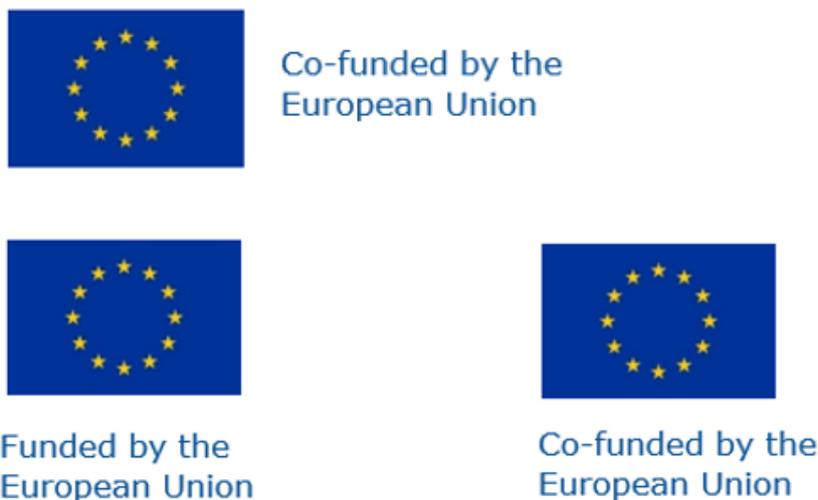
Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

#### **17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement**

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the  
European Union



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

### 17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

### 17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

### 17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

## **18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action**

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

## **18.2 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **SECTION 3 GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

### **ARTICLE 19 — GENERAL INFORMATION OBLIGATIONS**

#### **19.1 Information requests**

The beneficiaries must provide — during the action or afterwards and in accordance with Article 7 — any information requested in order to verify eligibility of the unit contributions declared, proper implementation of the action and compliance with the other obligations under the Agreement.

The information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

#### **19.2 Participant Register data updates**

The beneficiaries must keep — at all times, during the action or afterwards — their information stored in the Portal Participant Register up to date, in particular, their name, address, legal representatives, legal form and organisation type.

#### **19.3 Information about events and circumstances which impact the action**

The beneficiaries must immediately inform the granting authority (and the other beneficiaries) of any of the following:

- (a) **events** which are likely to affect or delay the implementation of the action or affect the EU's financial interests, in particular:
  - (i) changes in their legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour signed before grant signature)
  - (ii) linked action information: not applicable
- (b) **circumstances** affecting:
  - (i) the decision to award the grant or
  - (ii) compliance with requirements under the Agreement.

#### **19.4 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 20 — RECORD-KEEPING

### 20.1 Keeping records and supporting documents

The beneficiaries must — at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6) — keep records and other supporting documents to prove the proper implementation of the action in line with the accepted standards in the respective field (if any).

In addition, the beneficiaries must — for the same period — keep adequate records and supporting documents to prove the number of units declared; beneficiaries do not need to keep specific records on the actual costs incurred.

The records and supporting documents must be made available upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings; see Article 25), the beneficiaries must keep these records and other supporting documentation until the end of these procedures.

The beneficiaries must keep the original documents. Digital and digitalised documents are considered originals if they are authorised by the applicable national law. The granting authority may accept non-original documents if they offer a comparable level of assurance.

### 20.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, unit contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 21 — REPORTING

### 21.1 Continuous reporting

The beneficiaries must continuously report on the progress of the action (e.g. **deliverables, milestones, outputs/outcomes, critical risks, indicators**, etc; if any), in the Portal Continuous Reporting tool and in accordance with the timing and conditions it sets out (as agreed with the granting authority).

Standardised deliverables (e.g. progress reports not linked to payments, reports on cumulative expenditure, special reports, etc; if any) must be submitted using the templates published on the Portal.

### 21.2 Periodic reporting: Technical reports and financial statements

In addition, the beneficiaries must provide reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2):

- for additional prefinancings (if any): an **additional prefinancing report**
- for interim payments (if any) and the final payment: a **periodic report**.

The prefinancing and periodic reports include a technical and financial part.

The technical part includes an overview of the action implementation. It must be prepared using the template available in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool.

The financial part of the additional prefinancing report includes a statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment.

The financial part of the periodic report includes:

- the financial statements (individual and consolidated; for all beneficiaries/affiliated entities)
- the explanation on the use of resources (or detailed cost reporting table, if required)
- the certificates on the financial statements (CFS): not applicable.

The **financial statements** must detail the contributions for the units implemented in the reporting period.

Unit contributions which are not declared in a financial statement will not be taken into account by the granting authority.

By signing the financial statements (directly in the Portal Periodic Reporting tool), the beneficiaries confirm that:

- the information provided is complete, reliable and true
- the unit contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6)
- the contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documents (see Article 20) that will be produced upon request (see Article 19) or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Article 25)

Beneficiaries will have to submit also the financial statements of their affiliated entities (if any). In case of recoveries (see Article 22), beneficiaries will be held responsible also for the financial statements of their affiliated entities.

### **21.3 Currency for financial statements and conversion into euros**

The financial statements must be drafted in euro.

### **21.4 Reporting language**

The reporting must be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

## **21.5 Consequences of non-compliance**

If a report submitted does not comply with this Article, the granting authority may suspend the payment deadline (see Article 29) and apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

If the coordinator breaches its reporting obligations, the granting authority may terminate the grant or the coordinator's participation (see Article 32) or apply other measures described in Chapter 5.

## **ARTICLE 22 — PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES — CALCULATION OF AMOUNTS DUE**

### **22.1 Payments and payment arrangements**

Payments will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

They will be made in euro to the bank account indicated by the coordinator (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) and must be distributed without unjustified delay (restrictions may apply to distribution of the initial prefinancing payment; see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

Payments to this bank account will discharge the granting authority from its payment obligation.

The cost of payment transfers will be borne as follows:

- the granting authority bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the beneficiary bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank
- the party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Payments by the granting authority will be considered to have been carried out on the date when they are debited to its account.

### **22.2 Recoveries**

Recoveries will be made, if — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — it turns out that the granting authority has paid too much and needs to recover the amounts undue.

Each beneficiary's financial responsibility in case of recovery is in principle limited to their own debt and undue amounts of their affiliated entities.

In case of enforced recoveries (see Article 22.4), affiliated entities will be held liable for repaying debts of their beneficiaries, if required by the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.4).

### **22.3 Amounts due**

#### **22.3.1 Prefinancing payments**

The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float.

It remains the property of the EU until the final payment.

For **initial prefinancements** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

For **additional prefinancements** (if any), the amount due, schedule and modalities are also set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2). However, if the statement on the use of the previous prefinancing payment shows that less than 70% was used, the amount set out in the Data Sheet will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount used.

The contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payments (at the rate and in accordance with the modalities set out in the Data Sheet, see Point 4.2) and transferred to the Mechanism.

Prefinancing payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

### 22.3.2 Amount due at beneficiary termination — Recovery

At beneficiary termination there will be no payment, but the grant must be provisionally closed for the beneficiary which leaves the consortium (and the affiliated entities which had to end their participation together with the beneficiary, if any).

Payments (if any) will be made with the next interim or final payment.

The **amount due** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary for all reporting periods, by calculating the unit contributions for the accepted units.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution' for the beneficiary.

The **balance** is then calculated by deducting the payments received (if any; see report on the distribution of payments in Article 32), from the total accepted EU contribution:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary} \\ \text{minus} \\ \text{prefinancing and interim payments received (if any)} \end{array} \right\}.$$

If the balance is **positive**, the amount will be included in the next interim or final payment to the consortium.

If the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount due, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered and ask this amount to be paid to the coordinator (**confirmation letter**).

If payment is not made to the coordinator by the date specified in the confirmation letter, the granting authority may call on the Mutual Insurance Mechanism to intervene, if continuation of the action is guaranteed and the conditions set out in the rules governing the Mechanism are met.

In this case, it will send a **beneficiary recovery letter**, together with a **debit note** with the terms and date for payment.

The debit note for the beneficiary will include the amount calculated for the affiliated entities which also had to end their participation (if any).

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

The amounts will later on also be taken into account for the next interim or final payment.

### **22.3.3 Interim payments**

Interim payments reimburse the eligible contributions claimed for the units implemented during the reporting periods (if any).

Interim payments (if any) will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **interim payment** will be calculated by the granting authority in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘accepted EU contribution’ for the action for the reporting period, by calculating the unit contributions for the accepted units.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions from beneficiary termination (if any). The resulting amount is the ‘total accepted EU contribution’.

## Step 2 — Limit to the interim payment ceiling

The resulting amount is then capped to ensure that the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments (if any) does not exceed the interim payment ceiling set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Interim payments (or parts of them) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

### **22.3.4 Final payment — Final grant amount — Revenues and Profit — Recovery**

The final payment (payment of the balance) reimburses the eligible contributions claimed for the remaining units implemented (if any).

The final payment will be made in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 4.2).

Payment is subject to the approval of the final periodic report. Its approval does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of its content.

The **final grant amount for the action** will be calculated in the following steps:

Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the 'accepted EU contribution' for the action for all reporting periods, by calculating the unit contributions for the accepted units.

After that, the granting authority will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting amount is the 'total accepted EU contribution'.

#### Step 2 — Limit to the maximum grant amount

If the resulting amount is higher than the maximum grant amount set out in Article 5.2, it will be limited to the latter.

#### Step 3 — Reduction due to the no-profit rule

Not applicable

The **balance** (final payment) is then calculated by deducting the total amount of prefinancing and interim payments already made (if any), from the final grant amount:

{final grant amount  
 minus  
 {prefinancing and interim payments made (if any)}}.

If the balance is **positive**, it will be **paid** to the coordinator.

The amount retained for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (see above) will be released and **paid** to the coordinator (in accordance with the rules governing the Mechanism).

The final payment (or part of it) may be offset (without the beneficiaries' consent) against amounts owed by a beneficiary to the granting authority — up to the amount due to that beneficiary.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, offsetting may also be done against amounts owed to other Commission services or executive agencies.

Payments will not be made if the payment deadline or payments are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30).

If — despite the release of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism contribution — the balance is **negative**, it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the final grant amount, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why
- requesting a report on the distribution of payments to the beneficiaries within 30 days of receiving notification and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received) and the coordinator has submitted the report on the distribution of payments, it will calculate the **share of the debt per beneficiary**, by:

- (a) identifying the beneficiaries for which the amount calculated as follows is negative:

{{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary  
 divided by  
 total accepted EU contribution for the action}  
 multiplied by  
 final grant amount for the action},  
 minus  
 {prefinancing and interim payments received by the beneficiary (if any)}}.

and

(b) dividing the debt:

{amount calculated according to point (a) for the beneficiary concerned  
 divided by  
 the sum of the amounts calculated according to point (a) for all the beneficiaries identified according to  
 point (a)}  
 multiplied by  
 the amount to be recovered}.

and confirm the amount to be recovered from each beneficiary concerned (**confirmation letter**), together with **debit notes** with the terms and date for payment.

The debit notes for beneficiaries will include the amounts calculated for their affiliated entities (if any).

If the coordinator has not submitted the report on the distribution of payments, the granting authority will **recover** the full amount from the coordinator (**confirmation letter** and **debit note** with the terms and date for payment).

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

### 22.3.5 Audit implementation after final payment — Revised final grant amount — Recovery

If — after the final payment (in particular, after checks, reviews, audits or investigations; see Article 25) — the granting authority rejects unit contributions (see Article 27) or reduces the grant (see Article 28), it will calculate the **revised final grant amount** for the beneficiary concerned.

The **beneficiary revised final grant amount** will be calculated in the following step:

Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

#### Step 1 — Calculation of the revised total accepted EU contribution

The granting authority will first calculate the ‘revised accepted EU contribution’ for the beneficiary, by calculating the ‘revised accepted contributions’.

After that, it will take into account grant reductions (if any). The resulting ‘revised total accepted EU contribution’ is the beneficiary revised final grant amount.

If the revised final grant amount is lower than the beneficiary’s final grant amount (i.e. its share in the final grant amount for the action), it will be **recovered** in accordance with the following procedure:

The **beneficiary final grant amount** (i.e. share in the final grant amount for the action) is calculated as follows:

{total accepted EU contribution for the beneficiary  
 divided by  
 total accepted EU contribution for the action}  
 multiplied by

final grant amount for the action}.

The granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to recover, the amount to be recovered and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If no observations are submitted (or the granting authority decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received), it will confirm the amount to be recovered (**confirmation letter**), together with a **debit note** with the terms and the date for payment.

Recoveries against affiliated entities (if any) will be handled through their beneficiaries.

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the granting authority will **enforce recovery** in accordance with Article 22.4.

## 22.4 Enforced recovery

If payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount due will be recovered:

- (a) by offsetting the amount — without the coordinator or beneficiary's consent — against any amounts owed to the coordinator or beneficiary by the granting authority.

In exceptional circumstances, to safeguard the EU financial interests, the amount may be offset before the payment date specified in the debit note.

For grants where the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, debts may also be offset against amounts owed by other Commission services or executive agencies.

- (b) financial guarantee(s): not applicable
- (c) joint and several liability of beneficiaries: not applicable
- (d) by holding affiliated entities jointly and severally liable (if any, see Data Sheet, Point 4.4)
- (e) by taking legal action (see Article 43) or, provided that the granting authority is the European Commission or an EU executive agency, by adopting an enforceable decision under Article 299 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 100(2) of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If the Mutual Insurance Mechanism was called on by the granting authority to intervene, recovery will be continued in the name of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism. If two debit notes were sent, the second one (in the name of the Mutual Insurance Mechanism) will be considered to replace the first one (in the name of the granting authority). Where the MIM intervened, offsetting, enforceable decisions or any other of the above-mentioned forms of enforced recovery may be used *mutatis mutandis*.

The amount to be recovered will be increased by **late-payment interest** at the rate set out in Article 22.5, from the day following the payment date in the debit note, up to and including the date the full payment is received.

Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges and late-payment interest and then against the principal.

Bank charges incurred in the recovery process will be borne by the beneficiary, unless Directive 2015/2366<sup>16</sup> applies.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency, enforced recovery by offsetting or enforceable decision will be done by the services of the European Commission (see also Article 43).

## 22.5 Consequences of non-compliance

**22.5.1** If the granting authority does not pay within the payment deadlines (see above), the beneficiaries are entitled to **late-payment interest** at the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), plus the rate specified in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2). The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

If the late-payment interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it will be paid to the coordinator only on request submitted within two months of receiving the late payment.

Late-payment interest is not due if all beneficiaries are EU Member States (including regional and local government authorities or other public bodies acting on behalf of a Member State for the purpose of this Agreement).

If payments or the payment deadline are suspended (see Articles 29 and 30), payment will not be considered as late.

Late-payment interest covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment (see above), up to and including the date of payment.

Late-payment interest is not considered for the purposes of calculating the final grant amount.

**22.5.2** If the coordinator breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the coordinator may be terminated (see Article 32).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 23 — GUARANTEES

Not applicable

## ARTICLE 24 — CERTIFICATES

Not applicable

## ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

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<sup>16</sup> Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC (OJ L 337, 23.12.2015, p. 35).

## 25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

### 25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing unit contributions, deliverables and reports.

### 25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot visits**, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

### 25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement, unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2).

## **25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities**

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

## **25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding**

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

## **25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations**

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013<sup>17</sup> and No 2185/96<sup>18</sup>
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939

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<sup>17</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1).

<sup>18</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2).

- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

## **25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations**

### **25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant**

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

### **25.5.2 Extension from other grants**

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of unit contributions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected

- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:
  - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
  - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

## 25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, unit contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

## ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

### 26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

### 26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

## **CHAPTER 5 CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

### **SECTION 1 REJECTIONS AND GRANT REDUCTION**

#### **ARTICLE 27 — REJECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

##### **27.1 Conditions**

The granting authority will — at beneficiary termination, interim payment, final payment or afterwards — reject any unit contributions which are ineligible (see Article 6), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations (see Article 25).

The rejection may also be based on the extension of findings from other grants to this grant (see Article 25).

Ineligible unit contributions will be rejected.

##### **27.2 Procedure**

If the rejection does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the rejection, the amounts and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the rejection (payment review procedure).

If the rejection leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

##### **27.3 Effects**

If the granting authority rejects unit contributions, it will deduct them from the contributions declared and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

#### **ARTICLE 28 — GRANT REDUCTION**

##### **28.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may — at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce the grant for a beneficiary, if:

- (a) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants

awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 25).

The amount of the reduction will be calculated for each beneficiary concerned and proportionate to the seriousness and the duration of the errors, irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations, by applying an individual reduction rate to their accepted EU contribution.

## 28.2 Procedure

If the grant reduction does not lead to a recovery, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator or beneficiary concerned of the reduction, the amount to be reduced and the reasons why. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may — within 30 days of receiving notification — submit observations if it disagrees with the reduction (payment review procedure).

If the grant reduction leads to a recovery, the granting authority will follow the contradictory procedure with pre-information letter set out in Article 22.

## 28.3 Effects

If the granting authority reduces the grant, it will deduct the reduction and then calculate the amount due (and, if needed, make a recovery; see Article 22).

## SECTION 2 — SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

### ARTICLE 29 — PAYMENT DEADLINE SUSPENSION

#### 29.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend the payment deadline if a payment cannot be processed because:

- (a) the required report (see Article 21) has not been submitted or is not complete or additional information is needed
- (b) there are doubts about the amount to be paid (e.g. ongoing audit extension procedure, queries about eligibility, need for a grant reduction, etc.) and additional checks, reviews, audits or investigations are necessary, or
- (c) there are other issues affecting the EU financial interests.

#### 29.2 Procedure

The granting authority will formally notify the coordinator of the suspension and the reasons why.

The suspension will **take effect** the day the notification is sent.

If the conditions for suspending the payment deadline are no longer met, the suspension will be **lifted** — and the remaining time to pay (see Data Sheet, Point 4.2) will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the coordinator may request the granting authority to confirm if the suspension will continue.

If the payment deadline has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the report and the revised report is not submitted (or was submitted but is also rejected), the granting authority may also terminate the grant or the participation of the coordinator (see Article 32).

## ARTICLE 30 — PAYMENT SUSPENSION

### 30.1 Conditions

The granting authority may — at any moment — suspend payments, in whole or in part for one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.

If payments are suspended for one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will make partial payment(s) for the part(s) not suspended. If suspension concerns the final payment, the payment (or recovery) of the remaining amount after suspension is lifted will be considered to be the payment that closes the action.

### 30.2 Procedure

Before suspending payments, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend payments and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

At the end of the suspension procedure, the granting authority will also inform the coordinator.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent.

If the conditions for resuming payments are met, the suspension will be **lifted**. The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned (and the coordinator) and set the suspension end date.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid to the beneficiaries concerned. For interim payments, the periodic reports for all reporting periods except the last one (see Article 21) must not contain any financial statements from the beneficiary concerned (or its affiliated entities). The coordinator must include them in the next periodic report after the suspension is lifted or — if suspension is not lifted before the end of the action — in the last periodic report.

## ARTICLE 31 — GRANT AGREEMENT SUSPENSION

### 31.1 Consortium-requested GA suspension

#### 31.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the suspension of the grant or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances — in particular *force majeure* (see Article 35) — make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the suspension takes effect; this date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request and
- the expected date of resumption.

The suspension will **take effect** on the day specified in the amendment.

Once circumstances allow for implementation to resume, the coordinator must immediately request another **amendment** of the Agreement to set the suspension end date, the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the amendment. This date may be before the date of the submission of the amendment request.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Moreover, no units may be implemented. Ongoing units must be interrupted and no new units may be started. Unit contributions for activities implemented during grant suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

### 31.2 EU-initiated GA suspension

#### 31.2.1 Conditions

The granting authority may suspend the grant or any part of it, if:

- (a) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed or is suspected of having committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
  - (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions,

submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or

- (b) a beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant
- (c) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) loss of scientific or technological relevance

### 31.2.2 Procedure

Before suspending the grant, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator:

- formally notifying the intention to suspend the grant and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the suspension (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

The suspension will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification).

Once the conditions for resuming implementation of the action are met, the granting authority will formally notify the coordinator a **lifting of suspension letter**, in which it will set the suspension end date and invite the coordinator to request an amendment of the Agreement to set the resumption date (one day after suspension end date), extend the duration and make other changes necessary to adapt the action to the new situation (see Article 39) — unless the grant has been terminated (see Article 32). The suspension will be **lifted** with effect from the suspension end date set out in the lifting of suspension letter. This date may be before the date on which the letter is sent.

During the suspension, no prefinancing will be paid. Moreover, no units may be implemented. Ongoing units must be interrupted and no new units may be started. Unit contributions for activities implemented during suspension are not eligible (see Article 6.3).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to suspension by the granting authority (see Article 33).

Grant suspension does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant or a beneficiary (see Article 32) or reduce the grant (see Article 28).

## ARTICLE 32 — GRANT AGREEMENT OR BENEFICIARY TERMINATION

### 32.1 Consortium-requested GA termination

#### 32.1.1 Conditions and procedure

The beneficiaries may request the termination of the grant.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the date the consortium ends work on the action ('end of work date') and
- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no reasons are given or if the granting authority considers the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the grant terminated improperly.

### 32.1.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the unit contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22).

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only unit contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Improper termination may lead to a grant reduction (see Article 28).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

## 32.2 Consortium-requested beneficiary termination

### 32.2.1 Conditions and procedure

The coordinator may request the termination of the participation of one or more beneficiaries, on request of the beneficiary concerned or on behalf of the other beneficiaries.

The coordinator must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with:

- the reasons why
- the opinion of the beneficiary concerned (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing)
- the date the beneficiary ends work on the action ('end of work date')

- the date the termination takes effect ('termination date'); this date must be after the date of the submission of the amendment request.

If the termination concerns the coordinator and is done without its agreement, the amendment request must be submitted by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the consortium).

The termination will **take effect** on the termination date specified in the amendment.

If no information is given or if the granting authority considers that the reasons do not justify termination, it may consider the beneficiary to have been terminated improperly.

### 32.2.2 Effects

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement and the explanation on the use of resources
- (iii) a second **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with other amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted and taking into account the unit contributions for activities implemented before the end of work date (see Article 22).

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only unit contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the second request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the second request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

Improper termination may lead to a reduction of the grant (see Article 31) or grant termination (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **32.3 EU-initiated GA or beneficiary termination**

#### **32.3.1 Conditions**

The granting authority may terminate the grant or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if:

- (a) one or more beneficiaries do not accede to the Agreement (see Article 40)
- (b) a change to the action or the legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation of a beneficiary is likely to substantially affect the implementation of the action or calls into question the decision to award the grant (including changes linked to one of the exclusion grounds listed in the declaration of honour)
- (c) following termination of one or more beneficiaries, the necessary changes to the Agreement (and their impact on the action) would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (d) implementation of the action has become impossible or the changes necessary for its continuation would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants
- (e) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is subject to bankruptcy proceedings or similar (including insolvency, winding-up, administration by a liquidator or court, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities, etc.)
- (f) a beneficiary (or person with unlimited liability for its debts) is in breach of social security or tax obligations
- (g) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct
- (h) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed fraud, corruption, or is involved in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- (i) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) was created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (or created another entity with this purpose)
- (j) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
  - (i) substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or

- (ii) serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.)
- (k) a beneficiary (or person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (extension of findings from other grants to this grant; see Article 25)
- (l) despite a specific request by the granting authority, a beneficiary does not request — through the coordinator — an amendment to the Agreement to end the participation of one of its affiliated entities or associated partners that is in one of the situations under points (d), (f), (e), (g), (h), (i) or (j) and to reallocate its tasks, or
- (m) other:
  - (i) linked action issues: not applicable
  - (ii) loss of scientific or technological relevance

### 32.3.2 Procedure

Before terminating the grant or participation of one or more beneficiaries, the granting authority will send a **pre-information letter** to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned:

- formally notifying the intention to terminate and the reasons why and
- requesting observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the granting authority does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will confirm the termination and the date it will take effect (**confirmation letter**). Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is discontinued.

For beneficiary terminations, the granting authority will — at the end of the procedure — also inform the coordinator.

The termination will **take effect** the day after the confirmation notification is sent (or on a later date specified in the notification; ‘termination date’).

### 32.3.3 Effects

- (a) for **GA termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit a **periodic report** (for the last open reporting period until termination).

The granting authority will calculate the final grant amount and final payment on the basis of the report submitted (see Article 22). Only units implemented until termination will be accepted.

If the grant is terminated for breach of the obligation to submit reports, the coordinator may not submit any report after termination.

If the granting authority does not receive the report within the deadline, only unit contributions which are included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

Termination does not affect the granting authority's right to reduce the grant (see Article 28) or to impose administrative sanctions (see Article 34).

The beneficiaries may not claim damages due to termination by the granting authority (see Article 33).

After termination, the beneficiaries' obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

(b) for **beneficiary termination**:

The coordinator must — within 60 days from when termination takes effect — submit:

- (i) a **report on the distribution of payments** to the beneficiary concerned
- (ii) a **termination report** from the beneficiary concerned, for the open reporting period until termination, containing an overview of the progress of the work, the financial statement, and the explanation on the use of resources
- (iii) a **request for amendment** (see Article 39) with any amendments needed (e.g. reallocation of the tasks and the estimated budget of the terminated beneficiary; addition of a new beneficiary to replace the terminated beneficiary; change of coordinator, etc.).

The granting authority will calculate the amount due to the beneficiary on the basis of the report submitted (see Article 22). Only units implemented until termination will be accepted.

The information in the termination report must also be included in the periodic report for the next reporting period (see Article 21).

If the granting authority does not receive the termination report within the deadline, only unit contributions included in an approved periodic report will be taken into account (no contributions if no periodic report was ever approved).

If the granting authority does not receive the report on the distribution of payments within the deadline, it will consider that:

- the coordinator did not distribute any payment to the beneficiary concerned and that
- the beneficiary concerned must not repay any amount to the coordinator.

If the request for amendment is accepted by the granting authority, the Agreement is **amended** to introduce the necessary changes (see Article 39).

If the request for amendment is rejected by the granting authority (because it calls into question the decision awarding the grant or breaches the principle of equal treatment of applicants), the grant may be terminated (see Article 32).

After termination, the concerned beneficiary's obligations (in particular Articles 13 (confidentiality and security), 16 (IPR), 17 (communication, dissemination and visibility), 21 (reporting), 25 (checks, reviews, audits and investigations), 26 (impact evaluation), 27 (rejections), 28 (grant reduction) and 42 (assignment of claims)) continue to apply.

### **SECTION 3 OTHER CONSEQUENCES: DAMAGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

#### **ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES**

##### **33.1 Liability of the granting authority**

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

##### **33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

#### **ARTICLE 34 — ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND OTHER MEASURES**

Nothing in this Agreement may be construed as preventing the adoption of administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion from EU award procedures and/or financial penalties) or other public law measures, in addition or as an alternative to the contractual measures provided under this Agreement (see, for instance, Articles 135 to 145 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and Articles 4 and 7 of Regulation 2988/95<sup>19</sup>).

### **SECTION 4 FORCE MAJEURE**

#### **ARTICLE 35 — FORCE MAJEURE**

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<sup>19</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

A party prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement cannot be considered in breach of them.

‘Force majeure’ means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of other participants involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any situation constituting force majeure must be formally notified to the other party without delay, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

The parties must immediately take all the necessary steps to limit any damage due to force majeure and do their best to resume implementation of the action as soon as possible.

## **CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **ARTICLE 36 — COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

#### **36.1 Forms and means of communication — Electronic management**

EU grants are managed fully electronically through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’).

All communications must be made electronically through the Portal, in accordance with the Portal Terms and Conditions and using the forms and templates provided there (except if explicitly instructed otherwise by the granting authority).

Communications must be made in writing and clearly identify the grant agreement (project number and acronym).

Communications must be made by persons authorised according to the Portal Terms and Conditions. For naming the authorised persons, each beneficiary must have designated — before the signature of this Agreement — a ‘legal entity appointed representative (LEAR)’. The role and tasks of the LEAR are stipulated in their appointment letter (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, instructions will be given on the Portal.

#### **36.2 Date of communication**

The sending date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time of sending, as indicated by the time logs.

The receiving date for communications made through the Portal will be the date and time the communication is accessed, as indicated by the time logs. Formal notifications that have not been accessed within 10 days after sending, will be considered to have been accessed (see Portal Terms and Conditions).

If a communication is exceptionally made on paper (by e-mail or postal service), general principles apply (i.e. date of sending/receipt). Formal notifications by registered post with proof of delivery will be considered to have been received either on the delivery date registered by the postal service or the deadline for collection at the post office.

If the electronic exchange system is temporarily unavailable, the sending party cannot be considered in breach of its obligation to send a communication within a specified deadline.

### **36.3 Addresses for communication**

The Portal can be accessed via the Europa website.

The address for paper communications to the granting authority (if exceptionally allowed) is the official mailing address indicated on its website.

For beneficiaries, it is the legal address specified in the Portal Participant Register.

## **ARTICLE 37 — INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

The provisions in the Data Sheet take precedence over the rest of the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement.

Annex 5 takes precedence over the Terms and Conditions; the Terms and Conditions take precedence over the Annexes other than Annex 5.

Annex 2 takes precedence over Annex 1.

## **ARTICLE 38 — CALCULATION OF PERIODS AND DEADLINES**

In accordance with Regulation No 1182/71<sup>20</sup>, periods expressed in days, months or years are calculated from the moment the triggering event occurs.

The day during which that event occurs is not considered as falling within the period.

‘Days’ means calendar days, not working days.

## **ARTICLE 39 — AMENDMENTS**

### **39.1 Conditions**

The Agreement may be amended, unless the amendment entails changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

Amendments may be requested by any of the parties.

### **39.2 Procedure**

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<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of the Council of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits (OJ L 124, 8/6/1971, p. 1).

The party requesting an amendment must submit a request for amendment signed directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

The coordinator submits and receives requests for amendment on behalf of the beneficiaries (see Annex 3). If a change of coordinator is requested without its agreement, the submission must be done by another beneficiary (acting on behalf of the other beneficiaries).

The request for amendment must include:

- the reasons why
- the appropriate supporting documents and
- for a change of coordinator without its agreement: the opinion of the coordinator (or proof that this opinion has been requested in writing).

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the party receiving the request agrees, it must sign the amendment in the tool within 45 days of receiving notification (or any additional information the granting authority has requested). If it does not agree, it must formally notify its disagreement within the same deadline. The deadline may be extended, if necessary for the assessment of the request. If no notification is received within the deadline, the request is considered to have been rejected.

An amendment **enters into force** on the day of the signature of the receiving party.

An amendment **takes effect** on the date of entry into force or other date specified in the amendment.

## **ARTICLE 40 — ACCESSION AND ADDITION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES**

### **40.1 Accession of the beneficiaries mentioned in the Preamble**

The beneficiaries which are not coordinator must accede to the grant by signing the accession form (see Annex 3) directly in the Portal Grant Preparation tool, within 30 days after the entry into force of the Agreement (see Article 44).

They will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of its entry into force (see Article 44).

If a beneficiary does not accede to the grant within the above deadline, the coordinator must — within 30 days — request an amendment (see Article 39) to terminate the beneficiary and make any changes necessary to ensure proper implementation of the action. This does not affect the granting authority's right to terminate the grant (see Article 32).

### **40.2 Addition of new beneficiaries**

In justified cases, the beneficiaries may request the addition of a new beneficiary.

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39. It must include an accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

## **ARTICLE 41 — TRANSFER OF THE AGREEMENT**

In justified cases, the beneficiary of a mono-beneficiary grant may request the transfer of the grant to a new beneficiary, provided that this would not call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants.

The beneficiary must submit a request for **amendment** (see Article 39), with

- the reasons why
- the accession form (see Annex 3) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool and
- additional supporting documents (if required by the granting authority).

The new beneficiary will assume the rights and obligations under the Agreement with effect from the date of accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3).

## **ARTICLE 42 — ASSIGNMENTS OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT AGAINST THE GRANTING AUTHORITY**

The beneficiaries may not assign any of their claims for payment against the granting authority to any third party, except if expressly approved in writing by the granting authority on the basis of a reasoned, written request by the coordinator (on behalf of the beneficiary concerned).

If the granting authority has not accepted the assignment or if the terms of it are not observed, the assignment will have no effect on it.

In no circumstances will an assignment release the beneficiaries from their obligations towards the granting authority.

## **ARTICLE 43 — APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES**

### **43.1 Applicable law**

The Agreement is governed by the applicable EU law, supplemented if necessary by the law of Belgium.

Special rules may apply for beneficiaries which are international organisations (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5).

### **43.2 Dispute settlement**

If a dispute concerns the interpretation, application or validity of the Agreement, the parties must bring action before the EU General Court — or, on appeal, the EU Court of Justice — under Article 272 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

For non-EU beneficiaries (if any), such disputes must be brought before the courts of Brussels, Belgium — unless an international agreement provides for the enforceability of EU court judgements.

For beneficiaries with arbitration as special dispute settlement forum (if any; see Data Sheet, Point 5), the dispute will — in the absence of an amicable settlement — be settled in accordance with the Rules for Arbitration published on the Portal.

If a dispute concerns administrative sanctions, offsetting or an enforceable decision under Article 299 TFEU (see Articles 22 and 34), the beneficiaries must bring action before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice — under Article 263 TFEU.

For grants where the granting authority is an EU executive agency (see Preamble), actions against offsetting and enforceable decisions must be brought against the European Commission (not against the granting authority; see also Article 22).

#### **ARTICLE 44 — ENTRY INTO FORCE**

The Agreement will enter into force on the day of signature by the granting authority or the coordinator, depending on which is later.

#### **SIGNATURES**

For the coordinator

For the granting authority



## ANNEX 1



## **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)**

### **Description of the action (DoA)**

**Part A**

**Part B**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION (PART A)

### COVER PAGE

Part A of the Description of the Action (DoA) must be completed directly on the Portal Grant Preparation screens.

<b>PROJECT</b>	
<i>Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Enter the info.</i>	
<b>Project number:</b>	101177199
<b>Project name:</b>	SciLifeLab Programme for fUture Leaders in life SciencE
<b>Project acronym:</b>	SciLifeLab PULSE
<b>Call:</b>	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01
<b>Topic:</b>	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01
<b>Type of action:</b>	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-Cofund-P
<b>Service:</b>	REA/A/04
<b>Project starting date:</b>	fixed date: 1 September 2025
<b>Project duration:</b>	60 months

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List of work packages .....	5
Staff effort .....	9
List of deliverables .....	10
List of milestones (outputs/outcomes) .....	22
List of critical risks .....	22

## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Project summary

*Grant Preparation (General Information screen) — Provide an overall description of your project (including context and overall objectives, planned activities and main achievements, and expected results and impacts (on target groups, change procedures, capacities, innovation etc)). This summary should give readers a clear idea of what your project is about.*

*Use the project summary from your proposal.*

SciLifeLab PULSE is a MSCA-COFUND postdoctoral programme of excellence in Life Sciences coordinated by the Swedish research infrastructure SciLifeLab. PULSE will recruit 48 postdocs in academic and entrepreneurial tracks, that will receive 3 years of international interdisciplinary and intersectoral career training focused on preparing them as impactful leaders in academia and/or industry. PULSE postdocs will be immersed in the internationally recognised scientific community of Universities (10), Research Institutes (4), Infrastructures (3), Companies (12) and Associations (4), providing joint core career and specialised training and access to cutting-edge high-technology infrastructures that comprise the foundation of SciLifeLab. At the heart of PULSE is a well-conceived core training programme, augmented by secondments to ensure necessary breadth and tailored individualised training adapted and relevant to academia and industry, and to facilitate international scientific exchange. The PULSE output will be a new breed of scientists, well-prepared in the application of high-throughput technologies and data-dense analytical approaches, and who can confidently meet the emerging societal challenges confronting the European Research Area, specifically in precision medicine, pandemic laboratory preparedness, planetary biology and drug discovery and development. PULSE is aligned with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and takes into account the MSCA supervision guidelines and Green Charter. PULSE will have an impact that extends beyond its duration, establishing dialogues with multiple stakeholders in the non-academic sector and by setting new standards in postgraduate research training in Life Sciences internationally. PULSE will be administered by the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), and has an overall budget of 19.0 MEUR, of which 36% stems from the EC and 64% from participating institutions.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### PARTICIPANTS

*Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.*

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO	KTH	KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN	SE	999990946
2	AP	AFFIBODY AB	AFFIBODY AB	SE	998736930
3	AP	AKIRAM	AKIRAM THERAPEUTICS AB	SE	883556220
4	AP	ASTRAZENECA AB	ASTRAZENECA AB	SE	999941379
5	AP	BEACTICA	BEACTICA THERAPEUTICS AB	SE	999676763
6	AP	CoVaRR-Net	Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net)	CA	879064150
7	AP	Cytiva	GE HEALTHCARE BIO-SCIENCES AB	SE	998941406
8	AP	EATRIS	EATRIS ERIC	NL	941506445
9	AP	EMBL	EUROPEAN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY	DE	999988230
10	AP	HT	FONDAZIONE HUMAN TECHNOPOLE	IT	895748732

<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Beneficiaries screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Number</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Short name</b>	<b>Legal name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>PIC</b>
11	AP	Lif	Läkemedelsindustriföreningens Service AB	SE	877004937
12	AP	LIPUM AB	LIPUM AB	SE	919391318
13	AP	MAU	MALMO UNIVERSITET	SE	999847192
14	AP	MAX IV	LUNDS UNIVERSITET	SE	999901318
15	AP	Orion	ORION OYJ	FI	999790544
16	AP	Prosilico	Prosilico	SE	883614129
17	AP	QTB	Quretech Bio AB	SE	915310819
18	AP	RGD	RED GLEAD DISCOVERY AB	SE	952888425
19	AP	RISE	RISE Research Institutes of Sweden	SE	893893801
20	AP	STRIKE	Strike Pharma AB	SE	883606078
21	AP	SweDeliver	UPPSALA UNIVERSITET	SE	999985029
22	AP	SwedenBIO	SwedenBIO Service AB	SE	952812571
23	AP	Testa Center	Cytiva Testa Center AB	SE	880736042
24	AP	TOL	TOLERANZIA AB	SE	921188728
25	AP	VIB	VIB VZW	BE	999651931

## LIST OF WORK PACKAGES

<b>Work packages</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Work Package name</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effort (Person-Months)</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>End Month</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
WP1	Management	1 - KTH	1.00	1	60	D1.1 – Progress report D1.2 – Mid-Term review meeting Agenda D1.3 – 1st Data Management Plan D1.4 – 2nd Data Management plan D1.5 – 1st Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR) D1.6 – 2nd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR) D1.7 – 3rd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR) D1.8 – 4th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR) D1.9 – 5th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR) D1.10 – 6th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)
WP2	Evaluation and Selection	1 - KTH	1.00	1	14	D2.1 – Call 1 Report on evaluation and selection D2.2 – Call 2 Report on evaluation and selection
WP3	Dissemination & exploitation	1 - KTH	1.00	1	60	D3.1 – Call 1 Link to Euraxess website

<b>Work packages</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work Packages screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Work Package name</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Effort (Person-Months)</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>End Month</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
						D3.2 – Call 2 Link to Euraxess website D3.3 – Call 1 Report on dissemination activities D3.4 – Call 2 Report on dissemination activities D3.5 – 1st Researchers’ project details D3.6 – 2nd Researchers’ project details D3.7 – 1st Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities D3.8 – 2nd Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities
WP4	Training & Career Development	1 - KTH	1.00	1	60	D4.1 – 1st report on training and career development D4.2 – 2nd report on training and career development
WP5	Ethics requirements	1 - KTH	0.00	1	60	D5.1 – OEI - Requirement No. 1 D5.2 – OEI - Requirement No. 2 D5.3 – OEI - Requirement No. 3

## Work package WP1 – Management

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Management		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60

### Objectives

To ensure timely, efficient and quality-assured programme management and coordination in line with GA and other contractual documents, including liaison with stakeholders e.g. REA and EC, internal and external communication, reporting, implementation, quality monitoring, proactive integration and constructive and sustainable follow-up with PULSE postdocs and stakeholders.

