

Guide for Applicants

Manual for Submission, Evaluation and Grant Award

IHI JU Calls for Proposals

Document version 1.11

Last update: 16/01/2026



Horizon Europe

Disclaimer

This guide is designed to assist applicants in preparing and submitting their proposal. It is based on the rules and conditions set out in the IHI JU Work Programme and the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, which are accessible through the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) and the IHI JU website.

This guide does not supersede these documents, which are legally binding.

This guide may be subject to modifications during the implementation of the IHI JU programme.

Chronology and list of reviews

Version	Date	Change
1.0	21/06/2022	First version
1.1	06/07/2022	Revised version inserting language re: specific conditions for 'Affordable, Available, Accessible' and JU Right to Object.
1.2	20/07/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised version inserting clarifications re: right to object and affordability, availability and accessibility provisions. Replace of FC paid to FC received
1.3	09/12/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised version inserting additional text on the 45% eligibility criterion Revised version inserting clarifications on private members Insert reference on the IHI JU budget Tool Revised version inserting clarifications on the budget table composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> personnel cost indirect cost financial contribution Non-EU IKOP In-kind contributions to additional activities Industry contribution threshold of minimum 45 % Revised version inserting clarifications on contributing partners Revised version of Proposal budget table examples ("0" changed to n.a) Revised version inserting clarifications on Annex: Essential information for clinical studies Revised version inserting clarifications on Grant agreement preparation (consortium agreement) Revised version inserting additional 'points to remember' concerning technical errors Revised version inserting reference to Cal 3 on the 3A
1.4	13/12/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rectification of 'Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement' table'
1.5	26/07/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 'Main Definitions' – Associated Partners, cases 'a' and 'b' Contribution Partners: addition of a link to the IHI JU guide for contributing partners Section 'Reference documents' –

		<p>Include links of the guide for contributing partners and budget table</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.3.4.2 on contributing partners including adding information on application deadlines • Revised info box - inserting additional text on timing of contributing partners applications • Section 2.4.2: Added 'supporting documentation for the affiliated entities' Revised version inserting clarifications on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.4.3: Associated Partners, cases 'a' and 'b' • Section 2.4.6: added 'Associated Partners, cases 'a' and b' • Section 3.2.1.3. estimated Budget <p>Creation of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex I: RTO • Annex II: 3A • Annex III: Participation of the UK entities
1.6	18/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference documents section has been restructured. • Reference to pre-identified industry consortium added to section 2.1 • Section 1 – reference to IHI JU office closure days • Reference to SBA, Article 125, point 4 and point 5 added to section 2.3.2 Rules for funding per type of call • Section 2.3.4.3 has been added: Participation as beneficiaries of non-EU legal entities providing in-kind contributions Section 3.3.1: Access by IHI JU • Section 2.4.3: Associated partners • Section 3 - Preparation and submission of a proposal in a nutshell • Section 3.2.1.3: Estimated budget • Annex 3 – update following the association of the UK to Horizon Europe
1.7	06/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5.3.5 Grant agreement preparation: updated wording regarding the consortium agreement template prepared by IHI JU private members specifically for IHI projects
1.8	19/03/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3.2.1.3.1 Composition of the estimated budget: update on Non-EU IKOP
1.9	13/12/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions Section: Minor clarifications introduced. • Reference Documents: Updated proposal annexes and ensured alignment across the document. • MGA Version: Updated to the latest version. • Section 2.3.4.2: reference to the criteria of assessment of the contributing partners applications and a new way of submitting contributing partners

		<p>applications as a part of the proposal in response to a single-stage call in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 3.2.1.3.2: Updated the budget table thresholds to refine the terminology related to non-EU. • Section 3.2.2: Adjusted wording in 'Instructions for Writing Part B' - quality and efficiency of implementation. • Section 5.3.3: Refined the phrasing for prioritisation criteria within Phase 3 — Panel Review. • Annex III: Minor modifications related to UK participation.
1.10	17/06/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.3.1: addition of a footnote. • Annex III: Participation of UK entities: addition of rules on Call 11 and addition of rules on participation of Canadian entities, a new title of the Annex III.
1.11	16/01/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference Documents • Section 2.3.4.2: Additional guidance on CP applications in single-stage calls • 2.3.4.1: Further guidance on participation of IHI private members in single-stage calls • Section 2.4.1 and 2.4.6: Clarification added on Coordinator role • Section 3.2.1.3.1: clarification added concerning the Annex on IKAA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations and definitions	8
Main definitions	9
Reference documents	14
1 Introduction	16
2 Types of actions funded under IHI JU.....	17
2.1 Single and two-stage calls for proposals	17
2.2 Entities eligible to participate	19
2.2.1 Participation: any legal entity	19
2.3 Entities eligible for IHI JU funding	19
2.3.1 General principles	20
2.3.2 Rules for funding per type of call	20
2.3.3 Types of legal entities	21
2.3.4 Private members, contributing partners and proposal eligibility	22
2.4 Types of IHI JU participants	28
2.4.1 Beneficiaries	28
2.4.2 Affiliated entities to beneficiaries	29
2.4.3 Associated partners	29
2.4.4 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action	32
2.4.5 Subcontractors	32
2.4.6 Table summarising types of participants	33
3 Preparation and submission of a proposal in a nutshell	35
3.1 How to find partners for your application	36
3.2 Proposal submission	37
3.2.1 Instructions for completing Part A	38
3.2.2 Instructions for writing Part B	60
3.3 After proposal submission	62
3.3.1 Access by IHI JU	62
3.3.2 Withdrawing a proposal	63
3.3.3 Multiple proposals	63
3.3.4 Complaints about failed submission	63
4 Proposal admissibility and eligibility	63
4.1 Admissibility criteria	63
4.2 Eligibility criteria	64
4.3 Proposal page limit	64
4.4 Outcome of the admissibility & eligibility check	64

5	Evaluation of proposals	64
5.1	Independent experts and observers	64
5.2	Conflicts of interest	65
5.3	Evaluation process	66
5.3.1	Phase 1 — individual evaluation	67
5.3.2	Phase 2 — consensus group	67
5.3.3	Phase 3 — panel review	68
5.3.4	Outcome of the evaluation: IHI JU ranked list	69
5.3.5	Grant agreement preparation	70
5.3.6	Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	71
5.3.7	Complaints	74
6	Ethics and integrity	75
6.1	Ethics appraisal procedure	75
6.2	Ethics review procedure	75
6.3	Ethics screening	76
6.4	Ethics assessment	76
6.5	Summary of the ethics appraisal steps	77
7	Security	77
8	Points to remember	78
	Annex I: IHI JU Right to Object	80
	Annex II: Affordability, availability, and accessibility of results	81
	Annex III: Participation of the UK and Canadian entities	82

Abbreviations and definitions

Acronym	Meaning
3A	Affordability, availability and accessibility
CFS	Certificate on financial statements
COCIR	European trade association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries
Col	Conflict of interest
EC	European Commission
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ED	IHI JU Executive Director
EFPIA	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
ESR	Evaluation summary report
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro currency
EuropaBio	European Association for Bioindustries
FC	Financial contribution
FP	Full proposal
FSIGN	Person in the organisation authorised to sign financial statements in the EC IT tool
GAP	Grant agreement preparation
GB	IHI JU Governing Board
HE	Horizon Europe
IER	Individual evaluation report
IHI JU	Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking
IKAA	In-kind contributions to additional activities
IKOP	In-kind contributions to operational activities
Jus	Joint Undertakings
LEAR	Legal entity appointed representative
LSIGN	Person in the organisation authorised to sign grant agreements in the EC IT tool
MedTech Europe	European trade association for the medical technology industry
MGA	Model grant agreement
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office (<i>Office Européen de Lutte Antifraude</i>)
PPP	Public-private partnership
RIA	Research and Innovation Action
RtO	Right to object
SBA	Single Basic Act
SIP	Science and Innovation Panel
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SP	Short proposal
SRG	States' Representatives Group
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
Vaccines Europe	Specialised vaccines group within the EFPIA
WP	Work Programme

Main definitions

Additional activities: Activities that contribute to IHI JU's objectives are carried out in the European Union (EU) or countries associated to Horizon Europe and are not funded by the IHI JU or any other EU funding programme. Additional activities can be either project-specific (when they contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of an IHI JU project, or the dissemination, sustainability, or exploitation of IHI JU project results), or programme-specific (when they contribute to the uptake of results from an IHI/IMI2 JU project(s) or have a significant added value for the Union). Project-specific additional activities are not project tasks (i.e. not IKOP).

