

## Welcome to SENET!

The Sino-European Health Networking Hub – SENET – is a 30-month (2019 – 2021) project launched in January 2019, aiming to create a sustainable dialogue between health research and innovation actors from the EU and China. Focusing on common health challenges, SENET will facilitate and foster the cooperation in health research and development (R&D) between China and the EU.

Based on a collaboration scheme strongly involving experts from both the EU and China, the project will promote EU-China health cooperation through different collaborative events and activities like roadshows, virtual ideation hackathons and call power partnering. SENET has a multidisciplinary consortium composed of five European and four Chinese organisations with a long track record and expertise in research and innovation management and communication, as well as research policy.

## Word from the Coordinator



*Hicham Abghay, Steinbeis 2i  
Coordinator of the SENET project*

The Sino-European Health Networking Hub – SENET – has now been running more than a year. Since then, the SENET consortium successfully carried several stakeholder dialogues and roadshows both in China and European as well as interviews and bilateral consultations. However, we did not expect to get into such a critical situation which the world is facing these days with COVID-19.

Unlike the outbreak of the SARS virus pandemic in 2002/2003, COVID-19 is spreading rapidly throughout the globe and across the borders with unanticipated ramifications on the economic, social and wellbeing. Amid these turbulent times, several teams close ranks at the community, local, national, European level and universally to fight this pandemic which hopefully will lead to the same joint actions in the worldwide vaccine research community as it happened successfully in 2003. This shows again how important joint research and shared experiences is – worldwide - !

SENET contributes to alleviating this severity by promoting international collaboration and focuses on common health challenges, among others, infectious diseases. Therefore no wonder that huge efforts have been undertaken to foster active participation in the recently launched calls to fight COVID-19 and facilitate collaboration in health research and development, notably between China and the EU. So, in this newsletter, you will find more about our work in the past months and future activities to which we invite you to join! Visit our website with announcements to [Power Partnering calls](#), [Expert Meetings](#) and other occasions where you can meet (physically or virtually) with others.

Enjoy reading and stay tuned with us for more information!

## Key messages and actions for COVID-19

The WHO has released the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, including technical guidance by topic, as well as basic protective measures against the new coronavirus. All information is available on the [WHO website](#) and through your national and local public health authorities. Take care of your health and protect others by following the instructions below:

### How to protect yourself against COVID-19?

1. Wash your hands frequently  
Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
2. Maintain social distancing  
Maintain at least 1 metre distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth  
Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.
4. When and how to use masks
  - If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection.
  - Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing.
  - Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
  - If you wear a mask, then you must know how to use it and dispose of it properly.

**Read more:** [who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public)

### Take steps to protect others

1. Stay home  
Stay home to protect you and to protect the others. And if you are sick, except to get medical care.
2. Cover coughs and sneezes
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Throw used tissues in the trash.
  - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. Wear a facemask if you are sick  
If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.
4. Clean and disinfect
  - Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
  - If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

**Read more:** [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)

### More information

[6 Steps to Prevent COVID-19](#)  
[Individuals, schools, events, businesses and more](#)

## SENET Updates

### SENET Expert Group Meeting

The upcoming SENET Expert meeting is planned to take place on June 23rd in Brussels. We are currently considering holding the conference online in case travel restrictions are still in place in June. The expert meeting aims to discuss the current research topics in EU and China, case studies of previous collaborations with China in health research, as well as research strengths of China focusing on the landscape in health R&I priorities and funding schemes in the EU.

To achieve the project objectives, the SENET consortium mobilises regularly for the duration of the project a community of Health Research and Innovation (R&I) Experts – representatives of the Health R&I from EU and China, experts in health-related domains, policy experts, and health research and innovation specialists. They are organised in three Expert Groups that support the consortium.

The Policy Implementation Expert Group, the Policy-Making Expert Group, and the Research and Innovation Expert Group will work closely together to identify converging themes, major policy priority areas, opportunities to enhance collaboration in the health research and innovation area and mobility between the EU and China.

[Read More](#)

---

### SENET organised the 2nd Consortium meeting in Beijing





SENET organised the 2nd consortium meeting on November 21st and 22nd in Beijing, hosted by the MedTech Valley. The meeting started with a welcome speech from our host followed by a presentation of the SENET's objectives and the European programmes H2020 and Horizon Europe from our European Project's Officer Rosanna D'Amario. We were honoured to have her with us.