### Description

- Management of administration, financial follow-up and legal aspects. The PC together with the PMG and appropriate support functions from the Beneficiary KTH and SciLifeLab Operations office, will be responsible for the overall implementation, financial and technical reporting, follow-up reports and adjustments needed during the programme, assuring all contractual obligations. All PULSE partners will be responsible to agree and regulate matters as needed, e.g. secondments for each postdoc project with secondment agreements. ImplPrtns will be responsible for administration linked to their recruited postdocs (employment, PULSE reporting).
- Programme implementation. The PC implements and monitors programme progress towards deliverables and milestones and reports towards REA and EC. Preparation of necessary material (guidelines for application, evaluation and supervision). Periodic meetings between PMG and all partners will be set: kick-off, mid-term and final meetings.
- Risk management. Potential risks identified will be carefully and periodically monitored, analysed and evaluated by assigned risk managers of the PMG, implementing suitable mitigation and contingency measures according to dedicated risk action plan.
- High-quality introduction, integrations and monitoring plan will be developed and monitored by the PC for each postdoc, to ensure equal treatment and consistency. The plan includes employment administration, which is the responsibility of the hosting institution. New actions needed will be recorded in the periodic follow-up reports. The ImplPrtns will be responsible for carrying out annual follow-up with each postdoc, and the PC is responsible for central documentation.
- Publication and dissemination of programme final report.
- Publication and dissemination of a white paper.

## Work package WP2 – Evaluation and Selection

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Evaluation and Selection		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	14

### Objectives

To ensure high-quality evaluation and selection processes

### Description

- Set-up of the international external expert Evaluators Pool and evaluation panels, brief and train the evaluators in the PULSE evaluation process.
- Eligibility check.
- Implementation and monitoring of written and oral evaluation phase.
- Implementation and monitoring of redress procedure, if applicable.
- Implementation and monitoring of reserve calls, if applicable.
- Ethical evaluation implementation and monitoring.

### Work package WP3 – Dissemination & exploitation

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Dissemination & exploitation		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60

#### Objectives

To carefully plan and execute wide dissemination of the programme calls and the results of the program

#### Description

Report for each call on Euraxess link and on dissemination activities  
 Report on Researchers' project details  
 Plan for disseminations and exploitation of results

### Work package WP4 – Training & Career Development

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Training & Career Development		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60

#### Objectives

To ensure employability of the postdocs via the implementation and monitoring of the state-of the training programme and the individual PCDPs

#### Description

- Set-up, implementation and monitoring of overall training programme and respective training events and meetings.
- Briefing of supervisors on training and supervision standards.
- Set-up of the Personal Career Development Plans (PCDPs) for each postdoc and the monitoring of their individual training progress by the supervisors.
- Implementation and monitoring of secondments.
- Collect information on postdocs' experience of PULSE (during and after program)

### Work package WP5 – Ethics requirements

<b>Work Package Number</b>	WP5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Work Package Name</b>	Ethics requirements		
<b>Start Month</b>	1	<b>End Month</b>	60

#### Objectives

The objective is to ensure compliance with the 'ethics requirements' set out in this work package.

#### Description

This work package sets out the 'ethics requirements' that the project must comply with.

## STAFF EFFORT

<b>Staff effort per participant</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Work packages - Effort screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<b>Participant</b>	<b>WP1</b>	<b>WP2</b>	<b>WP3</b>	<b>WP4</b>	<b>WP5</b>	<b>Total Person-Months</b>
1 - KTH	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		4.00
<b>Total Person-Months</b>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00

## LIST OF DELIVERABLES

<b>Deliverables</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<i>The labels used mean:</i>						
<i>Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)</i>						
<i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>						
<i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision <a href="#">2015/444</a></i>						
<b>Deliverable No</b>	<b>Deliverable Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
D1.1	Progress report	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	14
D1.2	Mid-Term review meeting Agenda	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	21
D1.3	1st Data Management Plan	WP1	1 - KTH	DMP — Data Management Plan	SEN - Sensitive	24
D1.4	2nd Data Management plan	WP1	1 - KTH	DMP — Data Management Plan	SEN - Sensitive	60
D1.5	1st Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	3
D1.6	2nd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	15
D1.7	3rd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	27
D1.8	4th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	39

<b>Deliverables</b>						
<i>Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.</i>						
<i>The labels used mean:</i>						
<i>Public — fully open (⚠ automatically posted online)</i>						
<i>Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement</i>						
<i>EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision <a href="#">2015/444</a></i>						
<b>Deliverable No</b>	<b>Deliverable Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
D1.9	5th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	51
D1.10	6th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)	WP1	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	60
D2.1	Call 1 Report on evaluation and selection	WP2	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	2
D2.2	Call 2 Report on evaluation and selection	WP2	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	14
D3.1	Call 1 Link to Euraxess website	WP3	1 - KTH	OTHER	PU - Public	1
D3.2	Call 2 Link to Euraxess website	WP3	1 - KTH	OTHER	PU - Public	5
D3.3	Call 1 Report on dissemination activities	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	2
D3.4	Call 2 Report on dissemination activities	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	PU - Public	14
D3.5	1st Researchers' project details	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24
D3.6	2nd Researchers' project details	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	60
D3.7	1st Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24
D3.8	2nd Plan for the dissemination	WP3	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	60

**Deliverables**

Grant Preparation (Deliverables screen) — Enter the info.

The labels used mean:

Public — fully open ( automatically posted online)

Sensitive — limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

EU classified — RESTREINT-UE/EU-RESTRICTED, CONFIDENTIEL-UE/EU-CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET-UE/EU-SECRET under Decision [2015/444](#)

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Work Package No	Lead Beneficiary	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date (month)
	and exploitation of results, including communication activities					
D4.1	1st report on training and career development	WP4	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	24
D4.2	2nd report on training and career development	WP4	1 - KTH	R — Document, report	SEN - Sensitive	60
D5.1	OEI - Requirement No. 1	WP5	1 - KTH	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	4
D5.2	OEI - Requirement No. 2	WP5	1 - KTH	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	16
D5.3	OEI - Requirement No. 3	WP5	1 - KTH	ETHICS	SEN - Sensitive	58

### Deliverable D1.1 – Progress report

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Progress report		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	14	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explanation on the work carried out during the first 12 months of the project in line with the Annex 1 to the Grant Agreement.</li> <li>- An overview of the project results towards the objective of the action in line with the structure of the Annex 1 to the Grant Agreement.</li> <li>- An update of the Recruitment Monitoring Table</li> <li>- Deviations from Annex 1 (if applicable) and explanation on the reasons for deviations from the DoA, the consequences and the proposed corrective actions.</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D1.2 – Mid-Term review meeting Agenda

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Mid-Term review meeting Agenda		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	21	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
- Agenda of the scheduled mid-term review meeting with the PO and any other relevant preparation documents.

### Deliverable D1.3 – 1st Data Management Plan

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	1st Data Management Plan		
<b>Type</b>	DMP — Data Management Plan	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	24	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
- The Data Management Plan describes the data management life cycle for all data sets that will be collected, processed, or generated by the action. It is a document describing what data will be collected, processed, or generated and following what methodology and standards, whether and how this data will be shared and/or made open, and how it will be curated and preserved.

### Deliverable D1.4 – 2nd Data Management plan

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	2nd Data Management plan		

<b>Type</b>	DMP — Data Management Plan	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
- The Data Management Plan describes the data management life cycle for all data sets that will be collected, processed, or generated by the action. It is a document describing what data will be collected, processed, or generated and following what methodology and standards, whether and how this data will be shared and/or made open, and how it will be curated and preserved.

### **Deliverable D1.5 – 1st Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	1st Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	3	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
The beneficiary will at the end of each year (December) submit a report on the cumulative expenditure that the consortium has incurred from the start of the action. This report must be submitted as a deliverable through the Continuous Reporting tool, using the template available on the Portal Reference Documents.

### **Deliverable D1.6 – 2nd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.6	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	2nd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	15	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
The beneficiary will at the end of each year (December) submit a report on the cumulative expenditure that the consortium has incurred from the start of the action. This report must be submitted as a deliverable through the Continuous Reporting tool, using the template available on the Portal Reference Documents.

### **Deliverable D1.7 – 3rd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.7	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	3rd Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive

<b>Due Date (month)</b>	27	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1
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<b>Description</b>
The beneficiary will at the end of each year (December) submit a report on the cumulative expenditure that the consortium has incurred from the start of the action. This report must be submitted as a deliverable through the Continuous Reporting tool, using the template available on the Portal Reference Documents.

### **Deliverable D1.8 – 4th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.8	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	4th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	39	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
The beneficiary will at the end of each year (December) submit a report on the cumulative expenditure that the consortium has incurred from the start of the action. This report must be submitted as a deliverable through the Continuous Reporting tool, using the template available on the Portal Reference Documents.

### **Deliverable D1.9 – 5th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.9	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	5th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	51	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

<b>Description</b>
The beneficiary will at the end of each year (December) submit a report on the cumulative expenditure that the consortium has incurred from the start of the action. This report must be submitted as a deliverable through the Continuous Reporting tool, using the template available on the Portal Reference Documents.

### **Deliverable D1.10 – 6th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)**

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.10	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	6th Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP1

Description
Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR)

### Deliverable D2.1 – Call 1 Report on evaluation and selection

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 1 Report on evaluation and selection		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	2	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

Description
<p>Report for each call on evaluation and selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of applicants received for each track (eligible/non-eligible)</li> <li>- Dates/interval of the evaluation and selection processes</li> <li>- Names and affiliations of experts involved (country/nationality, gender, domain/sector)</li> <li>- Information on where evaluation was carried out (remote/onsite) and where interviews were organised</li> <li>- Briefing of experts</li> <li>- Number of experts evaluating each proposal (including number of external experts per proposal) and also involved at each stage of the selection process</li> <li>- Number of candidates interviewed</li> <li>- Number of proposals passing/failing evaluation (proposals under/over threshold)</li> <li>- Number of fellows finally selected under the respective call (and in the reserve list, if relevant)</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D2.2 – Call 2 Report on evaluation and selection

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D2.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 2 Report on evaluation and selection		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	14	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP2

Description
<p>Report for each call on evaluation and selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of applicants received for each track (eligible/non-eligible)</li> <li>- Dates/interval of the evaluation and selection processes</li> <li>- Names and affiliations of experts involved (country/nationality, gender, domain/sector)</li> <li>- Information on where evaluation was carried out (remote/onsite) and where interviews were organised</li> <li>- Briefing of experts</li> <li>- Number of experts evaluating each proposal (including number of external experts per proposal) and also involved at each stage of the selection process</li> <li>- Number of candidates interviewed</li> <li>- Number of proposals passing/failing evaluation (proposals under/over threshold)</li> <li>- Number of fellows finally selected under the respective call (and in the reserve list, if relevant)</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D3.1 – Call 1 Link to Euraxess website

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 1 Link to Euraxess website		

<b>Type</b>	OTHER	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	1	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
<p>Link to Euraxess website for each call for proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inform the Project Officer on publishing each call for proposals, by sending the link to the Euraxess website and a screenshot of the related call announcement.</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D3.2 – Call 2 Link to Euraxess website

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 2 Link to Euraxess website		
<b>Type</b>	OTHER	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	5	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
<p>Link to Euraxess website for each call for proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inform the Project Officer on publishing each call for proposals, by sending the link to the Euraxess website and a screenshot of the related call announcement.</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D3.3 – Call 1 Report on dissemination activities

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 1 Report on dissemination activities		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	2	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dates/Interval of call publication and dissemination channels/means (supporting documents are required as images, screen shots, photos from events).</li> <li>- Flyers, brochures, or other information produced for dissemination of the call</li> <li>- Presentations held at conferences and/or meetings and/or other events</li> <li>- Articles published in the press (please list and attach only main articles)</li> <li>- Any other means for advertising the programme</li> </ul>

### Deliverable D3.4 – Call 2 Report on dissemination activities

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.4	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	Call 2 Report on dissemination activities		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU - Public
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	14	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

<b>Description</b>
--------------------

- Dates/Interval of call publication and dissemination channels/means (supporting documents are required as images, screen shots, photos from events).
- Flyers, brochures, or other information produced for dissemination of the call
- Presentations held at conferences and/or meetings and/or other events
- Articles published in the press (please list and attach only main articles)
- Any other means for advertising the programme

### Deliverable D3.5 – 1st Researchers’ project details

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.5	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	1st Researchers’ project details		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	24	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

A table to be completed for each researcher’s project (title and abstract of the project, keywords, project links if any,...)

### Deliverable D3.6 – 2nd Researchers’ project details

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.6	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	2nd Researchers’ project details		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

A table to be completed for each researcher’s project (title and abstract of the project, keywords, project links if any,...)

### Deliverable D3.7 – 1st Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.7	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	1st Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	24	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

- Measures to reach out to society and show the impact and benefits of EU-funded R&I activities.
- Measures to inform about and promote the project and its results/ success
- Communicating with multiples audiences
- Transfer knowledge & results to maximise the impact of EU funded research.
- Audiences that may take an interest in the potential use/reuse of the results (e.g. scientific community, industrial partner, policymakers).
- Effectively use/reuse project results through scientific, economic, political, or societal exploitation routes and the impact for society

- Target audience for use/reuse of project results
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### Deliverable D3.8 – 2nd Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D3.8	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	2nd Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP3

#### Description

- Measures to reach out to society and show the impact and benefits of EU-funded R&I activities.
- Measures to inform about and promote the project and its results/ success
- Communicating with multiples audiences
- Transfer knowledge & results to maximise the impact of EU funded research.
- Audiences that may take an interest in the potential use/reuse of the results (e.g. scientific community, industrial partner, policymakers).
- Effectively use/reuse project results through scientific, economic, political, or societal exploitation routes and the impact for society
- Target audience for use/reuse of project results

### Deliverable D4.1 – 1st report on training and career development

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D4.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	1st report on training and career development		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	24	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP4

#### Description

- A short description on how the career development plan was elaborated and put in place for the recruited fellows;
- A list of the fellows for which a career development plan has been established;
- A short description of the supervision arrangements;
- A short description of the training provided on the skills within the appropriate discipline(s) and/or to gain new skills;
- Any other support and/or additional training in non-research oriented transferable skills;
- Any updates (if applicable) to the career development and training/supervision plans.

### Deliverable D4.2 – 2nd report on training and career development

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D4.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	2nd report on training and career development		
<b>Type</b>	R — Document, report	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	60	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP4

#### Description

- A short description on how the career development plan was elaborated and put in place for the recruited fellows;

- A list of the fellows for which a career development plan has been established;
- A short description of the supervision arrangements;
- A short description of the training provided on the skills within the appropriate discipline(s) and/or to gain new skills;
- Any other support and/or additional training in non-research oriented transferable skills;
- Any updates (if applicable) to the career development and training/supervision plans.

### Deliverable D5.1 – OEI - Requirement No. 1

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.1	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 1		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	4	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5

#### Description

Ethics report for call 1

Containing at least the following:

- A description on how the ethics procedure in place (as described in Annex I of the Grant Agreement) was followed and if relevant, the adaptations made. This part should also include a description of the role and composition of the ethics committee if such a committee was involved.
- An overview table based on the following structure (only for the successful fellows): name of the researcher; the title of research project with ethical issues; the ethics area(s) concerned; conditions to be fulfilled for funding and ethics requirements to be monitored during implementation; follow-up during the implementation. Only those research projects having ethics issues need to be detailed in this table.

### Deliverable D5.2 – OEI - Requirement No. 2

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.2	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 2		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive
<b>Due Date (month)</b>	16	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5

#### Description

Ethics report for call 2

Containing at least the following:

- A description on how the ethics procedure in place (as described in Annex I of the Grant Agreement) was followed and if relevant, the adaptations made. This part should also include a description of the role and composition of the ethics committee if such a committee was involved.
- An overview table based on the following structure (only for the successful fellows): name of the researcher; the title of research project with ethical issues; the ethics area(s) concerned; conditions to be fulfilled for funding and ethics requirements to be monitored during implementation; follow-up during the implementation. Only those research projects having ethics issues need to be detailed in this table.

### Deliverable D5.3 – OEI - Requirement No. 3

<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D5.3	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	1 - KTH
<b>Deliverable Name</b>	OEI - Requirement No. 3		
<b>Type</b>	ETHICS	<b>Dissemination Level</b>	SEN - Sensitive

<b>Due Date (month)</b>	58	<b>Work Package No</b>	WP5
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<b>Description</b>
Final ethics report Containing at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe the ethics procedure followed during the entire project lifecycle, the adaptations made and lessons learned.</li> <li>- Confirm that all required approvals/authorisations were obtained and that the research was conducted in compliance with the ethical principles and applicable international, EU and national law under Horizon Europe</li> </ul>

## LIST OF MILESTONES

<b>Milestones</b>					
<i>Grant Preparation (Milestones screen) — Enter the info.</i>					
<b>Milestone No</b>	<b>Milestone Name</b>	<b>Work Package No</b>	<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Due Date (month)</b>
1	Publication of the first call	WP3	1 - KTH	The call will be published via all outlined dissemination channels. Link to the Euraxess website and a screenshot of the related call announcement (Deliverable D3.1)	1
2	Publication of the second call	WP3	1 - KTH	The call will be published via all outlined dissemination channels. Link to the Euraxess website and a screenshot of the related call announcement (Deliverable D3.2)	5

## LIST OF CRITICAL RISKS

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
1	Lack of evaluators matching the applications (low likelihood/high severity)	WP2	Establishment of large pool of external evaluators representing all the PULSE research fields
2	Low number of excellent applications/low number of a certain gender (low likelihood/high risk)	WP3, WP1	Carefully planned call dissemination/strategy, and adaptation as needed. Call opening time extended/reserve call planned.
3	Low number of PI hosts/main supervisors (low likelihood/high risk)	WP1	Commitment from ImplPrtns offers >300 potential PI hosts. PIs can host up to 2 postdocs.

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
4	Surplus of either postdoc category (academic or entrepreneurial track), and too few in the other (low likelihood/medium risk)	WP2, WP1	Budget adjusted to be able to employ more of the surplus category
5	Postdoc withdrawal of application after closure of selection process, but within the first 3 months of the employment contract. Postdoc leaving their position prematurely (medium likelihood/medium risk)	WP2, WP1	Candidates from the reserve list will be contacted. An exit review will be conducted for premature endings of positions and experience survey.
6	Selected candidate wants to change PI lab, before starting or during fellowship (low likelihood/medium risk)	WP1	Selection process buffer time will allow for a second evaluation round with new PI. If no postdoc-PI match is found or postdoc rejects offer, consideration of reserve list candidates. Changes needed during programme will be done after agreement with PIs, HR and Head(s) of departments.
7	Postdocs on long-term leave (high/low)	WP1	REA will be asked to approve no-cost extension
8	Conflict between postdocs, supervisors or committee members (medium/medium)	WP1	Handled and resolved through ImplPrtn (responsible party), with support by PMG and the PULSE KTH Ombudsman.
9	Lack of progress in research or training (low likelihood/high risk)	WP4	PCDP, monitoring by supervisors' panel
10	Low commitment from Implementing and Associated Partner organisations (low likelihood/high risk)	WP1	All PULSE partners have strongly committed and co-designed the project. Expectations management before and throughout the programme. Set-up of Partnership/secondment agreements with partner organisations. Wide network of the ImplPrtns secure more secondment partners.
11	Imbalance in gender for postdoc recruitments (medium likelihood/medium risk)	WP2, WP1	Prioritising less represented gender in case of ex aequo. Adaptation of call dissemination for second call/reserve calls. Consideration of reverse discrimination.
12	Limited availability of evaluators (medium likelihood/medium risk)	WP2, WP1	Early expectation management; written commitment. Network of PIs allows for evaluators' reserve list set-up.
13	Low output for postdocs in Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation activities (low likelihood/medium risk)	WP3, WP4	Supervision and follow-ups with supervisors and mentor; trainings; strong host institution's environment and culture

<b>Critical risks &amp; risk management strategy</b>			
<i>Grant Preparation (Critical Risks screen) — Enter the info.</i>			
<b>Risk number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Work Package No(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation Measures</b>
14	Currency exchange loss SEK/EUR (low likelihood/low risk)	WP1	Loss will be covered by Beneficiary/ImplPrtns
15	Issues regarding IP or Data Management (low/medium)	WP1	Programme will engage experts on IP and Data management (DM). Participants will be trained. Monitoring of IP and DM
16	Not expected outcome from entrepreneurial track (low likelihood/high risk)	WP3, WP4	Careful selection of projects in a process where DDD is involved, best training, mitigation strategies in projects
17	Postdocs do not implement their secondments (low likelihood /high risk)	WP4	Clear expectation management in call documents, contracts and PCDP.

**Table with the history of changes introduced into Part A or Part B of Annex 1**

Date	Part A/B	Item	Change
240628	A/B	Ethics Advisor	It has been clarified in Annex 1 part A/WP5 and in Part B that an Ethics Advisor will be appointed, with the task to identify and follow up the ethics aspects of the overall project (in sections evaluation, program organisation and ethics, p. 9, 27-29)
240628	Part B	Ombudsman	This will be an HR expert in the central administration of the relevant implementing partner during the recruitment phase, appointed by the Beneficiary KTH, p. 8, 27
240628	Part B	Evaluator pool	Change: “A pool of approximately 100 international independent evaluators will be established....”
240628	Part B	Budget correction	New text: “SciLifeLab strongly commits to PULSE, with total contributions (currently equal to EUR): programme management and training (0.86 MEUR)”, p. 17
240628	Part A	Milestones	All proposal milestones added to Annex A (milestone 3-21)
240628	Part A	Milestones	Milestone M21, White paper for development of future training activities. Indicated due date M60 in portal, but due date is M60+3
240628	Part B	DMP	Change to align with GA Dlvbs for DMPs, p.16
		Reference to deliverable in proposal	Sentence rewritten for deliverable to refer to proposal text (not GA), p3
240628	Part B	Postdoc contracting procedures	Addition “---postdoc should start within 3 months...” > hard deadline removed as this may prove difficult due to unforeseen delays (migration, postdocs current commitments)
240628	Part B	Ethics section	Ethics Report Deliverables numbering updated according to Annex 1, Part A (D5.1-3)
240628	Part B	Ethics section	Sentences - ‘For activities undertaken in non-EU countries and that raise ethics issues, a confirmation that the research is legal in at least one EU Member state will be required’, AND - specific information regarding ‘research proposals involving the use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC) or human embryos (hE)’  Added to this section, according to Ethics summary.
240628	A	Critical risks	One (1) risk removed from application related to receiving too many excellent applications.
240704	A	Milestones	Only required milestones remains
240705	A	Deliverables	WP1 Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR), Dlvb 1.5-1.10. Due dates adjusted and 6 <sup>th</sup> deliverable added at end of project (D1.10)
240705	A	Deliverables	Call 1 report on evaluation and selection // Call 1 link to Euraxess website // Call 1 Report on dissemination activities , change of due dates.
240705	A	Milestones	Publication of the call due dates adjusted
240705	A	WP	Due date changed in WP2 to align with deliverables
240705	A	Deliverables	Surplus information removed from description texts
240705	A	Researchers	Researchers removed from tab
240705	A	General information	Start date changed and justified
240705	B	P4	Text removed: “in a dedicated Work package (WP)”
240705	B	1.1.1.	Text adjusted according to new approved project timeline for launch of calls
240705	B	1.1.1.	Text deleted: “, according to deliverable in proposal <i>Overall project communication, dissemination and exploitation strategy</i> “
240705	B	1.1.1.	Added text “October 2024” (removed Months)

240705	B	1.1.1.	Added information that “Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply”
240705	B	1.1.1.	Added footnote
240705	B	Information for applicants will include	Added information about dates (months removed)
240705	B	Information to candidatas	We will include information on estimated net salary
240705	B	Eligibility criteria	Information added: “Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply”
240705	B	Eligibility criteria	Changed the sentence to “A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate his/her appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment)”
240705	B	Redress committee, p9	Redress process clarified
240705	B	1.1.2	Text change: Composition of committees and selection of experts involved in the different stages of the process. Selection of Evaluator Pool of experts. A pool of international independent evaluators will be established, involving different stakeholders, with expertise within the PULSE research areas, and also external evaluators based in other countries and outside the PULSE partnership (“approximately 100” removed)
240628	B	Table, p11	Contracting procedure, addition: “Postdoc needs to accept a position 2 weeks, and should start within 3 months upon notification”.
240628	B	p17	Projects are expected to develop and maintain machine readable DMPs (D1.3 and D1.4) adhering to Science Europe standards in the ELIXIR tool Data Stewardship Wizard. Modification with new Dlvb numbering
240705	B	2.3.1 p25	Adjustment with new project time line (date added): The PMG, together with the Communication office, the TTO, the KTH Library office and the Implementing institutions, will set up a detailed strategy for the project’s approach to communication, dissemination, exploitation (C/D/E) December 2024.
240705	B	Commitment letter	AZ commitment letter re-added into document
240708	B	Table 1.3, p21	Updated Action months for training events 1-6
240708	B	Recruitment monitoring table, p29	Specified call end months
240708	B	Recruitment monitoring table, p29	Updated recruitment months for period 1 and 2.
240708	B	External Advisory Board	Adjustment due to changes in appointments (DDD Platform Advisory Board), p28
240708	B	GANTT	Milestones from proposal removed.
240708	B	GANTT	Months adjusted according to new project start date and new start date for batch 2.
240708	B	GANTT	Activity “Management meetings” changed into “Management (Consortium) meetings”, and added as annual event
240709	B	Recruitment monitoring table, p29	Added total amount of person-months per call and period.
240709	A	Deliverables	WPI Report on cumulative expenditure (applicable for projects with EU contribution above 5 M EUR), Dlvb 1.5-1.9. Due dates adjusted.

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#@APP-FORM-HEMSCACO@#

**1. Excellence** #@REL-EVA-RE@#

SciLifeLab PULSE (Programme for fUTURE Leaders in life ScienceE) is a 60-month programme that will train 48 future leaders in Life Sciences, each benefitting from a 36-month postdoctoral training programme. Due to the unique focus on high-density data-driven approaches, PULSE trained postdocs will significantly impact European academic and non-academic Life Sciences stakeholders. PULSE will have two calls with postdoctoral positions open to candidates from all nationalities according to the MSCA eligibility criteria. PULSE postdocs will be selected in a three-stage process by international panels of experts in an open, fair, transparent and merit-based evaluation process. Candidates can choose between academic or entrepreneurial tracks (Figure 1). The recruitment will follow the guidelines of, and will fully adhere to the European Commission adopted European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>1</sup>. PULSE will be coordinated by SciLifeLab, one of the largest European Research Infrastructures in Life Sciences, that provides cutting-edge techniques and training for academic and industrial users. The postdocs will be hosted by one of 9 Swedish universities (Implementing Partners, ImplPrtns): KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH, also Beneficiary), Karolinska Institutet (KI), Linköping University (LiU), Lund University (LU), Örebro University (ORU), Stockholm University (SU), Umeå University (UmU), University of Gothenburg (UGOT) and Uppsala University (UU), united by a common vision for research excellence through PULSE. Tailored individual training will be performed at ImplPrtns, and via secondments at 24 researching academic and non-academic, Swedish and international Associated Partners (AssocPrtns): Malmö University; *Institutes* The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Fondazione Human Technopole (HT), Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) and Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB); *Infrastructures* European infrastructure for translational medicine (EATRIS ERIC), MAX IV, and Testa Center; *Industry partners* Affibody, Akiram Therapeutics, AstraZeneca, Beactica Therapeutics, Cytiva Sweden, Lipum, Orion Corporation, Prosilico, QureTech Bio, Red Glead Discovery, Strike Pharma, and Toleranzia; and *Associations/Networks* Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net), SweDeliver, Lif and SwedenBIO. Industry partners represent small, medium, and large-sized enterprises in Life Science and pharma. The 3 associations SwedenBIO, Lif and SweDeliver will mediate further secondment opportunities with their >450 industry members. This training programme will ultimately provide the European Research Area with accomplished researchers possessing high-value transferable skills in the fields of molecular biosciences, including cell & molecular biology, precision medicine & diagnostics, evolution & biodiversity/planetary biology, epidemiology & infection biology/pandemic laboratory preparedness, drug discovery, and AI. PULSE will contribute significantly to meeting the need for highly-skilled leaders in Life Sciences that are well-prepared to solve emerging challenges as underlined by the EU missions and deemed essential for Europe to maintain a leading position, e.g. Adaptation to Climate Change and Cancer. Additionally, PULSE will impart long-lasting impacts by facilitating collaborations with the non-academic sector and through setting a high standard for international postgraduate training. PULSE will offer a freedom of choice of topic and of destination to one of the 9 ImplPrtns, each providing excellent research environments in complementary areas. The tailored training will be based on individual needs, including core scientific skills corresponding to specific project needs, and transferable skills to optimise their career development targeting academic and industrial sectors. The postdocs will have the opportunity to network, within and outside of Sweden, and across scientific disciplines. PULSE will ensure transfer of knowledge and establishment of longer-term

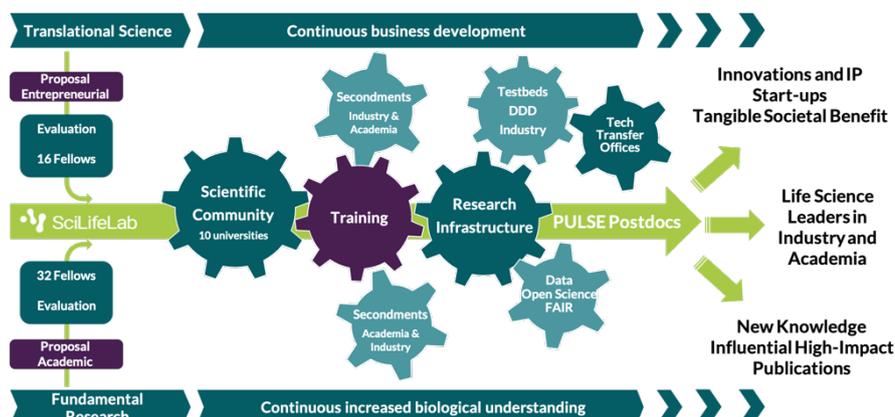


Figure 1. SciLifeLab PULSE is designed to recruit and train 48 postdocs in two, through the programme, closely connected tracks; Entrepreneurial (upper) and Academic (lower).

<sup>1</sup> <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter>

collaborations with non-academic entities and policy stakeholders.. Furthermore, the intention is to also foster synergies with other running MSCA EU programmes hosted by SciLifeLab partner organisations, e.g. PRISMAS (hosted by MaxIV), AMBER (hosted by LINXS) and EIPOD-LinC (hosted by EMBL).

## **1.1 Quality and novelty of the selection/recruitment process for the researchers**

### ***1.1.1 Demonstrate the transparency of the selection process of the researchers***

**Dissemination of the calls in appropriate ways.** The recruitment of 48 PULSE postdocs in two separate calls, opening January 2025 and 2026(2 reserve calls within 3-6 months if necessary), will be coordinated by the PULSE Project Management Group (PMG, Section 3.1.1). Own PULSE consortium funds will be used until the Grant Agreement (GA) is in place. In the call and recruitment phase, the role of the PMG will be to organise the dissemination of the calls, coordinate the evaluation panels, and ensure that the timeline and regulations are strictly followed (Section 1.1.2). Programme progress and identified risks will be continuously monitored by the PMG and reported to the PULSE National Steering Committee (NSC, Section 3.1.1). The postdocs will be hosted by one of the 9 ImplPrtns. A SciLifeLab Group Leader (PI) that recruits a PULSE postdoc will co-fund the postdoc position, including additional costs (Section 1.1.5). The SciLifeLab DDD (Drug Discovery and Development) platform will support researchers in the entrepreneurial track by contributing with project leader resources and research costs. There are 24 AssocPrtns in the PULSE consortium committed to contribute to training and secondments. The PMG will set up a communication plan including PR, dissemination and public outreach strategy, together with the SciLifeLab Operations Office Communications team, for the preparation and promotion of the calls. The PMG will also engage with functions at Beneficiary and ImplPrtns in these processes, e.g. research offices (with experts on Horizon2020, HEU and MSCA) and communication offices. The calls and related processes will be monitored by the PULSE Programme Coordinators (PCs). The PC will be responsible for adjusting the promotion strategy as needed. PULSE will be inaugurated at an internal SciLifeLab kick-off meeting prior to the call launch, including representatives from communications, administration, HR and economy, and also at a program-wide kick-off and briefing with representatives from all ImplPrtns in October 2024. The briefing will also include general information about MSCA. The target group for recruitment of PULSE postdocs are international researchers in Life Science who meet the MSCA mobility requirements<sup>2</sup> and have obtained PhDs within the last 3 years or who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree (they will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply). - A communication strategy will be carefully tailored with an extra effort to outline positive benefits of the Swedish social systems that support families and the pursuit of equal opportunities. The selected candidates and their proposed projects will be embedded in the unique interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment of SciLifeLab, and work on a self-designed interdisciplinary research project in either the academic or entrepreneurial track. The postdocs will be integrated into a SciLifeLab affiliated group, and are expected to be highly self-motivated with exceptionally strong theoretical and practical backgrounds. The candidates will be evaluated based on their capacity to take advantage and exploit the resources and cutting-edge technologies in routine use at the SciLifeLab research infrastructure. The overriding aim of PULSE is to attract excellent researchers, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, also using material targeted for women in countries covering all continents. We will actively attend Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) conferences to disseminate information specifically reaching out to women in STEM, and advertise and discuss the call on female scientists' forums. The dissemination of the PULSE call will benefit from the impact of the SciLifeLab brand and the networks of the ImplPrtns, contributing to publicising the call. The PMG will develop a digital and analogue dissemination kit, briefed to all partners. All PULSE related information and publications will properly acknowledge EU MSCA and SciLifeLab funding. **Dissemination channels for the PULSE calls:**

Euraxess (including Science4Refugees), Euraxess Worldwide, Research\*EU, AAAS/Science careers  
 Advertisement in Science Careers (through existing SciLifeLab agreement), readership of 700,000 people each week, and on the European Platform of Women Scientists website<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Recruited researchers can be of any nationality and must comply with the following mobility rule: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.

<sup>3</sup> <https://epws.org/careers/>

Social websites and media channels of SciLifeLab and all ImplPrtns, e.g. via LinkedIn (1.4 M followers) and Twitter (150,000 followers); SciLifeLab and ImplPrtn newsletters (approx.200,000 readers). Targeted information to social media channel for Women in Academia Support Network Careers Support (Facebook), with >14,000 members, and LinkedIn Groups Out in STEM, Women in STEM, and Out to Innovate.
ImplPrtn alumni associations (to reach more than 327,000 people) and the Marie Curie Alumni Association MCAA
The network of MSCA NCPs MSCA-NET
The international networks, including STEM conferences attended by potential SciLifeLab PULSE supervisors. All PIs will be instructed to include information about PULSE in posters and presentations. Examples of major conferences/organisers: EMBL Symposia and Workshops, EMBO meetings, Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) conferences, Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) meetings, American Society of Cell Biology (ASCB) meeting, European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) meeting, Keystone and Gordon conferences.
To reach Scholars at Risk, the PULSE call will be announced through the international <sup>4</sup> and Swedish section of Scholars at Risk <sup>5</sup> .
Less represented country groups in the European Research Area will be targeted using channels provided by International Scientific Programmes (ISPs) assigned by Sida (Swedish international Development Cooperation Agency), coordinating the Swedish activities in bilateral programmes with institutions in Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. <sup>6</sup>

The PULSE dissemination campaign will encourage applications from researchers with diverse backgrounds, e.g. gender, nationalities, socio-economic backgrounds and age. This effort involves the ImplPrtns, all of which have established networks and international agreements, many including the Horizon Europe widening countries and African countries, e.g. Baltic University Programme (BUP)<sup>7</sup>, Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Health<sup>8</sup>, South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF)<sup>9</sup>, and via Europe's Civic University Alliance (CIVIS)<sup>10</sup>. **Information provided to the candidates.** The PULSE website (hosted at scilifelab.se) will make all documents available in a well-structured web interface for download in pdf format, including contacts and links to all partner websites and social media. It will also provide a clear picture of the PULSE structure, opportunities, and timelines, including SciLifeLab's missions and strategic goals. All communication will be in English and gender-neutral language in consultancy with the KTH Equality, diversity and equal treatment committee (JML).