Affiliated entities: As described in Article 8 of the model grant agreement, affiliated entities are entities with a legal or capital link with the beneficiary, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of the action implementation. Affiliated entities implement parts of the action and are allowed to charge costs directly to the grant.

Affordability, availability and accessibility: Obligation laying on the participants which must, during the lifetime of the project and for a period of four years after project end, use their best efforts to ensure that those products or services that are developed by any of the participants and are totally or partly based on the results of clinical studies performed as part of the activities of the selected project, will be broadly available and accessible, at fair and reasonable conditions (Article 125(3) SBA).

Applicant: Legal entity submitting an application for a call for proposals.

Associated partners: Entities that implement action tasks but do not receive EU/IHI JU funding and participate at their own cost. Associated Partners may contribute to IHI JU projects in one of two ways:

Case 'a'	Associated partners who are not constituent or affiliated entities of either a private member or contributing partner to IHI JU and whose contribution cannot be counted as financial contribution ('FC') or in-kind contribution ('IKOP,' 'IKAA').
Case 'b'	Associated partners who are constituent or affiliated entities of either a private member or contributing partner to IHI JU and whose contribution can be counted as financial contribution ('FC') or in-kind contribution ('IKOP,' 'IKAA') if the eligibility conditions set out in the SBA are met.

For more information, please see 2.4.3. ('Associated partners')

Associated countries: Third countries associated to Horizon Europe.

See list of countries https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf and the relevant updates here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/updates-association-third-countries-horizon-europe_en

Award criteria: Sometimes also referred to as 'evaluation criteria'. All proposals are evaluated based on three criteria: excellence; impact; and quality and efficiency of the implementation. The work programme will lay down further details of the application of the award criteria and specify weightings and thresholds.

Background: 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
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results. For more information, please see the HE Model Grant Agreement and in particular Annex 5.

Beneficiaries: As described in Article 7 of the model grant agreement, a beneficiary is a legal person, other than the IHI JU, which is a signatory of the Grant Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

Call for proposals: A procedure to invite applicants to submit project proposals with the objective of receiving funds from the European Union.

Call publication: The act of publishing calls for project proposals on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Consensus discussion: A meeting of the experts who participated in the individual evaluation to discuss the scores awarded and prepare comments. Experts attempt to agree on a consensus score for each of the criteria that have been evaluated and comments which justify the scores and are suitable for feedback to the proposal coordinator. Scores and comments are set out in a consensus report. The meetings are moderated by an IHI JU representative and are usually held remotely or in Brussels.

Consortium agreement: An internal agreement between members of a consortium establishing their rights and obligations with respect to the implementation of an action in compliance with the grant agreement. For IHI JU projects, the consortium agreement should be finalised before the GA signature.

Constituent entities: As defined in Article 2.6 of the SBA, entities that constitute a private member of a joint undertaking, where the private member is an association according to that member's statutes. In the context of the IHI JU, constituent entities are the members of the industry trade associations COCIR, EFPIA, EuropaBio, MedTech Europe, and Vaccines Europe.

Contributing partner: As defined in Article 2.7 of the SBA, any country, international organisation, or legal entity other than a member of the IHI JU, or a constituent entity of a member or an affiliated entity of either, that supports the IHI JU's objectives in its specific area of research and whose application to become a contributing partner has been approved by the IHI JU Governing Board.

Refer also to the IHI JU Guide for contributing partners, available on the IHI website in the call documents section: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents> and the contributing partners dedicated website: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/shape-our-future-research/become-contributing-partner>

Coordinator: A beneficiary of the consortium responsible for managing the project, submitting reports and deliverables, distributing EU funds among the project beneficiaries and acting as intermediary for all contacts with the IHI JU Granting Authority.

Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 or 'Single Basic Act' (SBA): The act establishing the Joint Undertakings (including IHI JU) under the Horizon Europe programme.

Electronic submission: Project proposals for Horizon Europe calls are prepared and submitted electronically via the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) by the coordinator of the project consortium. The electronic submission service is accessed by selecting an open topic in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) call service.

Eligibility criteria: Criteria used to determine whether a proposal meets the requirements to become eligible for a European Union grant.

Ethics appraisal procedure: The ethics appraisal procedure concerns all activities funded in Horizon Europe and includes the ethics review procedure, conducted before the start of the project, as well as the ethics checks and audits.

Evaluation procedure: Methodology under which the evaluation is performed for a specific call for proposals.

Evaluation review procedure: A coordinator may request an evaluation review procedure if they believe the evaluation has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the rules for participation, the relevant work programme, or the call for proposals. The review only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation, and not the merits of the proposal.

Evaluation summary report: The official document containing the evaluators' score of a proposal evaluated for the granting authority.

Evaluation threshold: The minimum evaluation scores that a Horizon Europe project proposal must receive in order to be ranked. The default thresholds are a score of least 3 out of 5 for each individual criterion, and a score of at least 10 out of 15 for the sum of the individual scores. The thresholds are applied to unweighted scores. Different thresholds may be specified in the conditions of the call for proposals. Proposals scoring below any of the thresholds will be rejected.

Exclusion criteria: Experts check on the exclusion criteria which reflect if applicant is or not excluded and the reasons for exclusion (see section 5.3.6.3).

Funding & Tenders Portal: The entry point (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies.

Grant: direct financial contributions, by way of donation, from the EU budget in order to finance any of the following: a) an action intended to help achieve an EU policy objective; b) the functioning of a body which pursues an aim of general EU interest or has an objective forming part of, and supporting, an EU policy ('operating grants').

Grant agreement or GA: A contract concluded between the IHI JU and the beneficiaries under which the parties receive rights and obligations (e.g. the right to the Union's financial contribution and the obligation to carry out the research and development work). It consists of the basic text and annexes.

Horizon Europe: The EU's key funding programme for research and innovation of which IHI JU is a part. See https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en.

Independent observers: With a view to ensuring a high degree of transparency, IHI JU appoints independent experts to act as observers of the evaluation process from the point of view of its working and execution. Their role is to give independent advice to IHI JU on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation sessions.

Individual evaluation report: At the end of the evaluation process, each expert should produce an individual evaluation report for each proposal, with justifications for all scores given.

In-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP): Contributions by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and by contributing partners, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them for implementing the action, less the contribution of the IHI JU to those costs.

In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA): Contributions incurred by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members consisting of costs for implementing additional activities.

Legal entity: Any natural person, or any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, European Union law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

Legal entity appointed representative (LEAR): Person appointed to be the legal representative of a legal entity participating in EU funding programmes. The LEAR is usually an administrative staff member of the

central administrative department of the organisation. The LEAR provides the Commission with up-to-date legal and financial data, including the people in the organisation authorised to sign grant agreements (LSIGNs) and financial statements (FSIGNs); and commits to keep the information up to date, enabling future use for grants and other transactions between the entity and the Commission research (and other) programmes. The LEAR can delegate some of their tasks to account administrators.

Legal representative: A natural person who has been empowered (directly or indirectly) by a legal entity to enter into legal commitments on its behalf.

Legal signatory (LSIGN): A role in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) giving special access rights for paperless grant management in Horizon Europe. LSIGNs have full read/write access to the e-forms for grant management and are authorised to electronically sign grant agreements and amendments. LSIGNs are assigned in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) by the Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) of the organisation (or one of their account administrators).

