

Frequently asked questions

What is the scope of the manifesto?

The manifesto is a set of guiding principles for beneficiaries of EU-funded research grants that have a potential impact for coronavirus prevention, testing, treatment and vaccination.

Does the endorsement of the manifesto have legal implications?

No.

The endorsement of the manifesto is a policy statement that does not have legal implications.

Does the endorsement of the manifesto have an impact on the grant agreement or funding instrument that I have signed?

No.

All EU or national funding instruments or contracts of any kind prevail over the manifesto.

What do you mean by “research results”?

Research results mean, “any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, knowhow 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”.

What do “fair and reasonable conditions” mean?

Fair and reasonable conditions mean, “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”.

What do “FAIR principles” mean?

This acronym refers to Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability. For further definitions of FAIR, please have a look at the following publication:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7769a148-f1f6-11e8-9982-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-80611283>

What is a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”?

According to the International Health Regulations (article 1)

(<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/246107/9789241580496-eng.pdf;jsessionid=E11FE181E9BB59BB35F276973134BCEE?sequence=1>), the term “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” is defined as “an extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations:

- to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and
- to potentially require a coordinated international response”.

What is the Horizon Results Platform?

The Horizon Results Platform is a platform where our Framework Programme participants present their results for you to search, contact their owners and hopefully form fruitful partnerships.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-results-platform/search>

Is it possible to withdraw your endorsement?

Yes.

In that case, please send an email to: RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu

Is it possible to only endorse some of the guiding principles?

No.

However, there is a presumption that you endorse to the extent of your capacity and power.

For instance, if you do not have the power to sign a license agreement, but only to commit to put your data in open access, you will be deemed to have only committed to the latter.

For how long am I committing myself if I endorse the manifesto?

The manifesto is time-limited. It will remain in force until one year after the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that coronavirus is not a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” but in any event not beyond January 1, 2022.

What happens if I breach one of the commitments after having endorsed the manifesto?

Since the manifesto is a policy statement without any legal implication, there is no legal implication if you breach your commitments.

Do we have to use a specific model of license agreement?

No. You are free to use the license agreement of your choice. We are not promoting or endorsing any type of license agreements.

Do I commit to using a patent pool?

While the manifesto does not require the endorsers to commit to pool their intellectual property however, the solidarity action plan calls for action.

The WHO Resolution on “Covid-19 Response” as well as the Communication on “EU Strategy for COVID-19 vaccines” and other international initiatives, refer to the pooling of technologies as a mechanism to facilitate timely, equitable and affordable access.

The pooling of technology to any UN endorsed patent pool, such as the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), is therefore strongly encouraged.

The MPP aims to lower the prices of essential medicines and facilitate the development of, and access to, better-adapted treatments through voluntary licensing and patent pooling. The organisation has recently extended its mandate to cover COVID-19 related technologies on the global scale in response to international calls.

Didn't find an answer to your question?

Please contact us: RTD-VALORISATION-POLICIES-IPR@ec.europa.eu