

*17 April 2020*

## **Examination of membership applications for existing ERNs suspended from 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020**

The whole evaluation process of new applications started at the closure of the Call 2019 on 30 November 2019. Described in the Implementing Decision 2014/287/EU, the process sets precise procedures to assess the applications to become a member of an existing ERN, and requires the involvement of the boards of the Networks.

However, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts of healthcare providers and health professionals in the Union are fully devoted to addressing the ongoing public health crisis. As a consequence, the Commission decided to suspend the on-going evaluation process to allow health care providers to fully dedicate to the management of the sanitaria crisis, and at the same time preserving the evaluation of the applications from disruptive consequences.

The examination of applications for membership of existing European Reference Networks that were ongoing on 31 March 2020, shall be suspended from 1 April 2020 until 31 August 2020, and should apply retroactively from 1 April 2020. The examination process will resume on 1 September 2020 and the suspended time limits will continue running from that date.

See the [Commission implementing decision \(EU\) 2020/534 of 16 April 2020](#) suspending the examination of applications for membership of existing European Reference Networks.