Member State: A state that is party to treaties of the European Union and thereby subject to the privileges and obligations of European Union membership.

Model grant agreement: The compulsory form of a grant agreement. It consists of a core text (determining the basics of a project) and several annexes.

Non-profit legal entity: A legal entity which by its legal form is non-profitmaking, or which has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members.

Panel report: a report including lists and scores of all evaluated proposals in an indicative budget line for the IHI JU records.

Participant identification code (PIC): a nine-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes.

Participant register: A central database of organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes. Each organisation has a participant identification code (PIC) that is used as the unique identifier in all interactions in any proposals or grants in which the organisation is involved.

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.

Private member: A legal entity that is a member of the IHI JU other than the Union. The private members of IHI JU are the industry trade associations COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe), EuropaBio, and MedTech Europe as well as their constituent and affiliated entities.

Public-private partnership: A partnership where private sector partners and the European Union commit to jointly support the development and implementation of a research and innovation programme or activities.

Ranking: Proposals are ranked on the basis of the evaluation results. The selection is made on the basis of that ranking.

Research and Innovation Action (RIA): An action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service, or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, and testing and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near-to-operational environment.

Reserve list: Due to budgetary constraints, it may not be possible to support all proposals that have been evaluated positively. Proposals on a reserve list will only be financed if funds become available.

Results: 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.

Right to object: right of the IHI JU to object to transfers of ownership or to the exclusive licensing of results. This objection may be raised if: a) the transfer/exclusive license is to a legal entity established in a non-EU country not associated with Horizon Europe, and b) the IHI JU considers that the transfer or exclusive licence is not in line with EU interests (Annex 5 Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement). This right may be also exercised to object over results generated by beneficiaries not receiving funding (Article 24(3) of the SBA).

Score: Proposals for projects to be funded under Horizon Europe are evaluated on the basis of selection criteria (financial and operational capacity) and award criteria (excellence, impact, efficiency of implementation). Unless otherwise specified in the conditions of the call for proposals, each of the award criteria is scored between 0 and 5. The total score is calculated as a weighted sum of the scores for each criterion. The default is equal weight for all criteria. Other weightings may be specified in the conditions of the call for proposals.

Single-stage submission scheme: A scheme in which there is a single proposal submission and evaluation phase and there is no pre-identified industry consortium. The applicant consortium composition may include any legal entities, including the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners who will ensure the 45 % eligibility criterion is fulfilled.

Submission: The formal act of submitting a proposal to IHI JU.

Third Country: any country outside the EU which is not associated to Horizon Europe.

Topic: IHI JU calls for proposals (as defined in the annual work programme) are subdivided into topics. A topic defines a specific research and innovation subject or area for which applicants are invited to submit proposals. The description of a topic comprises the specific scope and expected impact of the projects to be funded, and also the type of project, evaluation criteria and deadline for submission of proposals.

Two-stage submission scheme: A scheme in which applicants must submit a short proposal (SP) for the first stage evaluation. SPs must involve all applicant organisations requesting JU funding. At the end of the first stage evaluation, under each topic, only the applicant consortium of the first ranked SP will be invited to prepare and submit a full proposal (FP) for the second stage evaluation together with the pre-identified industry consortium for the topic.

Work Programme: The document adopted by IHI JU for the implementation of the IHI JU specific programme in accordance with Articles 23 and 25 of the SBA, and detailing call topics and associated modalities.

Reference documents

This section contains reference documents relating to calls for proposals launched under the IHI JU programme. Applicants are invited to read the following materials before preparing and submitting their proposal.

Where relevant, templates of the reference documents and associated guidance can be found on the IHI JU [website](#) and in the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (IHI JU dedicated Call area).

Regarding the application forms for submitting proposals, the relevant templates and annexes are available to download in the submission system.

IHI JU-specific documents

- [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations \(EC\) No 219/2007, \(EU\) No 557/2014, \(EU\) No 558/2014, \(EU\) No 559/2014, \(EU\) No 560/2014, \(EU\) No 561/2014 and \(EU\) No 642/2014](#) (in short Single Basic Act 'SBA' or Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085).
- *IHI JU Annual Work Programme (AWP)* published at <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/about-ihj/plans-reports-and-finances>
- [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#)
- *IHI JU Guide for contributing partners* available on the IHI website in the call documents section: <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents>

Evaluation form (single and two-stage calls)

- IHI JU evaluation form for Research and Innovation Actions (single and two-stage calls)

Research and Innovation Actions – single-stage and second stage of two-stage procedure

- Proposal template – Part A of the proposal is generated by the IT system in the submission environment (for more information see the HE Part A template [here](#)). In Part A of the proposal applicants insert general information on their proposal (e.g. proposal acronym), details on the participants, on the budget, information on Ethics and Security, as well as other type of questions (e.g. information on clinical studies).
- Proposal template – Part B: IHI JU proposal template (RIA/FP) – Part B
- IHI JU Annex: Budget and Type of participants (compulsory)
- IHI JU annex: Declaration of in-kind contribution commitment (compulsory)
- IHI JU annex: Contributing Partner application letter(s) (applicable to single-stage calls and compulsory only if the proposal involves contributing partner(s))
- IHI JU annex: In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA) (compulsory only if the proposal includes IKAA)
- [Annex: Essential information for clinical studies](#) (compulsory annex for single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls, *if your proposal does not include clinical studies, please upload a statement declaring that your proposal does not include clinical studies*)
- If applicable, any additional supporting documentation related to ethics and/or security issues.

Research and Innovation Actions – first stage of two-stage procedure

- Proposal template – Part A of the proposal is generated by the IT system in the submission environment (for more information see the HE Part A template [here](#)). In Part A of the proposal applicants insert general information on their proposal (e.g. proposal acronym), details on the participants and the overall proposal budget.
- Proposal template – Part B: IHI JU proposal template (RIA/SP) – Part B
- IHI JU annex: Type of participants – first stage of a two-stage call (compulsory)

Horizon Europe Reference documents

[Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025](#)

[Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Rules for Participation Regulation 2021/695](#)

[HE Specific Programme Decision 2021/764](#)

[EU Financial Regulation](#)

[Rules for legal entity validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal online manual](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal terms and conditions](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal privacy statement](#)

Model Grant Agreement

[EU Grants AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement \(including Annex 5 and specific language to IHI JU\)](#)

[Horizon Europe General Model Grant Agreement MGA v1.2 of 01 November 2024 \(or subsequent versions\) \(including Annex 5 and specific language to IHI JU\)](#)

NOTE:

Some aspects of the IHI JU legal basis, while included in the main text, benefit from a more detailed treatment. These 3 concepts, and the rules and procedures relating to them, are set out in Annexes following the main text.

For:

- Right to object to transfer of ownership and exclusive licensing of results (See Annex I)
- Affordability, availability and accessibility of results (See Annex II)
- Participation of the UK and Canadian entities (see Annex III)

1 Introduction

On 30 November 2021, Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe came into force. This Regulation established the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) and repealed – among others – Regulation (EU) 557/2014 establishing the Innovative Medicine Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (IMI2 JU)¹.

IHI JU works by bringing together diverse stakeholders public and private (universities, companies large and small, patient organisations and other health stakeholders) in collaborative projects that address disease areas where there is a high burden on patients and/or society. IHI JU focuses on cross-sectoral projects involving the biopharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors, including companies active in the digital area to respond to unmet public health needs.

The members of IHI JU are the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the European life science industry, represented by the industry associations COCIR², EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe)³, EuropaBio⁴ and MedTech Europe⁵. More information can be found on the IHI JU website: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/about-ih/who-we-are>

This guide for applicants aims to assist applicants in the preparation and submission of proposals in response to calls launched by IHI JU. Its purpose is to explain the procedure to be followed by applicants and how the evaluation, selection, award and review procedures are performed by IHI JU.