The findings on the assessment of strategic health priorities and the health research and innovation landscape in Europe and China have been presented. This was the opportunity to summarise the major agreements and funding agencies for health collaboration between the EU and China, as well as to analyse of the health priorities in both areas based on the survey (launched in July and opened until the project's end). This analysis, in particular, gave us a better understanding of the state of collaboration in health Research & Innovation between Europe and China.

[Read More](#)

---

#### **Power Partnering Calls are open and live**

SENET offers opportunities to foster cooperation and to encourage collaborative research and innovation efforts through helping partners to identify calls (call power partnering) and find suitable funding sources for the project. In this regard, we have identified several topics that could increase the collaboration between China and the EU on health research and innovation within a selection of currently open calls in Horizon 2020. We offer to facilitate partners' search and clarification of the participation rules.

[Read More](#)

---

#### **The deliverables of WP1 soon to be uploaded on the website!**

Part of the SENET project focuses on the assessment of strategic health priorities and the health research and innovation landscape in Europe and China to identify common priorities and challenges to collaboration. To achieve this objective, SENET partners have developed four useful tools: a review on health research and innovation priorities in Europe and China, a map of major funding agencies and stakeholders in Europe and China, a guide for health researchers from Europe and China through the funding landscape and a strategy paper towards closer EU-China health research and innovation collaboration.

[Read More](#)

---

#### **Enterprise Europe Network Partner Search - Networking Opportunities**

The Enterprise Europe Network has launched partner searching for facilitating the networking opportunities between the EU and Chinese companies.

##### **Technical Request:**

***A Chinese company seeks technical assistance to develop a bactericidal technology applied to air conditioners from the European market via a commercial agreement.***

This Chinese company is specialized in the design and manufacturing of household appliances. The company's main products include refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, televisions, air conditioners, water heaters, extractor hoods, and gas cooking stoves, etc. Currently, the company is looking for bactericidal technology applied to air conditioners from the European market. The Chinese company is seeking a commercial agreement that includes technical assistance.

[View request](#)

##### **Technical Request:**

***Chinese biotechnology start-up looks for a technological partner in Finland.***

A Chinese technology-based start-up specialized in using non-food biomass to refine natural functional molecules and production of natural foods with nutrition and high-quality daily necessities are looking for a technology partner from Finland to initiate a project on biomass refining through biological and green chemical technologies.

[View request](#)

**Business Offer:**

**A Chinese company providing production and development of human vaccines looks for European agents and distributors for partnership through a commercial agreement.**

A Chinese company has long been engaged in R&D, production, sales and technical services of preventive biological products. The current product line includes Group ACYW135 Meningococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine, Freeze-dried Rabies Vaccine for Human Use (Human Diploid Cell)-HDCV, etc. It is now seeking European agents and distributors for a partnership that could be carried out via a commercial agency or distribution agreement.

[View offer](#)

---

**Become a Member of the Expert Group**

SENET intends to organise policy dialogue rounds, focus groups and thematic Expert Group meetings. The thematic Expert Groups aim to support the identification of common research priorities in the health sector.

**Contact us through our website if you are interested in becoming part of the SENET Expert Group activities! For more information, click [here](#).**



**Want to be updated on our latest news?  
FOLLOW US on Twitter!**

## External News

*News about SENET or relevant subjects regarding health research of every communication source*

**Study highlights: COVID-19 Estimates 5.1 Days for Incubation Period**

A new study led by researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, an analysis of publicly available data on infections from the new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that causes the respiratory illness COVID-19 yielded an estimate of 5.1 days for the median disease incubation period. This median time from exposure to onset of symptoms suggests that the 14-day quarantine period used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for individuals with likely exposure to the coronavirus is reasonable.

**More information:** [here](#)

---

**Using Horizon 2020 as a platform for healthcare innovation**

More than €10bn of funding is available to help innovators across the European Union meet their specific health research and needs. Over the last seven years, Horizon 2020 has invested more than €10bn into health research with the promise to create more breakthroughs, discoveries, and world-firsts by allowing companies, research groups, and both public and private sectors to focus on what's important and take their ideas from laboratory to the market.