**Information for applicants will include (D1.2.2):**

A general description and programme overview, including the goals and calls timelines
Information on the 9 ImplPrtns with website links, potential PI supervisors and mentors, and SciLifeLab infrastructure. The ImplPrtns will provide information on their research facilities, professional conditions, the cities where they are located and daily life in Sweden (based on Euraxess-Sweden <sup>11</sup> ). The role and functions of the PMG and ImplPrtn HR services will be defined, which provide support to handle formalities regarding relocation to Sweden, e.g. visa applications, setting up bank accounts, enrolment in Swedish administrative and social security systems, health care, and housing with support from local offices specialising in international recruitment of talent.
A description of the PULSE research areas
A list and website links for the partners that will host secondments, including supporting documentation and information to enable applicants to propose secondments according to their needs.
A description of the postdoctoral training and career development plan including the supervision structure (Section 1.4)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/sections/sar-sweden/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.sida.se/en/for-partners/research-partners>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/about-us/participating-universities/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ki.se/en/collaboration/centre-of-excellence-for-sustainable-health>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sasuf.org>

<sup>10</sup> <https://civis.eu/en/african-partner-universities>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.euraxess.se>

<p>A detailed description of the postdoctoral training and career development package, and career development prospects including scientific and transferable soft-skill training elements.</p> <p>A timeline with course elements (leadership, communication, ethics, entrepreneurship, innovation, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), FAIR data practices, Open Science, etc.) will be provided.</p>
<p>The application procedure will be clearly defined: reiterated in two separate calls, each with preliminary dates to recruit 24 postdocs in two tracks, academic (16) and entrepreneurial (8). Candidates will apply with self-designed research projects using a web-based portal. Applications will be evaluated by international experts in a transparent and non-discriminatory review process.</p>
<p>Detailed description and timeline for the call process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● link to the SciLifeLab web-based application portal (secure and GDPR certified)</li> <li>● Guide for Applicants with step-by-step instructions and a full application package including GDPR information, necessary templates and description on how to apply in the application portal.</li> <li>● eligibility criteria (mobility and time) including eligibility time calculator and examples</li> <li>● the evaluation criteria and evaluation process including timeline</li> <li>● how results will be communicated at each step of the selection and evaluation process</li> <li>● call timeline, key steps in the selection process: eligibility, selection, publication of results, redress dates and templates</li> <li>● the PMG will organise a webinar with opportunity for Q&amp;A on the application process in October 2024 and 2025 and this will be downloadable on the website</li> </ul>
<p>Guidance and template (EC standard) for ethics self-assessment and how ethics issues will be handled</p>
<p>A guide for evaluators including a general description and overview of the programme, description of assignment and expectations on evaluators, information on data protection (GDPR), timeline for evaluation, selection and redress process, evaluator honorarium, evaluation criteria, information about the PULSE application portal and its use, and commitment letter template for evaluators</p>
<p>Supervision guidelines (based on recommendations from the MSCA, D1.2.2)</p>
<p>A FAQ Q&amp;A section will be created on the website (updated regularly), and a PULSE email address will be set up for communications directly to the PULSE PCs. The contact information will be included in all communication material and channels. The PC will act as a help desk to answer all technical and administrative queries throughout the application process within 48 working hours.</p>
<p>A guidance for Intellectual Property Rights, IPR, and rules during the fellowship with reference to the Swedish Act on the Right in Employee Inventions (Section 2.3.1), and opportunities for research outreach, dissemination and commercialisation</p>
<p>Open Science principles to follow during the fellowship</p>
<p>Green Charter of the MSCA and how to apply the principles within the fellowship</p>
<p>Employment conditions including salary (with estimated net salary), social benefits provided through the Swedish social security system, including parental leave, subsidised childcare, long-term leave allowance, etc., staff benefits promoting health and fitness, support for disabled researchers and researchers at risk. On-site support services with links to social services available in Sweden and that are handled by the hosting institution, e.g. visa issues, salary benefits, health care, childcare and parental rights.</p>
<p>Applicants with special needs: it will be clearly highlighted in the call information that their applications are welcome, and that the MSCA special needs allowance will be applied for in case a postdoc requires it. Researchers at risk: it will be clearly underlined that they are welcome and explain the explicit eligibility criterion. Researchers at risk will be welcome to apply and benefit from a relaxed mobility rule: time spent as a refugee in Sweden will not be counted towards the period of 12 months in the past 36 months prior to the call deadline.</p>
<p>The PULSE PCs will keep contact with the PULSE postdocs throughout the programme. Importantly, the postdocs will join an English-speaking environment at work, and in Sweden in general. This facilitates easier integration and better communication with e.g. the migration officials but also enhances the communication skills, which is crucial for international collaborations. PULSE postdocs will also be able to take part in training to learn every-day Swedish, e.g. Swedish For Immigrants (SFI). PULSE postdocs will be introduced to local postdoctoral associations and Junior Faculty committees at host universities to enhance their networking opportunities.</p>

**Eligibility criteria and application requirements.** Applicants must be in possession of a doctoral degree, awarded no more than 3 years before the application deadline (with accepted exemptions for deductible time, e.g. compulsory national service, medical and parental leaves of absences, time expended obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention) or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree (these applicants will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply). A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate his/her appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment). A candidate can apply with one project per call. Applicants must meet the mobility criteria, i.e. they cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Sweden for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the deadline of the PULSE calls. The applicants should write their research proposals based on ‘individual-driven mobility’, i.e. the applicants are free to choose a research topic and the host organisation and PI supervisor that best fits their individual needs. In compliance with the cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity training requirements, the applicant’s proposal should include suggestions for secondments and shorter research visits at the PULSE Partners, preferably at least one with an international partner (additional secondments can be added later in the programme). *Secondments:* 3-6 months (minimum 2 weeks periods), with full integration into the hosting institution and supervision. *Short research visits:* up to totally 4 weeks, without full integration into the hosting institution and supervision. Short research visits can, but must not, be included in the proposal. *Scholars at Risk:* to facilitate recruitment of Scholars at Risk, the MSCA guidelines for inclusion of researchers at risk will be followed regarding the time frame calculated for the mobility criteria. *Ethics requirements:* all applicants will have to submit with their application an ethics self-assessment using EC template<sup>12</sup>. Projects for which ethical approval is needed, can start when approval is received and reported to the PMG, including the supporting documentation (Section 4). The responsibility for obtaining ethical approval lies with the PI host and hosting department in accordance with the respective university regulations. Ethical approval for research involving humans and human biological material is given by the Swedish Ethical Review authority and ethical approval of animal experiments is handled by regional animal experiment ethics boards, accessed through the Swedish Board of Agriculture<sup>13</sup>. For secondments, the host institutions will sign a letter of commitment before the start of the candidate to confirm their ethics assessment. **The application will consist of the following elements (font size 11):**

Cover letter with a motivation why the candidate seeks to and would benefit from PULSE and the chosen track, and why the proposed hosting institution/s (main and secondment) represent a good fit (1 page)
Research proposal, directed for either the academic or the entrepreneurial track (max. 10 pages)
Ethics self-assessment in digital form (if ethical approval needed, this should be stated in application)
Description of how the project aligns with the MSCA Green charter (up to 1 page)
Abstract (half a page) and 3-5 predefined keywords + 3-5 free keywords
2 reference letters (1 page each)
Curriculum vitae in the Europass format, including list of publications (max. 5 pages)

Postdoc candidates are free to apply with any topic, but if applying for the **academic track** the proposal should fit within the broad SciLifeLab research fields of cell & molecular biology, precision medicine & diagnostics, evolution & biodiversity/planetary biology, and/or epidemiology & infection biology/pandemic laboratory preparedness. Postdoc candidates applying for the **entrepreneurial track** should propose a topic compatible with promoting SciLifeLab DDD drug discovery in machine learning, therapeutic oligonucleotides, display and selection technologies, and/or proximity inducing agents. Proposed projects at the intersection of, or that combine any of these areas, are welcome. SciLifeLab has a well-established application portal, Anubis, which will be adapted for PULSE and serve all steps of the evaluation process. This highly robust and secure portal fully complies with GDPR requirements<sup>14</sup>. Upon submission of a proposal, the portal generates an automated summary that updates

<sup>12</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://jordbruksverket.se/e-tjanster-databaser-och-appar/e-tjanster-och-databaser-djur/etiskt-godkannande-av-djurforsok>

<sup>14</sup> [https://anubis.scilifelab.se/about/data\\_policy](https://anubis.scilifelab.se/about/data_policy)

applicants with results at each subsequent step. Evaluators upload their evaluations and selection reports, including scores and comments, directly to the portal, facilitating the evaluation process. **Gender dimension and other diversity aspects.** SciLifeLab strives for gender equality in recruitment, and 52% of infrastructure personnel and 49% of researchers in the SciLifeLab and DDLs Fellow groups are women. To reach its full potential and in line with Swedish law, PULSE will take the gender dimension, diversity aspects and unconscious bias into account throughout all parts of the project: call dissemination (details in table, p. 6), selection and evaluation including briefings, research where applicable, project governance and management, supervision, training, mentoring and communication<sup>15</sup>. The KTH Equality, Diversity and Equal Treatment Committee (JML) works in a focused manner to safeguard democratic values and human rights, and all PULSE briefing material for partners, evaluators and supervisors will be developed together with the JML. All ImplPrtns are to adhere to a Gender and Equality Plan linked to the PULSE website, and efficiently handle matters that may occur during the employment (e.g. HR departments, occupational health providers, and safety representatives). SciLifeLab hosts and actively promotes the community-driven and highly active Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee (SciLifeLab DEI) as well as a Coaching in Science Initiative<sup>16</sup>, both organising activities and events. PULSE will comply with the principles defined in the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and of course the conceptual framework DEI, which will be highly prioritized throughout the programme. **Artificial intelligence.** The entrepreneurial track includes the research field of artificial intelligence/machine learning in different contexts of early drug discovery in which DDD is building competence and capacity. As for SciLifeLab in general, a DDD strength is the provision of large experimental data sets of high quality to which sequence-based neural network models can be trained and applied. DDD has a well-developed process to generate quality assured assays that are tailor made for specific projects to minimise risks and discriminatory outcomes of output data from machine learning. Work is logged into electronic laboratory notebooks to ensure traceability of results. To assure a high level of robustness, security and accuracy, detailed documentation is captured in signed reports from DDD that provides all information that is necessary on the system and its purpose for authorities to assess its compliance. Work in the project team (that includes the postdoc, PI, the industrial secondment partner and the university Technology Transfer Office, TTO) is coordinated by a DDD project leader and ensures clear and adequate information to the user. Training in entrepreneurship will be provided and includes e.g. legislation for handling open science, IPR, and personal integrity. Additional training opportunities will be available from e.g. the DDLs programme, also for the PULSE academic postdocs, e.g. using new AI/ML technology in their research projects with expertise and support from SciLifeLab Data Centre, and federated learning and AI-driven methods for data anonymization and synthetic data.

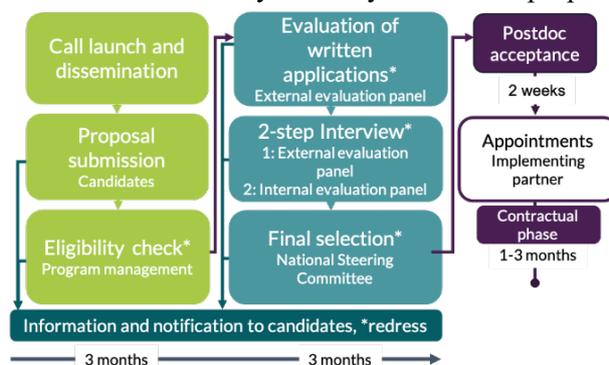


Figure 1.1.2. Schematic view of postdoc selection process

### 1.1.2 Describe the organisation of the selection process

The PULSE selection process (Figure 1.1.2) is designed according to the Open, Transparent, Merit based Recruitment procedures of Researchers (OTM-R). The developed standards for evaluation of international postdoc by the Swedish Research Council have been used as guidelines, together with recommendations from the EC MSCA. SciLifeLab has extensive experience with the implementation of evaluations, which will ensure the involvement of necessary expertise to successfully implement and complete the evaluation process. For example, in 2023, SciLifeLab administered 17 open calls with total funding per call in the range of 50,000 to 500,000 EUR. In total >200 proposals were processed. **Each PULSE application will be evaluated in three selection steps** by a panel of 3 evaluators, at least one being an expert with appropriate academic or entrepreneurial experience, and 2 having more general knowledge in the scientific field. **1) Written proposal**, evaluated by three external international evaluators. **2) Interview 1:** A panel with 2 external international experts (not the same who have scored

<sup>15</sup> <https://swedishgenderequalityagency.se/gender-equality-in-sweden/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.thecoachinginscienceinitiative.org/>

the written proposal), 1 SciLifeLab expert from the SciLifeLab management group (academic track) or DDD (entrepreneurial track), 1 HR expert and 1 independent observer. **3) Interview 2:** A panel with the proposed PULSE postdoc PI, 1 representative from the host department, 1 research area expert from DDD (entrepreneurial track) or SciLifeLab (academic track), and 1 independent observer. The PMG-assigned independent observers, experienced in evaluation processes, will assure that the evaluation process is followed in relation to evaluator independence, gender bias, etc, and together make a final quality check of the full evaluation process, ending with a “certification documentation”, sent to PMG. The Heads of the hosting departments will be informed about the process and interview. Each evaluation criterion will be scored on a scale from 0 (insufficient) to 5 (excellent), and a scoring system will be used with open-ended questions that the evaluators fill in and submit directly to the PMG and NSC. For each selection step, an average evaluation score will be calculated. If there are great differences in scoring based on the medium score (>80%), e.g. one evaluator scores a 1 and another a 4, then a fourth evaluator will be engaged and a median score will be calculated. The PMG will compile scoring and finalise ranking. Applicants with total average scores of  $\geq 4$  will be invited to the next step of the evaluation, or be short-listed. The final evaluation score will be weighted as follows: written research proposal (45%), interview 1 (35%), and interview 2 (20%). Funding Decision. The NSC will make the final funding decision based on the ranking list established by PMG. Gender, distribution of postdocs between ImplPrtns, and preference for candidates from the EU’s widening countries and third countries may be considered for funding decisions if applications are ranked equally. Redress Committee. Each decision stage (following eligibility check, evaluation of written proposals and interviews, Table 1.1.2) can be followed up with a redress process which will be handled by the PMG, together with respective Implementing partner’s HR representative, acting as a neutral Ombudsman. Complaints related to the evaluation of the proposal content will not be accepted: For redress related to evaluation of written proposals and interviews, complaints will only be met with explanation of the evaluation criteria used for the evaluation and decision (Tables 1.1.3.1 a-c).

The decision made will be final and a second redress will not be possible. **Information to applicants.** The applicant will be informed about each step of the evaluation process and, in written, also about the result of each selection step. Evaluators report feedback on performance e.g. what resulted in a high score and suggestions for improvement. The PC will support in this process. The evaluation process is estimated to take 4 months, including buffer time and redress process. **Composition of committees and selection of experts involved in the different stages of the process. Selection of Evaluator Pool of experts.** A pool of international independent evaluators will be established, involving different stakeholders, with expertise within the PULSE research areas, and also external evaluators based in other countries and outside the PULSE partnership. Evaluators will be nominated by the PMG, in consultancy with the SciLifeLab International Advisory Board (Section 1.2.1), based on having a proven track record in research, recruiting research personnel, and also possessing a strong commitment to ethical practice (FAIR, GDPR, DEI, etc.). Nomination of evaluators will respect the diversity criteria, e.g. gender, age, geographical origins, and scientific fields. For the academic track, experts with solid records of achievements (i.e. high level of publications and funding), big grant awardees, and conference organisers within the scientific field will be contacted. Based on previous calls, e.g. in the COVID-19 and DDLs programmes, SciLifeLab has successfully engaged several international, highly qualified evaluators within molecular biosciences from the USA, Australia and Europe. For evaluation of entrepreneurial track applications, the international DDD platform Advisory Board will select an international, independent pool of additional evaluators. The SciLifeLab Board will approve the nominated evaluator panel. Evaluators will receive a remuneration of 75 EUR per written proposal, and 50 EUR per interview. **Evaluators’ profile and match to application.** The PMG, in consultation with NSC, will match evaluation panels based on research area as indicated by each applicant. The participation of independent experts will be based on their expertise in the respective research area (according to European Science Vocabulary, EuroSciVoc<sup>17</sup>). External evaluators outside the PULSE partnership will be engaged in evaluation of each application. Upon formal acceptance of the evaluator role, and before they are engaged in the selection process, the evaluators will need to sign a code of conduct for the assignment. Evaluators will be asked to indicate possible conflict of interest before

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<sup>17</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/s/y8ZZ>

starting the review work. In case of a **conflict of interest** including prior collaboration, shared authorship, or a personal relationship between one of the panel members and an applicant or project, the panel member will be replaced. Conflict of interest will follow the statements of the Horizon Europe's model contract for evaluators (annex1)<sup>18</sup>. Evaluators will self-declare their level of competence in the applicant's research area. Evaluators must agree, but can say no, to reviewing applications. **Briefing.** Evaluators will receive an online briefing by the PMG, and will be provided with a Guide for Evaluators (D1.2.2). In a dedicated webinar all evaluators will be provided with training on unconscious bias, and also instructed to consider the variations in the candidates' CVs order of temporal career choices, e.g. with regards to non-linear CVs, career breaks, recognizing mobility experience and different qualifications and levels of expertise. The selection process is outlined in Table 1.1.2. **Ethics check.** The external evaluators will check that ethical approval, when needed, is in place or that an ethics review is planned for. The Beneficiary will appoint an independent Ethics Advisor, nominated by the PMG, with the task to identify and follow up the ethics aspects of the overall project. The advisor will consult the evaluation panels, as needed.

**Table 1.1.2 Postdocs' selection workflow and powers entrusted to the different actors**

Step	Actors	Duration	Criteria/Conditions	Output
<b>Dissemination of the calls</b>	PMG	2 months	Not applicable	Sufficient number of high-quality project proposals with eligible candidates
<b>Call opening and closing</b>	PMG, SciLifeLab Data Centre portal support	3 months	Information and submission system, available online	Submission system closed on deadline day. Notification to applicants via application portal.
<b>Eligibility and completeness check</b>	PMG	2 weeks	Compliance with the eligibility criteria and application requirements and documentation	Eligible applications pass to the following step. Non eligible applications are rejected and the candidates are informed about reasons and redress process. Information/result to all applicants via portal/email.
<b>Redress phase eligibility check</b>	Redress committee: PMG and Beneficiary HR representative/ Ombudsman	Initiated within 5 working days after communication of eligibility check result	The committee will make sure that the request for redress is coherent and that all applicants are treated equally. The committee's decision will be final.	Decision sent to the applicant
<b>Matching applications to an evaluation panel</b>	PMG in consultation with NSC	1 week	Distribute applications among the pool of independent external evaluators	Each eligible application assigned to 3 independent external evaluators
<b>Evaluation of written applications</b>	International External evaluation panel	4 weeks	Evaluation based on the selection criteria set by the call (Section 1.1.3)	Evaluation criteria in Table 1.1.3.1 a. 1 Evaluation report by each expert. Summary established of the total score. Applicants receive a summary of score and feedback
<b>Ranking of written applications</b>	PMG	1 week	Ranking based on the mean score. A threshold for shortlisting qualified candidates will be set to a mean score of 4. Aim to shortlist 36 candidates for interviews in each call.	Ranking list: Candidates will receive the summary, score and information whether they reach the next step or not, including redress information
<b>Redress phase of Written application evaluation step, initiated after communication (according to Redress above)</b>				
<b>Organisation of the interview phase</b>	PC with support by PMG	3 weeks	Availability of interview panel	Meeting schedule
<b>2-step online interviews</b>	a) External interview panel, b) Internal interview panel	4 weeks	Interviews performed	a) Evaluation report and scoring of candidates based on criteria in Table 1.1.3.1 b, b) Evaluation report and scoring of candidates based on criteria in Table 1.1.3.1 c
<b>Ranking of interviews</b>	PMG	1 week	Ranking based on the mean score. A threshold for shortlisting highly	Ranking list: Candidates will receive the summary, score and information whether

18 [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/experts\\_manual/h2020-experts-mono-contract\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/experts_manual/h2020-experts-mono-contract_en.pdf)

			qualified candidates will be set to a mean score of 4.	they reach the next step or not, including redress information
<b>Redress phase of each Interview step, initiated after communication (according to Redress above)</b>				
<b>Final ranking of candidates</b>	PMG	1 week	A short-list top 24 candidates and a reserve list will be based on total score of written proposal, and two interviews. Priority in case of ex aequo: (1) under-represented gender, (2) candidates from the EU's widening and third countries, (3) national distribution of candidates.	Ranking list
<b>Award decision (main and reserve list)</b>	NSC	1 week	Based on ranking list	Written decision handed to the PCIB. Notification of result to applicants, including redress information.
<b>Redress phase of Award decision, initiated after communication (according to Redress above), Buffer time (1 month)</b>				
<b>Ethics review and approval</b>	PULSE postdoc PI host	According to established process	Ethics review is based on international and national ethics regulations (decision through local committees).	Decision by appropriate Ethics Board to approve research. Proof of ethical approval needs to be presented for selected projects prior to the initiation of the project.
<b>Contracting procedures</b>	Host department's administration	Postdoc needs to accept a position within 2 weeks, and should start within 3 months upon notification.	Invitation of candidates to sign the contract	Contract

### 1.1.3 List of the Evaluation Criteria

**Criteria/sub-criteria for the selection of researchers.** Criteria as outlined in Table 1.1.3.1 a-c will be used by the evaluators. These have been adapted from the criteria for the MSCA-PF (Excellence, Impact, Implementation<sup>19</sup>). The interview criteria are based on common standards at the Implementing institutions for the recruitment of senior research staff. The quality of the applicant's CV, reference and cover letters will be weighed into the overall evaluation but will not be separately scored. Applications to both **academic** and **entrepreneurial** tracks should include information regarding anticipated collaborations with partner organisations, including the academic and non-academic sectors, as well as innovative and individualised elements of the proposed training and career development programme. Special for the **entrepreneurial** track, applicants will additionally be assessed regarding their potential for advancing the proposed project from technical readiness level (TRL) 1-2 up to TRL 3-6. This assessment will be based on two criteria; how well the project exploits the DDD research infrastructure and AssocPrtns as testbeds for developing technologies, and the likelihood of successfully establishing a company. **Interviews.** The two-step interview will be organised remotely, take place in English, with an oral presentation by the postdoc candidate (research accomplishments and their proposed research project) for 10 min, followed by a scientific discussion, and a number of fixed questions, each of them corresponding to a weighted score. Interviews will be scored 0-5. Composition of panel will vary depending on project, with consideration for academic or entrepreneurial track, and research field. **Scoring and thresholds.** Each criterion will be scored 0-5. A threshold for shortlisting candidates will be set to a total weighted score of 4, which will be calculated based on the scores of all evaluation criteria. A minimum score of 4 is needed to move to the next step in the evaluation phase. **The scoring is the following:**

<b>0</b>	<b>Insufficient.</b> The proposal cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
<b>1</b>	<b>Poor.</b> The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
<b>2</b>	<b>Fair.</b> The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
<b>3</b>	<b>Good.</b> The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

19 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/om\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/om_en.pdf)

<b>4</b>	<b>Very good.</b> The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
<b>5</b>	<b>Excellent.</b> The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion; shortcomings, if any, are minor.

**Table 1.1.3.1 a Evaluation criteria for written proposals (45% of total weighted score)**

	<b>Excellence 50%</b>	<b>Impact 30%</b>	<b>Implementation 20%</b>
<b>Researcher</b>	Quality of the candidate's research outputs/merits: publications, IP, data sets/tools etc. Research output to match time in science, e.g. related to if the candidate has just finished their PhD or if they have a few years of experience as a postdoc. Research experience and technical skills.	Postdoc will benefit from the PULSE training programme and gain new scientific, entrepreneurial and transferable skills. Research project and programme training will increase researcher's future career opportunities on international and across disciplines and sectors. Motivation for the chosen track (academic or entrepreneurial).	Concrete and ambitious career goals.
<b>Project</b>	Quality of the project in terms of research and innovation – state of the art (quality/credibility). Timely for the field of research (original and innovative). The methodology is complete and appropriate. Suggested Project partners/secondment will strengthen the project. Gender and diversity dimension. Open Science.	Clear output and added value through interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international exchange. Proposal contains initial plan for dissemination of results. The project will have an impact on the scientific field with novelty and originality. The project will benefit the involved labs/institutes/infrastructure/organisations (exchange and outputs). Future potential (innovation and translational output). Communication and outreach. Motivation for the chosen track (academic or entrepreneurial).	Project plan is feasible. The expertise and technology needed for the project are available. The work plan is realistic (coherent/effective). The roles of the involved groups are clearly defined. Project has access to the competence needed. Project risks.
	<b>Priority in case of ex aequo: Excellence, Impact, Implementation. If a further tie between two candidates appears, the underrepresented gender will be preferred, preference will be given to candidates from the EU's widening countries and third countries.</b>		

**Table 1.1.3.1 b Evaluation criteria for first interview with external evaluation panel (35% of total weighted score)**

<b>Project and career (60%, duration 30 minutes)</b>	<b>Transferable skills (40%, duration 15 minutes)</b>
Presentation of past research. Presentation of proposed project. Discussion. Academic track candidates: preparedness for research questions proposed. Entrepreneurial track candidates: innovation potential of proposed project.	Motivation. Leadership and problem-solving capacity. Oral English proficiency ( <i>excellent candidates lacking sufficient oral English skills will be offered additional English training at their host institution</i> ).

**Table 1.1.3.1 c Evaluation criteria for the second interview with internal panel (20% of total weighted score)**

<b>Project and career (66%, duration 20 minutes)</b>	<b>Transferable skills (33%, duration 10 minutes)</b>
Match between candidate's career goals, and suggested project with host group. Justification to take part in the programme at the host institution. Understanding of proposed infrastructure. Motivation for secondments and AssocPrtns.	Motivation. Leadership and problem-solving capacity.

#### ***1.1.4 Ensure equal opportunities***

The PULSE partners are committed to welcoming exceptional postdocs regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, origin (social or national), religion, sexual orientation, language, political opinion or economic condition, and to follow the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In accordance with Swedish regulations and standard procedures at the Implementing universities, additional support will be given as needed to adapt the application conditions for candidates with disabilities or special needs. Also, according to Swedish law, Swedish universities and institutes must always observe and promote gender equality and diversity in their activities. In line with this, training for supervisors (a prerequisite to host a PULSE postdoc) at the PULSE ImplPrtns includes gender equality, as well as gender and diversity knowledge. In addition, all ImplPrtns have ethical guidelines that outline equal opportunities independent of gender, ethnic and social background, human rights, and democratic values, and strive for gender balance throughout the organisations and at all levels of employment. To favour a sustainable career, the personal career development plans will take work-life balance into account (Section 1.3.1). Secondments can be split into shorter periods to consider family obligations. The dissemination of the calls will target all groups (Section 1.1.1), and

evaluators are briefed accordingly to ensure fair evaluation of CVs and receive training on unconscious gender bias. PULSE postdocs will receive the same training during the programme. As an incentive, PULSE will annually highlight particular efforts and outstanding achievements of postdocs regarding gender and diversity aspects.

### 1.1.5 Appointment conditions of researchers

PULSE postdocs will be provided very favourable working and family-friendly conditions through the Swedish social security system. Upon the final decision to offer a postdoc a PULSE position, they will

Cost categories	EU contribution (€/person-month)	Own contribution (€/person-month)	Total cost (€/person-month)
COFUND allowance*	3,789	1,951**	5,740
Travel allowance	N/A	100**	100
Research costs - PI	N/A	1,000**	1,000
Research costs - DDD	N/A	4,398***	4,398
Other (training etc.)	N/A	219***	219
Management costs	191	66***	257
Indirect costs		2,007**/213***	2,220
No. of postdocs	48		
No. of postdoc months	1,728		
Total amount (60 months)	6.9 MEUR/ 36% (6,877,440€)	12.1 MEUR/ 64% (12,133,768€)	19.0 MEUR (19,011,208€)

receive a competitive, gender neutral salary and other benefits offered through their host university, e.g. staff benefits promoting health and fitness, paid vacation for 5-7 weeks/year depending on age, Swedish language courses, etc. PULSE will offer 36 months

employment contracts that according to Swedish law stipulates that social benefits are paid by the employer. Each university regulates its salaries in a local collective agreement. **ImpPrtns prospective PIs have agreed to co-fund candidates a competitive starting salary of at least 38000 SEK/month** (currently equal to 3378 EUR) exclusive of social costs (ca. 60% of salary cost) and over-head (ca. 20% of salary cost), also covered by the PI. According to the Swedish labour union Swedish Academics Central Organisation the average salary for a postdoc in Sweden in September 2023 was 38700 SEK (3440 EUR) per month. With the additional allowances, the PULSE salary compares well to national standards and will contribute to attracting outstanding candidates. The hosting PI will also cover travel costs for participation in external research activities including training/conferences and research running costs (total 39,600 EUR/PULSE postdoc and project), Table 1.1 a. SciLifeLab strongly commits to PULSE, with total contributions (currently equal to EUR): programme management and training (0.86 MEUR), and entrepreneurial track (2.5 MEUR), to the total own contribution of 12.1 MEUR, Table 1.1 a. **Additionally, all PULSE postdocs will have access to the state-of-the-art SciLifeLab infrastructure technologies and expertise** (not accounted in Table 1.1 a).

**Table 1.1 a. Amounts provided to researchers and hosting organisations**

\*Social contribution and mobility allowance included in salary. The Swedish social security system and employer cover family related costs incl. insurance, health care, school, kindergarten (subsidised), child allowance, etc. \*\*Co-funding by PI host. Category “Research costs-PI” includes consumables, reagents, instrumentation, data generation/ storage, etc. Estimated average based on costs for similar SciLifeLab postdoc projects. \*\*\*Co-funding by SciLifeLab. Category “Research costs-DDD” is the average monthly DDD funding of entrepreneurial postdocs (currently equal to DDD consumables (533,000€), and in kind, total 2,533,000€). Costs are extrapolated from research costs for similar activities. Other SciLifeLab co-funding includes tailored PULSE courses, management and coordination.

## 1.2 Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of transnational mobility. Quality of open science practices.

### 1.2.1 Describe the research options offer by the programme

**Excellence of the research programme.** SciLifeLab has an international reputation of excellence in the broad field of molecular Life Sciences. SciLifeLab is based on three pillars: state-of-the-art research infrastructure platforms, a community of world-class researchers and an extensive Data-Driven Life Science programme (DDLs). SciLifeLab’s International Advisory Board (IAB) is composed of 10 international, world leading Life Science experts, including the Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine 2022 (Prof. Svante Pääbo), that provides important strategic advice to ensure SciLifeLab lives up to the highest international standards. In addition, regular meetings with the SciLifeLab International Evaluation Committee consisting of international technology experts within Life Science, ensures that the SciLifeLab infrastructures remain cutting-edge and provide techniques that are relevant for academic and industrial users. **SciLifeLab Infrastructure Platforms.** SciLifeLab is one of the largest European Research Infrastructures in Life Sciences and provides access to 10 breakthrough technology platforms: Bioinformatics, Genomics, Clinical Genomics, Clinical Proteomics and Immunology, Metabolomics,

Spatial Biology, Cellular and Molecular Imaging, Integrated Structural Biology, Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering, and Drug Discovery and Development. In 2023, these platforms provided data to >1,800 unique users working in >4,300 projects. In close collaboration with the SciLifeLab Research Community, the infrastructure is constantly developing and implementing new techniques, e.g. through the regularly announced Technology Development Calls of specific funding. These platforms enable cross disciplinary science to be done that would not otherwise be possible for an individual researcher, an individual university or an individual research area, and will be fully available for support of PULSE projects. In addition to the robust **curiosity driven research** efforts at SciLifeLab, **translational science** is actively and successfully pursued by the unique **Drug Discovery and Development (DDD)** platform. The DDD platform receives its mandate and support directly from the Swedish Government, and is fully embedded in SciLifeLab with established inter-platform collaborations and access to full technological repertoire available at SciLifeLab. The DDD platform has been remarkably successful since its start in 2014 and has engaged with spin-outs and licensing with 15 industrial partners, making a tangible impact on the Swedish and European biotech and pharma sector. To date, these programmes have resulted in therapeutic agents progressed for further commercial development, 4 of which have reached clinical trials. A unique aspect of being localised in Sweden is that research scientists employed by Swedish universities own the rights to commercially exploit their results and innovations. Consequently, the postdoc and PI owns the IPR from work at SciLifeLab, and DDD receives non-exclusive rights for non-commercial use of technologies developed in joint projects. **SciLifeLab Research Community.** SciLifeLab's infrastructure is integrated and operate alongside a vibrant research community of internationally recognized experimental and computational scientists. This community of >250 SciLifeLab Group Leaders/Pis is continuously strengthened by strategic international recruitments of excellent junior PIs (SciLifeLab and DDLS Fellows). PULSE postdocs will be part of, and highly benefit from, the expertise and mature international networks of this community. The tight coupling between the technology and fundamental research leads to continuous development of novel analytic approaches at the forefront of molecular Life Sciences, aimed to address complex problems in biology. Being a PULSE postdoc offers significant advantages, as it provides access to cutting-edge technology and support, but also presents a valuable opportunity to gain crucial experience in developing innovative techniques. SciLifeLab organises >350 scientific events and an extensive offer of courses annually, and its PhD and postdoc councils arranges various activities targeted towards the junior SciLifeLab scientists, all available for PULSE postdocs to take part in. **DDLS.** The successful application of high-throughput technologies and data-dense analytical approaches to obtain answers to pressing biological questions has yielded vast amounts of digital data. The Global Datasphere is increasing exponentially, which has major ramifications for the future of modern molecular biosciences. The international research community is not well equipped to exploit the full value of the data, it simply lacks appropriate computational tools. Thus, data can now be mined and evaluated to find unanticipated relationships and novel scientific insights. The field is rapidly advancing and new generations of researchers are needed, that are adept at exploiting artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms and to develop novel computing skills to deal with large data. To meet this challenge, SciLifeLab, with funding from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation<sup>20</sup>, is heading a 12-year national programme in DDLS. This programme is focused on developing a research environment of DDLS researchers localised at 11 partner organisations in Sweden. One goal is to facilitate use of new AI/ML technology both in research projects and infrastructure operations, and making tools and services for AI widely accessible. This includes supporting technical staff and researchers at SciLifeLab working with ML operations in software engineering, and hosting, annotating and serving AI models through SciLifeLab Serve. By developing trusted environments for sensitive data, the aim is federated learning and AI-driven methods for data anonymization and synthetic data. DDLS will finance internationally recruited Fellows and a substantial number of PhD students and postdocs. **SciLifeLab is a perfect fit for PULSE.** While advancing their research, PULSE postdocs embedded in SciLifeLab will benefit in an exceptional way from its interdisciplinary research capabilities and infrastructure. PULSE guarantees that researchers, moving forward from successful doctoral programmes, will be exposed to the most recent developments in data-driven life science, as well as state of the art methodologies and technologies. PULSE will train leading researchers, comfortable in pushing the boundaries of fundamental and translational Life Science

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20 <https://kaw.wallenberg.org/en>

research. Consequently, PULSE will impact and contribute to the EU's goal of training and expanding the European research workforce. **Quality of the research options in terms of interdisciplinary research options, inter-sectorality and international networking.** PULSE's two parallel entry tracks are linked by a common extensive training, coaching, and career development programme and will additionally expose each postdoc to research ethics, bioinformatic analysis, data handling encompassing the full data cycle, technology development and innovation (Section 1.3). PULSE postdocs will be trained in an established interdisciplinary research environment with scientists having broad expertise spanning molecules to ecosystems, as well as being active in international and intersectoral exchange through secondments. Thus, PULSE postdocs will be exposed to and participate in an extensive network of highest international standards. **Academic track.** PULSE postdocs entering the academic track will be immersed in the international and interdisciplinary research environment of SciLifeLab, with access to the state-of-the-art infrastructure platforms. PULSE postdocs will have the option to carry out projects within four major profile areas of research: *Cell & Molecular Biology; Precision Medicine & Diagnostics; Epidemiology & infection biology; Evolution & biodiversity*. The focused expertise from the research community located at the 9 ImplPrtns is integrated with the infrastructure technologies to provide enhanced capabilities in three major areas; *Precision Medicine, Planetary Biology, and Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness*. These capabilities are designed to connect and coordinate a broad range of infrastructure techniques and expertise, sample handling resources, and data analysis pipelines to obtain answers to complex and demanding questions of fundamental importance. **Entrepreneurial track.** PULSE postdocs entering the entrepreneurial track will receive advanced academic training, and training on steps required to create new companies focused on *drug discovery and entrepreneurship*. The training will be carried out in direct collaboration with the DDD platform, Associated industrial partners and the Swedish university academic innovation systems in four areas of technology development: *Machine learning; Therapeutic oligonucleotides; Display and selection technologies; Proximity inducing agents*. Academic drug discovery research is the richest source for new innovative therapies. The competence and advanced techniques available at DDD offer an early drug discovery capability, as well as an environment to build scientific collaborations of the highest international standard. **Interdisciplinary exposure.** PULSE postdocs will benefit from exchange and knowledge, mirroring the highly interdisciplinary nature of SciLifeLab, which provides a wide arsenal of technologies organised into 10 platforms, that are agnostically applied in addressing a broad spectrum of challenges in Life Sciences. The technologies provide high-density and exceptionally detailed data ranging from single molecules to full ecosystems. A novel feature of SciLifeLab is that the analytic capacities can be linked, joining forces and adapting to address major societal challenges, a recent example being the COVID-19 pandemic. The ability of SciLifeLab to quickly respond and direct the power of the infrastructures for diagnosis, and to develop novel analytic procedures, proved key to monitoring the early stages of the pandemic. The success achieved by SciLifeLab led the Swedish government to augment SciLifeLab funding of Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, a new capability that ensures Sweden will be better prepared for future infectious threats. At all stages, PULSE will consider and value actions that highlight gains from the synergies afforded by interdisciplinary strategies, including in the composition of evaluation and supervision panels. **Intersectoral exposure.** As PULSE has developed with input from non-academic entities (Section 1.3.1), intersectoral exposure is facilitated at several levels. All postdocs are expected to spend a period of 3-6 months at other host institutions in a secondment, preferably in a non-academic setting, and will be encouraged to undertake short visits (up to 4 weeks) at additional research environments and non-academic partners. Secondments may be extended up to 12 months if deemed useful in consultation with supervisors and hosting institutions. The strong intersectoral exposure, which complements the established intersectoral nature of SciLifeLab, will catalyse additional interactions between researchers from different universities and different sectors (health care and industry). Researchers and infrastructure units at SciLifeLab work closely with industrial partners in different projects and multiple strategic collaborations are in place, e.g. the InfraLife project<sup>21</sup>. These established networks provide PULSE postdocs ample opportunities for secondments in relevant BioTech and MedTech companies, that span from Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to big pharma. In the entrepreneurial track, PULSE postdocs are expected to advance their project from technical readiness level (TRL) 1-2 to TRL 5-6. The

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21 <https://www.infralife.se>

industrial partners will be of highest essence for the entrepreneurial track by providing guidance, real life requirements and expectations on how to apply project outcomes. They will provide a fully industrial milieu which will serve as a testbed for developed technologies and by highly specialised training for individual postdocs via secondments. Furthermore, they will participate and contribute to the research training programme as collaborators and mentors, and will also be involved in and provide training in transferable skills (Section 1.3). These partners will take part in annual conferences and other PULSE networking events, and additionally boost network opportunities by industry co-supervisors engaging postdocs in relevant events, complementary to the ones offered through PULSE (Section 2.3.1). Thus, the non-academic partners will offer concrete opportunities to help postdocs develop long-lasting high-profile networks. **International networking.** PULSE postdocs will have to meet the mobility requirements for applicants applying to a COFUND programme (Section 1.1.1). Through the strong international networks maintained by host PIs (as exemplified by researchers from 67 countries being co-authors of SciLifeLab publications in 2017-2021, and SciLifeLab Fellows being engaged in 249 international collaborations), SciLifeLab infrastructures including several Horizon and other European consortiums, and the international PULSE partners EMBL, VIB, EATRIS, HT, AstraZeneca, Orion Corporation, CoVaRR-Net, the PULSE postdocs will have considerable opportunities for international networking and collaborations through secondments and visits. The postdocs are strongly encouraged to carry out either a secondment or a short visit with an international partner, and take part in at least two international conferences during the programme. They should also join at least one international association in their respective research field (if not already the case), in addition to the MCAA. Also, SciLifeLab is often entrusted with coordinating larger initiatives and participates in many national and international projects and consortia. From 2023, SciLifeLab participates in four international projects funded through the Digital Europe programme, GDI (Genomics Data Infrastructure), EDIH Health Data Sweden, EUCAIM (EHDS Cancer Imaging), Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health AI and Robotics (TEF Health). To maximise the potential of these initiatives and to coordinate efforts between the Swedish partners of these projects, SciLifeLab has received funding from Vinnova, the Swedish Innovation Agency. The central role of SciLifeLab in these initiatives ensures that cutting-edge technologies and data resources are made available to relevant national and international programmes that connect academia, health care and industry. The PULSE postdocs will thus benefit from the international collaborations and be enabled to set-up and strengthen their own networks. **Open science practices.** Open Science practices are central to PULSE. Sweden has national guidelines for Open Science and all Swedish universities operate under the Open Science Plan that is based on EU and UNESCO guidelines<sup>22,23</sup>. PULSE partners have extensive experience implementing Open Science, and since 2016 SciLifeLab has developed and promoted tools and services to facilitate these practices for reproducibility, transparency and data reuse at nearly all aspects of the operation. The commitment to Open Science is manifested in the SciLifeLab Data Policy<sup>24</sup> and fully adheres to the Horizon Europe programme instructions and the EU Open Science Policy<sup>25</sup>. The SciLifeLab Data Centre and the Bioinformatics Platform at SciLifeLab (NBIS) provide services and support with regards to Open Science and FAIR to the research community regarding FAIR data repositories, compute and storage resources, services for data publishing, data management plans (DMPs), sharing of compute apps and AI models, data submission support, training and research data management services. PULSE will also collaborate with ELIXIR via the Swedish Node (NBIS), which will offer training and support for bioinformatic analysis and FAIR research data management. PULSE projects are expected to adhere to the SciLifeLab Data Policy and the mandatory practises this entails, including making publications, preprints, data, applications, AI models, code, methods and results available regularly throughout the research projects at the highest possible level of FAIR, enabling reproducibility and reuse. When the privacy of individuals or the confidentiality for IPR is required, availability shall be regulated through a transparent controlled access process according to the “as open as possible, as closed as necessary” principle. The training programme will have a mandatory workshop in Open Science. The entrepreneurial track of PULSE will contain particular training in how to adhere to FAIR and Open

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22 <https://suhf.se/app/uploads/2022/09/Guide-for-implementation-of-the-National-Roadmap-for-Open-Science-June-2022.pdf>

23 <https://suhf.se/app/uploads/2022/09/National-Roadmap-for-Open-Science-Recommendation-2021-1-Rev.-June-2022-Ref.-SU-850-0005-17.pdf>

24 <https://www.scilifelab.se/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SciLifeLab-data-policy.pdf>

25 [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en)

Science principles while at the same time facilitate the protection of intellectual property (IP) and commercialisation of research outputs.