It also highlights IHI JU's specificities, provides clarifications where needed, and directs potential applicants to the appropriate sources of information on preparing and submitting proposals in response to IHI JU calls.

All information concerning IHI JU Calls is published on [IHI JU website](#) and in the Funding & [Tenders Portal](#) (under '**Search Funding & Tenders**' / '**Grants**' / '**Horizon Europe**'). The electronic submission system also has an online wizard that guides the applicants step-by-step through the preparation of their proposal.

If you have any questions on IHI JU calls, please send them to the IHI JU functional mailbox infodesk@ih.europa.eu. Note that during the periods of European Commission's holidays⁶ the IHI JU Programme Office is closed, and that functional mailbox will not be monitored. We will read all the messages after the Office re-opens and reply based upon the date of receipt. We are also experiencing a high number of emails just before the call deadlines so ensure to send your query well in advance, after consulting the information available online.

IT-related questions concerning the submission tool/portal need to be addressed directly to the IT Helpdesk of the Funding & Tenders Portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/helpdesks/contact-form>. The helpdesk can also be reached via e-mail (EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu) or by phone (+32 2 299 22 22).

¹ According to Article 174 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2085, the IHI JU is the legal and universal successor of the IMI2 JU. Consequently, as of 30 November 2021, the IHI JU has taken over all IMI2 JU's rights and obligations and is now responsible for managing the IMI2 programme

² COCIR is the European Trade Association representing the medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries. See <https://www.cocir.org/>

³ EFPIA is the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. See <https://www.efpia.eu/>

⁴ EuropaBio is the European association representing corporate and associate members across sectors, plus national and regional biotechnology associations which, in turn, represent over 2600 biotech companies, 2300 out of them are SMEs. See <https://www.europabio.org/>

⁵ MedTech Europe is the European trade association for the medical technology industry including diagnostics, medical devices and digital health. See <https://www.medtecheurope.org/>

⁶ For the list of European Commission's holidays in 2025 please see: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32024D02219>

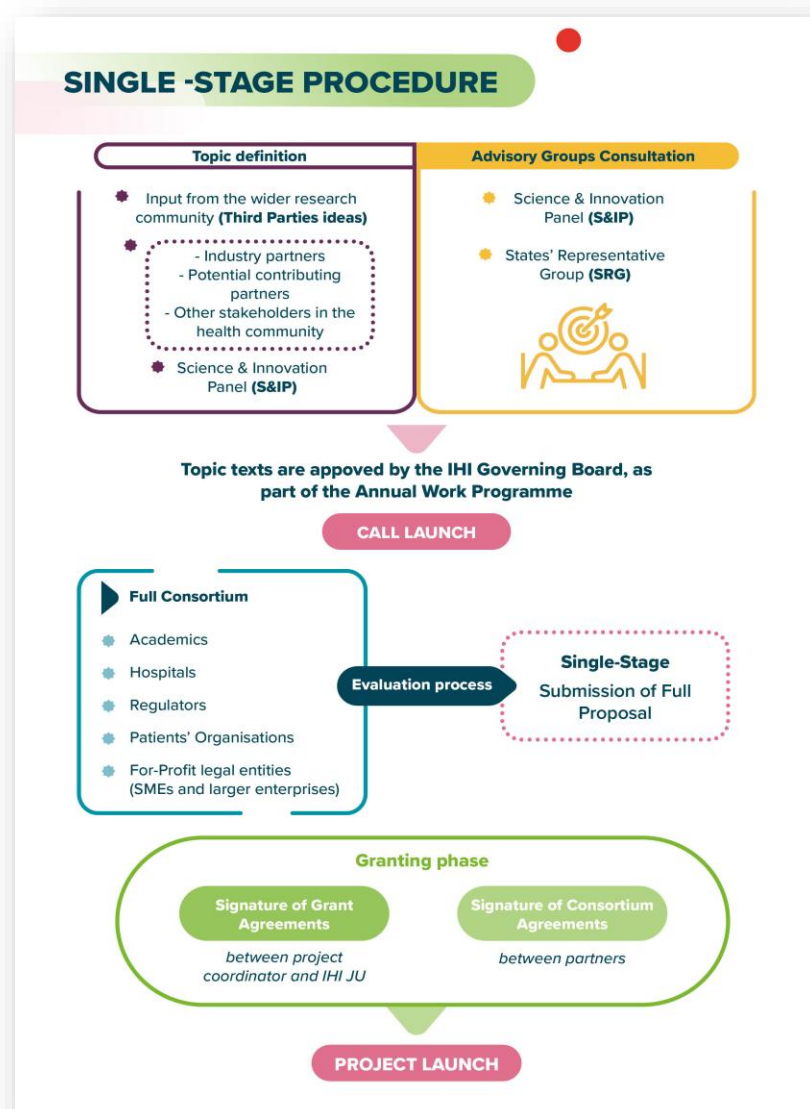
2 Types of actions funded under IHI JU

Most IHI JU calls for proposals belong to the Research and Innovation Actions ([RIA](#)). These actions are in line with the IHI JU partnership's objectives and should focus on the pre-competitive area, thereby creating a safe space for efficient collaboration between companies active in different health technologies. The majority of the projects funded by the IHI JU should be cross sectoral in order to reflect the integrative nature of the IHI JU and as such they should help to break down the silos between health industry sectors. **All IHI JU projects are expected to be public-private partnerships strengthening industry collaboration both with academics and with the other actors in the healthcare system.**

These activities are always to be put in context within the general framework of the priorities set out in the IHI JU Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) (see <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/about-ihj/research-and-innovation-agenda>).

2.1 Single and two-stage calls for proposals

IHI JU uses two types of submission schemes: single-stage and two-stage calls.



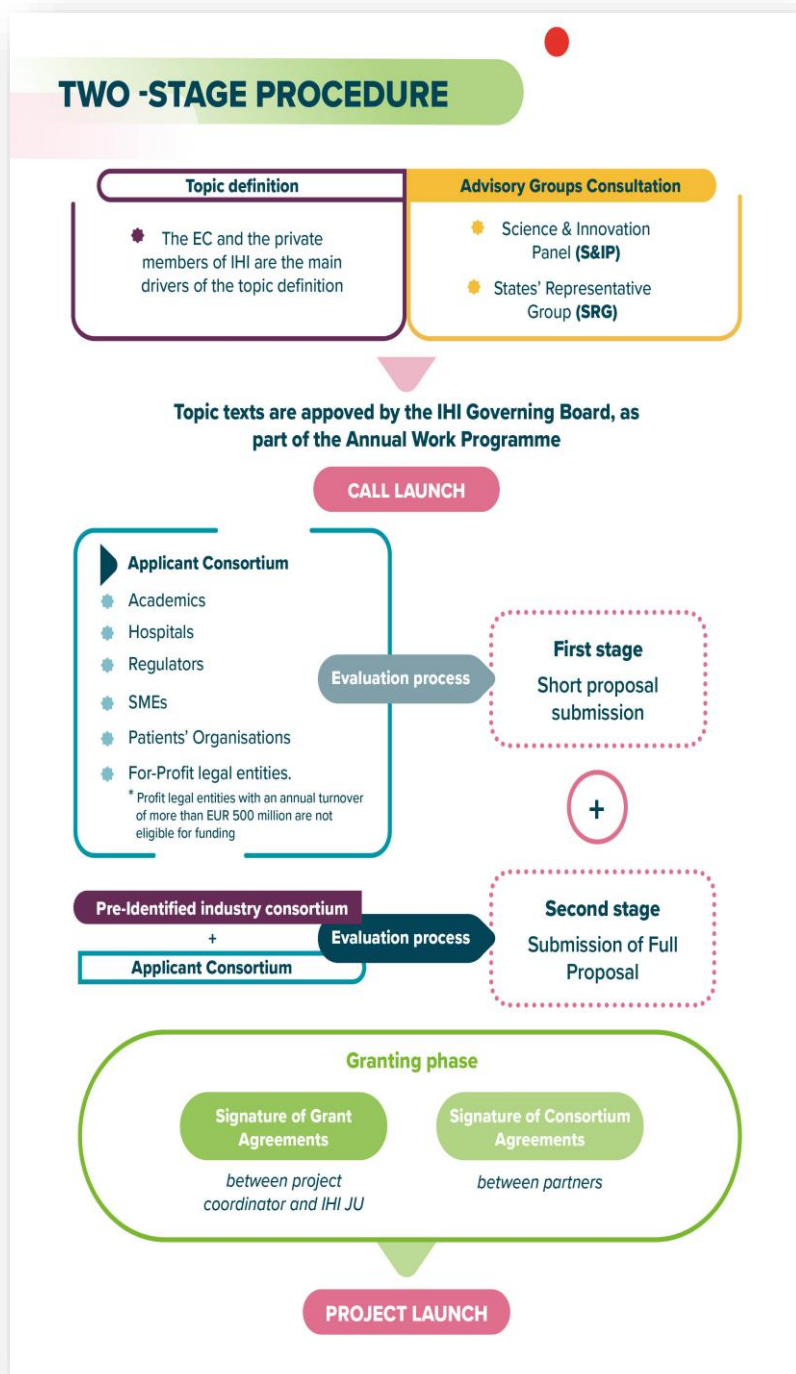
For **single-stage calls**, applicant consortia may consist of different stakeholders such as academia, SMEs, large companies, regulators, etc. Applicant consortia will be assessed on the basis of the required expertise to reach the objectives of the submitted proposals, taking into consideration any specific requirement described in the call topic text, including the public-private partnership requirement. Therefore, applicants might need to involve participants from different health sectors to meet the specific objectives.

