Advisory memo: Extra budget request Convergence Erasmus MC, TUD, EUR Mohamed El Bouchtaoui (CPC); Eleonora Dekkers-van Rijsbergen (Finance) November 2023

Introduction

Regarding the financing of Convergence CPC has raised questions about the increase of budget, which has lead to the advices below. The advice is shared with the CFO's of Convergence and CEB.

Advice

- 1. Request CFOs and CEB to include the following topics: guidelines/policies in the vision for School of Convergence
 - a. Convergence's own funding is intended as seed funding. This has increased significantly in recent years. It is recommended to frame your own financing to the current investment level. CFOs and CEB are asked to include the following topics in the new vision of School of Convergence:
 - i. In the long term, reduce self-financing (Convergence contribution).
 - ii. Future overheads, such as additional services for IT, accommodation and other services, cannot be financed from own resources (Convergence contribution)
 - iii. Possibilities to revise agreements if partners are no longer willing or able to commit to Convergence (exit strategy).
 - b. The Convergence F&C working group is asked to take the above into account in its advice on future budget requests and budgets.

2. Revenue model

Within the Framework Agreement of the Convergence it is mentioned that the costs and benefits will be divided 1/3. There are no indications that this agreement will be deviated from. However, we do see that the medical programs report substantial subsidies that are not reported within Convergence. The F&C working group works with the finance managers to find out how these subsidies are related to Convergence and to what extent they should be reported in Convergence's annual report. This may be a reason to further tighten up the agreements made.