### **1.2.2 Research data management and management of other research outputs**

**How data will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).** Data generated by PULSE projects will be made available through open platforms or transparent controlled access procedures when appropriate. In practice, tools and services to support FAIR and Open Science are made available through SciLifeLab Data Centre or NBIS, and PULSE projects will receive guidance and instructions to facilitate their use. Raw data are expected to be made available through international repositories, e.g. those operated by the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), where suitable repositories exist. In other cases, depositions will be made to general purpose repositories that assign dataset DOIs, e.g. Zenodo or Figshare, where SciLifeLab operates an institutional repository free of charge to researchers<sup>26</sup>. Compute applications, computational notebooks or AI models are expected to be made available through the compute/MLOps platform SciLifeLab Serve<sup>27</sup> with open source code at GitHub and deployment with Docker containers. Metadata for studies and samples should be made available through dedicated databases for high findability. Metadata annotation should be done according to semantic standards suitable for the topic of each research field, and projects will receive support from SciLifeLab Data Centre and NBIS data stewards. Projects are expected to develop and maintain machine readable DMPs (D1.3 and D1.4) adhering to Science Europe standards in the ELIXIR tool Data Stewardship Wizard. Programming code is expected to be provided under open source licences, e.g. Creative Commons, and available at GitHub. Workflows created with e.g. Snakemake or Nextflow will be made available through SciLifeLab operated repositories. All digital research outputs will be assigned DOIs and made available openly as early as possible, unless confidentiality is required because of the privacy of individuals or for IP reasons.

### **1.2.3 PULSE focus on MSCA Green charter**

PULSE will adhere to the principles of the MSCA Green Charter at multiple levels. **Institution level.** All participating ImplPrtns have 'green guidelines' and institutions are expected to apply them on a day-to-day basis, e.g. in terms of reduce, reuse and recycle material both for daily use and for specific materials and chemicals. Postdocs will be briefed upon their institutional green practices at the start of their employment. **Project level.** Postdocs will have dedicated training on the EU Green Charter and the MSCA green charter with updates as necessary. Two Swedish institutions, both PULSE ImplPrtns, are listed in the MSCA Green Charter: The Beneficiary KTH Sustainability Office, dedicated to the integration of environment and sustainability in education, research and collaboration, and the LU Centre for SUsustainable Studies (LUCSUS), serving as a paradigm to inspire participating PULSE partners to take corresponding steps of their own.

## **1.3 Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme**

### **1.3.1 Overview and content structure of the postdoctoral training programme**

The goal of PULSE is to equip exceptional scientists with a set of core research, advanced research and transferable skills to make them well-prepared and highly resilient leaders in Life Science and innovation across disciplines. PULSE postdocs will be fostered in an international network, in- and outside of academia, providing a high-powered launch pad as a base for their future careers.

#### **SciLifeLab PULSE Training objectives (TO1-6):**

- **TO1:** Provide postdocs with core research skills and experience from an area within Life Science
- **TO2:** Provide postdocs with research skills and knowledge in cutting-edge science, technologies and methodologies
- **TO3:** Provide postdocs with skills in data management, Open Science and FAIR principles needed to handle large amounts of data
- **TO4:** Provide an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international network with strong links to both academia, health care and industry
- **TO5:** Equip postdocs with transferable skills required for a proficient leader in Life Science research

<sup>26</sup> <https://figshare.scilifelab.se>

<sup>27</sup> <https://serve.scilifelab.se>

Leading experts and employers in the field have contributed to the set-up of these training goals and the training plan, e.g. Jessica Lindvall (Director of Training, PULSE PMG), Fredrik Frejd (Chief Scientific Officer, Affibody Medicals), and Maja Neiman (Science Director, SwedenBIO). The best practices of postdoctoral training, at participating Implementing universities and comparable educational programmes e.g. EIPOD-LinC at EMBL, have also been taken into account. The specific topics for core and transferable skills were defined by: 1) a survey conducted in 2021 by SciLifeLab across the SciLifeLab ecosystem; 2) input from a recently established Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (SciLifeLab DEI) addressing the principles of DEI in the workplace (Section 2.1.2); and 3) organisations collaborating with SciLifeLab, e.g. EMBL, and several PULSE partners. The input received highlighted transferable skills as important. 4) Input from non-academic partners and the cumulative expertise of the DDD platform guarantee that PULSE postdocs will receive a holistic training that matches future employers' expectations both for academic and non-academic careers. **Personal career development plan.** The training programme is based on a personal career development plan (PCDP), updated annually to ensure that the training is tailor made for each postdoc. Working with their supervisors and the Training and Career development committee (TCDC), each PULSE postdoc will set up a PCDP. Once a PCDP has been developed, PULSE postdocs should feel empowered and responsible for their career development. The PCDP concept is based on the European Competence Framework for Researchers (ResearchComp)<sup>28</sup>, and the Top-III Talent Development Suite (Euraxess). The PCDP considers measurable factors, e.g. scientific and transferable training goals and research output, but also favours a holistic career view by looking at work-life balance, mental health and other career influencing factors. The PCDP is part of a career planning package that will include an initial meeting between the supervisors, and a 'welcoming package' of the hosting institution giving an overview of the local training opportunities. Importantly, ImplPrtns

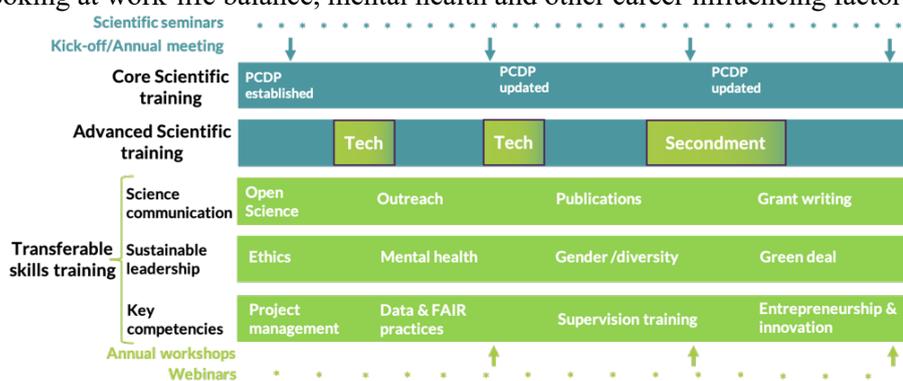


Figure 1.3.1. Overview of the PULSE training programme.

have Career support offices, available for PULSE postdocs. **Monitoring of the training.** The PCDP will be reviewed annually by the postdoc together with supervisors and the TCDC. At the end of each fellowship, the postdoc will be encouraged to set up a PCDP for the next steps beyond PULSE. Additionally, regular surveys (twice a year) between the postdocs and supervisors will guarantee a satisfactory and up-to-date training assessment and monitoring. The training is structured into local and programme-wide levels. **Local training (TO1, TO2, TO6).** Life Science core training in the relevant research area will primarily be implemented in the local setting of the hosting institution where postdoc's daily research and networking takes place, and it will be based on the individual project. Each university associated with PULSE has dedicated courses and training, that complements their strong research environments, e.g. in CV writing, career support, innovation dialogues, strategic management of research results, and grant application workshops. **Programme-wide, national training (TO2, TO3, TO5).** SciLifeLab Training Hub offers an extensive training catalogue with courses in technology- and data-driven life science, e.g. bioinformatics, imaging, data analysis and management, tools for reproducible research, biostatistics and machine learning/AI, and ethics in data and research including the FAIR principles. The implementation of EOSC, European Open Science Cloud, with open, easily accessible learning resources and educational materials, is underway, which will be an important resource for the PULSE postdocs. There will be opportunities to attend leadership courses and workshops in communication skills. PULSE postdocs can choose to take relevant courses according to the goals defined in the PCDP. With 33 PULSE Partners, the postdocs will have numerous opportunities to broaden their network beyond the local host institution, that further integrate them in the Life Science landscape. Sweden's expansive life science sector offers many exciting opportunities for the PULSE

28 [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/jobs-research/researchcomp-european-competence-framework-researchers\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/jobs-research/researchcomp-european-competence-framework-researchers_en)

postdocs<sup>29</sup>. PULSE includes Core research training, Advanced research training, and Transferable skills training (Figure 1.3.1). **Core research skills (TO1, TO2)**. These will mainly be taught at the hosting institution based on the proposed project, in addition to deepened knowledge within the research area e.g. project design, state-of-the-art methodology and technology, and data analysis. **Advanced research skills (TO2, TO5, TO6)**. These will be offered locally, but augmented through the SciLifeLab infrastructure and training environment and via secondments. Based on the ResearchComp Framework, this will enable postdocs to gain an advanced skill set in abstract, critical, analytical thinking and sharpen their skills in strategic and systemic problem solving and foster their creativity. **Transferable skills (TO3, TO5, TO6)**. SciLifeLab PULSE views certain topics and training to be of significant importance, independent of the research area. These transferable skills are structured within PULSE into science communication to academic and non-academic audience, sustainable leadership and further key competencies. Topics covered are project management, supervision training and intellectual property rights (IPR) as well as knowledge in sustainable leadership topics e.g. gender/diversity, ethics, mental health and green sustainability. Systematic surveys will be conducted among postdocs to ensure the quality and relevance of the core components and exercises in the training, with the aim of making adaptations if necessary. Reaching the training goals will enable PULSE postdocs to gain an advanced level not only in sharpening cognitive skills, doing and managing research with the relevant research tools e.g. Open Access or AI, but also in making an impact in the scientific community and beyond, managing themselves and their research, and collaborating. Through the SciLifeLab ‘become a mentor’ (for master students) initiative, PULSE postdocs will be trained for future supervisor roles. The knowledge and skills in transferable topics are provided by existing expertise found in the SciLifeLab ecosystem. **Secondments and other training options (TO4, TO6)**. All postdocs will carry out a **mandatory secondment** of 3-6 months (or up to 12 months if deemed useful) as part of their fellowship. This will take part at any of the 33 PULSE partner organisations, national or international, or at other suitable hosting institutions suggested by the postdoc. For the academic track, secondments will take place in up to three shorter secondments with academic or industrial partners. For the entrepreneurial track, secondments will be with an industrial partner. Secondments should be presented as part of the project description, where its benefit should be clearly justified by the intended learning outcomes from the individual PCDP, including the knowledge or skills to be achieved. Training can be enhanced by optional **short visits** to any host institution in the world, e.g. hosts relevant for the project, hospitals, or health-care organisations (up to 4 weeks, without local supervision, but in accordance with the PCDP). Postdocs who need training not available at their local host institution, SciLifeLab, or any of the partner institutions will be able to take courses elsewhere as detailed in their PCDP. Each PULSE postdoc will have the opportunity to attend a wide range of seminar series, technology- and methodology upskilling as well as DDLS core training, and are expected to attend at least two international and three national conferences within their field. **Design of the training programme**. Together with the PMG, the TCDC will be responsible for the organisation and implementation of the training programme. This includes both research, technology, and innovation in the two parallel tracks. All PULSE postdocs will follow the training outlined in Figure 1.3.1, exposing them to various training activities aligned with their tailored and individual PCDP. The transferable skills training is the common denominator for the PULSE postdocs, and will be implemented in dedicated sessions back-to-back with PULSE annual meetings. PULSE postdocs can expect to distribute their training activities as follows: core scientific project related training (65%), complementary scientific training (15%), and transferable skills training (20%). Each postdoc is expected to participate and complete  $\geq 80\%$  of the core network-wide training. The majority of training exercises developed by SciLifeLab are openly available online, which limits the need to travel. Core training activities and annual meetings will account for approximately 2 weeks/year. The training aspects offered in conjunction with the annual in-real-life PULSE meetings will focus on modules that benefit community building and networking. Figure 1.3.1 provides an overview of a preliminary model with a mix of online seminars, offerings of online/hybrid/onsite training, and the estimated time for each training activity are found in Table 1.3 a. This can be adapted depending on the postdoc’s needs. **Academic track**. Academic track postdocs, engaged in projects compatible with SciLifeLab’s profile areas (Section 1.2.1), will be integrated into leading research groups and obtain a skill-set designed to enable them to become leaders in their research field. They will

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29 <https://www.vinnova.se/en/m/sustainable-precision-health/trends-and-development-of-swedens-life-science-companies/>

be exposed to cutting-edge approaches and state-of-the-art infrastructure in Life Science. The interdisciplinary research environment of SciLifeLab, augmented by secondment(s) and short visits to the non-academic sector, represents an optimal career training to prepare and make PULSE postdocs competitive as they move on to lead their own academic research groups. **Entrepreneurial track.** For entrepreneurial track postdocs, advanced academic training with focus on drug discovery and entrepreneurship will take place in collaboration with DDD. PULSE postdocs will receive hands-on training in translational research by working in a project with DDD and an industrial partner. The postdocs will be supported by a DDD project leader and be integrated in ongoing larger technology implementation programmes at DDD. DDD forms joint project teams with the university TTO and the industrial AssocPrtn, that will be involved in the execution of the project and available for the secondment. Novel technologies resulting from the project will use DDD and industry as testbeds. **Intra-programme synergies and collaboration.** PULSE will actively promote networking between constituent organisations and the Life Science industry, mirrored in activities planned for postdocs (Figure 1). Exchanges between academic and entrepreneurial track PULSE postdocs will be promoted through networking activities at annual meetings and training events to create further synergies and strengthen research networks for their future careers. Hence, PULSE postdocs in both tracks will become versatile in transitioning experimental results for further utilisation, innovation, and commercialisation.

### 1.3.2 Role of non-academic sector in the training programme

Through the strong intersectoral network of SciLifeLab and DDD, 15 national and international Life Science and Pharma companies and industry associations have given their support to PULSE through letters of commitment to engage in the postdocs' training. Secondments at AstraZeneca (UK) and Orion Corporation (Finland), will contribute to the industrial, international angle of the PULSE training. These partners have also contributed to the set-up of the training plan to match future employer's expectations, and will be engaged in all phases of the project: dissemination, recruitment, training, supervision, governance, impact measurements and follow-up. Each postdoc is expected to spend up to 6 months in the non-academic sector, where technology and expertise from non-academia are used in postdocs' projects. The non-academic partners will also be engaged in networking events, e.g. annual PULSE meetings. In the entrepreneurial track, it is mandatory for the postdoc and the PI host to have a close collaboration with DDD and an Associated industrial partner.

**DDTable 1.3 a Main Network-Wide Training Events, Conferences and Contribution of the partners in PULSE**

	Main Training Events and Conferences according to PCDP	Length of training	Lead Institution	Action Month (estimated)	Training objective
1	PULSE kick-off (batch 1 and 2)	1 day	SciLifeLab	M3, M15	1, 4
2	Annual PULSE scientific meeting	2 days	SciLifeLab	M7, M19, M31, M43	1, 2, 4, 6
3	Annual workshop, 3 for each postdoc	2 days	PULSE consortium	M7, M19, M31, M43	1-6
4	Core scientific training	2-5 days	ImplPrtns	Starting from M2/M14	1, 2
5	Transferable skills training (online)	45 min, every second month	PULSE consortium	Starting from M2/M14	3, 5
6	Advanced scientific training (online, hybrid, on-site)	2-5 days	ImplPrtns	Starting from M2/M14	1, 2
7	Online and on-site scientific seminars	45 min	ImplPrtns	Several offerings per month	1, 2, 5
8	International Scientific conference (two events during the program)	2x2 days	ImplPrtns	According to PCDP	1, 2, 5
9	National Scientific conference (one event per year during the program)	3x1 day	ImplPrtns	According to PCDP	1, 2, 5

## 1.4 Quality, novelty and pertinence of the supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements

### 1.4.1 Supervision arrangements, and qualifications and supervision experience of supervisors

**Supervision arrangements.** All postdocs will have a three-fold supervision arrangement in the form of their main PI supervisor at their host institution, a co-supervisor from a different discipline (for entrepreneurial track a DDD project leader), and a co-supervisor representing another sector (for entrepreneurial track this person should be non-academic). Secondment hosts can act as co-supervisors. A mentor will provide additional career support guidance for each postdoc. All supervisors will adhere

to the MSCA supervision guidelines and will receive, if necessary, additional coaching on supervision by **the Training and Career development committee**. It consists of the Training Director, Training Coordinator and local training representatives assigned by the National Steering Committee. The committee implements the training programme, checks the PCDPs, and monitors the training progress on network-wide level. It will also deal with any upcoming ethics issues during supervision, in line with the local ethics experts at the host institution. The PCDPs will be reviewed annually and adjusted as required to reflect improvements in postdoc training. **Supervisors' profile.** Profile of the main PI supervisor is an assistant, associate or full Professor, with top expert knowledge in their research field and experienced in supervision. It is mandatory that the main supervisor has completed courses in research supervision and pedagogical training. Postdocs and their supervisors will set their expectations, and clarify rights and obligations upon the beginning of the fellowship. Co-supervisors and mentors may have a different profile, given they are often in a non-academic sector, but will be held to the standards of the supervision guidelines, as all mentors. At the time of application, there are >250 PIs available as potential hosts for PULSE postdocs (see 5.1). PULSE PIs have strong scientific track records, and offer an exceptional scientific milieu in close proximity to the SciLifeLab research infrastructure. These PIs are publishing their findings in prestigious academic journals, and are well funded by one or more of the following research funding agencies, to maintain a research group of several PhD students and postdocs: European Research Council, H2020/HEU, Swedish Research Council, Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, Vinnova, the Swedish Cancer Society, and Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. To be eligible to host a PULSE postdoc the PI must have secured the necessary co-funding required for the postdoc candidate to execute the proposed project. **Supervision provisions.** All supervisors need to follow the MSCA supervision guidelines. Postdocs will be entitled to supervision for minimum 2 hours per week by their main PI supervisors and an appropriate equivalent from their co-supervisors. For the entrepreneurial track, a co-supervisor in the non-academic sector is mandatory. **Mentoring.** Individually assigned mentors (from an Implementing or Associated Partner) will engage with the postdocs, to actively promote their career advances. Mentors, national or international, will be chosen from the community of PULSE PIs or secondment hosts by PMG in consultation with the postdoc, supervisors and the NSC, with consideration for the academic or entrepreneurial track. Postdocs and mentors will sign a mentoring agreement, outlining expectations, and should meet >2 times per year. The mentor will take part in the annual follow-up with the postdoc's supervisors. **Monitoring.** Centrally organised annual follow-ups will be included in the PULSE programme. These check-points contain both a written part and physical meetings. The meeting between PULSE representatives, the supervisors, mentor and postdoc, aims to assure that project is progressing according to plan. This includes research progress, training plan, work-life balance, but the meeting is also an opportunity to bring up any issues related to the physical and psychosocial work environment, or if there are any other practical matters that need attention. Further review of scientific progress will be achieved at annual PULSE conferences, where external, international experts from the strong SciLifeLab network will provide input. Examples of speakers at previous SciLifeLab events are Prof. Elinor Karlson, Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard, Prof. Richard Durbin, University of Cambridge, and Prof. Edward Holmes, Sydney Institute for Infectious Diseases. Assigned experts will provide feedback and suggestions for how to move forward in the research projects. The TCDC will make an annual report to the External Advisory Board based on: 1) updated PCDPs, and 2) project summaries by the postdocs with input from the external reviewers during the annual conference. If a postdoc does not reach the PCDP goals, the postdoc, supervisors and the training coordinator will meet to outline a plan on what adjustments need to be made and define the support required to help the postdoc fulfil the goals. An amended or adjusted PCDP will document the outcome and will be followed-up in a meeting 6 months later.

#### ***1.4.2 Enhancement on potential and future career perspectives of selected researchers***

PULSE aims to provide the best possible foundation for PULSE postdoc alumni to achieve long-term success as leaders in academia, the non-academic sector or at the crossroad between these sectors. When the PULSE postdocs reach the training goals of PULSE, they will be well-equipped to move forward in their career into a leading role in Life Science research in an international and intersectoral environment. Future employers can be universities in- and outside of the European Research Area, national or international research infrastructures, or SMEs and large companies in pharma and biotech (e.g. and potentially one of the PULSE AssocPrtns), all represented as PULSE Partners. As the **local** career coaching centres also closely collaborate with their regional innovation landscape technology parks,

postdocs will be embedded into an existing network on a local and regional level. To meet the higher demands of Life Science research, the SciLifeLab infrastructure has grown steadily, as exemplified by full-time equivalents connected to the **national** infrastructure, that have in the last 5 years increased from 357 to 490 in 2023, and will continuously offer exciting career opportunities. Supervisors and mentors will act as role models and embed their postdocs in their own **international** networks. SciLifeLab, with its international partnerships e.g. through InfraLife (MAX IV and ESS), EMBL and EATRIS, represent an ideal environment for a researcher in the postdoctoral career phase. Furthermore, the hosting institutions provide in-house coaching services (e.g. ‘MyCareer’ at LU or ‘CareerGate’ at UU). Female postdocs will be encouraged to join ImplPrtns’ female career support, and forums, e.g. Women in Academia Support Network Careers Support.

## 2. Impact

#@IMP-ACT-IA@#

### SciLifeLab PULSE Impact goals (IG1-7):

- **IG1:** Mature and well-prepared PULSE postdoctoral alumni with new mind-sets, international and intersectoral networks, and excellent, well-honed **core, advanced and transferable skills**, enabling them to become leaders in Life Sciences in industry or academia and building bridges in between
- **IG2:** Researchers and entrepreneurs with in-depth understanding of proper data management, **Open Science** data sharing, and **FAIR data practices** as prerequisites for the successful exploration of the
- **IG3:** Strong output in terms of scientific knowledge to all types of target groups such as scientific peers, potential commercial and non-commercial markets, policy stakeholders and the broader society to guarantee a **scientific, economic, technological and societal impact**
- **IG4:** Increased **sustainability and visibility** of cutting-edge postdoctoral training in Europe with a spotlight on the participating institutions
- **IG5:** Strengthen **synergies and connectivity** by transfer of knowledge between the implementing and associated partners, and thereby minimise gaps between academic and non-academic industrial sectors on an institutional and individual level
- **IG6:** Fruitful exchange and bridgebuilding within the **local, regional and national RD&I ecosystems**
- **IG7:** Strengthen the competitiveness of research and innovation in the Life Sciences on **European and**

### 2.1 Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national or international level

#### 2.1.1 Impact of the proposed programme on strengthening research human resources at the institutional, regional, national or international level

**Institutional level (IG5).** The collaboration with non-academic institutions will ensure the transfer of research knowledge and the spreading of MSCA best practice in higher education within the PULSE networks. The PMG will ensure strategic communication towards the participating institutions, e.g. in the form of short ‘MSCA briefings’ to happen upon the beginning of secondments, to show the funding and career possibilities of the MSCA, especially for the non-academic sector, and deepen knowledge of the MSCA. The PULSE postdocs will act as MSCA ambassadors. Additionally, the PMG will, within WP6 (D6.2), use PULSE for a longer-term sustainable strategy towards further amelioration of postdoctoral research education in Life Sciences, which is in line with the findings of EU-Life, an alliance of research centres whose mission is to support and strengthen European research excellence<sup>30</sup>: “It is clear that every institute will need to find its own ways to support postdocs within its own national framework, but the strength of an EU-wide approach is to identify practices that are promising in most European research systems and possibly beyond”<sup>31</sup>. As far as possible, the PULSE training programme will be open access through YouTube recordings and openly available course material, and therefore also be beneficial to other researchers who are recruited by the universities. **Regional level (IG6).** Each of the 9 ImplPrtns are embedded in their own local cluster, including innovation offices, innovation parks, health care, authorities/governmental agencies and industry. The universities have well-established connections to their respective health regions with focus on precision medicine and health data. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional growth supports regions in their work with smart specialisation (Research and Innovation, RIS3) and strategies, as well as promoting knowledge

<sup>30</sup> www.eu-life.eu

<sup>31</sup> Best Practices for Postdoc Career Support in the Life Sciences. A Hands-On Guide for Research Institutions. December 2021, p.8

exchange between the different geographic regions. These clusters provide an advantageous environment for the support of SMEs. Since SciLifeLab already is present in the different regions with established sites, this will benefit PULSE. New innovations and start-ups emerging as a result of PULSE will benefit from the regions' established support functions. All postdocs will, as part of their PCDDP, be required to have one specific action ensuring knowledge exchange within their local region, e.g. by contribution to a regional technology platform. The PULSE annual meetings will provide opportunities to interact with representatives from the different regions. **National level (IG6).** Sweden as a research and innovation nation benefits from strong academic researchers who take advantage of the unique IP possibilities (Section 2.3.1) and personal industrial connections, supported by local innovation offices at the universities. As a national organisation, SciLifeLab acts as a collaborative platform between the Swedish Life Science sector and international stakeholders in Life Science. The access of SciLifeLab infrastructure for international users can lead to reciprocal links with Nordic and European infrastructure networks (Section 1.2.1). **International level (IG7).** The PULSE postdocs represent a significant increase in the international Life Science work force, particularly with regards to obtained skills in advanced technologies, next generation diagnostics and high-throughput approaches. This is unique within the international Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) landscape within Life Sciences. The key priorities in Life Science on EU level as outlined in the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024, focuses on crisis responsive by investing in research *“into better management of epidemics, adaptable clinical networks for drugs and vaccines and better comprehension of the emergence of cross-border health threats”*<sup>32</sup>. The EU wishes to pay particular attention to translational research with special focus on the growing problem of antimicrobial drug resistance (AMR). This is perfectly in line with SciLifeLab's governmental assignment Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, which in the post-pandemic time will shift towards monitoring of AMR, etc. Furthermore, the European One Health Initiative underlines the existing approach against AMR needs to also include the environment and tackle *“AMR more comprehensively on the basis of improved data collection, monitoring and surveillance”*<sup>33</sup>. As PULSE will rigorously train researchers in the handling of big data and Open Science, it answers furthermore to the needs of the EU Recovery Plan contributing to *“unlocking the full potential of data-enabled research and innovation for digitised health systems and a competitive and secure data-economy”*<sup>34</sup>. PULSE postdocs will contribute to solving problems identified in the goals of the EU Cancer mission (Understanding of cancer; Prevention and early detection; Diagnosis and treatment; Quality of life for patients and their families), e.g. Implementing institutions of KI, LiU, LU and UU have strong expertise in oncology. The implementation of PULSE will bring additional impetus to SciLifeLab on its already strong international network of services, and other infrastructure providers e.g. EMBL-EBI, ELIXIR, Global Alliance for Genomics and Health, to develop services and resources for sensitive or confidential data. The skill set of large data management will be required for data-driven precision medicine and to support large scale initiatives like the 1+ Million Genomes Project. PULSE will engage in the development of national health data repositories as being developed within Genomic Medicine Sweden and act as a federated source for international initiatives e.g. the Nordic Commons digital infrastructure development and the EOSC. PULSE is expected to contribute to research on AMR through initiatives in the DDLS and PLP programmes, and with the DDD involvement in ENABLE (European Gram-negative Antibacterial engine), ENABLE2 and JPIAMR (Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial resistance). Overall, PULSE will contribute to the UN SDG #3, Health. **Non-academic impact (IG6, IG7).** While all postdocs will cross bridges to the non-academic sector, the entrepreneurial postdocs will take the successful model used by DDD for generation of new prototype drugs for licensing and company formation and apply this as a completely new model for creation of technology platforms and company formation for broader applications of translational research. A major challenge in translational science from academic research to applications in healthcare and industry is the low reproducibility rates within Life Science research. PULSE postdocs will be trained with a unique skill-set and create strong output with and for the non-academic environment. DDD-generated data translated into industrial settings have been completely reproduced, which should be compared to the average numbers of reproducibility in industry for academic projects, in the range of 11–49%. At least 8 exits/start-ups are expected to emerge from PULSE's entrepreneurial track based on the experience that

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32 Health WP 2023, p. 7

33 A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), p. 5

34 Health WP 2023, p. 7

40-50% of projects that enter the DDD portfolio of projects for generation of prototype drugs either form a company with external investments or are licensed to big pharma. **Synergies (IG5, IG6, IG7).** PULSE will create synergies between the MSCA and the Erasmus+ programme through the strategic approach in showcasing best practice within the PULSE partners from both sectors and across borders. PULSE postdocs will be informed by the PMG about their opportunity to join Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes, e.g. as postdoc learners or teachers, if in line with their PCDP. As postdocs may also suggest their own secondment hosts, this comprises institutions taking part in the Erasmus+ project. The transfer of knowledge will be two ways, as Erasmus+ participants may participate in the work of MSCA research teams through traineeships or short-term stays combined with virtual cooperation for students, doctoral candidates and recent graduates. The PMG will also signal the possibility of staff mobility for the participating researchers. Additionally, the experience with PULSE will be used as a stepping stone and motivation for individual labs to take part in other MSCA funding schemes e.g. Doctoral Networks or Staff Exchange. There will be synergies between the national PULSE and local initiatives, e.g. the local postdoc training programme ‘Excellence by choice’ in Umeå and the Swedish Network of Postdoc Associations. PULSE will be a catalyst of SciLifeLab’s national mission to provide the entire Life Science community in Sweden access to the most relevant and advanced research infrastructure.

### ***2.1.2 Contribution of the programme to the implementation of principles set out by the EU for the human resources development in R&I at the participating organisations***

The impact of PULSE is anchored in the EU Charter & Code principles. All our institutions endorse Charter & Code, and 7 out of the 10 University partners have been awarded the HR Excellence in Research (KTH, KI, LU, MaU, UmU, UU, and ÖRU). In addition, SU and UGOT is in the ongoing application process for HRS4R. **Code of Conduct for Recruitment.** PULSE’s selection and evaluation process follows an open, transparent, merit-based and international process (Section 1.1.2). Evaluators will be instructed to consider discrepancies from the standard career path and variations in the temporal order, e.g. with regards to career breaks or other CV deviations. One of PULSE’s main goals is to ensure that the postdoctoral status will be transitional as the postdocs are prepared for a long-term professional career path. **Charter for Researchers.** PULSE postdocs will be briefed about their rights and obligations upon the beginning of their fellowship. PULSE guarantees the **freedom of research** by offering freedom of choice of topic within the given research areas. SciLifeLab underpins freedom of scientific research in selecting topics, defining research questions, assembling empirical evidence and adapting relative methods. PULSE upholds the highest standard of ethics, research integrity and work environment integrity as stated by ALLEA ‘European Code of Conduct for research integrity’. For the practical implementation aspect, PULSE will use the newly developed research integrity toolbox SOPs4RI (Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity). Professional responsibility and attitude are guaranteed at the level of the supervisors by their mandatory **supervision** training and adherence to the MSCA supervision guidelines. Postdocs will be made aware of the Implementing institution’s strategic goals and values. SciLifeLab is committed to the principle of **diversity, equity and inclusion** in the workplace (Section 1.3.1). This includes researchers at risk who will benefit from specific eligibility conditions among other benefits. Contracts and any legal and IP issues are being dealt with by the Implementing institution’s professional services e.g. HR, legal officers or TTOs, thus ensuring **professional accountability**. Specific **communication, dissemination and exploitation measures** guarantee that postdocs will take a lead in ensuring their research is fruitful. The continuing **professional development** of all PULSE postdocs, supervisors, and support staff is the core of the programme. PULSE is designed to **improve working conditions** for researchers and PMG’s strategic communication will ensure this outcome towards policy and other stakeholders.

### **2.2 Credibility of the proposed measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development**

**IG1, IG2, IG3, IG4.** PULSE is designed at the intersection of the need for a skilled workforce in health and global challenges, with focus on data management and digitalisation. SciLifeLab is an established leader in bioinformatics and computational biology and is uniquely prepared to provide in-depth training required to explore and exploit the exponentially accumulating data sphere, providing the basis for new types of analytical approaches to better understand biological processes. The 48 postdocs will have a long-lasting impact in the Life Sciences RD&I landscape, and postgraduate education. In pursuing IG1-4, researchers will develop proficiencies in the 7 defined competence areas of the ResearchComp

(cognitive abilities, doing research, managing research, managing research tools, making an impact, working with others, self-management), facilitating their development as true leaders in their fields. Prior to the design of PULSE, SciLifeLab collected strategic input in a survey with nearly 300 respondents with the aim to adapt the training goals and expected impact to the needs of potential future employers. Over 60% stressed the need for bioinformatics, included in the PULSE curriculum. With regards to complementary sciences, >50% respondents wished for further training opportunities in data management, data sharing and FAIR principles, and scientific project management, also included in the PULSE training programme. Thus, the training is optimally designed to equip future leaders in Life Science with skills needed to enable their success. The interdisciplinary nature of PULSE and its strong intersectoral component will contribute to a long-lasting impact on the postdocs' career. The transferable skill set with which the PULSE postdocs are equipped ensures that their career chances as postdocs are enhanced, and will become rounded leadership personalities, able to tap into their resilience and work across disciplines, borders and sectors. The PULSE postdocs will, at the end of the programme, have an excellent research resume with scientific output, high visibility and the benefit to be part of a strong international network. With the 33 PULSE Partners, including their >450 member organisations, PULSE postdocs are expected to find employment immediately after their postdoc time. PULSE postdocs are trained and prepared to steer their careers in the medium- and long-term run as well. **Potential future employers in academia.** Any of the academic participating institutions within PULSE, not least the research infrastructures; any of the institutions with which SciLifeLab has already strong collaborations. **Potential future employers in the non-academic sector.** Pharmaceutical companies on a global or national level (AstraZeneca, Novartis); SMEs in the health sector; governmental agencies e.g. the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Food Agencies, the National veterinary institute, Forensic centres; large health bodies like the WHO or the World Food programme. **Entrepreneurship/Spin-offs.** Particularly postdocs following the entrepreneurial track will be able to launch an independent career. Overall, with the strong international exposure of PULSE, its postdocs will be able to find suitable job positions almost anywhere in the world.