A **single-stage submission** implies a single submission and evaluation process, without a pre-identified industry consortium. Applicants must therefore submit a full proposal which includes one or several constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners (if any). To meet the eligibility criteria, applicants must ensure already at proposal stage that the collective contribution to be provided by the constituent or

affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners (if any) amounts at least to 45 % of the proposal's eligible costs and the costs of any related additional activities.

While the minimum threshold for proposals to be considered eligible is set at 45%, consortia are strongly encouraged to aim at having 50% of the action's eligible costs and costs for action-related additional activities provided by the industry consortium participants. This prudent approach is to ensure the 45% threshold is maintained during the project implementation (eligibility criterion), despite any possible changes in the consortium composition and/or in the total contributions from private members and/or contributing partners.

After the evaluation, proposals above threshold may be invited for grant preparation according to the ranked list and within the available budget.



Under a **two-stage call**, applicants must submit a short proposal for the first stage evaluation. All applicants requesting JU funding must be part of the short proposal.

The applicants which are IHI JU members other than the Union, or their constituent entities and affiliated entities, and contributing partners and that are pre-identified in the topics – under the section 'Industry consortium' – of a call for proposals **shall not apply at the first stage of the call**. The applicant consortium selected at the first stage shall, in preparation for the proposal submission at the second stage, merge with the pre-identified industry consortium.

At the end of the first stage evaluation, under each topic, only the applicant consortium of the first ranked short proposal is invited to prepare and submit a full proposal for the second stage evaluation together with the 'pre-identified industry consortium' (the main driver of the topic definition) for the relevant topic (see IHI JU two-stage procedure above).

Full proposals to be submitted for the second stage shall include one or several constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners. To fulfil the eligibility criteria, applicants must also ensure at the

full proposal stage that the collective contribution to be provided by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members amounts at least to 45 % of the proposal's eligible costs and the costs of any related additional activities. The full proposal must be consistent with the short proposal, taking into account the first stage evaluation outcome, and may not differ substantially apart from integration of the 'pre-identified industry consortium'.

2.2 Entities eligible to participate

A distinction must be made between legal entities eligible to participate, and legal entities eligible to receive funding from IHI JU.

2.2.1 Participation: any legal entity

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not).

In order for a consortium to be considered eligible, it should include:

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or associated countries.

For more information on the eligibility conditions, consult the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 ([link](#)), and for up-to-date information on the current list of associated countries and low- and middle-income countries see the [list of participating countries in Horizon Europe](#). Participants must register in the [participant register](#) before submitting their application, to get a participant identification code (PIC) and be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation) before signing the grant agreement. For the validation, they will be asked to upload the necessary documents showing their legal status and place of establishment during the grant preparation stage. A validated PIC is not a prerequisite for applying.

More information regarding the participant register is available here:

Participants register user's guide: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

Rules on legal entity validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf

2.3 Entities eligible for IHI JU funding

Eligibility for IHI JU funding mainly depends on the place of establishment and the legal status of a legal entity, but it also depends on the type of IHI JU call and some IHI JU specificities, which are addressed in this section.

2.3.1 General principles

Any independent legal entity is eligible for EU funding if established in one of the eligible countries⁷, i.e.:

- the **Member States** of the European Union, including their outermost regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs);
- Horizon Europe **associated countries**⁸;
- **low- and middle-income countries** identified in the [Horizon Europe Programme](#).

In practice, EU funding primarily supports the participation in projects of organisations like universities, research organisations, patient organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and mid-sized companies (companies with a turnover below EUR 500 million).

Depending on the type of call for proposals, larger companies may also be eligible to receive EU funding. Details of who can receive funding is detailed in the sections below.

Legal entities that are established in a **third country to Horizon Europe** are normally not eligible for receiving IHI JU funding and if they wish to be part of an applicant consortium, they should participate in IHI JU project at their own costs. Nevertheless, following a specific, reasoned request from the applicant consortium, IHI JU may decide (on the basis of the external evaluators' recommendation) to exceptionally grant them funding if it considers that their participation is essential for implementing the proposed project. Further information can be found [here](#).

2.3.2 Rules for funding per type of call

For single-stage calls, the general common principles described in section 2.3.1 above apply.

For two-stage calls, the general common principles described above apply, but the following entities are **not eligible for funding**⁹:

- the pre-identified industry consortium (legal entities identified by IHI JU as participating in the specific topic);
- any legal entity which is:

⁷ See [List of participating countries in Horizon Europe](#) and Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 General Annexes https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

⁸ Exceptions may apply, in particular eligibility for funding of applicants originating from Horizon Europe associated countries may depend on the date of that country's association. For detailed information on particular Horizon Europe associated countries, please consult our answer to [Question 5 in the Frequently Asked Questions document](#): https://www.ihj.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/Documents/Calls/Call_FAQs.pdf

⁹ For the specific eligibility criteria applicable to two-stage calls, please refer to Article 125, point 4 and point 5 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe also known as Single Basic Act (SBA), which reads as follows:

'4. Where provided for in the work programme and in addition to Article 5(2), point (a), legal entities identified by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking may be required to participate in specific indirect actions. Those entities shall not be eligible for funding from the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking.

'5. Any legal entities participating in specific indirect actions with the identified legal entities referred to in paragraph 4 shall not be eligible for funding where:

(a) they are for-profit legal entities with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more;

(b) they are under the direct or indirect control of a legal entity described in point (a), or under the same direct or indirect control as a legal entity described in point (a);

(c) they are directly or indirectly controlling a legal entity referred to in point (a)'.

a for-profit legal entity with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more;

a (for-profit or non-profit) legal entity directly or indirectly controlling/or being controlled by a for-profit legal entity with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more.

2.3.3 Types of legal entities

The consortium composition can consist of public (non-profit) and private (for-profit) legal entities.

An IHI JU project consortium may involve:

- research/higher or secondary education organisations (private or public)
- small & medium enterprises (SMEs) and larger companies (for-profit legal entities)
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- healthcare professional organisations / healthcare providers
- patient / citizen organisations
- regulatory bodies
- notified bodies
- health technology assessment bodies (HTAs)
- healthcare payers
- charities and foundations
- public authorities

Definitions of the types of stakeholders that may join consortia under the IHI JU programme can be found [here](#).