**More information:** [here](#)

---

**The European Union and the Member States offer funding to fight the COVID-19**

The European Union and Member State's funding agencies launched several calls to fight the spread of COVID-19:

**1. IMI2 - Call 21**

Topic: Development of therapeutics and diagnostics combatting coronavirus infections Scope: Considering that this is a newly identified virus, the scope of this topic remains broad and must address at least one of the following objectives:

- development of antivirals as well as other types of therapeutics to address a rapid response to the current COVID-19 outbreak;
- development of therapeutics to address the current and/or future coronavirus outbreaks;
- development of diagnostics, ensuring rapid evaluation of candidates based on existing technologies;
- development of fast and reliable tools that go beyond the state of the art for detection of COVID-19 carriers and symptomatic individuals suspected of COVID-19 infection.

Deadline for submission: 31, March 2020

**More information:** [here](#)

**2. Funding announcement for research on COVID-19 in the wake of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak**

Due to the current outbreak of the corona virus SARS-CoV-2, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research is opening "Module 3 (Rapid Response) of the funding announcement "Guideline for the funding of a "National Research Network for Zoonotic Infectious Diseases"; Federal Gazette of 15.02.2016.

Module 3 - Research that contributes to the understanding of the virus and its spread –

- Research on human pathogenic properties of the virus, infection chains and conditions of spread
- Approaches for testing the transferability of existing animal models to Sars-CoV-2 - Development of new clinically relevant animal models and human cell models (e.g. lung infection model)
- Epidemiological approaches
- Infection prevention (without vaccine development) and control, also for the protection of healthcare workers Research on ethical, legal and socio-economic aspects (ELSA) related to the current outbreak situation

Deadline for submission: 11, May, 2020

**More information:** [here](#)

---

### **China strengthens international cooperation on vaccines development for COVID-19**

China has strengthened international cooperation in the research and development of vaccines against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Some Chinese companies are cooperating with their international counterparts on different approaches to vaccine development.

Vaccines are key to the fight against the epidemic and it is the right choice to carry out international cooperation as vaccine development is difficult and faces many uncertainties, said Xu Nanping, vice-minister of science and technology, at a press conference.

**More information:** [here](#)

---

### **IC2PerMed**

IC2PerMed (Integrating China in the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine) Horizon 2020 project kick-off meeting took place on February 17 - 19th at the Catholic University of Sacred Heart of Rome.

This project is gathering 9 partners from China and the EU supporting the work performed by the International Consortium on Personalised Medicine on coordinating and fostering research to develop and evaluate personalised medicine approaches.

IC2PerMed aims at providing key solutions for enabling the convergence of European and Chinese stakeholders under ICPerMed, towards a common approach of personalised medicine research, innovation, development, and implementation. The project wants to achieve this by:

- mapping policies, programmes, standards and initiatives related to personalised medicine in Europe and China for identifying the opportunities for research collaborations;
  - structuring its developments upon an ecosystem of European and Chinese experts, collaborating in working groups centred on ICPerMed Action plan priorities;
  - setting bridges with key organisms involved in the definition and implementation of personalised medicine and healthcare systems in both economic areas, both on benefits for coordinated approaches for research and on concrete developments taking place within and along the project;
  - inserting its developments in international contexts, through ICPerMed and its involvement in relevant initiatives and networks.
- 

### **EMBL-EBI leads international collaboration to share COVID-19 research data**

EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) and collaborators have started developing the European COVID-19 Data Platform, an initiative to help fight the SARS-CoV-2 virus by improving and accelerating the exchange of data among researchers globally. The European COVID-19 Data Platform aims to address this challenge by providing an open, trusted, and scalable platform where researchers can store and share relevant datasets.

**More information:** [here](#)

---

### **COVID-19 host genetics initiative**

The COVID-19 host genetics initiative brings together the human genetics community to generate, share, and analyze data to learn the genetic determinants of COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and outcomes. Such discoveries could help to generate hypotheses for drug repurposing, identify individuals at unusually high or low risk, and contribute to global knowledge of the biology of SARS-CoV-2 infection and disease.

**More information:** [here](#)





## Upcoming events and webinars

*Please note these events may suffer changes due to current restrictions of circulation from different European countries.*

### ENRICH in China COVID-19 Themed Webinars

With current outbreak of coronavirus on a global scale, ENRICH in China is aiming to help share information on any relevant initiatives that might help spread knowledge and development towards the fight against coronavirus. The 1st webinar will take place on April 2nd, under the theme of "COVID-19 Research Opportunities and Project Showcases in Europe and China". We also have another one confirmed for April 3rd titled "How to turn our communities more resilient during the COVID-19 outbreak?". The 3rd webinar titled "Connecting to Chinese Medical Suppliers in the Fight Against COVID-19" provides a brief showcase of Chinese suppliers of Anti-Coronavirus medical devices and equipment. Please connect with us to know more about COVID-19 via the links below.