### **2.3 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities**

#### **2.3.1 Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities**

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The dissemination, exploitation and communication activities of PULSE will be two-levelled: on the level of the programme itself to ensure spreading of best practice to stakeholders, and on the level of the individual postdoc to maximise the impact on their career and ensure the scientific discourse, exploitation and communication. Programme level. The PMG, together with the Communication office, the TTO, the KTH Library office and the Implementing institutions, will set up a detailed strategy for the project's approach to communication, dissemination, exploitation (C/D/E) December 2024. It will be updated annually and complemented by an annual report on the project's C/D/E activities (D1.1). The strategy will comprise overall strategic goals, broken down into annual outlooks, differentiated target groups, customised measures and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and clearly indicate the involvement and responsibility of each actor. Long-term impact and the establishment of a dialogue with stakeholders is expected to be reached through the work in WP6. The PMG will continuously measure the output on all levels in line with predefined KPIs and adapt the programme accordingly if needed. Communication will be planned, implemented and monitored by the PMG. One of the related goals is to have additional AssocPrtns to join PULSE after submission and initiation of the programme. Another aim is that PULSE will result in a general increase of other MSCA projects for the partners. PULSE' strong international anchoring is likely to lead to organisations establishing new activities connected to any of the partners, thus contributing to long-term impact. **Postdoc level.** All postdocs will be trained about the importance of communication, dissemination and exploitation at the start of their fellowship and will set annual goals for their C/D/E to be incorporated into their PCDP, in line with the defined goals of the overall strategy. They will be supported throughout their fellowship with the hosting institution's support services and dedicated training, e.g. on open access publishing and how to take part in ongoing communication activities. Each PULSE postdoc is expected to publish at least one high quality peer-reviewed article as the first author, in addition to peer-reviewed co-authored articles from collaborations, attend at least two international and three national conferences over the course of the programme, and actively take part in at least one outreach and dissemination activity per year. These

goals will also be fixed in the PCDPs. Before starting a secondment, it will be mandatory for the postdoc to reach out to the secondment communications office and TTOs to ensure they make full use of the potential communication, dissemination and exploitation offices. In 2023, SciLifeLab's activities and scientific publications linked to SciLifeLab's research environment and infrastructure were made visible to the public via Swedish editorial media on 334 occasions during the year in print and via the web, as well as 726 times in international media via the web. In total this has resulted in a reach of 28.2 M, and 264.9 M readings. **Dissemination target groups.** Six categories dominate the publication landscape of both SciLifeLab infrastructure and affiliated researchers: biochemistry and molecular biology, cell biology, genetics and heredity, biochemical research methods, biotechnology and applied microbiology, and oncology. Researchers in either of these fields, or any interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary area among these fields, are the scientific target groups of PULSE, i.e. with a clear overlap with SciLifeLab's areas of strength. **Dissemination measures for a scientific audience.** 1) Research publications, including preprints (bioRxiv, medRxiv). Publications in high-impact scientific journals, and SciLifeLab Data repository. 2) National conferences and seminars, e.g. oral/poster presentation at events organised by SciLifeLab. 3) Internal lab- and departmental meetings and retreats. 4) International high-level conferences in relevant field, e.g. EMBO meetings, FEBS conferences, FEMS meetings, ASCB meetings, EFIS meetings, and Keystone and Gordon conferences. 5) Non-academic conferences and partnering meetings on national and international level, e.g. Nordic Life Science Days, KI Science Park Day, New Horizons in Biologics & Bioprocessing, Lab & Diagnostics of The Future, the Nordic Precision Medicine Forum. Postdocs will benefit from SciLifeLab's strong research environment, where the scientific output and impact keep at a competitive level. In 2023, SciLifeLab infrastructure units and affiliated researchers reported over 1,300 publications, many in journals with high impact, e.g. Nature, Science, EMBO journals. On average, 20% of SciLifeLab publications published in 2017-2020, either from the infrastructure or affiliated researchers, belong to the top 10% most cited in their fields. The measures will be complemented by using also the EU-funded tools and platform, e.g. 'Open Research Europe'; the 'Horizon Results Platform' and the 'Horizon Results Booster'. The host universities TTOs also use the Innovation Radar to identify ongoing high potential innovations which may be of importance to the field. Their results will be highlighted also after the duration of the programme. Enhanced industrial outreach is guaranteed through SciLifeLab External Relations Office, as well as industry relations within the DDLs programme. **Dissemination measures for mixed audiences (scientific and non-scientific).** PULSE dissemination will benefit from several, well-established channels: 1) SciLifeLab newsletter (>4000 recipients every other week). This will include PULSE related highlights at least once a month with content produced by PULSE postdocs. 2) SciLifeLab.se website (30,000 hits/month). PULSE will be included as a submenu under 'Research', with links direct to PULSE news and highlights. 3) SciLifeLab and Implementing universities' social media channels: LinkedIn (1.4 M followers), Twitter (150,000 followers), Instagram (230,000 followers), Facebook (545,000 likes), and YouTube. In addition, PULSE postdocs will be encouraged to use their own social media channels for dissemination of programme results. PULSE postdocs will be trained to make their own short videos about their projects by a SciLifeLab Communication officer, to share in these channels (activity included in the PCDP). **Exploitation target groups.** Health-related industries and markets, e.g. Life Science companies with research and development capacities, both within diagnostics and drug development, and also funding stakeholders, both governmental and private, with interest in cost-effective use of translational research for health (patients), environment (ecosystem) and sustainability (society). **Exploitation measures for commercial purposes (i.e. patents).** Potential for exploitation will be assessed at the beginning of the project and, if applicable, recorded in the PCDP. In addition, TTO representatives will be engaged in annual training events for keeping track of the exploitation factor of each project. All postdocs will be trained in IP, entrepreneurship, how to detect exploitation potential of their work, and how to create a spin-off. This will contribute to making impact of PULSE beyond the duration of the project itself. In the entrepreneurial track, the postdoc will be offered additional coaching for technical advice on how to develop their invention to a product including development of publication and patent strategies, and coaching on how to build a company. **Intellectual property rights.** The work of the PULSE postdocs will be embedded into each ImplPrtn's exploitation strategy through local innovation support functions that aim to support the development of ideas from early concept to finished product or service, to the benefit of society. This includes rights to an invention, protection for underlying processes and techniques, copyrights for written protocols and associated marketing, e.g.

video and websites. **Exploitation measures for non-commercial exploitation.** Guidelines for policy stakeholders in relation to e.g. precision medicine, pandemic laboratory preparedness, and planetary biology (environmental policies). Postdocs will be trained in how to communicate with policy stakeholders in dedicated training sessions. **Strategies for IP.** All PULSE postdocs will own the rights to all IP emerging from their research. This is based in the Swedish singularity of the so-called ‘Teacher’s Exemption’ for academic staff derived from the Act (1949:345) on the Rights to Employee Inventions: not the universities in Sweden obtain the IP, but the researchers and inventors generating IP as part of their employment at the university. It will be an asset for each PULSE postdoc, and within PULSE, support structures are guaranteed (locally in the form of university TTOs) to commercialise their research which can lead to the creation of spin-offs. For the transfer of results for commercial exploitation, the collaborative party will need to enter into a separate agreement with the researcher who owns the IP. Separate partnership agreements will be put into place before each secondment starts where necessary and wished upon by the involved institutions. **Outreach and communication.** Target groups: potential end-users who will have an immediate interest in any kind of outcome, e.g. patient organisations; early-stage students with an interest in a research career; high-school students in the decision-making process about their further education; people interested in the general value of research, research funding organisations with an interest to translate research finding from academy to practice. A special target group are scientific sceptics. Postdocs will be trained to identify and reach out to these target groups. **Outreach and communication measures.** Pint of Science events (scientific grass-root community with aim to share the latest research findings with the general public<sup>35</sup>); Science festivals, e.g. UU co-hosted SciFest organised annually in Uppsala, an event targeted for school-age children but also the general public, including patient organisations, with exhibitors from the university, companies, authorities, museums and organisations<sup>36</sup>. Research Friday is part of the European Researchers’ Night. The annual event is organised by universities, science centres, museums, archives, research centres, municipalities, science parks and regional development councils across Sweden. Approximately 37,000 people from more than half of Sweden’s municipalities participated in the Research Friday in 2023. Via the media offices of the Implementing institutions, the postdocs will contribute to local and regional communication measures via mass media or e.g. in local schools. As the SciLifeLab Public Engagement Committee already engages in a number of outreach activities, postdocs will automatically join into the activities of their hosting groups. Where appropriate, measures to include **citizen science activities** into the postdoc’s project will be incorporated. Postdocs may also take part in ongoing citizen science activities e.g. the Global Health sites mapping project<sup>37</sup>.

### ***2.3.2 Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures.***

The project will set up, during the Grant Agreement Preparation Phase, a consortium agreement based on the LERU model for MSCA-ITNs and adapted to the specific needs for this project. PULSE will pay particular attention to the management of IP topics (ownership, access to key knowledge, research data) and keep it in line with the DMP. SciLifeLab, DDD and university TTOs have a thorough experience of supporting academic scientists in commercialising their research. Upon the start of a project, the scientists, the university and SciLifeLab will sign an agreement that clearly describes the rights to inventions. #COM-DIS-VIS-CDV\$# #IMP-ACT-IA\$#

## **3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation**

#@QUA-LIT-QL@# #@WRK-PLA-WP@# #@CON-SOR-CS@# #@PRJ-MGT-PM@#

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35 <https://pintofscience.com>

36 <https://www.scifest.se>

37 <https://healthsites.io>

### 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, management, structures, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

#### 3.1.1 Programme organisation

An overview is given in Figure 3.1.1. All PULSE bodies and committees will be set up with consideration for gender balance. **External Advisory Board.** 4 members, including Sirpa Jalkanen, Research Director InFLAMES Flagship, Professor of Immunology, University of Turku, Finland and member of SciLifeLab IAB, one representative from DDD Platform Advisory Board, and two additional members with expertise within advanced training. International academic and industry representatives with expertise in advanced training programmes, composition assured through SciLifeLab International Advisory Board and the DDD Advisory Board. **Task:** strategic advice on PULSE training. Board will meet once a year. **National Steering Committee (NSC).** 10 members, including SciLifeLab Scientific Directors: Prof. Hjalmar Brismar, KTH, Prof. Christos Savakovlis, SU, Prof. Carsten Daub, KI, and Prof. Aristidis Moustakas, UU, and SciLifeLab Site Directors: Markus Heidenblad, Head of Clinical Genomics Lund, LU, Prof. Fredrik Elinder, LiU, Elisabet Carlsohn, Head of Core Facilities, UGOT, and Linda Sandblad, Cryo-EM Platform Scientific Director, UmU, and representatives from DDD's Steering group, including Prof. Håkan Billig, GU, Chair of DDD's Steering Group. **Tasks:** decisions regarding postdocs selection, budget and any issues during the programme. NSC will have the role of Scientific and Impact committee, assure national focus and that postdocs are embedded in SciLifeLab and local environments. Committee will meet twice a year. **Programme Management Group (PMG).** 5 members: Dir. Prof. Mia Phillipson, UU, Co-Dir. Prof. Per Ljungdahl, SU, Co-Dir. Assoc. Prof. DDD co-Director Kristian Sandberg, UU, Disa Hammarlöf, PhD, Research Coordinator, KTH, Maria Bäckström, Coordinator, UU. Directors with expertise of government of the academic and entrepreneurial tracks with support from highly experienced Programme Coordinators. **Tasks:** Overall programme management, responsibility for risk assessment and management. The PMG will define a set of KPIs for all programme aspects to monitor the project additionally to the Milestones and Deliverables. Group will meet biweekly.

#### Training and Career Development Committee (TCDC).

3 members, Assoc. Prof. Jessica Lindvall, Dir. of Training, a Training Coordinator, and local training representatives assigned by the PULSE NSC. **Tasks:** design and monitoring of programme training and training progress based on PCDPs. Group will meet biweekly (Section 1.3).

**Supervision and mentor panel.** Main PI supervisor and two co-supervisors, of which one can be affiliated to the secondment host. The panel will include a PULSE mentor. The TTOs offer mentors for business development. **Task:** the panel will be responsible for postdoc's scientific and career guidance. Full panel will meet 2 times/year (Section 1.4).

**Ombudsman and Ethic Committees.** During the recruitment process, a neutral Ombudsman will be the contact point for redress. Upon recruitment, any issues related to personnel administration are handled by the ImplPrtn's HR department ethic committees. If conflicts arise involving postdocs, supervisors, and/or committee members, the PMG will synchronize efforts to resolve them through the relevant ImplPartn HR department (the primary responsible party) and the Ethics Advisor. Research ethical approval is given according to applicable laws and regulations (*Ethics requirements*, p. 9). An independent Ethics Advisor will be appointed by the Beneficiary with the task to identify and follow-up ethics aspects of the overall project.

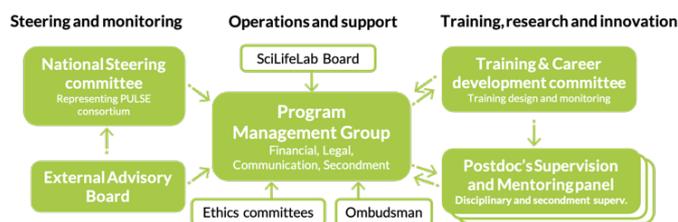
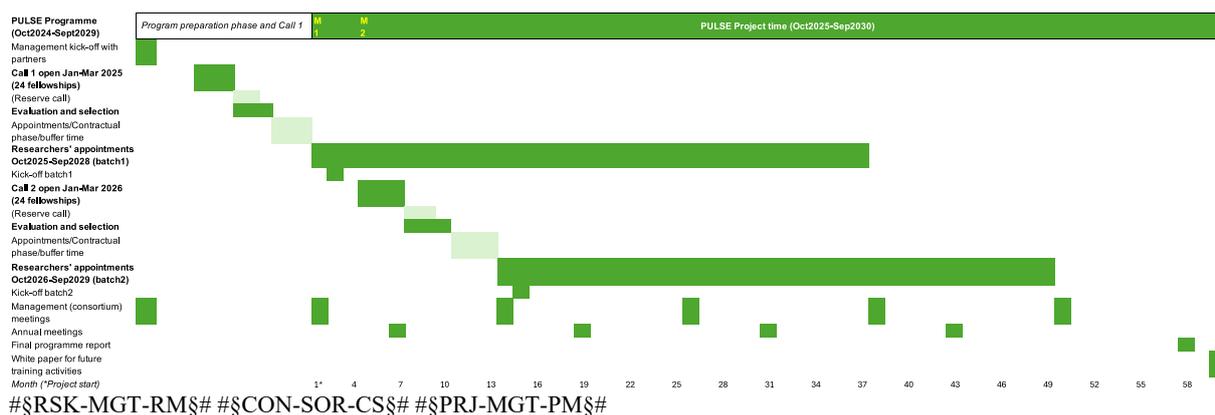


Figure 3.1.1. SciLifeLab PULSE programme organisation

**Figure 3.1 PULSE with major actions and milestones.** The 48 postdocs will be recruited in two batches (1 and 2). Lighter tracks indicate extended timeline if reserve calls are needed, including evaluation and negotiation phases. Milestones indicated in yellow font.



**Recruitment monitoring table**

Call number	Call timing	Expected number of fellows in place following the call	Expected number of recruitment months Period 1: M1-M24	Expected number of recruitment months Period 2: M25-M60
1	From Jan 2025-Mar 2025	24	552	312
2	From M5 to M7	24	264	600
Total			816 months	912 months

**3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations**

**3.2.1 Appropriateness of the infrastructure and capacity of each participating organisation**

The hosting department at any of the 9 Implementing universities will provide a strong research environment strengthened with local infrastructure and highly meritorious supervisors with scientific and supervisory skills. The postdocs will work closely with SciLifeLab’s infrastructure distributed at universities across Sweden, ensuring access to a wide range of cutting-edge technologies and support by highly skilful staff. The ImplPrtns have, as stated in B2, longstanding experience in coordinating and managing grants on an international and national level, including a number of MSCA projects. SciLifeLab has experience in coordination of large-scale and complex projects and has expertise in training postgraduate students through its group leaders. 70% of SciLifeLab’s 600 staff scientists hold a PhD degree, and are dedicated to guide users in the experimental process, from study design to data handling. SciLifeLab has a strong track record in providing technology and expertise support. The provision of an intersectoral and international milieu is reflected in that a large proportion of projects were connected to clients representing health care (14%), international users (6%), industry (3%) and other governmental organisations (1%). Also reflecting the international milieu provided through PULSE, nearly 20% of Swedish universities’ research staff have obtained their PhD at a HEI in another country. Thus, the national research infrastructure SciLifeLab has the best prerequisites to implement PULSE and training of future leaders in Life Science. SciLifeLab will be responsible for the government of the program: PMG, NSC, Training and Career development committee, and evaluation and selection panels. The PULSE bodies will be composed of carefully selected, highly skilled and experienced senior experts. PULSE will engage already established committees and bodies, e.g. representatives of SciLifeLab International Advisory Board, DDD Advisory Board, SciLifeLab Management Group, DDD’s Steering Committee, Ethics committees, Ethics Advisor, experienced training experts highly experiences in training, and academic and non-academic experts that will be responsible for programme risk management. The SciLifeLab Board will formally decide on appointments for the PMG Directors, the Training Director and appointments for the NSC. The PMG will be in charge of overall programme governance, and communication with all the participating PULSE partners. The 24 AssocPrtns’ complementary competence and capacity will offer strong research environments for secondments, to move forward PULSE projects (Section B2).

**3.2.2 Support offered to the candidates/researchers during the application/recruitment/implementation by the host/participating organisations**

The PMG will, together with Communications, HR, Data and IT-support, contribute to the service of the PULSE postdocs, through SciLifeLab and the ImplPrtns. 2 FTE will be set aside for programme

coordination and support (economy, communication, external relations, HR, legal services and programme coordination, with PC specifically assigned for position). The PC will be the main contact for any questions regarding PULSE. During the application phase, the PMG will serve as helpdesk for all questions. During the recruitment, all ImplPrtns will offer thorough information on how to relocate in Sweden. Information on residence permits, housing, insurance, Swedish personal numbers, pre-school and school, parental benefits, and activities for family members is described in detail on each university website. There are also international support offices at each university that applicants can contact for further information. During the implementation phase, postdocs are supported by the ImplPrtns offices/sections for local training support, HR, data support, IT, libraries, open access publication support, and sometimes health care services (physical and mental) through agreements with health care companies. At the beginning of the PULSE research project, the PI host will ensure that infrastructure will be available when it will be needed in the postdoc's project.

### ***3.2.3 Consortium composition and exploitation of participating organisations' complementarities***

PULSE's partners will together form a synergistic environment provided by the Beneficiary, ImplPrtns and AssocPrtns (Section B2). The programme will benefit from the well-established functions for national cooperation provided by the KTH SciLifeLab Operations Office that functions efficiently with matching expertise from the participating universities. All ImplPrtns offer complementary research strengths in the broad field of life sciences and training environments, and both national SciLifeLab and local research infrastructures. The ImplPrtns have established collaborations in highly successful strategic research programmes that connect research groups with complementary expertise, and offer a wide catalogue of training possibilities, e.g. EXODIAB<sup>38</sup>, a joint strategic research initiative in the diabetes area (UU, LU), and the Swedish CardioPulmonary bioImage Study, SCAPIS<sup>39</sup> (KI, UGOT, MU, UU, UmU, LiU). AssocPrtns will assure that postdocs can effectively connect with the non-academic life science environments. At least one representative of any of the ImplPrtns will be represented in the PULSE governance boards. Furthermore, KTH's Sustainability Office will serve as a best practice example for all PULSE partners for sustainable and environmental aspects. The ImplPrtns all have Open Science Strategies and resources, as well as gender equality plans in place.

### ***3.2.4 Commitment of the Beneficiary and Implementing/Associated partners to the programme***

PULSE has a strong commitment from the 33 partners of the PULSE consortium, that will offer individualised training, mentoring, secondments, and shorter non-academic visits. All partners are formally supporting the programme with Letters of Commitment (Section 6). The programme is expected to expand with additional partners for training and secondments via the networks of PULSE PIs and AssocPrtns, to broaden the Life Science scope even further. The total budget of this action is 19.0 MEUR, out of which 18% is covered by SciLifeLab, and 46% is covered by the ImplPrtns. The 24 AssocPrtns are committed to contribute to additional costs associated with postdoc training and mentoring, secondments and shorter visits. The 9 ImplPrtns will actively contribute to PULSE by offering an excellent research training milieu and local Life Science research infrastructure, and the PI host will co-fund its postdoc's salary and research costs with 60,000 EUR annually. In total, the COFUND budget for the ImplPrtns contribution to PULSE amounts to 8.7 MEUR.##\$QUA-LIT-QL\$##  
##\$WRK-PLA-WP\$##

## **4. Ethics**

SciLifeLab PULSE considers ethics on several levels: for the programme itself, for the individual postdocs' projects, and as part of the training programme. The Beneficiary KTH will appoint an independent Ethics Advisor, nominated by the PMG, with the task to identify and follow up the ethics aspects of the project.

The project provides information about ethics standards and requirements on the project website including guidance on how to fill out the ethics self-assessment. The ethics self-assessment is part of the documents of the application (Section 1.1.1).

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.exodiab.se/home/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.scapis.org>

All recruited postdocs will, regardless of their topic, receive ethics training. A self-paced course in research ethics has been planned by KTH to offer all postdocs as an ongoing process.

All projects will be ethically assessed by evaluators during the evaluation phase. In case there are any ethical issues, the application will go through well established procedures at local/hosting university to obtain ethical approval. Projects with ethical issues may only be started once they have been greenlighted by the ethics committee.

Ethical procedures already exist at national level and locally at the universities. The Ethics Committee will monitor all research topics and assess annually in writing their status, which will be the basis for ethics reports (Deliverables D5.1, D5.2 and D5.3) towards REA.

In general, there are a number of policies and regulations in Sweden that researchers are obliged to follow when involving humans and animals. As mentioned in section 2.1.2 of this document, SciLifeLab PULSE is dedicated to upholding the highest standard of research integrity and work environment integrity as stated by the All European Academies (ALLEA) “European Code of Conduct for research integrity”.

Ethics review of research with human participants in Sweden is mainly regulated by the Ethics Review Act (2003:460). According to that law, ethics review is performed by a national agency (the Ethics Review Authority) and is legally required for any scientific or scholarly research activity (1) performed in Sweden that (2) fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

- there is a physical intervention upon the research person (alive or deceased)
- the research method is intended to physically or psychologically affect the research person
- there is an obvious risk of physical or psychological harm
- biological matter from the research persons (alive or deceased) is used and traceable to them
- sensitive personal data or personal data concerning the crime record are handled.

‘Sensitive personal data’ is legally defined by the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) article 9.1 as data that can be traced to a single, identifiable individual and concerns ethnic background, political opinions, religious or philosophical convictions, union membership, health, sexual habits or orientation, genetical or biometrical data.

The Ethics Review Authority distributes applications for ethics review to ethics committees consisting of researchers and public representatives, which may approve, approve with requirements, deny or dismiss applications.

In cases where those criteria are not fulfilled, a legally valid ethics review is not necessary and cannot be had. Swedish universities, however, are obligated to support their staff on research integrity and research ethics.

At the beneficiary KTH, such support is offered by an ethics advisor at the Research Support Office and the KTH’s Ethics Committee (committee of the Faculty Council). The KTH’s Ethics Committee may provide an opinion on certain projects which may be research-ethically controversial but do not fulfil any of the above criteria, but the opinion is considered advisory. The KTH’s Ethics Committee provides opinions on projects only before they commence. The ethics advisor primarily offers support on legal requirements. While, traditionally, the Swedish ethics review system relies on trust of the researcher’s ethics competence, the research ethics of most projects that do not fulfil the above listed criteria are handled internally by the group performing the research.

During the application review process, if a project that needs ethical approval is selected, it is the responsibility of the PIs to move forward with the process and apply for ethical approval. SciLifeLab PULSE requires the ethical approval in place before starting the project. For activities undertaken in non-EU countries and that raise ethics issues, a confirmation that the research is legal in at least one EU Member state will be required.

***Beneficiary's obligations regarding selected research proposals involving the use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC) or human embryos (hE):***

*Notwithstanding the stipulations under Article 14 and Annex V of the Grant Agreement, the beneficiary shall inform the Research Executive Agency (REA) in writing of any research project selected for funding that may involve the use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC) or human embryos (hE). Such research may not start without the approvals of the European ethics review and of the relevant Programme Committee completed by the communication of the explicit approval in writing from the REA to the beneficiary. If the beneficiary breaches any of its obligations regarding selected research proposals involving the use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC) or human embryos (hE), the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Grant Agreement) or terminated (see Article 32 of the Grant Agreement) without prejudice to any of the other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Grant Agreement.”*

## 5. Partner Organisations

### 5. Implementing and Associated partners, and their financial contributions to the programme.

Table 5.1

Partner organisation name	Partner org. short name	Country	Partner		Academic	Role			Financial contribution (in €)
			Imp	Loc		Hosting researchers WITH recruiting	Hosting researchers WITHOUT recruiting	Providing other training or career development opportunities	
KTH Royal Institute of Technology / SciLifeLab	KTH	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136* / 860,544**
Karolinska Institutet	KI	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Linköping University	LiU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Lund University	LU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Örebro University	ÖrU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Stockholm University	SU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Umeå University	UmU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
University of Gothenburg	UGOT	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
Uppsala University	UU	Sweden	X		Y	Y		Y	971,136*
SciLifeLab DDD	DDD	Sweden	X		Y		Y	Y	2,533,000***
Affibody AB	Affibody	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Akiram Therapeutics AB	Akiram Therapeutics	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
AstraZeneca AB	AstraZeneca	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Beactica Therapeutics AB	Beactica Therapeutics	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response	CoVaRR-Net	Canada		X	Y		Y	Y	****

Network									
Cytiva Sweden AB	Cytiva	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
European infrastructure for translational medicine	EATRIS ERIC	The Netherlands		X	Y		Y	Y	****
The European Molecular Biology Laboratory	EMBL	France, Germany, Italy, Spain, UK		X	Y		Y	Y	****
Fondazione Human Technopole	HT	Italy		X	Y		Y	Y	****
Lif Service AB	Lif	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Lipum AB	LIPUM	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Malmö University	MaU	Sweden		X	Y		Y	Y	****
MAX IV (Lund University)	MAX IV	Sweden		X	Y		Y	Y	****
Orion Corporation	Orion Corporation	Finland		X	N		Y	Y	****
Prosilico AB	Prosilico	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
QureTech Bio AB	QureTech Bio	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Red Glead Discovery AB	RGD	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Research Institutes of Sweden AB	RISE	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Strike Pharma AB	Strike Pharma	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
The Swedish Drug Delivery Center*****	SweDeliver	Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Italy		X	Y		Y	Y	****
SwedenBIO Service AB	SwedenBIO	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Cytiva Testa Center AB	Testa Center	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Toleranzia AB	Toleranzia	Sweden		X	N		Y	Y	****
Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie	VIB	The Netherlands							

\*The financial contribution per Implementing partner is estimated and based on the assumption that each university hosts the same number of postdocs. The distribution of postdocs, and resulting total cost for co-funding of postdoc salaries per university, will be decided based on the evaluation of applications. This co-funding towards postdoc salaries will be provided by PULSE PIs hosting postdocs. \*\*Co-funding provided from SciLifeLab for PULSE Management, Coordination and Training. \*\*\*SciLifeLab DDD contribution in-kind and for consumables for entrepreneurial postdocs. \*\*\*\*In-kind contribution for training, secondments supervision and mentoring. \*\*\*\*\*Association has academic and industrial partners.

### 5.1 SciLifeLab PULSE Associated partners

Affibody AB, Akiram Therapeutics AB, AstraZeneca AB, Beactica Therapeutics AB, Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net), Cytiva Sweden AB, European infrastructure for translational medicine (EATRIS ERIC), The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Fondazione Human Technopole (HT), Läkemedelsindustriföreningens Service AB (Lif), Lipum AB, Malmö University, MAX IV (Lund University), Orion Corporation, Prosilico, QureTech Bio AB, Red Glead Discovery AB, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, Strike Pharma AB, SweDeliver, SwedenBIO AB, Cytiva Testa Center AB, Toleranzia AB, Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB).

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Affibody AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Affibody AB is a research-oriented company founded in 1998 by scientists from Royal Technical Institute (KTH) and the Karolinska Institute (KI). The company has around 90 employees and focuses on discovery and development of protein-based therapeutics using its platform technology Affibody molecules. The company is a leader in the engineering and development of protein therapeutics based on alternative engineered scaffolds and is currently working on an engineered trivalent bispecific construct that has competed two phase 2 clinical trials and has started a pivotal phase 2b/3 trial. Affibody's ambition is to be an independent leading biotherapeutics company based in Sweden
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Affibody has a dedicated research organization of about 60 highly skilled scientists. The chief scientific officer (CSO) is professor in tumor targeted proximity proteins for radiotherapy at Uppsala University and the chief medical officer (CMO) is professor in regulatory sciences at Copenhagen university. Key persons involve the group heads of the protein engineering group and the affinity ligand generation group, both with PhDs in molecular diversity and proximity ligand generation. In their groups, in total five (5) scientists would be specifically involved in the PULSE project. In addition, the PULSE project will be supported with additional two (3) supporting key group head persons with expertise in protein expression, in protein purification and in protein analytics, with associated relevant staff of approximately additional five (5) scientists also here.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Phage display laboratories and necessary equipment to generate affinity ligands, tools to measure and characterize affinity proteins e.g. Biacore, Octet, MassSpec, CD etc. Fermentation protein expression lab and protein purification lab for production of large quantities of affinity proteins (up to gram scale). Cell labs and different cell model systems to analyze relevant activities and binding using FACS. Skills and contacts to perform animal experiments as warranted.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Active participation in several VINNOVA programmes including ProNova (past) and CellNova (ongoing), and ESCAPE, and ESCAPE 2.0 research programmes (past). Participation in Marie Curie H2020 ITN training network DNA-robotics, and in FP7 EU programme Counterstroke (FP7-HEALTH, 7.8 MEUR, 2013-2018).



## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

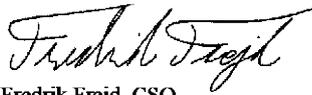
I undersigned Fredrik Frejd, in quality of CSO of Affibody AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Affibody AB I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our unit for Target Vetting and Innovation (VI T), our unit for protein engineering and our unit for affibody ligand generation, will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

*Affibody AB is a research-oriented company founded in 1998 by scientists from Royal Technical Institute (KTH) and the Karolinska Institute (KI). The company focuses on discovery and development of protein-based therapeutics using its platform technology Affibody molecules. The company is a leader in the engineering and development of protein therapeutics based on alternative engineered scaffolds and is currently working on an engineered trivalent bispecific construct that has competed two phase 2 clinical trials and is starting a pivotal phase 2b/3 trial very soon. Affibody's ambition is to be an independent leading biotherapeutics company based in Sweden. To keep the leadership, we need to develop cutting edge and industrially sound projects, based on our core technology initially developed at the KTH in Stockholm. This involves testing hypothesis and projects that need collaboration with research groups and scientists that have relevant expertise, models and research interest. The company has state of the art facilities and equipment as well as trained experts in field required to discover and develop protein therapeutics for proximity therapy, both in oncology and in inflammatory conditions.*

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Date: 12 December, 2023



Fredrik Frejd, CSO

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Akiram Therapeutics AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Akiram Therapeutics AB was founded in 2021 as an academic spinoff company based on work performed at the DDD platform at SciLifeLab. The company focuses on cancer targeting molecular radiotherapy, and plans to initiate first clinical trials during 2024.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Akiram Therapeutic entails a large network both within academia, industry and the clinic. Co-founder Assoc Prof Marika Nestor heads a research group of 8 people at Uppsala University, focusing on pre-clinical development of molecular radiotherapy of cancer. Co-founder Assistant Prof Anja Mortensen is based at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, where her focus is clinical translation of molecular radiotherapy. Co-founder Fredrik Frejd is adjunct Professor at Uppsala University, focusing on protein-based cancer targeting. Akiram Therapeutics also work closely together with Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Radiopharmacy, where clinical collaboration partners (including Oncologist Renske Altena, professor of surgery Jan Zedenius and Assoc Prof Thuy Tran, head on R&D at Karolinska Radiopharmacy) have been assembled to instigate the clinical Phase I trials planned for 2024.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Access to cell culture laboratories, animal facilities for work with radiopharmaceuticals, as well as instrumentation for detection and analysis of radioactive compounds.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Akiram Therapeutics AB is presently involved in a research project 2023-2027 granted 1M € from the Swedish Cancer Society, 0.6M € from the Erling-Persson Foundation, and 0.6M € from the Sjöberg Foundation for clinical translation of a cancer targeting radiopharmaceutical.

Uppsala, 2023-11-13



Marika Nestor, PhD  
CEO, Co-founder

Akiram Therapeutics AB

C/O Ihres väg 38

SE-75 263 Uppsala, Sweden

Cell: +46 (0)70 234 1881

[www.akiramtherapeutics.com](http://www.akiramtherapeutics.com)

### **Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Marika Nestor, in my quality of CEO and Co-founder of Akiram Therapeutics AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Akiram Therapeutics, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, Akiram Therapeutics will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

Akiram Therapeutics is a Swedish biotech company focused on the development of targeted radioimmunotherapy for cancer, which is based on a proprietary antibody targeting the cancer marker CD44v6 combined with a radiation component. The therapy has generated strong preclinical results in cancer models in conditions that currently lack effective treatments. With the potential for its drug candidate to be classified as an orphan drug and recognized as first-in-class, the company is dedicated to advancing research in this field, including indications in head and neck cancer, AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia), lung cancer, and aggressive thyroid cancer. Headquartered in Uppsala, Sweden, Akiram Therapeutics is staffed with experts in radiation science research, cancer precision medicine, and drug development. To learn more, please visit Akiram's website and follow Akiram on LinkedIn.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

2023-11-13

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marika Nestor'.

Marika Nestor  
CEO, Akiram Therapeutics

Organization Number  
559338 7458

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: AstraZeneca AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	The AstraZeneca R&D site in Gothenburg houses more than 2,800 employees across 70 nationalities and with more than 600 of these being PhD's. The site is unique in the world in that it supports the entire life cycle of medicines, from idea generation through discovery research, via early and late-stage clinical development, to pilot scale manufacturing, distribution, global commercialisation, and product maintenance.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	There are five teams within the Mechanistic & Structural Biology function in Gothenburg that works with biological assays to establish structure activity relationships for the purpose of optimising candidate drugs. Amongst the 38 permanent employees there are five line managers and three associate principal scientists, all of which are highly experienced drug discovery professionals and supervisors.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	The Gothenburg R&D site is well equipped for conducting all aspects of drug discovery related laboratory work across disciplines such as molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, medicinal chemistry, and structural chemistry. These disciplines are strongly supported by computational work, including machine learning and artificial intelligence approaches for discovery of novel bioactive compounds and their optimisation.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Across AstraZeneca the experience is substantial. Specifically, Thomas Lundbäck has more than 22 years' experience - after completing a PhD at Karolinska Institutet and postdoctoral studies at University College London and Yale University - working between pharmaceutical industry and academia. He is a well-published scientist with 67 peer-reviewed publications and an h index of 30. He is currently leading a team of 38 scientists across five research groups actively involved in optimising compound properties post high throughput screening to the nomination of candidate drugs. AstraZeneca is a participant/host in several MSCA and ITN programmes, e.g. the multi-country European MSCA-ITN network, V.A Cure project (EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, 3.8 MEUR, 2019-2023, the MSCA-ITN project: AIDD - Advanced machine learning for Innovative Drug Discovery (15 PhD positions, 2021-2024, 4 MEUR).



December 1, 2023

**Commitment letter for the SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (PULSE)**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of AstraZeneca, I am writing this letter to confirm our commitment to the PULSE initiative.

AstraZeneca is a global, science-led, patient-focused pharmaceutical company focusing on the discovery, development and commercialization of prescription medicines. AstraZeneca operates in over 100 countries. The innovative portfolio of medicines of AstraZeneca impact more than 120 million patient lives annually. The company has 83,500 employees, with approximately 13,000 employees in the R&D organization and 9.8 bn\$ R&D investments in 2022, i.e. more 22 percent of the total revenues (44.4 bn\$). Two of the four strategic R&D centres are located in Europe, in Gothenburg Sweden and Cambridge UK. In the US there is an R&D hub in Gaithersburg, MD and in Boston MA. The number of employees in Sweden are 7,800, of which 3,000 are located in Gothenburg. In 2022, AstraZeneca AB invested approximately SEK 24 billion in R&D and exported medicines from Sweden to a value of 152 billion SEK. This represents 7.6 % of the Swedish national exports of goods. Through science, our ambition is to truly modulate disease, from the alleviation of symptoms, stopping of disease progression or curing disease.

As no single player has all the answers to improve human health, we need to share ideas and be inclusive, open and collaborative. The prerequisites for a vibrant, open and collaborative Life Science eco-system in the Nordics and Europe is thus of utmost importance for us, including a strong focus on opportunities for excellent education to train future talent. Our support for this program builds on the ambition to strengthen national excellence in the life science area through competitive international recruitment. The connection to the drug discovery and development platform at SciLifeLab, with dedication to strategic development in areas such as machine learning and artificial intelligence, therapeutic oligonucleotides (OligoNova), and new concepts around molecular glues for degradation of therapeutically relevant proteins, are of particular interest. We see industry value of these networks and support this information exchange between academia and industry.

I undersigned Thomas Lundbäck, in my quality of Senior Director – Mechanistic & Structural Biology, Discovery Sciences, AstraZeneca, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of AstraZeneca, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. We will do so by providing feedback on proposals and projects. We will also evaluate the strategic fit with accepted projects together with other partners, support these intellectually and actively look for possibilities to pursue dedicated secondments at our R&D site in Gothenburg for mutual transfer of knowledge and knowhow. This serves to support the education of successful postdoctoral fellows and to positively influence project success. We are also well connected to explore opportunities at the R&D site in Cambridge when there is a better strategic fit in terms of technology or therapeutic area focus.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process for the entity I represent.

It is understood by all parties that this non-binding letter of support merely provides a high-level expression of interest and support and does not describe the terms and conditions that would be included in any definitive agreement.

  
Thomas Lundbäck (Dec 10, 2023 1:16:19 GMT+3)

10-Dec-2023

**Thomas Lundbäck**  
Senior Director - Mechanistic & Structural Biology

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**AstraZeneca**  
**Discovery Sciences, R&D, Gothenburg**  
Pepparedsleden 1, SE-431 83 Mölndal, Sweden  
Mobile +46 (0)72 711 66 89  
[thomas.lundback@astrazeneca.com](mailto:thomas.lundback@astrazeneca.com)

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Beactica Therapeutics AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Beactica Therapeutics is a precision oncology company committed to the fight against cancer. The company with six staff members is advancing a pipeline of novel small molecule therapeutics to treat genetically defined cancers with significant unmet clinical need. Beactica's approach is centered around targeting disease proteins with synthetic lethality vulnerabilities by applying its molecular interaction-based drug discovery engine to generate novel small molecule across synergistic modalities, including allosteric modulators and targeted protein degraders (PROTACs).
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Beactica has a team of ten highly skilled scientists in medicinal chemistry, drug design and biophysics, each one with 15+ years of industrial drug discovery experience.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Fragment-based drug discovery platform based on surface plasmon resonance, medicinal chemistry and drug design.  Specific areas of interest for this project are proximity-inducing agents (PROTACs) and potentially also artificial intelligence.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Beactica Therapeutics' previous participation in EU-funded research and training projects includes projects under FP7 (NeuroCypres, FluDrugStrategy, SynSys, ENABLE) and Initial Training Networks where the company host and train PhD students in three programmes (BrainTrain - training in the science of surface plasmon resonance (SPR)-based molecular interaction analysis, total 15 PhD students in programme with start in 2009, FragNet –training in the field of fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD), 3.9 MEUR 2016-2020, UBIMOTIF - Beactica Therapeutics is one of the two industrial beneficiaries for 15 PhD students, 4.1 MEUR 2019-2024).

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Uppsala, 29 Nov 2023

**Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Per Källblad, in my quality of<sup>8</sup> Chief Executive Officer at Beactica Therapeutics AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Beactica Therapeutics AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Beactica will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

Beactica Therapeutics is a precision oncology company committed to the fight against cancer. The company is advancing a pipeline of novel small molecule therapeutics to treat genetically defined cancers with significant unmet clinical need. Beactica's approach is centered around targeting disease proteins with synthetic lethality vulnerabilities by applying its molecular interaction-based drug discovery engine to generate novel small molecule across synergistic modalities, including allosteric modulators and targeted protein degraders (PROTACs). For more information, please visit [www.beactica.com](http://www.beactica.com).