Public bodies and non-profit organisations

Public bodies and non-profit organisations are eligible for funding in both single-stage and two-stage calls as long as the general common principles specified in section 2.3.1 above are fulfilled.

For-profit organisations: SMEs, mid-size and large companies

There are 3 types of for-profit companies:

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
SMEs, including start-ups, are defined in the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#) and the 2020 SME user guide.
The main factors determining whether an enterprise is an SME are:
 - staff headcount
 - either turnover or balance sheet total

Company size	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium	< 250	≤ €50m		≤ €43m
Small	< 50	≤ €10m		≤ €10m

Micro	< 10	≤ €2m	≤ €2m
--------------	------	-------	-------

- **Mid-size companies:** Companies with an annual turnover of less than EUR 500 million, or companies that directly or indirectly controlling or being controlled by for-profit legal entities with an annual turnover of less than EUR 500 million.
- **Large companies (for-profit legal entity):** Companies with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more, or companies directly or indirectly controlling or being controlled by for-profit legal entities with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more.

In single-stage calls, all for-profit companies are eligible for funding if the general common principles specified in section 2.3.1 are fulfilled.

In two-stage calls, SMEs and mid-sized companies are eligible for funding, but large companies are not eligible for funding.

2.3.4 Private members, contributing partners and proposal eligibility

This section refers to IHI JU-specific types of beneficiaries, defining their roles, their contribution types and their impact on the eligibility of a (full) proposal.

2.3.4.1 Private Members

The **private members** of IHI JU are the private industry associations COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe), EuropaBio and MedTech Europe.

The IHI JU private members and their constituent and affiliated entities can provide three types of contributions to consortia implementing IHI JU projects:

- **in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP)** consist of the eligible costs for implementing the action;
- **in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)** consist of costs for implementing additional activities;
- **financial contribution (FC)** consists of cash contributions to project beneficiary(ies) (or directly to IHI JU) to support the eligible costs incurred by the project beneficiary(ies) concerned in implementing the IHI JU action.

For detailed explanations of each of these types of contribution see section 3.2.1.3.1 *Composition of the budget table*.

In single-stage calls, the IHI JU private members and their constituent and affiliated entities are eligible for funding if the general common principles specified in section 2.3.1 are fulfilled.

In two-stage calls, the same rule applies, however, the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members of the pre-identified industry consortium are not eligible for funding.

The constituent and affiliated entities of the private members intending to request EU contributions are invited to first refer to their relevant association contacts to verify to what extent they can request funding as per their association's policy.

In order to achieve the greatest possible impacts of IHI JU as a public-private partnership, the involvement and contributions of the IHI JU private members are key and crucial components of IHI JU projects. Thus, as IHI JU single-stage calls for proposals do not include a pre-identified industry consortium, it is incumbent upon the applicant consortium to include constituent or affiliated entities of IHI JU private members. The absence of the constituent or affiliated entities of IHI JU private members from the applicant consortium will be considered as a weakness of the proposal under the evaluation criterion '*Quality and efficiency of the implementation*'.

2.3.4.2 Contributing partners

Any country, international organisation or legal entity other than a member of IHI JU, or a constituent entity of a member or an affiliated entity may apply to become an IHI JU contributing partner, provided they support the objectives of IHI JU in its specific area of research.

A '**contributing partner**' invests their own resources (which can be researchers' time, laboratories, data) or cash in a specific IHI JU project or projects. Their contributions work in a similar way to contributions by private members.

Importantly, as the contributing partner's involvement must support IHI JU in its specific area of research, each potential applicant shall duly consider the public-private component of the partnership, the strategic and specific objectives of IHI JU and the nature of its contributions to a call or project. Participating in IHI JU activities should reflect a strategic engagement from the potential contributing partner. All contributing partners applications are subject to approval by the IHI JU governing board. For detailed criteria for assessment of the contributing partner applications, please see chapter 4 of [the guide for contributing partners](https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents) available on the IHI website in the call documents section: <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents>

Before applying to become a contributing partner to IHI JU – please check that your organisation is not affiliated (either directly or via a national or regional association) to an IHI JU private member, that is, COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe), EuropaBio and MedTech Europe. IHI JU private members, their constituent and affiliated entities may not apply to become IHI contributing partners.

The websites of our private members include the lists of their corporate members, national and regional associations and other entities which are the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members. More information can be found on the IHI JU website: <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/about-ihj/who-we-are/partners>

Important note: If an applicant contributing partner is unsure whether they are an affiliate or not, they should [contact the private members directly](#).

Contributing partners can contribute IKOP and FC to a project, but not IKAA. IKAA can only be contributed by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members. In addition, contributing partners cannot contribute FC directly to IHI JU.

For detailed explanations of each of these types of contribution see section 3.2.1.3.1 *Composition of the budget table*.

In single-stage calls as of IHI JU call 9 in order for the in-kind contributions from a contributing partner to be counted towards the additional eligibility criterion of 45% (see 2.3.4.3 below), a duly executed and signed contributing partner application letter must be submitted as a part of the applicant consortium's proposal and uploaded in the in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (as a '**CP Annex**'). The CP Annex is compulsory for all single-stage proposals in which there are contributing partners listed as participants. For detailed requirements

as to the form of the CP application letter and the submission please see chapter 2 of [the guide for contributing partners](#).

If the application to become a contributing partner is not submitted as a part of the proposal via the EU Funding and Tenders Portal, at the evaluation stage, its contribution will not be counted towards the 45% in-kind eligibility criterion for the proposal in question. In more detail, in single-stage calls when an applicant consortium submits a proposal which lists CP(s) as participants but the proposal is submitted without CP Annex containing duly executed and signed contributing partner application letter for each of the listed CPs or with a CP Annex but some or all CP application letter(s) is/are missing, the proposal might be still considered admissible (if all admissibility criteria are met) but the eligibility criterion of 45% is calculated without the contribution(s) coming from the CP(s) for which the application letter(s) is/are missing. This means that if the 45% is then not reached, the proposal will be considered ineligible.

In case the 45% is reached (even without the contribution(s) from the CP(s) from whom the application letter(s) is/are missing), it is evaluated but the evaluators will consider the missing application letter(s) a shortcoming (as the CP contribution assessment is a sub criterion of implementation criterion).

In order to achieve the greatest possible impacts of IHI JU as a public-private partnership, the involvement and contributions of the IHI JU private members are key and crucial components of IHI JU projects. Thus, as IHI JU single-stage calls for proposals do not include a pre-identified industry consortium, it is incumbent upon the applicant consortium to include constituent or affiliated entities of IHI JU private members. The absence of the constituent or affiliated entities of IHI JU private members from the applicant consortium will be considered as a weakness of the proposal under the evaluation criterion '*Quality and efficiency of the implementation*'.

It is also possible to apply to become a contributing partner after the submission of the proposal by the consortium in order to join an ongoing project, with the agreement of the project consortium. For more details please read the [guide for contributing partners](#).

In two-stage calls, the pre-identified constituent and affiliated entities of the private members (pre-identified industry consortium) and contributing partners (if any) are the main drivers of the topic definition, and they identify their in-kind contributions through expertise and assets. The pre-identified constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners (if any) are listed in the topic text (overall contribution and not per partner) and they are not eligible for funding.

Contacts/discussions about a given topic between potential applicant consortia and members of the pre-identified industry consortium and/or contributing partners are prohibited throughout the procedure until the results of the first stage evaluation.

Important Note: If, prior to the launch of a two-stage call, the contributing partner intends to have their contribution matched by the IHI JU, this should be discussed with the JU during topic definition and in any case the IHI JU should receive their application letter prior to the publication of the two-stage call text. Therefore, contributing partner needs to submit their application letter prior to the finalisation of the call text to be included in such call text. Based on this the IHI JU may then decide to match such contribution. For detailed requirements as to the form of the application letter and the submission please see chapter 3 of [the guide for contributing partners](#).