#### COVID-19 Research Opportunities and Project Showcases in Europe and China

**Date:** 2, April 2020, 10:00-11:00 CET

[Register here](#)

#### How to turn our communities more resilient during the COVID-19 outbreak?

**Date:** 3, April 2020, 10:15-11:15 CET

[Register here](#)

#### Connecting to Chinese Medical Suppliers in the Fight Against COVID-19

**Date:** 8, April 2020, 10:15-11:15 CET

[Register here](#)

[More Info](#)

---

### SciTech DiploHub webinars on COVID-19

SciTech DiploHub, the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub, has launched a series of webinars focusing on COVID-19.

#### The COVID-19 Crisis in Europe: A Failure of Science Diplomacy?

**Date:** April 3rd 2020 - 12:00 AM (CST)

[Register here](#)

#### Barcelona and the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Role of Global Cities

**Date:** Friday, April 10th 2020 - 12:00 AM (CST)

[Register here](#)

#### Technology at the Service of Global Health Crises: Threats and Opportunities

**Date:** Friday, April 24th 2020 - 12:00 AM (CST)

[Register here](#)

---

### 4th International Conference on Women Health and Breast Cancer 2020 (Women Health-2020)

**Date:** 14-15, May 2020

**Location:** Manchester, UK

As a well-entrenched conference that draws the attention of participants from around the world, it aims to nurture the research on Women Health and Breast Cancer into a coordinating environment among scientists by bringing them together on this platform to discuss the latest innovations, developments, improvements, techniques and advances in view of Women Health Disorders.

**Website:** [papercrowd.com/c/4-th-international-conference-on-women-health-and-breast-cancer-2020/13291](https://papercrowd.com/c/4-th-international-conference-on-women-health-and-breast-cancer-2020/13291)

---

### 10th European Conference on Rare Diseases & Orphan Products (ECRD)

**Date:** 15-16, May 2020

**Location:** Stockholm, Sweden

The conference is recognised globally as the largest, patient-led rare disease event in which collaborative dialogue, learning and conversation takes place, forming the groundwork to shape future rare disease policies. The event draws together more than 800 participants from over 50 countries around the world.

**Website:** [rare-diseases.eu](https://rare-diseases.eu)

---

### Enterprise Europe Network events

**Date:** 23-25, June 2020

**Brokerage Event:** eHealth Match 2020

The largest eHealth matchmaking in Scandinavia focusing on the future development of Healthcare. The matchmaking will offer Healthtech executives and key opinion leaders as well as disruptive and promising companies the possibility to meet bilaterally in pre-arranged 20 minutes meetings.

**Location:** Gothenburg, Sweden

**Target groups:** Private-owned companies, Community care, Hospital/primary care, Public organisations, Universities, R&D Institutes, Clusters, Associations, End-user organisations.

**Registration:** The matchmaking is free of charge. However, please register for the conference. It will only accept a limited number of participants; it is first-come, first-served.

**Deadline registration:** 20 June 2020;

**Deadline meeting selection:** 20 June 2020

**Website:** [ehealth-match-2020.b2match.io](http://ehealth-match-2020.b2match.io)

---

**DIA Europe 2020**

**Date:** June 30 – July 3, 2020

**Location:** Brussels, Belgium

The DIA Europe 2020 Annual Meeting is where Regulators, HTAs, Patient Advocacy Groups, and Industry representatives come together to combine European insights with global perspectives on drug development, in order to envision the future of healthcare. With 1,500+ attendees from over 50 countries, dozens of multi-disciplinary sessions covering 9 thought leadership streams will be organised: Clinical Development, Regulatory Science, Data and Data Standards, Value and Access, Translational Medicine and Science, Pharmacovigilance, Medical Affairs and Patient Engagement, and Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control (CMC).

**Website:** [diaglobal.org/en/flagship/dia-europe-2020](http://diaglobal.org/en/flagship/dia-europe-2020)

---

**FOLLOW US**  
[www.senet-hub.eu](http://www.senet-hub.eu)



SENET receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement No 825904).