Beactica Therapeutics' previous participation in EU-funded research projects includes project under FP7 (NeuroCypres, FluDrugStrategy, SynSys) and Initial Training Networks (BrainTrain, FragNet, UBIMOTIF), as well as a Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Stage I.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
 A7332718008M40A

Per Källblad *M.Sc. Ph.D.*

Chief Executive Officer

Beactica Therapeutics AB	Deliveries:	Tel: +46 (0)18 56 08 80	Company Reg. No: 556708-2853
Vindings Allé 2	Vindings Allé 8B	Fax: +46 (0)18 50 68 08	VAT No: SE556708285301
SE-754 50 Uppsala	Godsmottagning	E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@beactica.com">info@beactica.com</a>	Plusgiro: 58 99 76-0
Sweden	SE-754 50 Uppsala	Internet: <a href="http://www.beactica.com">www.beactica.com</a>	Bankgiro: 5951-5783
	Sweden		IBAN: SE15 9500 0099 6042 0589 9760
			SWIFT BIC: NDEASESS

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name:</b> <b>Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net)</b>	<b>Country: Canada</b>
<b>General description</b>	<p>Created in March 2021, CoVaRR-Net is a network of interdisciplinary researchers from institutions across Canada created to assist in the Government of Canada’s overall strategy to address the potential threat of emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. Our mandate is to coordinate, facilitate, and accelerate rapid response research throughout Canada. CoVaRR-Net is composed of 10 thematic Pillars with Leads, Deputies, and Members. The network has also several major initiatives: The CoVaRR-Net Biobank and Data Platform: CoVaRR-Net’s Wastewater Surveillance Research Group (WWSRG); The Canadian Consortium of Academic Biosafety Level 3 Laboratories (CCABL3); a Universal Data and Biological Material Transfer Agreement (UDBMTA); <u>CIEDAR</u> (CoVaRR-Net’s Indigenous Engagement, Development, and Research Pillar 7); and <u>CAMEO</u> (<u>Computational Analysis, Modelling and Evolutionary Outcomes</u>). Membership is approximately 370 people.</p>
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b> number of research groups that can potentially participate	<p>CoVaRR-Net hosts many of the biggest and most influential labs in Canada in the space of immunology, virology, modelling, wastewater surveillance, genomics, proteomics, and systems biology. <a href="https://covarrnet.ca/our-team/">https://covarrnet.ca/our-team/</a>. <b>Immunology &amp; Vaccine Protection</b>; Leads: Jen Gommerman and Ciro Piccirillo. Deputies: Mark Brockman; H��l��ne Decaluwe; Scott Halperin; Manish Sadarangani. Members: Heidi Wood; Vivian Liu. <b>Host-Pathogen Interactions</b>; Leads: Angie Rasmussen and Jason Kindrachuk. Deputies: Arinjay Banerjee; Bradley Scott Pickering; Selena M. Sagan. <b>Virology</b> – Louis Flamand. Deputies: Stephen Barr; Jennifer Corcoran; Darryl Falzarano; Denis Leclerc; Samira Mubareka; Silvia Vidal. <b>Functional Genomics &amp; Structure-Function of VOCs</b>; Lead: Anne-Claude Gingras. Deputies: Jason Moffat; James Rini; Nozomu Yachie; Mikko Taipale. Members: Vivian Liu; William (Rod) Hardy; Joyce Wilson. <b>Viral Genomics &amp; Sequencing</b>; <b>Lead</b>: Ioannis Ragoussis. Deputies: Robert Delatolla; Caroline Quach; Terrance P. Snutch; Jeff Wrana. Members: Marc Desforges; Ryan Ziels. <b>CAMEO</b>; Leads: Jesse Shapiro and Sally Otto. Deputies: Fiona Brinkman; Caroline Colijn; J��rg H. Fritz. Members: Paul Gordon; William Hsiao; Julie Hussin; Jeffery Joy; Art Poon; Rees Kassen; Carmen Lia Murall. <b>CIEDAR</b>; <b>Lead</b>: Kimberly Huyser. Deputies: Katherine Anne Collins; Michelle Johnson-Jennings. <b>Public Health, Health Systems, &amp; Social Policy Impacts</b>: Leads: Nazeem Muhajarine and Cory Neudorf. Deputies: Cheryl A. Camillo; Doug Manuel; Andrew Morris; Sara Allin. <b>Knowledge, Implementation and Training Team (KITT)</b>; <b>Lead</b>: Melissa Brouwers. Deputy: Justin Presseau. Members: Alfonso Iorio; Julian Little; Giorgia Sulis; Jamie Brehaut. <b>Antiviral Strategies &amp; Antiviral Therapeutics</b>; <b>Lead</b>: Fran��ois Jean. Deputies: Nathalie Grandvaux; Deana Santer; Natalie Strynadka. Members: Rob Kojak; Prameet Sheth; Joyce Wilson. <b>Biobank</b>: Director: Angela Crawley. <b>Data Platform</b>: Director: Amy Hsu. <b>Bioethics</b>: Co-Directors: Ray Saginur and Jim Robblee. <b>CCABL3</b>: Interim Chair of the CCABL3 Executive Committee: Louis Flamand. <b>WWSRG</b>: <b>Director</b>: <u>Robert Delatolla</u></p>
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CCABL3 and the network of BSL3 laboratories.</li> <li>– High throughput serology facilities at UofOttawa and UofToronto</li> <li>– Proteomics Facility at UofToronto: The Donnelly Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	<p>CoVaRR-Net does not have a centralized training program. Trainees with CoVaRR-Net are trained within the labs of their supervisors (Leads; Deputies; Members)</p>

Coronavirus Variants  
Rapid Response  
Network



Réseau de réponse  
rapide aux variants  
du coronavirus

January 12, 2024

**Re: Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

Dear Madam / Sir,

I, the undersigned, Dr. Marc-André Langlois, in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net), commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as an associated partner in the proposal entitled: SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE), submitted within the call made by HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2022, should the said proposal be funded.

On behalf of CoVaRR-Net, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, CoVaRR-Net will be involved in training individual postdoctoral fellows via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to six months for highly specialized training.

CoVaRR-Net is a multidisciplinary academic network of some of Canada's top research talent from 31 institutions across the country. The network hosts many of the biggest and most influential labs in Canada in the space of immunology, virology, modelling, wastewater surveillance, genomics, proteomics, and systems biology. It is playing a major role in Canada to detect, assess, and protect against SARS-CoV-2 and has the expertise to address the threat posed by any emerging virus, bacteria or fungus that enters our borders.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Sincerely,

Marc-André Langlois, PhD  
Executive Director, CoVaRR-Net  
Professor & Faculty of Medicine Chair of Excellence in Pandemic Viruses  
and Preparedness Research  
Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa

[covarrnet.ca](http://covarrnet.ca)

| 1 of 1

| [info@covarrnet.ca](mailto:info@covarrnet.ca)

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Cytiva Sweden AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Cytiva is a part of Danaher Corp and a global supplier to the biologics producing industry. Cytiva consists of some 10,000 employees, with 4 key hubs, 16 manufacturing sites and 11 innovation centers. One of the major sites is Uppsala. The history of the Uppsala site goes back to the 1950-ties with the build up of Pharmacia Biotech, later Amersham Biosciences and GE Healthcare, to today's Cytiva, which is a major part of the Uppsala Life Science community.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Cytiva is engaged in the development, manufacture and sale of tools used for drug discovery and biopharmaceutical. Cytiva Uppsala hosts some 1,500 people covering production, R&D, management, and sales. R&D for Chemistry, Systems, and Application all reside at the Uppsala site. Of importance for the current programme is R&D departments within Resins chemistry, Application, and Systems Sw/Hw.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	All required R&D facilities to support the development of new product lines and separation chemistries are available at Uppsala. Separation and analytics of biomolecules. Biologics and modeling capabilities, 3D printing in metal and polymers as well as access to TestaCenter biologics test bed (located on site).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Cytiva Sweden AB is engaged in numerous research collaborations at various levels nationally and internationally. Close connection to Uppsala University with numerous exchanges of students and post docs since the 1960-ties.



### Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned, Marie Wulff, in my quality of VP, R&D Resins & Technology of Cytiva Sweden AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Cytiva Sweden AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. Our Uppsala site will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

Cytiva is engaged in the business of development, manufacture and sale of tools used for drug discovery and biopharmaceutical manufacturing and in particular the development of systems, instruments, resins and technologies for separation and analysis of biomolecules. Our secondment will focus on training through engagement within technology research and development projects related to the above topics.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process for the entity I represent.

Uppsala, 2023-12-18



Marie Wulff  
VP, R&D Resins & Technology  
Cytiva Sweden AB, Uppsala, Sweden

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: EATRIS ERIC</b>	<b>Country: The Netherlands</b>
<b>General description</b>	The European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS) aims since its creation in 2013 to make translation of scientific discoveries into medical products more effective to ultimately improve human health and quality of life. EATRIS provides access to pre-clinical and clinical expertise and facilities that are available from 140+ top academic centres across Europe.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Dr. Rebecca Ludwig is Head of Education and Training at EATRIS. Since 2012 she is developing training offers in translational medicine for PhD students and senior professionals. Rebecca was co-leader the training WP of EOSC-Life and was involved in the conception and execution of training WPs in EU projects including MSC actions. Lauranne Duquenne is Training Manager at EATRIS since 2021. An experienced French and European project and training manager, she has been involved and led the organization of numerous workshops, webinars and training courses destined to both young scientists and senior researchers. Dr. Ludwig and Duquenne can liaise with EATRIS institutions that would be the most appropriate to host seconded postdocs.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	EATRIS provides access to the facilities and expertise of 140+ academic research institutions, including cutting-edge translational technology (e.g. PET, HTS, GMP facilities) and patient cohorts. EATRIS also specialises in providing tailor-made training workshops and e-learning courses on translational medicine's main bottlenecks (e.g. regulatory affairs, academia-industry collaboration).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	- <i>The European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases</i> (EJP RD; Horizon 2020 project 2019-2023) brings over 130 institutions from 35 countries to create a comprehensive, sustainable ecosystem allowing a virtuous circle between research, care and medical innovation in the field of rare disease, including the development dedicated online and in person training. <a href="https://www.ejprarediseases.org/">https://www.ejprarediseases.org/</a> - <i>EATRIS-Plus</i> (InfraDev, 2020-2023): a flagship project aiming to build further capabilities and deliver innovative scientific tools to support the long-term sustainability strategy of EATRIS as one of Europe's key research infrastructures for Personalised Medicine. As part of this project, 18 staff exchanges within EATRIS institutions were organized. <a href="https://eatris.eu/projects/eatris-plus/">https://eatris.eu/projects/eatris-plus/</a> - <i>ADVANCE</i> (Erasmus plus project, 2020-2022 coordinator) is a 30-month EU training project with the objective to develop a 3-stage blended learning programme to support early-career biomedical scientists in developing currently missing scientific knowledge, transversal skills and competences to meet the key challenge areas existing in the ATMP development cycle. <a href="https://eatris.eu/projects/advance/">https://eatris.eu/projects/advance/</a>

# eatris

European infrastructure  
for translational medicine

## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Anton Ussi, in my quality of Operations & Finance Director of EATRIS ERIC, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of EATRIS ERIC, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, EATRIS ERIC will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

The European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS) aims to make translation of scientific discoveries into medical products more effective to ultimately improve human health and quality of life.

EATRIS provides access to the facilities and expertise of 140+ academic research institutions, including cutting-edge translational technology (e.g. PET, HTS, GMP facilities) and patient cohorts. EATRIS also specialises in providing tailor-made training workshops and e-learning courses on translational medicine's main bottlenecks (e.g. regulatory affairs, academia-industry collaboration).

EATRIS has been actively involved in the development of its own training programmes in drug development, personalized medicine, and has extensive experience in providing training to PhD students and PostDocs.

Previous and current involvement in Research and Training Programmes include:

- [C-COMEND](#) (Erasmus plus project, 2015-17- coordinator)
- The [European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases](#) (EJP RD; Horizon 2020 project 2019-2023)
- [ADVANCE](#) (Erasmus plus project, 2020-2022 coordinator)

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

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December 11, 2023



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Anton Ussi, EATRIS ERIC

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: EMBL</b>	<b>Country: Intergovernmental organisation with 6 sites located in 5 countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and UK)</b>
<b>General description</b>	The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is an intergovernmental research organisation and centre of excellence for life sciences in Europe. EMBL's 1,900+ staff members originate from over 90 countries. EMBL's 6 sites located in 5 countries focus on molecular, cellular and developmental biology (Heidelberg), structural biology (Grenoble, Hamburg), epigenetics and neurobiology (Rome), tissue biology and disease modelling (Barcelona), and bioinformatics (Hinxton, UK). Research at EMBL is supported by excellent core facilities, bioinformatics and structural biology services.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	EMBL has more than 110 independent research groups and service teams that cover the spectrum of molecular biology. SciLifeLab fellows will also be supported by EMBL's Internal Training Team and the Scientific Visitors Programme.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	EMBL's scientific services encompass over 40 bioinformatics and data resources, and more than 20 experimental services in the fields of structural biology, imaging, genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, in vivo gene editing, and chemical biology.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	EMBL has a world-renowned training programme that includes the EMBL Interdisciplinary Postdocs (EIPOD) (847543; 664726) and the ARISE career accelerator (945405) programmes both funded by MSCA-COFUND in H2020. EMBL has also hosted 34 MSCA Postdoctoral fellows and was granted 12 doctoral networks in H2020. In Horizon Europe, EMBL has received to date 11 MSCA PF and 4 MSCA DN. 29 ERC projects were awarded at EMBL during H2020 and 17 under Horizon Europe. EMBL is involved in coordinating, supporting and leading multiple, international research and training programmes. At EMBL there are currently running 13 MSCA-PF, 4 MSCA-DN (one of them as coordinator – ZOOCELL), 2 MSCA-COFUND (EIPOD4, ARISE) and 24 ERCs.



EMBL, Heidelberg • Meyerhofstraße 1 • 69117 Heidelberg • Germany

08/01/2024

### Letter of Commitment to participate as an Associate Partner in the SciLifeLab project

I undersigned, Edith Heard, in my quality of Director General of The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded. A collaboration agreement will be put in place covering the specifics of the collaboration (i.e., IP rights, access to facilities, equipment and other services).

- On behalf of EMBL, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. The institute has over 110 independent research group and service teams who are at the forefront of their research fields. They will be involved in advising, mentoring and training individual postdocs via secondments if suitable host labs can be identified, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to 4 weeks. Specific topics of research interests between EMBL and SciLifeLab as well as areas for beneficial scientific exchange have already been identified and are summarized in an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

- EMBL is an intergovernmental research organisation conducting basic research in the field of molecular life sciences and dedicated to the advancement of scientific training. The laboratory is truly international with its 1900 members of staff representing over 90 countries. EMBL has six sites in five countries (Grenoble, France; Heidelberg & Hamburg, Germany; Rome, Italy; Barcelona, Spain; Cambridge, UK). Research at EMBL is interdisciplinary bringing together scientists from different backgrounds to address challenging questions related to human and planetary health.

- One of the cornerstones of EMBL's mission is the training of young researchers at the doctoral and postdoctoral level. The Institute hosts more than 450 talented young researchers in its renowned EMBL International PhD programme and the EMBL Postdoctoral programme. EMBL also welcomes visiting scientists at all career stages who come to engage in collaborative research and/or to learn new technologies via its Scientific Visitor programme. As such, EMBL is well placed to host and contribute to the training of SciLifeLab PULSE fellows. During their secondments, the fellows will be part of a vibrant international, interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment and will have access to cutting edge research infrastructure, training and mentoring.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Heidelberg, 08 January 2024

*Date, signature*

Prof. Edith Heard, FRS  
Director General, EMBL

European Molecular Biology Laboratory  
Laboratoire Européen de Biologie Moléculaire  
Europäisches Laboratorium für Molekularbiologie

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Fondazione Human Technopole</b>	<b>Country: Italy</b>
<b>General description</b>	Fondazione Human Technopole (HT) is a life science research institute in Milan, that started its activities at the beginning of 2019 and aims to become a centre of excellence and an internationally competitive research institute. HT's overarching mission is to promote and contribute to improving human health and wellbeing, including healthy ageing. It pursues these aims by carrying out frontier fundamental and translational research in life sciences, particularly aimed at the development of novel approaches for personalised and preventive medicine. The Genomics Research Centre aims at uncovering the complex mechanisms governing gene expression and how heritable genetic information translates into phenotypic traits.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Dr. Piero Carninci, Head of the Genomics Research Centre, Functional Genomics. Dr. Magda Bienko, Research Group Leader, Functional Genomics. Dr. Ivano Legnini, Research Group Leader, Functional Genomics. Dr. Lorenzo Calviello, Research Group Leader, Functional Genomics/Computational Biology.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Outstanding facilities and state-of-the-art equipment - including NovaSeq 6000 Illumina, NextSeq 2000 and PromethION 48 Oxford Nanopore - are available at HT. In particular, the <i>National Facility for Genomics</i> provides innovative services, focusing on high-throughput next generation DNA and RNA sequencing methods and other “omics” technologies, while the <i>National Facility for Genome Engineering</i> offers a cutting-edge platform for modelling human disease at scale.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	HT is a hosting institution of the PhD Programme in Systems Medicine of the <i>European School of Molecular Medicine</i> (SEMM). <i>NEUROCOV</i> , an EU-funded project (2022-2027) focusing on the long-term neurological and neuropsychiatric complications of infection with the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). <i>RADIALIS</i> , an ERC Consolidator Grant (2024-2028), aimed at understanding the design principles shaping genome architecture. HT participates as partner organisation in the H2020-MSCA European Training Network ' <i>Cell2Cell - What makes a successful pathogen? Understanding the impact of cell-to-cell heterogeneity in chromatin structure on infection and adaptation</i> '



## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Prof. Marino Zerial, in my quality of Director of Fondazione Human Technopole (HT), commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for **fUture Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE)** submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of HT, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, Dr. Piero Carninci, Head of the Genomics Research Centre – Functional Genomics Research Program, and the Research Group Leaders, Dr. Magda Bienko, Dr. Ivano Legnini, Dr. Lorenzo Calviello will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

[Fondazione Human Technopole](#) (HT) is a life science research institute in Milan, that started its activities at the beginning of 2019 and aims to become a centre of excellence and an internationally competitive research institute. HT's overarching mission is to promote and contribute to improving human health and wellbeing, including healthy ageing. It pursues these aims by carrying out frontier fundamental and translational research in life sciences, particularly aimed at the development of novel approaches for personalised and preventive medicine. The [Genomics Research Centre](#) aims at uncovering the complex mechanisms governing gene expression and how heritable genetic information translates into phenotypic traits.

HT is a hosting institution of the PhD Program in Systems Medicine of the [European School of Molecular Medicine](#) (SEMM). SEMM is a private Foundation for higher education in biomedicine established in 2001, founded by Universities, Foundations and Research Institutes in Italy to promote training and research within emerging sectors of biomedicine at the highest international standards. Furthermore, SEMM has created training programs that integrate basic research and clinical practice, including the PhD Program in Systems Medicine.

Outstanding facilities and state-of-the-art equipment - including NovaSeq 6000 Illumina, NextSeq 2000 and PromethION 48 Oxford Nanopore - are available at HT. In particular, the [National Facility for Genomics](#) provides innovative services, focusing on high-throughput next generation DNA and RNA sequencing methods and other "omics" technologies, while the [National Facility for Genome Engineering](#) offers a cutting-edge platform for modelling human disease at scale.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Milan,



Signed by MARINO  
ZERIAL  
on 12/01/2024 at  
11:11:23 CET

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Marino Zerial, Director, Fondazione Human Technopole



Signed by Piero  
Carninci  
on 10/01/2024 at  
11:49:11 CET

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr Piero Carninci, Head of Genomics Research Centre – Functional Genomics Program, Fondazione Human Technopole

**Fondazione Human Technopole**

Palazzo Italia - Viale Rita Levi-Montalcini, 1 - 20157 Milano, Italy - [humantechnopole.it](http://humantechnopole.it)

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Lif Service AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Industry organization representing the research-based pharma companies, approx. 100 members including the majority of global pharma companies. Recognized actor within the Swedish Life Science community.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Lif holds a number of experts within Life Science and will facilitate the involvements of pharma companies into the program. Extensive knowledge and understanding of research system including funding and policies for research and innovation.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Expertise within pharma and Life Science and a broad network that will contribute to the postdoc programme.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Lif have not previously been partner in research and training programmes. Access to key competences is crucial for Life Science companies to grow in Sweden and participation is a strategic focus to support the academic research and training programmes from the industry perspective.



## Commitment letter for associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Johan Färnstrand, in my quality of CEO of Lif - the research based pharma companies (Lif), commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Lif I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our member companies will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

As a member organisation for the research-based pharmaceutical companies in Sweden Lif's main contribution to the research training programme will be to facilitate interaction with Lif member companies for potential postdoc secondments.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

November 17<sup>th</sup> 2023



Johan Färnstrand, CEO

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: LIPUM AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Lipum is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on chronic inflammatory diseases, with seven staff members. The lead candidate is a humanized antibody directed towards a novel target. The company was founded in 2010 as a spin-out from Umeå University and is since year 2021 listed on Nasdaq First North in Stockholm.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	<p>Susanne Lindquist, PhD, (&amp; docent) in microbiology Expertise in preclinical models for arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. 25+ years of research work and 20+ original scientific articles related to the target molecule of interest for Lipum. Role: Chief Scientific Officer</p> <p>Olle Hernell, MD, PhD, Prof. Emeritus in pediatrics His research spans from basic science to clinical trials. He has published close to 300 peer reviewed scientific papers, trained more 20 PhD students, served on/or chaired many national and international committees and working groups. Role: Board member, Medical Advisor</p> <p>Pernilla Abrahamsson, PhD in Anaesthesiology and intensive care Entrepreneur that founded and sold a medical device company. Role: Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Additional resources within the team are 15 consultants with expertise in various areas of drug development and a Scientific Advisory Board.</p>
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Laboratory space in Uminova Science Park and full access to shared resources within Umeå Biotech Incubator. Agreements with Dep. of Pediatrics and Umeå Center for Comparative Biology at Umeå University provides access to general resources and experimental use of animals.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Lipum has not been involved in any formal program



X

Date 2023-11-13

Name Dr Einar Pontén  
Phone +46 90 3403430  
E-Mail [einar.ponten@lipum.se](mailto:einar.ponten@lipum.se)

Address Lipum AB (publ)  
Tvistevägen 48C  
SE-90736 UMEÅ  
Sweden

### Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Einar Pontén, in my quality as CEO of LIPUM AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of LIPUM AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our LIPUM AB will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Einar  
Pontén

Elektroniskt  
undertecknad av Einar  
Pontén  
Datum: 2023.11.13  
18:42:12 +01'00'

Einar Pontén  
CEO

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Biofilms – research center for biointerfaces, Malmö University</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Malmö University (MaU) has about 1,700 members of staff and 24,400 students. Globallu, MaU ranks #1656 (CWUR <sup>40</sup> ) and #1338 (US news Best global universities). Biofilms - Research Center for Biointerfaces (BRCB) is a multidisciplinary research centre in the interface between life and material sciences. Our vision is to shape novel solutions for improved health through excellent science in partnership with industry. The centre's activities focus on a wide range of phenomena associated with biointerfaces. The practical applications of the research range from diagnostics to disease prevention and novel treatments. BRCB has been established in 2005. It hosts 14 professors, 14 associate professors, more than 50 postdocs and PhD students. BRCB research was communicated by > 80 publication in 2021.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	The BRCB unites research of three faculties of the university, i.e., the faculty of Health and Society (HS), the faculty of Odontology (OD), and the faculty of Technology and Society (TS). PIs relevant for supervising SciLifeLab PULSE fellows are professors Johan Engblom, Tautgirdas Ruzgas, Börje Sellergren, assoc. prof. Sebastian Björklund and Sabrina Valetti at HS, prof. Julia Davies at OD and prof. Denis Music at TS.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Relevant equipment: confocal microscopy, SEM, flow cytometry, qPCR, HPLC-MS, and other basic equipment usually available in chemistry, microbiology, and cell and molecular biology laboratories.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	<i>3D-nanobiodevice</i> : RTD/EU project “Three-dimensional nanobiostructure-based self-contained devices for medical application” FP7-NMP-2008-SMALL-2 (2009-2012), Mau was coordinator. <i>BIOCAPTURE</i> : The BioCapture Network - Smart Capture Phases for Proteomics, Glycomics and Biomarker Assays. H2020-MSCA-ITN-2016, GA. No 722171. (2016-2020), MaU was coordinator.

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<sup>40</sup> www.cwur.org

Date  
2023-12-06Dnr  
Dnr LED 2023/1172

1 (1)

Sender  
Kerstin Tham  
Vice-Chancellor  
Malmö University  
kerstin.tham@mau.se

Commitment letter

## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Kerstin Tham, in my quality of Vice-Chancellor of Malmö University, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Malmö University, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Biofilms - Research Center for Biointerfaces will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Date, signature

6/12-2023 

Kerstin Tham, Vice-Chancellor, Malmö University

Postal adress  
Malmö University  
205 06 Malmö  
Sweden

Visiting adress  
Nordenskiöldsgatan 1

Switchboard  
+ 46 (0) 40-665 70 00

Webb  
mau.se

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: MAX IV</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	MAX IV Laboratory is a Swedish national synchrotron laboratory that has operated as a user facility since 2016. It is the successor to MAX-lab, which was in operation between 1987 and 2015. MAX IV offers access to 16 beamlines that provide modern X-ray spectroscopy, scattering/diffraction, and imaging techniques to contribute to solving scientific questions in a wide range of areas. MAX IV employs more than 300 people. MAX IV welcomes around 1,500 users every year, a number which is expected to grow in the coming years. The beamlines are open to academia, research institutes, industry, and government agencies worldwide through the user access programmes. MAX IV Laboratory is a Swedish national laboratory hosted by Lund University (Swedish Code of Statutes SFS 1994 946 / SFS 2011 1567). Lund University is the legal entity of the laboratory. The formal goals and basic governance of MAX IV Laboratory are set out in an agreement between Lund University (LU), the Swedish Research Council (VR) and VINNOVA (the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems) in June 2010 as well as in a related agreement between Lund University and Region Skåne in July 2010.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	We may be able to host 3 students. <i>Protein Structure and Function</i> : Dr.Marjolein Thunnissen, Dr. Ana Gonzales, Dr. Thomas Ursby; <i>Early drug discovery</i> : Dr.Tobias Krojer. <i>Scattering experiments of life Science samples</i> : Dr. Ann Terry, Dr. Fatinma Herranz, Dr.Kim Nygård. <i>Imaging &amp; Microscopy</i> : Dr.Karina Thånell, Dr.Kim Nygård.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Beamlines BioMAX (protein diffraction), MicroMAX (time-resolved protein diffraction studies), FragMAX (platform for early drug discovery), Balder (hard X-ray spectroscopy), scattering beamlines (CoSAXS & ForMAX) and imaging and microscopy beamlines (SoftiMAX, NanoMAX, ForMAX & DanMAX).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	PRISMAS, I4WORLD, PIPPI, I4FUTURE, HALOS, HALRIC, Amber. We also are involved in access programmes such as INEXT-Discovery, INEXT, ReMade, RIANA, Nephews, Calypso-plus.



8 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I undersigned Marjolein Thunnissen, in my quality as Life Science Director, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUture Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2022, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of MAXIV, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training program (Postdoctoral) as planned. MAX IV may be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

MAXIV is a Swedish National research infrastructure, which offers unique access to a range of instrumentation exploiting the use of X-rays for a diversity of different science communities. Through our instruments directed towards the life sciences, MAX IV contributes to knowledge regarding to e.g. proteins structure & function, cellular and tissue organization. Max IV has also developed a platform FRAGMAX as a tool for early drug discovery. The business and innovation area Health and Life Science aims to connect our broad range of competences across different disciplines and to collaborate with national and international actors, to address the future challenges of the business community and the public sector within the area which overlaps with our own mission.

MAX IV has participated in EU funded research and training programs for many years.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Thunnissen", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Marjolein Thunnissen  
Life Science Director  
MAX IV Laboratory

**MAX IV Laboratory**  
Lund University  
PO Box 118, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden  
Visiting address: Fotogatan 2

Phone: +46-046 222 98 72  
Org.no. 202100-3211  
[www.maxiv.se](http://www.maxiv.se)

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Orion Corporation</b>	<b>Country: Finland</b>
<b>General description</b>	Orion (founded 1917) develops, manufactures and markets human and veterinary pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients. Orion continuously develops new drugs and treatment methods. The core therapy areas of Orion's pharmaceutical R&D are oncology and pain. Orion collaborates closely with healthcare professionals and leading global research institutions and pharmaceutical companies e.g. in EU and US.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Sammeli Liikkanen, PhD, eMBA. Director, Digital Medicine, m Head of Orion's research ecosystem project (2023-2027) iMEDS R&D, Orion Corporation, Finland
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	All required capabilities, labs, equipment, software and analytics platform needs within the research and development process. We do in silico, in vitro and in vivo.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	We have a long history and tradition of participating in various local (Business Finland) and EU level (IMI/IHI/Horizon) programmes and we work every year with multiple B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD and Post-doc level researchers together with various universities and research institutes locally and globally.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 6A3960E4-3E4B-4BA7-8813-2BEB8AC0E5C7

**Letter of Commitment**

Thursday, 7th December, 2023



I undersigned **Sammeli Liikkanen**, in my quality of **Director, Digital Medicine, R&D**, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal **SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE)** submitted within the call **HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023**, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Orion Corporation, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, Orion Corporation will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

07-Dec-2023 | 9:15 AM EET

DocuSigned by:  
*Sammeli Liikkanen*  
 Signer Name: Sammeli Liikkanen  
Signing Reason: I approve this document  
Signing Time: 07-Dec-2023 | 9:15 AM EET  
E3EDF2FC40A44C47B8C33DB97ED3CC65

**Sammeli Liikkanen**

**Director, Digital Medicine**

**Orion Corporation**

**Orion Corporation**  
Registered office and domicile:  
Ouvastie 4

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Prosilico AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Prosilico is a Swedish company, founded in July 2014, focusing on the research and development of innovative technologies (including machine learning and artificial intelligence) to provide high quality estimates of human ADME/PK (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, pharmacokinetics) directly from chemical structure. Prosilico is a highly merited team of 4 scientists with a long experience from the pharmaceutical industry, university and IT-development.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Urban Fagerholm - <i>CEO, Associate Professor in pharmacokinetics and biopharmaceutics, and model developer.</i> Sven Hellberg - <i>Vice CEO, PhD in computational chemistry and head of data analysis.</i> Highly experienced in QSAR, compound design and drug discovery. Ola Spjuth - <i>Professor in pharmaceutical bioinformatics.</i> Expert in predictive modeling and big data analysis. <i>Olas team of researchers at the Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences at Uppsala university is available for contribution to the project.</i> Morgan Ekmeffjord - <i>Software and system engineer, developer and manager.</i>
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Prosilico head office in Huddinge and offices in Stockholm – Computational, modelling and IT facility Department of Pharmaceutical Biosciences at Uppsala university – Computational and modelling facility
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	No previous and current research or training programmes.



[www.prosilico.com](http://www.prosilico.com)

Lännavägen 7, 141 45 Huddinge, Sweden +46-70 173 13 02

e-mail: [urban.fagerholm@prosilico.com](mailto:urban.fagerholm@prosilico.com)

## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Urban Fagerholm, in my quality of CEO of PROSILICO AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for **f**uture **L**eaders in Life **S**cience (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of PROSILICO AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, PROSILICO AB will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

Prosilico AB develops prediction models and software for human clinical pharmacokinetics and can contribute with input and support in machine learning, artificial intelligence, conformal prediction methodology, pharmacokinetics and model development and validation.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Urban Fagerholm, CEO of PROSILICO AB

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: QureTech Bio AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Fully equipped labs (~1,300 m <sup>2</sup> ) supporting small molecules and peptide integrated drug discovery workflows. Instruments and analytical platforms for assay development and screening, synthetic and analytical chemistry e.g. multilabel plate reader, HPLC and LC-MS instruments, microwave reactor, automated flash systems, automated peptide synthesizers. NMR spectrometers: 2 x 500 MHz and 1 x 400 MHz (possibility for a wide range of nuclei and different experimental 1D-3D NMR setups). Computational chemistry capabilities: State-of-the-art GPU-enabled computational hardware enables a fast calculation turnover concerning a wide range of computational techniques such as Molecular Dynamics, Molecular Docking, Pharmacophore modelling, de novo drug design and deep learning approaches enabled by Schrödinger software and in-house workflows of open-source tools.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	QureTech Bio AB has strong academic collaboration through the founders at Umeå University; Professor Fredrik Almqvist, Dept. of Chemistry and Director of Umeå Center for Microbial Research, Professor Jörgen Johansson, Dept. of Molecular Biology and Professor Emeritus Sven Bergström, Dept. of Molecular Biology.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	QureTech Bio has access to state of the art laboratories to perform organic chemistry and organic synthesis research at Prof. F. Almqvist's group at Umeå University. The company has an agreement with the Department of Chemistry that gives the PhD student access to all the facilities, including mass spectrometry, NMR and EM (TEM and SEM). At premises at Umeå Biotech Incubator, the company has access to state of the art microbiology facility, including BSL2 lab and instrumentation.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	The company has hosted Biomedicine students from Umeå University and one secondment (Marie-Curie Postdoctoral fellow at the University College Cork, Ireland). The professors mentioned above have together been the main supervisor for more than 25 PhD students and more than 30 postdoctoral researchers and has coordinated many national and international research collaborations.



October 31, 2023

**Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Helén Fält, in my quality of CEO in QureTech Bio AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUture Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of QureTech Bio AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our QureTech Bio AB will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

QureTech Bio AB is a Swedish drug development company that develops new classes of antibacterial agents that target antimicrobial resistance. QureTech Bio's vision is to develop first class drugs to combat infectious diseases and the occurrence of antibiotic resistance, and to establish as a leading drug discovery company in the field. QureTech Bio has an ongoing collaboration with DDD via ENABLE-2 program.

QureTech Bio AB has strong academic collaboration through the founders at Umeå University; Professor Fredrik Almqvist, Organic Chemistry, Professor Jörgen Johansson, Microbiology and Professor Emeritus Sven Bergström. The company employees together with the professors have extensive experience in supervising trainees, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers including secondment for a Marie-Curie Postdoctoral fellow.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Umeå October 31, 2023



Helén Fält, QureTech Bio AB

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Red Glead Discovery AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Red Glead Discovery (RGD) was founded in 2011 by 7 scientists with previous employment at AstraZeneca. Since the start, RGD has been profitable each year and has been recognised as one of the fastest growing companies in Sweden, with 57 employees today. Past and present collaborations with Lund University for supervision of diploma students in the areas of medicinal chemistry, organic synthesis, peptide chemistry, ADME, cell biology and computational chemistry. In addition, RGD has and has had other research collaborations with academic groups at other universities as well as biotech companies.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Examples of potential supervisors: Medicinal chemistry: Thomas Brimert, Johan Wennerberg (Assoc Prof Green Chemistry) Computational chemistry: Ricardo Ferreira/ Natasha Kamerlin
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Fully equipped labs (~1,300 m <sup>2</sup> ) supporting small molecules and peptide integrated drug discovery workflows. Instruments and analytical platforms for assay development and screening, synthetic and analytical chemistry e.g. multilabel plate reader, HPLC and LC-MS instruments, microwave reactor, automated flash systems, automated peptide synthesizers. NMR spectrometers: 2 x 500 MHz and 1 x 400 MHz (possibility for a wide range of nuclei and different experimental 1D-3D NMR setups). Computational chemistry capabilities: State-of-the-art GPU-enabled computational hardware enables a fast calculation turnover concerning a wide range of computational techniques such as Molecular Dynamics, Molecular Docking, Pharmacophore modelling, de novo drug design and deep learning approaches enabled by Schrödinger software and in-house workflows of open-source tools.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	MARIE Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017; PhD4GlycoDrug, Grant agreement ID: 765581), in which RGD was a partner organisation.

## EAD DISCOVERY

Date, 14 November 2023



<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: RISE</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	RISE is Sweden's research institute and innovation partner. Through our international collaboration programmes with industry, academia and the public sector, we ensure the competitiveness of the Swedish business community on an international level and contribute to a sustainable society. Our 3,000 employees engage in and support all types of innovation processes. RISE is an independent, state-owned research institute, which offers unique expertise and over 100 testbeds and demonstration environments for future-proof technologies. RISE Chemical Process and Pharmaceutical Development works with pharmaceutical R&D within chemistry process development, scale-up, synthesis and formulation of new chemical entities with high molecular complexity and challenging physicochemical properties. RISE supports pharmaceutical development of new candidate drugs and drug delivery systems within academy and industry from early preclinical phase up to the first clinical studies
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Nicolaas Schipper (PhD in pharmaceutics) is an expert in early pharmaceutical development, drug absorption, drug delivery and pharmaceutical quality systems, and has (co) authored >30 scientific articles and patents in pharmaceutical sciences. He is currently head of manufacture at RISE and leading pharmaceutical development platform in the IMI ND4BB Enable project. He has supervised >20 MSc students, PhD students and postdocs and lectures at the University of Uppsala on pharmaceutical formulation and in PhD graduate schools on pharmaceutical development. Other key persons: Ulla Elofsson, associated professor physical chemistry, Per Svensson, industrial professor applied physical chemistry, Ian Cotgreave, professor Toxicology, Martin Hedberg, PhD Process Chemistry, Esmail Yousefi, PhD Process Chemistry
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	RISE has the laboratories and necessary equipment for the proposed activities: including scale up, demonstration and verification purposes. The facilities include GLP laboratories for preclinical safety assessment and GMP facilities for manufacture of clinical trial materials. The facility provides an advanced platform for concept testing of new processes, materials and investigational drugs. RISE has access to a broad range of instruments such as ellipsometry, SAXS, AFM, chromatographic techniques, XRPD, TEM and SEM, DSC and microcalorimetry for the characterization of protein aggregation and cyclodextrin interactions. RISE has also well-established project infrastructure including collaboration with MAX IV in Lund Large Scale Infrastructure for SANS and neutron reflection experiments. RISE has an annual turnover of 300 MEUR. The business and innovation area Health and Life Science aims to connect our broad range of competences across different disciplines and to collaborate with national and international actors, to address the future challenges of the business community and the public sector within the area
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	RISE is commonly involved in EU funded research and training programmes. RISE was a partner of the FP7 Collaborative Project DRUGSFORD, the FP7 FORMAMP (process and formulation development), the IMI ND4BB Enable consortium (pharmaceutical development and future clinical manufacture of new candidate drugs against MDR G-negative bacteria). RISE recently completed the ETN MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE programme Transmed researching neuroregenerative eye disease. RISE is currently coordinator for the IMI funded research programme RealHope and JPIAMR programme Aprinha, the research programme NextBioForm on the formulation of pharmaceutical biologicals, and the national research programme NucleoDry on the formulation and stabilization of mRNA based pharmaceutical products.



Kontaktperson  
**Nicolaas Schipper**  
 Bioekonomi och hälsa  
 +46 10 516 65 06  
 nicolaas.schipper@ri.se

Datum  
 2023-11-14

Beteckning

Sida  
 1 (1)

## Letter of Commitment PULSE

I undersigned Nicolaas Schipper in my quality of Head of Manufacture of Chemical processes and pharmaceutical development, RISE AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Chemical processes and pharmaceutical development, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Chemical processes and pharmaceutical development department will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

RISE has the laboratories for the proposed activities. RISE has facilities for scale up, demonstration and verification purposes. The facility provides an advanced platform for concept testing of new processes, new materials and new investigational drugs. The RISE research premises are controlled by RISE. RISE is an independent, State-owned research institute, which offers unique expertise and over testbeds and demonstration environments for future-proof technologies, products, and services. The business and innovation area Health and Life Science aims to connect our broad range of competences across different disciplines and to collaborate with national and international actors, to address the future challenges of the business community and the public sector within the area. RISE is commonly involved in EU funded research and training programmes.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

2023-11-14,

**RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB**  
**Bioekonomi och hälsa - Kemiska processer och läkemedel**



Nicolaas Schipper

### RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB

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Signerat NS

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Strike Pharma AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Strike Pharma AB develops drugs of new modalities with a focus on modular drug delivery and precision immunotherapy. The company was funded late 2020 from research performed at Uppsala University. Today the company involves 9 FTEs and is currently in preclinical phase focusing in on a drug candidate for treatment of lung, colon and pancreatic cancer. The drug candidate is developed bases on Strike Pharma AB's technology platform Adaptable Drug Affinity Conjugates (ADAC), that enables modular drug delivery strategies.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Sara Mangsbo, CSO Tina Furebring, COO Rosanne Veerman, Senior scientist in vitro Gözde Gucluler, Senior Scientist in vivo
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	The company collaborates with Uppsala University thru a collaboration agreement. This enable the company to perform high class research with the infrastructures necessary for in vitro and in vivo work. Technologies such as flow cytometry and immune-based analytical technologies are in place in the laboratory as well as in vitro and in vivo models for immunological profiling of drug efficacy and toxicity.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Sara Mangsbo, CSO, has experience to work in an ITN FP7 framwork funded project named TIMCC 2012-2016. She is also the WP4 lead in the Vinnova funded Swedish Drug Delivery Center SweDeliver research programme, funded with 3 MEUR 2020-2024. The company has no history of training work as it is a newly founded company but has taken on an Erasmus student in the fall 2022.



**Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Märten Winge, in my quality of CEO at STRIKE Pharma AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for **fUture Leaders in Life SciencE (SciLifeLab PULSE)** submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

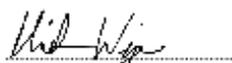
On behalf of STRIKE Pharma AB, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our company will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

This training will involve a collaboration between STRIKE Pharma AB and the research group of S Mangsbo at the Dept of Pharmacy and can be focused on track 1. Machine learning 2. Oligonucleotide-based protein conjugates or 4. Proximity inducing agents. STRIKE Pharma AB develops new technologies with the basis in the ADAC technology, Adaptable Drug Affinity Conjugates. The research collaboration can include the use of ADAC combined with the research focused areas of SciLifeLab PULSE.

The student will both be exposed to industrial project work along with insights into how STRIKE Pharma AB works with drug development using a broader technology approach that encompass both protein, peptide and data driven healthcare.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

2023-11-20



Märten Winge, CEO STRIKE Pharma AB

STRIKE Pharma AB  
Ulls väg 29c  
756 51 Uppsala, Sweden  
[www.strikepharma.com](http://www.strikepharma.com)

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: SweDeliver</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	A national competence center in drug delivery composed of Uppsala University and 18 industrial partners spanning over Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Italy. Funded in 2020, hosting ~25 active PhD student and post doc projects jointly with industry. Focused on difficult to deliver compounds intended for oral, parenteral or pulmonary administration. Hosts a dedicated WP for training and career development, mobility actions and twinning projects.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Prof Christel Bergström (Molecular Pharmaceutics) Director Assoc Prof Alexandra Teleki (Pharmaceutical Nanotechnology), Co-director Bergström and Teleki will identify collaborators, supervisors, research facilities and technologies, and open up the training WP of SweDeliver for PULSE post docs.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	UU: Clean room facilities, state of the art pharmaceutics, drug delivery and pharmaceutical technology lab including production of nanoparticles and novel drug delivery systems. Industrial partners host state of the art facilities at all levels, dependent on demand and match these may be opened up to PULSE post docs.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Extensive experience of partaking in research and training programmes. The two coordinators have landed 3 ERC projects, lead large consortia as SweDeliver and Nordic Pharma Train, have developed training programmes in The Nordic Patient Oriented Products, worked as mentors and supervisors etc.



### Commitment to support SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Christel Bergström, in my quality of Director of The Swedish Drug Delivery Center (SweDeliver), commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of SweDeliver, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, partners of SweDeliver will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

SweDeliver is a national competence center composed of >40 researchers (faculty staff, post docs and PhD students) at Uppsala University and >100 of researchers at our 18 industrial partners. The industrial partners range from technology and service providers to global pharmaceutical companies with competence throughout the full drug discovery and development chain. We are present in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Italy. Jointly, the consortium holds state of the art facilities (academic and industrial) and world leading competence in drug delivery with focus on oral, parenteral and pulmonary administration. Special emphasis is put on new technologies for successful development of 'difficult to deliver' substances (e.g. biologics, new modalities, poorly solubles) to functional medicines. We have close collaboration with SciLifeLab through fellows engaged in SweDeliver and will support PULSE by opening up our training and research environment to their post docs.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

January 10, 2024

Christel Bergström, Director of The Swedish Drug Delivery Center

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: SwedenBIO Service AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	SwedenBIO is the national industry organization for life sciences, founded in 2002, with a staff of twelve. They specialize in representing micro-sized and small enterprises (1-49 employees). They currently represent 350 companies in the fields of pharma, medtech and biotech, spreading all over Sweden. More than 80% of the companies are small or micro-sized and most are engaged in RnD within the life sciences. These companies form a relevant community of highly engaged members. They are an active node in the life science ecosystem in Sweden with a special focus on the intersection between academia, the start-up scene and industry.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	SwedenBIO's engagement in SciLifeLab PULSE will mainly include to facilitate connections to small and micro-sized companies in the forefront of the life science industry for post-doc secondments. The specific expertise of these companies cannot be foreseen today. SwedenBIO has high expertise in finding companies based on scientific areas, geography, financial maturity etc. They have ongoing personal relationships with top management of these companies, ensuring connections to the correct level at the company for discussions about potential secondments.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	See above. The specific expertise, facilities, infrastructure and equipment of these companies cannot be foreseen today.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	SwedenBIO has a long history of supporting industry-academic partnerships and collaborations. They offer courses regarding business development and regulatory aspects of the industry. They do not have any current involvement in academic research and training programmes.



### **Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Jessica Martinsson, in my quality of Director General at SwedenBIO, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for future leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of SwedenBIO, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, SwedenBIO will be involved in connecting individual postdocs to industry via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

SwedenBIO is the national industry organization for life sciences, specialized in representing micro-sized and small enterprises. We currently represent 350 companies in the fields of pharma, medtech and biotech.

We work to lower the thresholds for collaborations and services across sectors, in particular between academia and industry. We know that our member community is as diverse as it is dynamic. New companies arise over time at the same time as the companies around today may not be around at the time for secondments. At the same time, small and newly started companies offer a unique experience that may be crucial for post-docs following the entrepreneurial track.

We thereby offer our support to facilitate secondments at small and micro-sized companies at the relevant time. Our facilitation will include contact with relevant companies and describing mutual benefits. The decision of secondments and necessary legal work will lie at each company and university.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

*Stockholm 14 December 2023*

*Date, signature*

Jessica Martinsson, SwedenBIO

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Cytiva Testa Center AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Testa Center is a private-public initiative between the Swedish government and Cytiva to secure the growth of the life science industry and its manufacturing capabilities, with a staff of eight persons. The main objective is to bridge the gap from discovery to industrialization. The Testa Center has the expertise and the equipment to help teams scale up from lab bench-scale to industrial-scale production. In Testa Center, researchers from academia and industry have access to state-of-the-art production equipment for precision medicine therapies and biological drugs. Testa Center is operated as a non-profit company. Testa Center has been operational since 2018 and since the start roughly 35 and 18 commercial and academic projects, respectively, been successfully executed in Testa Center.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Jesper Hedberg (CEO) Jozsef Vasi (Head of Operations) Alexandra Patriksson (Project Coordinator)
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Testa Center is an infrastructure that makes available production environment, including equipment, labs and competences. The complete instrumentation list can be found at <a href="http://testacenter.com">testacenter.com</a> Testa Center is owned and operated as a non-profit organisation by Cytiva.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Research programme mRNA as a therapeutic molecule – Vinnova funded competence center, LaScaRNA, 2022-2025. Aim to establish mRNA manufacturing technology, that will give developers in Sweden access to materials and infrastructure to conduct preclinical research, conduct clinical trials and manufacture on a commercial scale.

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I undersigned Jesper Hedberg, in my quality of CEO of Cytiva Testa Center AB commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Testa Center, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, Testa Center will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

Testa Center is an open access user facility and testbed for education, innovation and proof-of-concept experiments for production of biological products, e.g., monoclonal antibodies, viral vectors, peptides, proteins, mRNA and vaccines. The labs and equipment in Testa Center are state of the art pilot scale production equipment dedicated for verification of bio-production processes. In Testa Center, researchers have access to equipment and expertise to drive their production process from lab bench scale up to pilot scale if needed. Typically, projects utilize the facility for performing technical runs to verify parameters and steps towards a more industrialized process, before or during commercialization.

Testa Center is a major initiative between the Swedish government and Cytiva to secure the growth of life science industry and its manufacturing capabilities.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

2023 nov 28   
Date, signature  
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Jesper Hedberg, CEO Testa Center

Confidentialia - Company Proprietary

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name:</b> <b>Toleranzia AB</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Toleranzia AB is a public Swedish biotech company, with a staff of twelve (of which 8 staff scientists) focusing on developing antigen-specific tolerance-inducing biologic drugs for the treatment of autoimmune diseases. The company has its operations in state-of-the-art facilities at the Biotech Center in Gothenburg, immediately adjacent to Gothenburg University and the Sahlgrenska University Hospital.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Maria Fernandez, PhD – programme manager Immunology John Grünberg, PhD – In vivo pharmacology Sashidhar Bandaru, PhD – Cell biology Jennie Sjöhamn, PhD – Protein chemistry Richard Christison, BSc – Microbiology and Molecular Biology
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	General microbiology and molecular biology laboratory General cell laboratory Fermentation laboratory for recombinant protein production Protein chemistry laboratory for downstream processing and analysis In vivo pharmacology laboratory for drug testing in animal models Advanced FACS analysis and cell sorting
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Student education and internship programme in collaboration with the University of Zaragoza, Spain (2021- 2022)

**Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

Toleranzia AB (publ) is a Swedish biotechnology company listed on Nasdaq First North Growth Market. The company develops drugs that harness the power of the immune system for the treatment of autoimmune orphan diseases. The drugs, which target the cause of the disease, can alleviate or cure the disease and not, like current treatments, merely reduce the symptoms. They have the potential to be the first long-acting or curative therapies that act specifically on the underlying cause of the autoimmune orphan disease for which they are being developed. Toleranzia's main focus is the autoimmune nerve and muscle disease myasthenia gravis (MG), for which it is developing the drug candidate TOL2. In addition, Toleranzia is working on the autoimmune blood vessel disease ANCA-vasculitis, for which it is developing the drug candidate TOL3. Both diseases are so-called orphan diseases and both have a high unmet medical need and market potential. Toleranzia was founded by researchers at the University of Gothenburg. The company is based at the Biotech Center in Gothenburg.

I undersigned Charlotte Fribert, in my quality of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Toleranzia AB, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Toleranzia, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our cell- and molecular biology groups will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., short-term periods of up to 6 months for highly specialized training.

Toleranzia's approach to treating autoimmune diseases is based on the concept of antigen-specific tolerance induction where a dominant protein autoantigen is administered to reach antigen-presenting cells and induce regulatory T cells which in turn will down-regulate the auto-aggressive T- and B-cells driving disease pathology in an autoimmune host. In developing effective treatment modalities, the company is highly interested in exploring the use of proximity inducing agents that can bring therapeutic autoantigens, key mediators of immune functions, and targeting molecules together by e.g. tailor-made bi-specific antibodies.

Thus, Toleranzia is very interested in becoming an associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE, should it receive funding. The company has an excellent infrastructure for postdoc secondments with state-of-the-art laboratories and scientific expertise in the areas of molecular and cellular biology, protein chemistry, in vivo pharmacology, regulatory affairs and clinical development at the Biotech Center in Gothenburg, adjacent to the University of Gothenburg and the University hospital Sahlgrenska

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

December 15, 2023



Charlotte Fribert, CEO

Toleranzia AB

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Toleranzia AB  
Arvid Wallgrens backe 20  
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Email: [info@toleranzia.com](mailto:info@toleranzia.com)

Phone: +46-763-19 98 98

<b>Associated Partner Legal Name: Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB)</b>	<b>Country: Belgium</b>
<b>General description</b>	VIB is renowned as a world-leading knowledge centre in life sciences and biotechnology, with an established reputation in technology transfer. Its researchers explore the fundamental molecular mechanisms of life, spanning from microorganisms to plants and humans. The blend of strategic basic research paired with a dedication to innovation and business has been pivotal to VIB's achievements. They play a vital role in fuelling the growth of the dynamic life sciences cluster in Flanders, with their entrepreneurial approach ensuring that scientific findings are transformed into practical innovations for societal benefit. The VIB Technologies programme constitutes the centralised scientific research infrastructure of the institute and allows scientists access to high-end and innovative technologies. The Technologies programme comprises 11 state-of-the-art core facilities, each with a specific technology focus and located on the VIB premises in Ghent, Leuven, Brussels or Antwerp. The core facilities support the 1,700 researchers at VIB with their expertise and also assist the wider academic and biotech community with whom we frequently collaborate. VIB Technologies is home to over 100 staff members.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Geert Van Minnebruggen and Saskia Lippens: Technology Leadership All Core Heads + staff, namely: Nucleomics Core: Stefaan Derveaux, Bioimaging Core Gent: Erin Tranfiels (as of March 2024), Bioimaging Core Leuven: new Head will be announced soon, Proteomics Core: Francis Impens & Simon Devos, Protein Core : Jurgen Haustraete, Nanobody Core : Reza Hassanzadeh Ghassabeh, Screening Core: Dominique Audenaert, Metabolomics Core Gent: Geert Goeminne, Metabolomics Core Leuven: Bart Ghesquiere, Flow Core Gent : Gert Van Isterdael, Flow Core Leuven: Jochen Lamote, Single Cell Core : Niels Vandamme, Tech Watch Core : Wai Long Tam, Data Core: Frederik Coppens (more details per core below)
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	<b>Nucleomics Core:</b> Transcriptomics and genomics; up to the single cell level <b>Bioimaging Core:</b> Advanced light and electron microscopy, image analysis and CLEM workflows. <b>Proteomics Core:</b> Contemporary mass spectrometry applications. <b>Protein Core:</b> Protein production and purification. <b>Nanobody Core:</b> Nanobody production and characterization. <b>Screening Core:</b> Assay development and high throughput screening (HTS) / high content screening (HCS). <b>Metabolomics Core:</b> Tracer (13C, 15N, 18O, 2H) metabolomics / secondary metabolism. <b>Flow Core:</b> Sorting and multi-parameter flow cytometry. <b>Single Cell Core:</b> Single-cell omics services including protocol optimizations, SOP's, pipelines and training. <b>Tech Watch Core:</b> Identification and testing novel technologies. <b>Data Core:</b> Hardware, software and data-related services to all VIB Centers and Cores, for both non-sensitive and sensitive data.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	<b>Previous:</b> VIB and its scientists have extensive experience with European funding. Under FP7, VIB was involved in 6 MSCA ITNs (such as vactrain and univacflu). Under Horizon 2020, VIB was a Partner in 10 MSCA ITNs (e.g. TOLLerant, PROTrEIN and CANCERPREV). In addition, 22 MSCA IF were granted to VIB under FP7 and 36 under Horizon 2020. <b>Current:</b> VIB is currently beneficiary in 8 MSCA DN and 23 postdoctoral fellowships. There are 28 ERC grants running. In addition, VIB is beneficiary in about 30 RIA projects. Furthermore, VIB has written a letter of support for the ARISE project of EMBL in which Technology Managers are trained over a period of 2-3 years



## Commitment letter for Associated partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned *Geert Van Minnebruggen*, in my quality of *Technology Director* of *VIB Technologies*, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as associated partner in the proposal **SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE)** submitted within the call **HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023**, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of *VIB*, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our *VIB Technologies Program* will be involved in training individual postdocs via secondments, i.e., 3-6 months for highly specialized training, and short research visits for up to totally 4 weeks.

VIB is widely recognized as an established and world-leading knowledge center in life sciences and biotechnology, dedicated to pioneering strategic basic research and translating it into significant impact. The VIB Technologies program constitutes the centralized scientific research infrastructure of the institute and allows scientists access to high-end and innovative technologies. The VIB Technologies comprises 10 state-of-the-art core facilities, each with a specific technology focus (imaging, nucleomics, nanobody, protein, proteomics, screening, metabolomics, flow, single cell, spatial, multi-omics). All VIB Core Facilities have unique expertise and can certainly offer various training opportunities especially specific trainings in a specific technology.

VIB is commonly involved in (EU) funded research and training programmes.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

*November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Van Minnebruggen', is written over a horizontal line.

*Geert Van Minnebruggen, VIB Technology Director*

## 5.2 SciLifeLab PULSE Implementing partners

KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Beneficiary), Karolinska Institutet, Linköping University, Lund University, Stockholm University, Örebro University, Umeå University, University of Gothenburg, Uppsala University, and SciLifeLab DDD.

<b>Beneficiary and Implementing Partner Legal Name: KTH Royal Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Since its foundation in 1827, KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) has grown to become one of Europe's preeminent technical and engineering universities, as well as a key centre of talent and innovation. As Sweden's largest provider of technical education and research, KTH attracts students, lecturers, and academic researchers from all over the world. KTH has more than 13,200 full time students, and staff includes 4,000 full time positions. In the most recent global ranking, KTH ranked #97 by Times Higher Education (THE <sup>41</sup> , 2024), #46 by THE Impact <sup>42</sup> (2023), #73 by QS World university rankings (QS <sup>43</sup> , 2024), 240 by US news Best global universities <sup>44</sup> , and in 2023, 201-300 by the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU <sup>45</sup> ). As a Swedish government mandated national infrastructure, SciLifeLab receives its primary funding directly from the Swedish government, with KTH acting as the administrative organisation. KTH run SciLifeLab together with Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm University and Uppsala University. KTH is the Beneficiary of SciLifeLab PULSE.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	As the Beneficiary of SciLifeLab PULSE, KTH commits to support the programme with Financial, Legal and Administrative support through SciLifeLab Operations Office with support by central functions, including KTH Research Support Office, Ethics advisor, GDPR Expert, Equality Office, Sustainability Office etc. The following PIs have expressed interest to host a PULSE postdoc: Hjalmar Brismar, Lucie Delemotte, Ilaria Testa, Hans Blom, Björn Önfelt (Dpt Applied Physics), Arvind Kumar (Dpt Computational Science and Technology (EECS)), Per-Olof Syrén (Dpt Fibre and Polymer Technology), Tuuli Lappalainen, Peter Savolainen, Anniina Vihervaara, Anders Andersson, Joakim Lundeberg (Dpt Gene Technology), Jochen Schwenk, Cecilia Williams, Peter Nilsson, Paul Hudson, Burcu Ayoglu, Per-Åke Nygren, Håkan Jönsson, Charlotte Stadler (Dpt Protein Science).
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	The SciLifeLab technology platforms and units (in the parentheses) that involve KTH researchers include: Bioimage Informatics, Ancient DNA, National Genomics Infrastructure, Affinity Proteomics, Autoimmunity and Serology Profiling, Cellular Immunomonitoring, Global Proteomics and Proteogenomics, Glycoproteomics, Advanced FISH Technologies, In Situ Sequencing, Spatial Mass Spectrometry, Spatial Proteomics, Spatial Transcriptomics, Integrated Microscopy Technologies, Human Antibody Therapeutics, Protein Expression and Characterization
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	KTH is an active participant in EU's Research and Innovation programmes with the European Commission being one of the major sources of research funding. Between 2014 and 2020 KTH acted as PI/Coordinator for 16 large projects funded by Horizon 2020. Since 2004, as part of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, KTH has hosted 10 ERC Starting grants, 12 ERC Consolidator grants and 8 ERC Advanced grants. During this period KTH has hosted numerous Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions MSCA Individual fellowships (now Postdoctoral fellowships) and MSCA Initial Training Networks (now Doctoral Networks). KTH is one of the main partners in the European Institute of Technology's (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) on Urban Mobility. Currently KIC partners include more than 85 companies, research institutions and city governments. In regards to MSCA-projects, KTH received funding in Horizon 2020 for IFs (now PFs) to a degree of a 16.1% success rate. In regards to ITNs (now DNs) KTH had a success rate of 12.9%.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/rankings>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.shanghairanking.com/rankings/arwu/2023>



### Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Anders Söderholm, in my quality of President of KTH Royal Institute of Technology, hereinafter referred to as KTH, commit that my University has all the necessary provisions to participate as the beneficiary and implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of KTH, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research-training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our SciLifeLab will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a SciLifeLab PULSE MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the SciLifeLab-PULSE program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at KTH, that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the SciLifeLab-PULSE program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Date: 14 December, 2023

Place: Stockholm

Signature   
Anders Söderholm, President of KTH

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name:</b> <b>Karolinska Institutet, KI</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Karolinska Institutet (KI) is a medical university with 22 departments founded in Stockholm, Sweden in 1810. KI has more than 6,000 students and 2,000 doctoral students and employs more than 4,500 staff whereof more than 300 are tenured professors. Each year, KI contributes to about 9,000 scientific publications. KI has a vibrant junior faculty community including more than 500 postdocs and an active postdoc association. In the latest ranking by US news Best global universities (2022/2023), KI is ranked #51 in the world (the same as the year before) and #15 in Europe. In 2022, ARWU ranked KI #37 in the world. In the 2021/2022 QS World University Rankings, KI was ranked #7 in the world and number 3 in Europe in the broad subject area of Life Sciences and Medicine (QS does not feature KI in its overall university ranking, which only includes multi-faculty universities).
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Scientists in KI's more than 600 groups conduct research across all areas of modern biomedicine. KI can offer postdoctoral projects ranging from clinical epidemiology and global health to cell and molecular biology and organic chemistry. KI is one of four host universities for SciLifeLab, a national infrastructure for life science research. More than 30 research groups led by principal investigators from KI are based at SciLifeLab. The following PIs have expressed interest to host a PULSE postdoc: Roman Zubarev, Per Arvidsson Simon Elsässer & Katja Petzold (Dpt MBB), Camilla Engblom (Dpt CMM), Adnane Achour (Dpt Medicine), Claudia Kutter, Magda Bienko & Erik Benson (Dpt MTC), Sean Rudd, Ola Larsson, Thomas Helleday, Lukas Orre, Päivi Östling (Dpt Oncology-Pathology), Erdinc Sezgin (Dpt Womens and Childrens Health).
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	KI is at the forefront regarding infrastructures and facilities for state-of-the-art biomedical research. KI supports more than 40 core facilities, ranging from advanced transcriptomic technologies to the most recent imaging modalities, both at the macro and micro scale, including cryo-EM. Through close ties with hospitals in the Stockholm Region, KI has access to clinical data and unique biobanks. KI is also a leader in research based on experimental model systems such as zebrafish and mouse.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	KI's postdocs can apply for around 200 courses each year. KI participated in over 300 FP7 projects, including 36 as coordinator, whereof 31 ERC grants and 78 MSCA grants. In Horizon2020, KI has been awarded more than 200 contracts, including 14 as coordinator, whereof 47 ERC grants and 79 MSCA grants.

**Karolinska  
Institutet**

Sida: 1 (2)

**Letter of Commitment**

2023-11-28

Dnr: 5-63/2023

**President**

Annika Östman Wernerson

European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

**SciLifeLab PULSE – Letter of Commitment**

I undersigned, Annika Östman Wernerson, in my quality of President of Karolinska Institutet, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUture Leaders in Life SciencE (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Karolinska Institutet, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training program (Post-doctoral) as planned. In particular, Karolinska Institutet will be involved in the training of experienced researchers at the post-doctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a **SciLifeLab PULSE** MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs in the program via secondments, *i.e.*, hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that those groups at Karolinska Institutet that successfully recruit postdocs through the program will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, overhead, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

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**Postadress:** 171 77 Stockholm | **Besöksadress:** Nobels väg 6, Solna | **Telefon:** 08-524 800 00, vx, 08-524 878 46, dir | **Fax:** 08-31 11 01 | **E-post:** rektor@ki.se | **Webb:** [ki.se](http://ki.se) | Org. Nummer 202100 2973

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name:</b> <b>Linköping University, LiU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Known for its unique interdisciplinary approach, Linköping University (LiU) is one of Sweden's largest higher education institutions with over 35,000 undergraduates, 1,200 research students, 4,300 employees and an annual turnover of 4.4 billion SEK. With a unique strength in combining basic and applied research, and with educational programmes mainly focusing on professional degrees such as engineering, medicine, management and teaching, an on-going dialog with industry and society has been pivotal for success. In global rankings LiU has been ranked 301-400 (ARWU) and #268 (QS) in 2023, and 251-300 (THE) in 2024.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	About 15 research groups can potentially participate in the program, including potential postdoc hosts Nicholas Pearce, Wen Zhong, Maria Lerm, Peter Söderkvist, Claes Lundström, Fredrik Elinder & Maria Sunnerhagen. These groups are found in one of the following strong research areas at LiU: Systems neurobiology, cancer, infection and inflammation, forensic sciences, and medical image science and visualization.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Automated patch clamp electrophysiology, high throughput screening in BCL3-lab, combined NMR, crystallography, neutron/x-ray scattering and a full range of biophysical methods
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	LiU has a long tradition in research training schools and one relevant example to this call is Forum Scientium. This school, founded in 1996, acts at the interface between medicine, physics/technology, and chemistry/biology. 200 PhD students have graduated and today this network also includes post docs and post doc training. <sup>46</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <https://liu.se/en/research/forum-scientium>

## Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

On behalf of Linköping University, and in my commission of trust as Vice-Chancellor, I commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

I confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. Linköping university will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level, should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a SciLifeLab PULSE MSCA-COFUND postdoctoral fellow.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the SciLifeLab-PULSE program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at Linköping University, if successful in recruiting postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the SciLifeLab-PULSE program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

November 21, 2023



Jan-Ingvar Jönsson  
Vice-Chancellor  
Linköping University

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name: Lund University, LU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Lund university (LU), founded in 1666, is the largest institution of research and higher education in Scandinavia. It has nine faculties; engineering; science; law; social sciences; economics; medicine; humanities; theology; performing arts; and research centres and world class research infrastructures. LU is ranked as one of the top 100 in the world. LU is ranked #85 (QS) and #106 (THE) in 2024, and was ranked #112 by US news Best global universities in 2022/2023 and #201-300 Innovative university in WURI 2023. With 4780 academic staff, LU is a research-intensive university, with a large portfolio of research projects. LU has total 46,000 students and 8,400 staff. The university holds the HR Excellence in Research Award and its Gender Equality Plan together with HR policies contributes to equality and transparency in recruitment and employment.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Multiple teams, particularly within the Medical, Engineering, and Science Faculties, are likely to act as experts, supervisors, or hosts for secondments. For instance, excellent training and research environments may be provided in Diabetes research (EXODIAB), Epidemiology (EpiHealth), Neurosciences (MultiPark), Stem Cell research (StemTherapy), and Cancer research (Lund University Cancer Centre; LUCC), which represent strategic research areas of relevance for SciLifeLab PULSE. Potential PULSE postdoc PI hosts: Simon Ekström (Dept. of Biomedical Engineering), Mats Ohlin, (Dept. of Immunotechnology), Dag Ahrén (Dept. of Biology/Molecular Cell Biology), Johan Malmström (Dept. of Clinical Sciences), Thoas Fioretos (Dept. of Laboratory Medicine), Vasili Hauryliuk (Dept. of Experimental Medical Science), Andreas Puschmann, Patrik Medstrand (Clinical Virology) Sonja Aits (Dept. of Experimental Medical Science). In addition 24 pre-clinical and clinical WCMF Fellows (PIs) and growing number of DDLS Fellows, including Camila Consiglio (LUCC) and Jacob Vogel (Clinical Memory Research), also potential PULSE hosts.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	LU hosts units in five SciLifeLab Technology Platforms of direct relevance for SciLifeLab PULSE: Clinical Genomics, Integrative Structural Proteomics, Cellular & Molecular Imaging, Bioinformatics, and Drug Discovery and Development. The activities of these teams are co-ordinated through the SciLifeLab Site in Lund. LU hosts critical infrastructures like Max IV, BioMS, Lund Protein Production Platform (LP3), and Lund University Bioimaging Centre (LBIC).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	The experience from EU funded research is significant. In FP7 and Horizon 2020 researchers participated in more than 620 projects in all areas of research. The MSCA programme counted for more than 160 projects, whereof 3 MSCA Cofund (2 PhD student and 1 postdoctoral programme, including CanFaster with recruitment of 15 PhD students and 15 postdocs, 2019-2026, and GenerationNano with recruitment of 14 PhD students, 2021-2025), 61 ITNs, and 65 Individual Fellowships. Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes, including H2020 ITN. In Horizon Europe so far, LU takes part in 68 projects in all pillars. The MSCA part is in total 19 projects whereof one MSCA Cofund (Doctoral programme), two are MSCA Doctoral Networks and 13 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.



Vice-Chancellor

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## LETTER OF COMMITMENT

*Reg. No.*

F 2023/2150

*Date* 2023-12-04*Recipient*

SciLifeLab

## Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned, *Prof. Erik Renström*, in my quality of Vice-Chancellor of *Lund University*, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as an implementing partner in the proposal *SciLifeLab Program for fUture Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE)* submitted within the call *HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023*, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Lund University, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Science will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level, should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a **SciLifeLab PULSE** MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at Lund University, which successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, overhead, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

Multiple teams, particularly within the Medical, Engineering, and Science Faculties, are likely to act as experts, supervisors, or hosts for secondments. For instance, excellent training and research environments may be provided in Diabetes research (EXODIAB), Epidemiology (EpiHealth), Neurosciences (MultiPark), Stem Cell research (StemTherapy), Cancer research (Lund University Cancer Centre; LUCC), Biodiversity and ecosystem services (BECC) and Engineering Health which represent strategic research areas of relevance for SciLifeLab PULSE.

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Postal address Box 117, 221 00 Lund Visiting address Biskopsgatan 5, Lund  
Telephone +46 46 222 70 01 E-mail rektor@rektor.lu.se Website www.lu.se

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name: Örebro University, OrU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Örebro university (ÖrU) is a young university with a strong development of research within the fields of Medical, Natural and Technological Science. ÖrU has 1,800 students and a staff body of 100 employees. In 2023, ÖrU was ranked #101-150 on the list of the world's best young universities <sup>47</sup> . Globally, ÖrU is ranked #667 (US news Best global universities, 2022/2023) and was ranked 501-550 in QS WUR Ranking By Subject 2023. The research is conducted within research environments, research groups and by individual researchers. Region Örebro County and the School of Medical Sciences have also formed several centre-like research structures including the SciLifeLab unit Clinical genomics.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	ÖrU has approximately 95 research groups within the School of Medical Sciences and the School of Science and Technology. We have expertise in multiple research areas with a translational focus including: Cardiovascular diseases led by Professors Allan Sirsjö and Magnus Grenegård. Diabetes led by Professor Johan Jendle. Inflammation led by Professors Eva Särndahl and Katrina Persson. Gastroenterology and clinical nutrition led by Professor Robert Brummer. Inflammatory Bowel disease led by Professor Jonas Halfvarson. Vaccine development led by Professor Magnus Johansson. Molecular farming led by Professor Åke Strid. Systems Medicine led by Professor Maej Orecic. Metabolomics led by Professor Tuulia Hyötyläinen. The School of Medical Sciences and Region Örebro County also have several affiliated researchers and research groups. Examples of research areas are sexually transmitted infections eg, HPV led Professor Mats G. Karlsson and Chlamydia and gonorrhea led by professor Magnus Unemo.
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Core facility for DNA/RNA-sequencing Clinical genomics Örebro (regional unit in the Clinical genomics platform, SciLifeLab with mid-output sequencing equipment for WGS of smaller genomes and targeted panels and bioinformatic pipelines and IT infrastructure that match data generation. There are also core facilities and strong competence within metabolomics/proteomics and bioinformatics. ÖrU and the Region Örebro County has an established a well-equipped research laboratory with a number of core facilities available for all researchers. ÖrU also have strong regional research platform toward Artificial Intelligence (AI Impact lab).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	ÖrU is involved in a large number of research and training programmes e.g. The Newbreed PhD student Co-fund programme on the theme Successful Ageing. As its name indicates, the focus of the programme is in the area of Successful Ageing but it is organized in four thematic areas: Ageing and psychosocial adjustment, Ageing from a societal perspective, Ageing and the fourth industrial revolution, and The biology of ageing. The programme is co-funded by the European Commission through MSCA COFUND, co-funding of regional and national programmes. The programme is developed and coordinated by ÖrU, in collaboration with a network of hosting organizations.

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2023/young-university-rankings/>

2023-11-02  
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## Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned Johan Schtörer, Vice Chancellor of Örebro University, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Örebro University I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular Örebro University will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a **SciLifeLab PULSE** MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at Örebro University, that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Örebro 2023-11-02



Johan Schtörer  
Vice Chancellor  
Örebro University

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name: Stockholm University, SU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Stockholm University (SU) is a major educational and research institution in Sweden and one of the top 50 universities in Europe. Global rankings: #98 (ARWU, 2023), #185 (THE) and #118 (QS) in 2024. SU has 29,200 full-time and 1,300 PhD students and a staff of 5,600. Its research is internationally recognized with a significant number of world-leading researchers. Five Nobel laureates have worked at SU over the years. SU is one of the four founding universities of the SciLifeLab national research infrastructure that provides access to state-of-the-art technologies and broad expertise in molecular life sciences.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	All 30 SU-research groups at SciLifeLab Campus Solna are eligible to host and supervise PULSE postdoctoral fellows. The SU groups are headed by researchers with key positions in the areas of Cellular and Molecular Imaging, Spatial and Single Cell Biology, Exposomics, Drug Discovery and Development, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. The following PIs have expressed interest to host a PULSE postdoc: Jonathan Martin (ACES) Sarahi Garcia (DEEP), Mats Nilsson, David Drew, Arne Elofsson, Erik Sonnhammer, Marta Carroni (DBB), Johan Ankarklev, Kristina Jonas, Marc Friedländer, Per Ljungdahl (MBW)
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	The SciLifeLab technology platforms and units (in the parentheses) that involve SU researchers include: Bioinformatics (Support, Infrastructure and Training), Genomics (Ancient DNA), Metabolomics (Exposomics), Spatial and Single Cell Biology (Advanced FISH Technologies, Eukaryotic Single Cell Genomics, In Situ Sequencing, Spatial Mass Spectrometry, Spatial Proteomics, Spatial Transcriptomics), Cellular and Molecular Imaging (Cryo-EM, Integrated Microscopy Technologies), Drug Discovery and Development (Biochemical and Cellular Assays, Medicinal Chemistry – Hit2Lead), Genomics (Microbial Single Cell Genomics).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	SU has extensive experience with European research and training programmes, and international and national collaborations. In FP7, the university participated in more than 40 MSCA-projects including 16 Innovative Training Networks (ITN) and 18 Individual Fellowships (IF). In H2020, SU has been involved in 48 MSCA-projects (23 ITN, 16 IF and 9 RISE) and 39 ERC projects. In Horizon Europe, the university has been awarded 26 ERC grants and has been granted funding for 13 MSCA-projects so far.



Dir SU FV-4061-23

President

**Letter of Commitment for MSCA-COFUND application SciLifeLab PULSE**

I undersigned Astrid Söderbergh Widding, in my quality of President of Stockholm University, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for Future Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Stockholm University, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the Postdoctoral research training programme as planned. In particular, Stockholm University will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a SciLifeLab PULSE MSCA-COFUND postdoctoral researcher.

Also, as relevant, our research groups will contribute to the training of postdoctoral researchers of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the SciLifeLab-PULSE program for short-term visits and scientific exchange. Decisions on secondments and training will be made at the department level.

We accept that hosting groups at Stockholm University, that successfully recruit postdoctoral researchers through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdoctoral fellows inherent to the SciLifeLab-PULSE program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (approximately to 500 000 SEK per postdoc and year).

SciLifeLab is a national research infrastructure with unique technologies and broad expertise in molecular life sciences. SciLifeLab Campus Solna is jointly operated by the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Stockholm University (SU). All activities at Campus Solna are aligned with its dual mission: hosting national research infrastructures, and being an internationally competitive research centre. Technical innovations, developed at Campus Solna, enhance SciLifeLab's reputation as being at the forefront of molecular life sciences. There are 113 research groups at Campus Solna of which 30 are from Stockholm University. In addition to the national facilities coordinated and staffed by Stockholm University researchers, including Cellular and Molecular Imaging, Spatial and Single Cell Biology, Exposomics, and Drug Discovery and Development, Stockholm University has a leading role in computational biology and bioinformatics. In summary, Stockholm University has facilities and expertise to support the career development of SciLifeLab-PULSE co-funded postdoctoral researchers.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Astrid Söderbergh Widding'.

Astrid Söderbergh Widding

Date: 14/12/2023

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SWEDEN

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E-mail: rektor@su.se  
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<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name: Umeå University, UmU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Umeå University was founded in 1965 and is Sweden's fifth oldest university. Today, it has a strong international and multicultural presence with students, teachers and researchers from all over the world (approx. 35,000 students and 4,600 employees). The life science area at Umeå university employs more than 500 researchers and teachers, >50 post-Doctoral students, and around 450 PhD students. Umea University was ranked #366 in US news Best Global Universities 2022/2023 and #465 in QS World University Rankings 2024.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	A selection of key people is listed below: Prof. Johan Trygg. Advanced data analytics and chemometrics, Ass. Prof. Bethany van Guelpen, molecular epidemiology, Marta Bally virus -membrane interactions, Assoc. Prof. Erik Chorell, chemical biology, Prof. Jürgen Schleucher, biophysiology, Annika Johansson, Head of Facility at Swedish Metabolomics Centre, Gerhard Gröbner, NMR methods, Prof. Richard Palmqvist, the importance of the intestinal microflora, Linda Sandblad, head of Umeå Centre for Electron Microscopy, and Richard Lundmark, Integrative Medical Biology
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Clinical Genomics Umeå, Umeå Centre for Electron Microscopy (UCEM), Swedish Metabolomics Centre (SMC), Computational Analytics Support Platform (CASP), Swedish NMR Centre, Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden, IceLab, mathematical and computational modelling
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Umeå university has been/is involved in many different European research projects, both collaborate project and excellent projects. For example, has the university been involved in more than 15 MSCA-training programmes over the last 5 years. Other training programmes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Doctoral Programme in Infections and Antibiotics (NDPIA<sup>48</sup>). PhD students and postdoctoral fellows may become a NDPIA member if they are enrolled at a Swedish university/institute or with one of their international partners and if they are active in research on infections and/or antimicrobials. The Programme currently have approx. 200 members</li> <li>• KBC graduate school. Integrated in the interdisciplinary environment of the Chemical Biological Centre (KBC). Every year around 45 PhD students graduate from the programme, and the same number of new PhD students start their graduate research at KBC.</li> <li>• KBC Postdoctoral Programme funded by the Kempe Foundations. Six postdoc positions (call opened in December 2022)</li> </ul> ‘Excellence by Choice’ Postdoctoral Programme in life science research. The programme is funded by Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, Kempe Foundation and Umeå University with Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier as patron and mentor of the programme.

<sup>48</sup> <https://ndpia.se/the-doctoral-programme/>

Letter of Commitment  
 Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson  
[rektor@umu.se](mailto:rektor@umu.se)  
 +46 (0)90-786 50 00

Ref. No FS 5.1-2409-23



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

2023-12-12  
 Page 1 (1)

## Letter of Commitment for SciLifeLab PULSE proposal as implementing partner

I, undersigned Hans Adolfsson, in my quality of vice-chancellor of Umeå University, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Umeå University, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, SciLifeLab Site Umeå will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with Umeå University have the opportunity to recruit a SciLifeLab PULSE MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at Umeå University, that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to ≥ 500 tSEK per postdoc and year).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

13 December 2023

[Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson, Umeå University]

<b>Name: University of Gothenburg, UGOT</b>	
<b>General description</b>	University of Gothenburg (UGOT) has 37,000 students and 5,900 employees. In the 2023 global rankings, UGOT was ranked #62 in Global Top 100 Innovative Universities and #18 in category Top 50 Industrial Application (WURI <sup>49</sup> ), #146 by US news Best global universities, and # 101-150 by ARWU. UGOT is ranked #187 in QS, #201-250 in THE world university rankings (2024) and #101-200 by THE Impact. The department of Chemistry and Molecular biology is part of the Science faculty at UGOT. It has some 200 employees, out of which ~90 PhD students and ~40 PIs. The majority of research is in the Life Sciences: structural biology, molecular genetics, medicinal and analytic chemistry. It is host to the Swedish NMR Centre. Potential PI hosts also at Department of Pharmacology and OligoNova Hub.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	<i>NMR</i> : KMB has half a dozen PIs covering all aspects of NMR, ranging from chemical biology, metabolomics and small molecules (Morten Grötli, Karl Börjesson, Henrik Sunden) to structural biology (Björn Burmann, Vladislav Orekhov, Göran Karlsson). <i>Chemical imaging</i> : Elias Ranjbari, Andrew Ewing, John Fletcher. <i>Phenotype profiling</i> : Beidong Liu, Xinxin Hao. Mario Ruiz, <i>OligoNova Hub - Core Facilities, Sahlgrenska Academy</i> . Pär Matsson, <i>Department of Pharmacology</i>
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	<i>NMR</i> : The Swedish NMR Centre at the UGOT (SNC) is a national and international research infrastructure (RI) for NMR research, including structural biology, small molecules, and metabolomics. Eight staff scientists, magnets 600 – 900 MHz, automated sample changers, unique cryoprobes, and the only DNP-NMR equipment in Scandinavia.) SNC participates in EU-RI projects (PANACEA, R-NMR), is part of the SciLifeLab ISB platform, and coordinates the VR-funded RI SwedNMR. SNC yearly supports ca 120 local, national and international PIs. <i>Chemical imaging</i> : Imaging mass spectrometry of biological samples. IONTOF V ToF-SIM and J105 for imaging 100 nm – 2 µm; NanoSIMS for imaging < 50 nm. <i>Phenotyping</i> : High throughput phenotyping of microbes and cultured cells. Robotized strain handling, high content phenotyping with ImageXpress, quantitative phenotyping of ~50,000 strains in parallel.
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	Via UGOT, Sweden has one of the eight integrated national solid-state NMR infrastructures in Europe that is involved in PANACEA (Pan-European NMR Infrastructure for Chemistry-Enabling Access) Consortium. PANACEA is funded by European Commission Horizon 2020 framework program. Part of Remote-NMR consortium, with aim to establish remote access for all NMR users throughout Europe.