It is essential that the costs incurred by contributing partners in implementing IHI JU projects fulfil the eligibility criteria as specified in the Article 6 of the HE MGA to be valorised and accepted as their in-kind contribution to operational activities (IKOP).

These general eligibility criteria clearly specify, among others,

- that costs should be actual, i.e. should not include any profit margin;
- that costs should be recorded in the accounting system of the concerned contributing partner;
- that costs should be identifiable and verifiable (e.g. the auditor needs to be able to reconcile figures that are reported to IHI JU and costs that are recorded in the accounts of the contributing partner);
- that costs must be incurred during project implementation (i.e.; between the start date and the end date of the project).

In some cases, unit costs¹⁰ can be used (e.g., average personnel costs, unit personnel costs for SME owners, internally invoiced goods and services).

The SBA does not allow IHI JU to deviate from the eligibility criteria above.

For detailed information on rules of participation, how to become a contributing partner and templates of application letters please consult the IHI JU guide for contributing partners and the dedicated contributing partners website: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/shape-our-future-research/become-contributing-partner>

Contributing partners may become a part of the applicant consortium and participate in a project, as:

- Beneficiaries;
- Affiliated entities in the meaning of Article 8 of the Horizon Europe model grant agreement; or
- Associated partners case B in the meaning of Article 9.1 of the Horizon Europe model grant agreement.

2.3.4.3 Participation of Private Members/Contributing Partners of non-EU legal entities providing in-kind contributions

Those non-EU legal entities providing in-kind contributions as: 1) constituent or affiliated entities of the IHI JU private members; or 2) contributing partners; or 3) affiliated entities of contributing partners that are:

- Not eligible to receive funding in two-stage calls for proposals; or
- Not established in a country generally eligible for funding in accordance with Part B of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023 – 2025;

May exceptionally take the role of **beneficiaries** and sign the grant agreement.

This is subject to the following conditions:

- Such provision is made in the applicable work programme;
- Their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority; and
- They participate without requesting any funding.

¹⁰ For more information on unit costs please see page 23, Article 6.1 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

The essentiality of non-EU legal entities for implementing the action shall be ascertained by the IHI programme office.

Note that the above is not applicable for legal entities who want to participate as affiliated entity in IHI proposals/projects (except in IHI calls 1 to 3): starting from IHI call 4, these non-EU legal entities providing in-kind contributions that have a legal and/or capital link with an IHI private member or contributing partners that participates as beneficiary in an IHI proposal/project, they cannot participate as 'affiliated entity' and need instead to participate as 'associated partner (case b)'. See section 2.4.3 below on Associated partners.

2.3.4.4 Additional eligibility criterion for IHI JU (full) proposals on the proportion of industry / contributing partner contributions to the project

There is one IHI JU-specific eligibility criterion at the level of the consortium for the eligibility of proposals in order to be evaluated.

Applicant consortia must ensure that **at least 45 %** of the action's eligible costs and costs for action-related additional activities are provided by contributions (IKOP, FC, IKAA) from the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and by contributing partners (collectively the 'industry consortium participants').

While the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members may contribute any of those contribution types, contributing partners may only contribute IKOP and FC, not IKAA.

The 45 % threshold can be reached by providing one, two or three of these contribution types.

While the minimum threshold for proposals to be considered eligible is set at 45%, consortia are encouraged to aim at having 50% of the action's eligible costs and costs for action-related additional activities provided by the industry consortium participants.

This eligibility condition must be fulfilled by single-stage proposals, and full proposals submitted at the second stage of a two-stage call, in order for the proposal to be evaluated.

Applicant consortia are required to use the Annex to the type of participants and budget, which will indicate if their (full) proposal reaches the eligibility threshold of 45% industry contribution.

The IHI JU office will perform an additional check before signing the grant agreement where it will verify that the 45% rule has been fulfilled and the parties providing the contributions are the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners that have been approved by IHI JU Governing Board.

If the 45 % contribution (IKOP + IKAA + FC) is not secured collectively by the industry consortium participants, the proposal will be declared ineligible and therefore will not be evaluated.

In single-stage calls, so that contributions from contributing partners can be counted towards the 45% threshold, a duly executed and signed contributing partner application letter must be submitted to and received by the IHI JU Programme Office within the proposals' submission deadline.

For the selected proposals, the contributing partners application must be approved by the IHI JU Governing Board before the Grant Agreement (GA) signature.

2.3.4.5 Table summarising eligibility rules for receiving IHI JU funding

IHI JU Funding Eligibility Rules (Summary)					
	Type of organisation			Single-stage call	Two-stage call
Established in a Member State, a country associated to Horizon Europe, or a low- and middle-income country	Public bodies and non-profit organisations (academic institution, hospital, NGO, research organisation, regulator, patient organisation, intergovernmental organisation)			Eligible	Eligible
	For-profit SME and larger enterprises	turnover of less than EUR 500 million (*)		Eligible	Eligible
		turnover of EUR 500 million or more (**) (large company)		Eligible	<u>Not eligible</u>
	Private member (COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe) , EuropaBio and MedTech Europe).	Pre-identified in two-stage call text		N/A	<u>Not eligible</u>
		NOT Pre-identified	For-profit organisation with turnover of less than EUR 500 million (*)	Eligible	Eligible
			For-profit organisation with turnover of EUR 500 million or more (**) (large company)		<u>Not eligible</u>
	Contributing partners	Pre-identified in two-stage call text		N/A	<u>Not eligible</u>
		NOT Pre-identified	For-profit organisation with turnover of less than EUR 500 million (*)	Eligible	Eligible
			For-profit organisation with turnover of EUR 500 million or more (**) (large company)		<u>Not eligible</u>
	Associated Partners			<u>Not eligible</u>	<u>Not eligible</u>
NOT established in a Member State, a country associated to Horizon Europe or a low- and middle-income country	Any legal entity			<u>Not eligible</u> <u>(***)</u>	<u>Not eligible</u> <u>(***)</u>

(*) or directly or indirectly controlling/or being controlled by for-profit legal entities with an annual turnover of less than EUR 500 million.

(**) or directly or indirectly controlling/or being controlled by for profit legal entities with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more.

(***) Entities that are not established in a Member State, a country Associated to Horizon Europe or in one of the low- and middle-income countries are in principle not eligible for funding. Nevertheless, following a specific request from the applicant consortium, IHI JU may decide (on the basis of a recommendation from the external evaluators) to exceptionally grant them funding if it considers that their participation is essential for implementing the proposed project.

2.4 Types of IHI JU participants

This section provides a summary of the types of IHI JU project participants that could join consortia under the IHI JU programme. More information can be found in the Horizon Europe General Model Grant Agreement ([MGA](#) v1.2 of 01 November 2024 or subsequent versions).

2.4.1 Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are any legal entities signing the grant agreement.

Beneficiaries must be established in a Member State of the EU, in a country associated to Horizon Europe or low- and middle-income countries. If it is not the case, they must be considered essential. The essentiality will be determined by the panel of experts' evaluators and endorsed by the IHI Governing Board.

They can be:

- Public bodies or non-profit organisations (academic institutions, hospitals, public bodies, NGOs, research organisations, regulators, patients' organisations, intergovernmental organisations, etc.).
- For-profit organisation (SMEs and larger companies under certain conditions).
- Constituent or affiliated entities of the private members.
- Contributing partners.

The consortium must agree on which of the beneficiaries should become the coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for managing the project, submitting reports and deliverables, distributing EU funds among the project beneficiaries and acting as intermediary for all contacts with the IHI JU granting authority (see Article 7 of the Grant agreement) .

The coordinator must have good operational and financial capacities to ensure stable coordination throughout the project. If it is not the case, if the proposal is selected, the coordinator should be replaced during the grant preparation phase, and this may delay the signature of the grant.