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.wuri.world/wuri-ranking-2023>

**UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG****University of Gothenburg**

Vice-Chancellor

rektor@gu.se

**Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

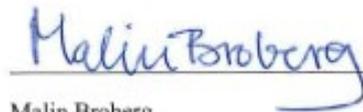
I undersigned Malin Broberg, in my quality of Vice-Chancellor of University of Gothenburg commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUture Leaders in Life Science (**SciLifeLab PULSE**) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of University of Gothenburg, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Faculty of Science will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a **SciLifeLab PULSE** MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at our University of Gothenburg, that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab-PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.



Malin Broberg

2023 12 14

Date

Vice-Chancellor University of Gothenburg

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name: Uppsala University, UU</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	Uppsala University (UU) is the oldest university among the Nordic countries, founded in 1477, and is consistently being placed among the top 100 in international rankings, such as the ARWU, #82 in 2023-. UU was ranked #105 in the QS University rankings and #140 in the THE World University rankings 2024, and #127 in US news Best Global Universities 2022/2023. World-class research and high quality education pursued at UU benefit society and business on a global level. The university is characterized by diversity and breadth, with international frontline research at nine faculties counting 29,126 full-time equivalent students; 7,554 employees, whereof about 4,135 teachers and researchers (of which 47 % are women). Comprehensive peer reviews and rankings consistently show that research and teaching at UU is of the highest international standard, which is also reinforced by the fact that about 54 % of the research is funded by external sources, not least from the EU. UU belongs to the Coimbra Group of European universities and to the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities.
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	Key persons are Professor Aristidis Moustakas, scientific director of SciLifeLab; Professor Mia Phillipson, co-director of SciLifeLab, Professor Staffan Svärd, scientific lead of the Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness Capability of SciLifeLab and Dr. Kristian Sandberg, director of Drug Discovery and Development platform at SciLifeLab. Forty Principal Investigators (PIs) have registered an interest in hosting a postdoctoral student within the program. Among them are some of UU's highest ranked scientists in the areas of genetics, infection biology, molecular cell biology, drug delivery and image analysis. The following PIs have expressed interest to host a PULSE postdoc: Sebastian Deindl, David van der Spoel, Jens Carlsson, Johan Elf (Dpt Cell and Molecular Biology), Daniel Globisch, Helena Danielson (Dpt Chemistry – BMC), Pascal Milesi, Tobias Andermann, Gabriella Montegro Covacevics (Dpt Ecology and Genetics), Carolina Wählby, Prashant Singh (Dpt Information Technology), Maria Tenje (Dpt Material Science and Engineering), Matthew Webster, Lionel Guy, Aristidis Moustakas, Leif Andersson, Mikael Sellin, Luisa Hugerth (Dpt Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology), Mia Phillipson, Johan Kreuger, Gustaf Christoffersson, Daniel Espes (Dpt Medical Cell Biology), Olof Eriksson, Anders Karlén (Dpt Medicinal Chemistry), Masood Kamali-Moghaddam, Tobias Sjöblom, Ulf Landegren, Åsa Johansson, Yumeng Mao, Lars Feuk, Karin Forsberg Nilsson, Fredrik Swartling, Sanja Vickovic, Daniel Fürth (Dpt of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology), Jessica Nordlund, Ulrika Liljedahl, Rolf Larsson, Rene Kaden (Dpt of Medical Sciences), Fabien Burki, Lars Behrendt (Dpt Organismal Biology), Ola Spjuth (Dpt Pharmaceutical Biosciences), Alexandra Teleki, Pawel Baranczewski, Per Artursson, Sara Mangsbo, Christel Bergström (Dpt Pharmacy), Erika Comasco (Dpt Women's and Children's Health), Wojciech Michno (Dpt Public Health and Caring Sciences).
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	Uppsala University is one of the four original founders of SciLifeLab, in which it harbours 12 Swedish national state-of-the-art research infrastructure units, hosts the national research and administrative centers for infrastructure platforms Drug Discovery and Development (DDD), the Bioinformatics Structures (NBIS) and Genomics Infrastructure (NGI), and it is part of the major national initiative for Data Driven Life Science. Translational research is in the heart of Uppsala University thanks to the wide span of research and education which this university offers. This is illustrated by a number of initiatives such as Biobank Sweden, SweDeliver (a national academic-industrial collaboration for drug delivery), Uppsala Antibiotics Center, the Medtech Science & Innovation Center, and a close collaboration with Testa Center (a testbed for biological production located at Cytiva in Uppsala).
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	UU has profound experience in managing EU projects. UU hosts 71 ERC-projects, and takes part in around 260 collaborative projects under FP7, H2020, and HEU, both as partner and coordinator. In total, UU has so far received funding for 559 projects under FP7, H2020, and HEU, including 138 MSCA projects.

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UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

**MSCA COFUND**

November 29, 2023

Diarie nr UU-PROJ 2022/656

**Commitment letter for implementing partner in SciLifeLab PULSE**

Box 256  
SE-751 05 Uppsala

Besöksadress:  
Dag Hammarskjölds väg  
7

Mats Larhed  
Vice rektor

Telefon:  
018-471 0000

www.uu.se

mats.larhed@ik.uu.se

I undersigned *Mats Larhed*, in my quality of Vice-Rector of Uppsala University, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for **fUTURE LEADERS IN LIFE SCIENCE (SciLifeLab PULSE)** submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of Uppsala University, I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, our Uppsala University will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a **SciLifeLab PULSE** MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research group(s) will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the **SciLifeLab PULSE** program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at our Uppsala University, that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the **SciLifeLab PULSE** program, and can provide the co-funding required for salary costs, over-head, running costs and travel support that are not covered by the program (amounting to  $\geq 500$  tSEK per postdoc and year).

Uppsala University is commonly ranked within the top 100 universities in the world. The University has so far received funding for 365 EU-projects under H2020 and HEU, including 61 ERC projects and 106 MSCA projects.

Uppsala University is one of the four original founders of the Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab). Twelve Swedish national state-of-the-art research infrastructure units are located at Uppsala University. It is furthermore hosting the national infrastructure platforms "Drug Discovery and Development" (DDD), the "Bioinformatics Structures" (NBIS) and "Genomics Infrastructure" (NGI), and it is participating in the major national initiative for Data Driven Life Science.

Translational research is in the heart of Uppsala University thanks to the wide span of research and education which this university offers. This is illustrated by a number of initiatives such as Biobank Sweden, SweDeliver (a national academic-industrial collaboration for drug delivery), Uppsala Antibiotics Center, the Medtech Science & Innovation Center, and a close collaboration with Testa Center (a testbed for biological production located at Cytiva AB in Uppsala).

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

November 29, 2023

Professor Mats Larhed, Vice-Rector, Uppsala University

Organisationsnr:  
202100-2932

<b>Implementing Partner Legal Name:</b> <b>SciLifeLab DDD</b>	<b>Country: Sweden</b>
<b>General description</b>	<p>SciLifeLab DDD was established within SciLifeLab through a strategic Swedish governmental initiative in 2013. The mission of DDD is to turn academic discoveries into innovations and provide technologies and training for state-of-the-art drug discovery and development. DDD has become a trustworthy, efficient and professional national hub for various stakeholders in drug discovery with a proven impact on the Swedish life science research community and society. Four projects spun-out from DDD has progressed to clinical development, ten biotech companies have been formed (three listed on Nasdaq) and five projects have been licensed to international pharma. Recent examples of start-up companies that developed and applied their technologies within DDD projects are the privately owned Akiram Therapeutics, publicly listed Lipum AB and AAX Biotech. SciLifeLab DDD is distributed to six host universities (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm University, Uppsala University, Lund University and University of Gothenburg). A delegation to Uppsala University (UU) allows UU to act as a legal proxy for SciLifeLab DDD. SciLifeLab DDD also act as a national hub coordinating support to drug discovery from academic Innovation Offices (similar to University Tech transfer offices) in Sweden whereas SciLifeLab DDD provides with technical evaluation and wet lab support of four drug modalities: small molecules, antibody therapeutics, therapeutic oligonucleotides and new modalities. DDD is not a screening centre; it is recognized globally as one of few translational academic drug discovery centres with the potential to advance targets all the way from idea to start of clinical trials. Integration of DDD within the vibrant SciLifeLab environment offers new complementary technologies and expertise that are seldom available even at large pharma companies.</p>
<b>Key Persons and Expertise (including supervisors)</b>	<p>There are ten units within SciLifeLab DDD that works with: medicinal chemistry for small molecules and oligonucleotides; molecular biology and protein expression; medium to high through-put assays (biochemical and cellular assays); biophysical screening and characterization; selections in phage display and DNA encoded chemical libraries; ADME profiling in vitro and in vivo to predict pharmacological properties and; support functions for toxicology and target product profiling. Currently, 48 employees are distributed into ten units with associated lab active line managers. There are ten academic platform scientific directors at the professor level contributing with their expertise and networks to the platform and the units.</p>
<b>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</b>	<p>With the exception of ion channel research is SciLifeLab DDD well equipped for conducting all aspects of drug discovery related laboratory work across disciplines such as molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology, medicinal chemistry, and structural chemistry. These disciplines are strongly supported by computational work, including machine learning approaches for discovery of novel bioactive compounds and their optimisation. Several instruments are unique at a national level in Sweden, e.g. helix Biosensor</p>
<b>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</b>	<p>SciLifeLab DDD organize two annual symposia, more than six public Drug Discovery seminars and four joint meeting with transfer tech offices annually. SciLifeLab DDD is also involved in several international and national research initiatives, e.g. EUBOpen and Conception (IMI) and antibacterial research in Murixin (JPIAR), and ENABLE2 (VR). SciLifeLab DDD is also a part in the European infrastructure for translational medicine (EATRIS). Most important though is the hands-on training of academic scientists in our joint projects lead by a project leader from DDD when academic ideas are transformed to a prototype drug of commercial interest for further development to the clinic.</p>



### Commitment Letter as implementing partner of SciLifeLab PULSE

I undersigned<sup>7</sup> Kristian Sandberg, in my quality of Director of the SciLifeLab Drug Discovery and Development platform (SciLifeLab DDD)<sup>8</sup>, commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as implementing partner in the proposal SciLifeLab Program for fUTURE Leaders in Life Science (SciLifeLab PULSE) submitted within the call HORIZON-MSCA-COFUND-2023, should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of SciLifeLab DDD I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research training programme (Postdoctoral) as planned. In particular, SciLifeLab DDD will be involved in the training programme of experienced researchers at the postdoctoral level in the entrepreneurial track should one or more research groups affiliated with our entity have the opportunity to recruit a SciLifeLab PULSE MSCA-COFUND postdoc.

Also, as relevant, our research groups will contribute to the training of postdocs of the program via direct collaborations, by access to our infrastructure as a testbed for new technologies and by secondments, i.e., hosting postdocs recruited by other implementing partners of the SciLifeLab-PULSE program for short-term visits and scientific exchange.

We accept that hosting groups at SciLifeLab DDD that successfully recruit postdocs through the program, will be required to contribute to research training and career development of the postdocs inherent to the SciLifeLab-PULSE program in the entrepreneurial track. In particular, we will commit to allocate a SciLifeLab DDD project leader to form a joint project team together with the postdoc, the Principal Investigator (PI), the associated Tech Transfer Office/Innovation Office and national and international Industrial partners to advance their entrepreneurial project to become a company which could be attractive for further investments.

Academic scientists working under the Swedish Teacher's exemption law can be supported by SciLifeLab DDD after a review process and the user only pays for consumables for work done at the platform. All Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) stays with the user, i.e. the postdoc and the PI. A non-exclusive license to SciLifeLab DDD is requested for technologies developed in collaborations with SciLifeLab DDD. The purpose with this license is to enable future services using these technologies to other academic scientists to be provided by SciLifeLab DDD. In the SciLifeLab-PULSE program will SciLifeLab DDD provide the cofunding required to pay the consumables cost for the postdoc when his/her project has activities at the infrastructure (amounting up to 375,000 SEK [currently equal to EUR 33,300] per postdoc over 3 years, in total 6,000,000 SEK [currently equal to EUR 533,000] for 16 entrepreneurial postdocs). As a note, the in-kind contribution of DDD project leaders and access to the state-of-the art infrastructure has an approximate total value of 22,500,000 SEK [currently equal to EUR 2,000,000] \*.

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process for the entity I represent.

Kristian  
Sandberg

Digitally signed by  
Kristian Sandberg  
Date: 2023.12.13  
14:27:15 +01'00'

Kristian Sandberg  
Director SciLifeLab DDD

\* Provided Governmental funding to SciLifeLab DDD at the same level in the research and innovation bill 2025-2028

**ANNEX 2**

**ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION**

Estimated EU contribution					
Estimated eligible unit contributions (per budget category)					Maximum grant amount <sup>1</sup>
A. COFUND contributions			Total	i	
Forms of funding	A.1 COFUND allowance	A.4 Long-term leave allowance			A.5 Special needs allowance
	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>	Unit contribution <sup>2</sup>		
	a	d	e		
1 - KTH	6 877 440.00	0.00	0.00	6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00
2 - AFFIBODY AB					
3 - AKIRAM					
4 - ASTRAZENECA AB					
5 - BEACTICA					
6 - CoVaRR-Net					
7 - Cytiva					
8 - EATRIS					
9 - EMBL					
10 - HT					
11 - Lif					
12 - LIPUM AB					
13 - MAU					
14 - MAX IV					
15 - Orion					
16 - Prosilico					
17 - QTB					
18 - RGD					
19 - RISE					
20 - STRIKE					
21 - SweDeliver					
22 - SwedenBIO					
23 - Testa Center					
24 - TOL					
25 - VIB					
<b>Σ consortium</b>	6 877 440.00	0.00	0.00	6 877 440.00	6 877 440.00

<sup>1</sup> The 'maximum grant amount' is the maximum grant amount fixed in the grant agreement (on the basis of the sum of the beneficiaries' estimated units).

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, amount per unit).

**ANNEX 2a**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNIT COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**HE MSCA Doctoral Networks/Post-doctoral Fellowships and HE ERA fellowships**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

**HE MSCA Staff Exchanges**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

**HE MSCA COFUND**

See [\*Additional information on unit costs and contributions \(Annex 2a and 2b\)\*](#)

ANNEX 4 HORIZON EUROPE MSCA UNIT MGA — MULTI + MONO

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [PARTICIPANT NAME] FOR REPORTING PERIOD [NUMBER]

EU contribution									
Eligible unit contributions (per budget category)								Requested EU contribution	
[OPTION for all MSCA ToA except COFUND: A. Contributions for [recruited researchers] [seconded staff members]] [OPTION for COFUND: A. COFUND contributions]					[OPTION for all MSCA ToA except COFUND: B. Institutional contributions]		Total		
[OPTION for DN and PF: A.1 Living allowance]	[OPTION for DN and PF: A.2 Mobility allowance]	[OPTION for DN and PF: A.3 Family allowance]	[OPTION for all MSCA ToA except SE: A.4 Long-term leave allowance]	A.5 Special needs allowance	[ B.1 Research, training and networking contribution]	[ B.2 Management and indirect contribution]			
[OPTION for SE: A.1 Top - up allowance]	[OPTION for COFUND: A.1 COFUND allowance]								
Forms of funding	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	[ Unit contribution <sup>1</sup> ]	[ Unit contribution <sup>1</sup> ]	[ Unit contribution <sup>1</sup> ]	Unit contribution <sup>1</sup>	[ Unit contribution <sup>1</sup> ]	[ Unit contribution <sup>1</sup> ]	h = a [ + b ] [ + c ] [ + d ] + e [ + f ] [ + g ]	i
	a	[ b ]	[ c ]	[ d ]	e	[ f ]	[ g ]		
XX – [short name beneficiary/affiliated entity]									

**The beneficiary/affiliated entity hereby confirms that:**

The information provided is complete, reliable and true.

The unit contributions declared are eligible (see Article 6).

The contributions can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 19, 20 and 25).

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 2a 'Additional information on the estimated budget' for the details (units, amount per unit).

## **ANNEX 5**

### **SPECIFIC RULES**

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY (— ARTICLE 13)**

##### **Sensitive information with security recommendation**

Sensitive information with a security recommendation must comply with the additional requirements imposed by the granting authority.

Before starting the action tasks concerned, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary.

For requirements restricting disclosure or dissemination, the information must be handled in accordance with the recommendation and may be disclosed or disseminated only after written approval from the granting authority.

##### **EU classified information**

If EU classified information is used or generated by the action, it must be treated in accordance with the security classification guide (SCG) and security aspect letter (SAL) set out in Annex 1 and Decision 2015/444<sup>1</sup> and its implementing rules — until it is declassified.

Deliverables which contain EU classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving EU classified information may be subcontracted only with prior explicit written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission).

EU classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

#### **ETHICS (— ARTICLE 14)**

##### **Ethics and research integrity**

The beneficiaries must carry out the action in compliance with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity)

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

and

- applicable EU, international and national law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

The beneficiaries must pay particular attention to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of persons, the right to non-discrimination, the need to ensure protection of the environment and high levels of human health protection.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The beneficiaries must ensure that the activities under the action do not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such modifications heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed)
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer, or
- lead to the destruction of human embryos (for example, for obtaining stem cells).

Activities involving research on human embryos or human embryonic stem cells may be carried out only if:

- they are set out in Annex 1 or
- the coordinator has obtained explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

In addition, the beneficiaries must respect the fundamental principle of research integrity — as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>2</sup>.

This implies compliance with the following principles:

- reliability in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources
- honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way

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<sup>2</sup> European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies).

- respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment
- accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts

and means that beneficiaries must ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices including ensuring, where possible, openness, reproducibility and traceability and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the Code.

Activities raising ethical issues must comply with the additional requirements formulated by the ethics panels (including after checks, reviews or audits; see Article 25).

Before starting an action task raising ethical issues, the beneficiaries must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities.

The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

## **VALUES (— ARTICLE 14)**

### **Gender mainstreaming**

The beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE (— ARTICLE 16)**

### **Definitions**

Access rights — Rights to use results or background.

Dissemination — The public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including by scientific publications in any medium.

Exploit(ation) — The use of results in further research and innovation activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

Fair and reasonable conditions — Appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for access, for example the actual or potential value of the results or background to which access is requested and/or the scope, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

FAIR principles — ‘findability’, ‘accessibility’, ‘interoperability’ and ‘reusability’.

Open access — Online access to research outputs provided free of charge to the end-user.

Open science — An approach to the scientific process based on open cooperative work, tools and diffusing knowledge.

Research data management — The process within the research lifecycle that includes the organisation, storage, preservation, security, quality assurance, allocation of persistent identifiers (PIDs) and rules and procedures for sharing of data including licensing.

Research outputs — Results to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered results and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols, models, workflows and electronic notebooks.

### **Scope of the obligations**

For this section, references to ‘beneficiary’ or ‘beneficiaries’ do not include affiliated entities (if any).

### **Agreement on background**

The beneficiaries must identify in a written agreement the background as needed for implementing the action or for exploiting its results.

Where the call conditions restrict control due to strategic interests reasons, background that is subject to control or other restrictions by a country (or entity from a country) which is not one of the eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions and that impact the exploitation of the results (i.e. would make the exploitation of the results subject to control or restrictions) must not be used and must be explicitly excluded from it in the agreement on background — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

### **Ownership of results**

Results are owned by the beneficiaries that generate them.

However, two or more beneficiaries own results jointly if:

- they have jointly generated them and
- it is not possible to:
  - establish the respective contribution of each beneficiary, or
  - separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining or maintaining their protection.

The joint owners must agree — in writing — on the allocation and terms of exercise of their joint ownership (**‘joint ownership agreement’**), to ensure compliance with their obligations under this Agreement.

Unless otherwise agreed in the joint ownership agreement or consortium agreement, each joint owner may grant non-exclusive licences to third parties to exploit the jointly-owned results (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

- at least 45 days advance notice and
- fair and reasonable compensation.

The joint owners may agree — in writing — to apply another regime than joint ownership.

If third parties (including employees and other personnel) may claim rights to the results, the beneficiary concerned must ensure that those rights can be exercised in a manner compatible with its obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must indicate the owner(s) of the results (results ownership list) in the final periodic report.

### **Protection of results**

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must adequately protect their results — for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage — if protection is possible and justified, taking into account all relevant considerations, including the prospects for commercial exploitation, the legitimate interests of the other beneficiaries and any other legitimate interests.

### **Exploitation of results**

Beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — use their best efforts to exploit their results directly or to have them exploited indirectly by another entity, in particular through transfer or licensing.

If, despite a beneficiary's best efforts, the results are not exploited within one year after the end of the action, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the granting authority) use the Horizon Results Platform to find interested parties to exploit the results.

If results are incorporated in a standard, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority or unless it is impossible) ask the standardisation body to include the funding statement (see Article 17) in (information related to) the standard.

### **Additional exploitation obligations**

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations (including obligations linked to the restriction of participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons), the beneficiaries must comply with them — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

Where the call conditions impose additional exploitation obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) grant for a limited period of time specified in the request, non-exclusive licences — under fair and reasonable conditions — to their results to legal entities that need the results to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at

fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

#### Additional information obligation relating to standards

Where the call conditions impose additional information obligations relating to possible standardisation, the beneficiaries must — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — inform the granting authority, if the results could reasonably be expected to contribute to European or international standards.

### **Transfer and licensing of results**

#### Transfer of ownership

The beneficiaries may transfer ownership of their results, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations under the Agreement.

The beneficiaries must ensure that their obligations under the Agreement regarding their results are passed on to the new owner and that this new owner has the obligation to pass them on in any subsequent transfer.

Moreover, they must inform the other beneficiaries with access rights of the transfer at least 45 days in advance (or less if agreed in writing), unless agreed otherwise in writing for specifically identified third parties including affiliated entities or unless impossible under the applicable law. This notification must include sufficient information on the new owner to enable the beneficiaries concerned to assess the effects on their access rights. The beneficiaries may object within 30 days of receiving notification (or less if agreed in writing), if they can show that the transfer would adversely affect their access rights. In this case, the transfer may not take place until agreement has been reached between the beneficiaries concerned.

#### Granting licences

The beneficiaries may grant licences to their results (or otherwise give the right to exploit them), including on an exclusive basis, provided this does not affect compliance with their obligations.

Exclusive licences for results may be granted only if all the other beneficiaries concerned have waived their access rights.

#### Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Horizon Europe actions

Where the call conditions in Horizon Europe actions provide for the right to object to transfers or licensing, the granting authority may — up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1) — object to a transfer of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results, if:

- the beneficiaries which generated the results have received funding under the grant
- it is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated with Horizon Europe, and

- the granting authority considers that the transfer or licence is not in line with EU interests.

Beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant an exclusive licence must formally notify the granting authority before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner or licensee and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or licence on EU interests, in particular regarding competitiveness as well as consistency with ethical principles and security considerations.

The granting authority may request additional information.

If the granting authority decides to object to a transfer or exclusive licence, it must formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information it has requested).

No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases:

- pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above
- if the granting authority objects
- until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

A beneficiary may formally notify a request to waive the right to object regarding intended transfers or grants to a specifically identified third party, if measures safeguarding EU interests are in place. If the granting authority agrees, it will formally notify the beneficiary concerned within 60 days of receiving notification (or any additional information requested).

*Limitations to transfers and licensing due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons of the EU and its Member States*

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security reasons, the beneficiaries may not transfer ownership of their results or grant licences to third parties which are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless they have requested and received prior approval by the granting authority.

The request must:

- identify the specific results concerned
- describe in detail the new owner and the planned or potential exploitation of the results, and
- include a reasoned assessment of the likely impact of the transfer or license on the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

The granting authority may request additional information.

## **Access rights to results and background**

### *Exercise of access rights — Waiving of access rights — No sub-licensing*

Requests to exercise access rights and the waiver of access rights must be in writing.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing with the beneficiary granting access, access rights do not include the right to sub-license.

If a beneficiary is no longer involved in the action, this does not affect its obligations to grant access.

If a beneficiary defaults on its obligations, the beneficiaries may agree that that beneficiary no longer has access rights.

### *Access rights for implementing the action*

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to background needed to implement their own tasks under the action, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement —:

- informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions, or
- agreed with the other beneficiaries that access would not be on a royalty-free basis.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — on a royalty-free basis — to results needed for implementing their own tasks under the action.

### *Access rights for exploiting the results*

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to results needed for exploiting their results.

The beneficiaries must grant each other access — under fair and reasonable conditions — to background needed for exploiting their results, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement — informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

### *Access rights for entities under the same control*

Unless agreed otherwise in writing by the beneficiaries, access to results and, subject to the restrictions referred to above (if any), background must also be granted — under fair and reasonable conditions — to entities that:

- are established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country
- are under the direct or indirect control of another beneficiary, or under the same direct or indirect control as that beneficiary, or directly or indirectly controlling that beneficiary and

- need the access to exploit the results of that beneficiary.

Unless agreed otherwise in writing, such requests for access must be made by the entity directly to the beneficiary concerned.

Requests for access must be made — unless agreed otherwise in writing — up to one year after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

*Access rights for the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies and national authorities to results for policy purposes — Horizon Europe actions*

In Horizon Europe actions, the beneficiaries which have received funding under the grant must grant access to their results — on a royalty-free basis — to the granting authority, EU institutions, bodies, offices or agencies for developing, implementing and monitoring EU policies or programmes. Such access rights do not extend to beneficiaries' background.

Such access rights are limited to non-commercial and non-competitive use.

For actions under the cluster 'Civil Security for Society', such access rights also extend to national authorities of EU Member States for developing, implementing and monitoring their policies or programmes in this area. In this case, access is subject to a bilateral agreement to define specific conditions ensuring that:

- the access rights will be used only for the intended purpose and
- appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

Moreover, the requesting national authority or EU institution, body, office or agency (including the granting authority) must inform all other national authorities of such a request.

*Additional access rights*

Where the call conditions impose additional access rights, the beneficiaries must comply with them.

**COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION, OPEN SCIENCE AND VISIBILITY (— ARTICLE 17)**

**Dissemination**

*Dissemination of results*

The beneficiaries must disseminate their results as soon as feasible, in a publicly available format, subject to any restrictions due to the protection of intellectual property, security rules or legitimate interests.

A beneficiary that intends to disseminate its results must give at least 15 days advance notice to the other beneficiaries (unless agreed otherwise), together with sufficient information on the results it will disseminate.

Any other beneficiary may object within (unless agreed otherwise) 15 days of receiving notification, if it can show that its legitimate interests in relation to the results or background would be significantly harmed. In such cases, the results may not be disseminated unless appropriate steps are taken to safeguard those interests.

### Additional dissemination obligations

Where the call conditions impose additional dissemination obligations, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

### **Open Science**

#### Open science: open access to scientific publications

The beneficiaries must ensure open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their results. In particular, they must ensure that:

- at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications
- immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND) and
- information is given via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the scientific publication.

Beneficiaries (or authors) must retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with the open access requirements.

Metadata of deposited publications must be open under a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent, in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: publication (author(s), title, date of publication, publication venue); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the publication, the authors involved in the action and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

#### Open science: research data management

The beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the action ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR principles and by taking all of the following actions:

- establish a data management plan ('DMP') (and regularly update it)
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, deposit the data in a trusted repository; if required in the call conditions, this repository must be federated in the EOSC in compliance with EOSC requirements
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, ensure open access — via the repository — to the deposited data, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public License (CC BY) or Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or a licence with equivalent rights,

following the principle ‘as open as possible as closed as necessary’, unless providing open access would in particular:

- be against the beneficiary’s legitimate interests, including regarding commercial exploitation, or
  - be contrary to any other constraints, in particular the EU competitive interests or the beneficiary’s obligations under this Agreement; if open access is not provided (to some or all data), this must be justified in the DMP
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data.

Metadata of deposited data must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent (to the extent legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded), in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: datasets (description, date of deposit, author(s), venue and embargo); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the dataset, the authors involved in the action, and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for related publications and other research outputs.

#### *Open science: additional practices*

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding open science practices, the beneficiaries must also comply with those.

Where the call conditions impose additional obligations regarding the validation of scientific publications, the beneficiaries must provide (digital or physical) access to data or other results needed for validation of the conclusions of scientific publications, to the extent that their legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded (and unless they already provided the (open) access at publication).

Where the call conditions impose additional open science obligations in case of a public emergency, the beneficiaries must (if requested by the granting authority) immediately deposit any research output in a repository and provide open access to it under a CC BY licence, a Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent. As an exception, if the access would be against the beneficiaries’ legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licenses — under fair and reasonable conditions — to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency and commit to rapidly and broadly exploit the resulting products and services at fair and reasonable conditions. This provision applies up to four years after the end of the action (see Data Sheet, Point 1).

#### **Plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**

Unless excluded by the call conditions, the beneficiaries must provide and regularly update a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities.

#### **SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION (— ARTICLE 18)**

#### **Implementation in case of restrictions due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States**

Where the call conditions restrict participation or control due to strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the beneficiaries must ensure that none of the entities that participate as affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties are established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) — unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority.

The beneficiaries must moreover ensure that any cooperation with entities established in countries which are not eligible countries or target countries set out in the call conditions (or, if applicable, are controlled by such countries or entities from such countries) does not affect the strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security of the EU and its Member States.

### **Specific rules for MSCA actions**

When implementing MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN), Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) and COFUND actions, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>3</sup> and ensure that the researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the researchers enjoy at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local researchers holding a similar position
- ensure that the employment contract, other direct contract or fixed-amount-fellowship agreement (see Article 6) specifies:
  - the name of the supervisor(s) for the research training activities
  - the starting date and duration of the research training activities
  - the monthly support for the researcher under this Agreement (in euro and, if relevant, in the currency in which the remuneration is paid)
  - the obligation of the researcher to work exclusively for the action, unless part-time for professional reasons is allowed and has been approved (and for MSCA-DN and MSCA-PF: not to receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiary or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
  - the working pattern of the researcher
  - the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights (during implementation of the action and afterwards), in particular full access — on

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

- a royalty-free basis — for the researcher to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- the obligation of the researcher to inform as soon as possible about events or circumstances likely to affect the implementation of the action or the compliance with requirements under the Agreement (see Article 19)
- the obligation of the researcher to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)
- the obligation of the researcher to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Articles 17)
- where set out in the call conditions, the obligation of the researcher to carry out a mandatory return period of 12 months
- assist the researchers in the administrative procedures related to the recruitment
- inform the researchers about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the research training activities
  - the rights and obligations toward the researchers under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the researchers to complete and submit — at the end of the research training activities — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- ensure that the researchers do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the researchers are adequately supervised and receive appropriate career guidance
- ensure that personalised career development plans are established, support their implementation and update in view of the needs of the researchers
- ensure an appropriate exposure to the non-academic sector (if applicable)
- respect the maximum limit for secondments set out in the call conditions
- respect the conditions for the outgoing and return phases set out in the call conditions (if any)
- ensure that the researchers are informed that they are ‘Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows’
- for MSCA-DN and MSCA-COFUND:

- advertise and publish vacancies internationally, including on the web-sites requested by the granting authority, indicating the gross salary (not including employer's social contributions) to be offered to the researcher
- recruit the researchers, following an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable recruitment procedure (for postdoctoral programmes in MSCA-COFUND: with regular selection rounds and international peer review), on the basis of:
  - their scientific skills and the relevance of their research experience
  - the impact of the proposed training on the researcher's career
  - a fair gender representation (by promoting genuine equal access opportunities throughout the recruitment process)

The selection committees must bring together diverse expertise, have an adequate gender balance and include members from different countries and with relevant experience to assess the candidates.

- ensure that no conflict of interest exists in or arises from the recruitment
- for MSCA-DN and MSCA-PF:
  - ensure that the researchers do not receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiaries (or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
  - host the researchers at their premises (or at the premises of other participants in the action)
- for MSCA-COFUND where doctoral or post-doctoral programmes are implemented as financial support to third parties through implementing partners:
  - ensure that the implementing partners comply with the same standards and procedures for implementing the research training activities, including the recruitment and working conditions for researchers, the specific rules for MSCA-COFUND actions and the specific rules on ethics and research integrity set out in Annex 5
  - implement effective monitoring and oversight arrangements towards the implementing partners, covering all aspects relating to the action
  - ensure effective and reliable reporting by the implementing partners, covering the activities implemented, information on indicators, as well as the legality and regularity of the expenditure claimed
  - ensure that the implementing partners provide that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the final recipients.

When implementing Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges (MSCA-SE), the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

- take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>4</sup> and ensure that the seconded staff and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the seconded staff enjoys at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local staff holding a similar position
- assist the seconded staff with the administrative procedures related to their secondment
- inform the seconded staff about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the secondment
  - the rights and obligations of the beneficiary toward the seconded staff under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the seconded staff to complete and submit — at the end of the secondment — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — the follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
  - the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights between the beneficiary and the seconded staff (during the secondment and afterwards), in particular full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the staff to background and results needed for their activities under the action
  - the obligation of the seconded staff to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)
  - the obligation of the seconded staff to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Article 17)
- ensure that the seconded staff do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the seconded staff are adequately mentored
- ensure that the rights and obligations of the seconded staff remain unchanged during the secondment
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the staff to background and results needed for their activities under the action

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

- if appropriate, ensure that seconded staff are reintegrated after the secondment
- ensure that the seconded staff are covered by an adequate medical insurance scheme
- ensure that the seconded staff have the relevant expertise for the action
- use the top-up allowance (see Article 6) to contribute to the subsistence, accommodation and travel of the seconded staff.

### **Specific rules for ERA Fellowship actions**

When implementing ERA Fellowships, the beneficiaries must respect the following conditions:

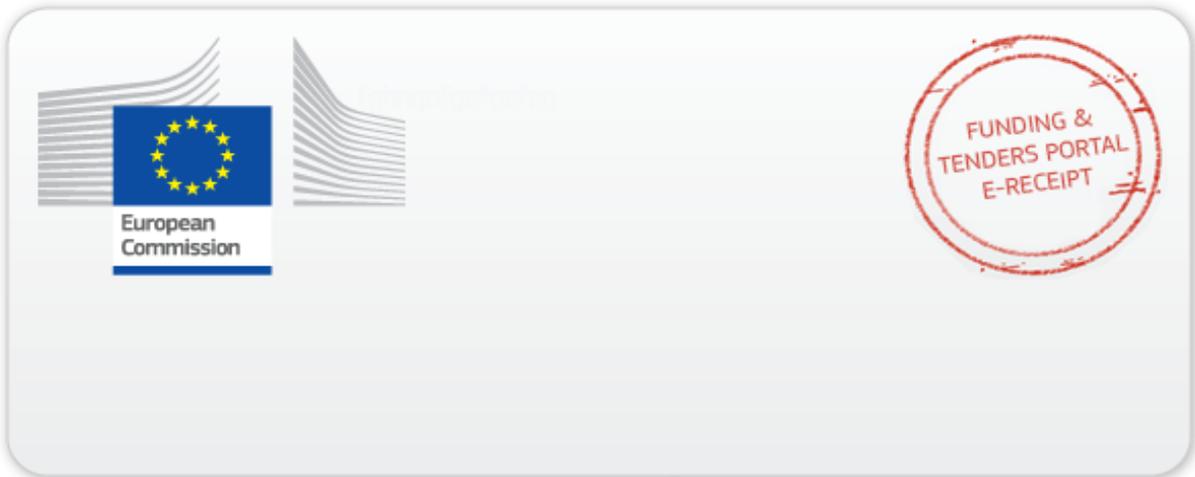
- take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers<sup>5</sup> and ensure that the researchers and all participants involved in the action are aware of them
- ensure that the researchers enjoy at the place of the implementation at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local researchers holding a similar position
- ensure that the employment contract, other direct contract or fixed-amount-fellowship agreement (see Article 6) specifies:
  - the name of the supervisor(s) for the research training activities
  - the starting date and duration of the research training activities
  - the monthly support for the researcher under this Agreement (in euro and, if relevant, in the currency in which the remuneration is paid)
  - the obligation of the researcher to work exclusively for the action, unless part-time for professional reasons is allowed and has been approved (and not to receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiary or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)
  - the working pattern of the researcher
  - the arrangements related to the intellectual property rights (during implementation of the action and afterwards), in particular full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researcher to background and results needed for their activities under the action

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

- the obligation of the researcher to inform as soon as possible about events or circumstances likely to affect the implementation of the action or the compliance with requirements under the Agreement (see Article 19)
- the obligation of the researcher to maintain confidentiality (see Article 13)
- the obligation of the researcher to ensure the visibility of EU funding in communications or publications and in applications for the protection of results (see Articles 17)
- where set out in the call conditions, the obligation of the researcher to carry out a mandatory return period of 12 months
- assist the researchers in the administrative procedures related to the recruitment
- inform the researchers about:
  - the description, conditions, location and timetable for the implementation of the research training activities
  - the rights and obligations toward the researchers under this Agreement
  - the obligation of the researchers to complete and submit — at the end of the research training activities — the evaluation questionnaire and — two years later — follow-up questionnaire provided by the granting authority
- ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action
- ensure that the researchers do not have to bear any costs for the implementation of the action as described in Annex 1
- provide training and the necessary means for implementing the action (or ensure that such training and means are provided by other participants in the action)
- ensure that the researchers are adequately supervised and receive appropriate career guidance
- ensure that personalised career development plans are established, support their implementation and update in view of the needs of the researchers
- ensure an appropriate exposure to the non-academic sector (if applicable)
- respect the maximum limit for secondments set out in the call conditions
- respect the conditions for the outgoing and return phases set out in the call conditions (if any)
- ensure that the researchers are informed that they are ‘ERA fellows’
- ensure that the researchers do not receive, for activities carried out in the frame of the action, other incomes than those received from the beneficiaries (or other entities mentioned in Annex 1)

- host the researchers at their premises (or at the premises of other participants in the action)



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