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

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

The beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Part B of the proposal and in compliance with the provisions of the agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and

national law (see article 11 of the grant agreement). They must have the appropriate resources to implement the action under their own responsibility. If they rely on affiliated entities (see Article 8) or other participants (see Article 9), they retain sole responsibility towards the granting authority and the other beneficiaries of the consortium.

Beneficiaries 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 on the payments and recoveries and the calculation of amounts due. The beneficiaries (and their action) must remain eligible to participate in the IHI JU programme for the entire duration of the action. Costs and contributions will be eligible only as long as the beneficiary and the action are eligible.

2.4.2 Affiliated entities to beneficiaries

Affiliated entities replaced in Horizon Europe a category formerly called 'linked third parties' under Horizon 2020. Affiliated entities have a legal or capital link to the beneficiary, implement parts of the action and are allowed to charge costs directly to the grant.

They do not sign or become party to the grant agreement, but they are part of the consortium and often play an important role. They are therefore de facto treated like beneficiaries (*i.e. they have their own financial statement, must provide their own certificate on financial statements (CFS), must contribute to the technical report, must submit deliverables, etc*). Annotations in the AGA which refer to beneficiaries usually also apply to affiliated entities (just like the provisions of the MGA themselves; *see also MGA Preamble*).

At the level of the consortium, the affiliated entities including those of the private members need to be mentioned separately, both in the budget and description of tasks.

Legal supporting documentation as evidence of the existence of a capital or legal link between the beneficiary and the affiliated entity:

1. will be requested by IHI JU in all cases when beneficiaries/affiliated entities request funding;
2. will not be requested by IHI JU in the case of participants not requesting funding, with the exception of affiliated entities of contributing partners. In those cases where the link is not sufficiently clear the IHI JU reserves the right to request legal supporting documentation.

2.4.3 Associated partners

Horizon Europe has introduced **associated partners** as a new type of participant (see Article 9.1 HE MGA).

In IHI actions, associated partners can appear in **two cases**:

- the default associated partner that operates in Horizon Europe (including IHI JU) actions (referred to hereinafter as Associated Partners case 'a'), and
- the associated partner that is affiliated with a private member/contributing partner of IHI JU (referred to hereinafter as Associated Partners case 'b').

Associated partners (case 'a') present the following characteristics, as per the general definition of the MGA:

1. They participate at their own costs and do not receive EU funding;

2. They implement action tasks;
3. They do not sign the grant agreement (as they are not beneficiaries);
4. They are, however, identified in the grant agreement; they must be listed in Article 9.1 MGA, and their tasks must be mentioned in the proposal Part B and subsequent project DOA;
5. Because associated partners perform those project tasks attributed to them in the project DOA and there is no direct contractual link between the associated partner and IHI JU, the consortium collectively takes responsibility for the associated partner's work in the project (see '*Responsibility of the consortium/designated beneficiary for the associated partner*' below);
6. Associated partners may sign the consortium agreement¹¹ wherein those rights and responsibilities that accrue to beneficiaries and affiliated entities under the grant agreement (e.g., access rights) may also be conferred on the associated partners;
7. Their contribution does not count as financial or in-kind contributions towards an IHI JU project;
8. They have no direct obligations regarding the reporting of their contributions;
9. They are not required to have a legal/capital link to a beneficiary such as is required for affiliated entities.¹²

While Article 9.1 of the MGA refers to 'Associated partners' as one type of third party (amongst others) that can be involved alongside the beneficiaries for implementing the action (what we refer to as case 'a' associated partner) a second type of associated partner is considered in the context of IHI JU's participation in Horizon Europe actions (what we refer to as case 'b' associated partner).

Case 'b' associated partner consist of associated partners who **present the following characteristics:**

1. They are affiliated to an IHI JU private member or a contributing partner that participates as Beneficiary in the consortium (the designated beneficiary). Example: a non-EU based legal entity that is an affiliate of an IHI JU private member or contributing partner;
2. Their contribution can be counted as financial contributions ('FC') and/or in-kind ('IKOP', 'IKAA') towards IHI JU projects as set out in the SBA. (Note however that contributing partners and their affiliates cannot contribute IKAA);
3. They present the same characteristics 1 to 6 as the 'case a' associated partners (but not 7 to 9); They have obligations regarding the reporting of their contributions via the designated beneficiary (as specified in '*Associated Partners in proposal and project estimated budget*' below);
4. They will be connected to a designated beneficiary who will take responsibility for the associated partner's proper implementation of tasks in the project. This does not remove the general consortium responsibility (see '*Responsibility of the consortium/designated beneficiary for the associated partner*, point 'a' below);
5. They are required to have a legal or capital link with the designated beneficiary;

¹¹ See 5.3.5 ('Grant Agreement Preparation')

¹² See 2.4.2 above

Responsibility of the consortium or the designated beneficiary for the associated partner

1. The consortium is responsible for the proper implementation of the tasks performed by associated partners (*proper quality, timely delivery, etc.*) unless it is agreed and reflected in the consortium agreement that such responsibility should instead be taken by a *designated beneficiary* in the consortium who is a constituent entity or affiliated entity of a private member, or a contributing partner to IHI JU. However, in the event of incapacity or withdrawal of the designated beneficiary, the ultimate responsibility for the Associated Partner as per art. 9.1 of the MGA, lies within the entire consortium.
2. The consortium/designated beneficiary 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 MGA (e.g., granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can exercise their rights also towards the associated partners. The above-mentioned obligations in the call conditions and Annex 5, e.g. (additional) obligations regarding results, open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications etc., must be respected. In addition, the designated beneficiary is responsible for the reporting of the contribution of the Associated Partner (case 'b').

The above elements should be embedded either in a side agreement between the beneficiary(ies) and the associated partner(s) or in the consortium agreement.

Associated Partners in proposal and project estimated budget

How the associated partner's estimated contribution needs to be reflected in the proposal budget and later in the project budget (i.e., after and if the proposal is selected) depends upon whether the associated partner is an affiliated entity of a private member or contributing partner (case 'b') or if it is not (case 'a').

At proposal stage:

- For case 'a' associated partners: applicants may include the total estimated costs of their associated partners in the budget for their proposal (i.e., under the headings 'Other sources of financing': 'Financial contributions (received)' and/or 'Own resources') both in the proposal estimated budget encoded in the Horizon Europe IT tool and in the proposal Annex to the budget and type of participants. This is for information purposes only as the information will not be transferred to the grant.
- For case 'b' associated partners: constituent affiliated entities of IHI JU private members or IHI JU contributing partners or their affiliated entities that are participating as associated partners:
 - in the proposal estimated budget encoded in the Horizon Europe IT tool, those entities must be specified as affiliated entity¹³.
 - in the proposal Annexe to the budget and type of participants, those entities should always be specified as either IHI private member or IHI contributing partner as their contributions (in term of FC, IKOP, IKAA) must be considered for the calculation of the 45% eligibility threshold.

If the proposal is selected, at grant preparation stage ('GAP'):

- For case 'a' associated partners:

¹³ Associated partners cannot be captured separately in the proposal estimated budget. Therefore, to allow 'case b' associated partner's contributions to be counted towards IHI's eligibility criterion of 45%, such associated partners should choose the status of 'affiliated entity'.

- They will be specified as associated partners in the grant;
- The information from the proposal stage included in the proposal budget under the headings 'Other sources of financing' ('Financial contributions' and/or 'Own resources') is not transferred to the grant as the associated partners are not required to report on their costs;
- For case 'b' associated partners:
 - They will be specified as associated partners in the grant (despite being previously identified as affiliated entities at proposal);
 - They cannot be included separately in the project estimated budget. As a result, the estimated costs of those entities must be specified in the estimated budget of the *designated beneficiary* in the 'Financial information' tab (see point 'b' of '*Responsibility of the consortium/designated beneficiary for the associated partner*' above);
 - Their contributions (IKOP, FC, IKAA) must be specified in the 'JU Contribution' tab.

At Reporting Stage

- Case 'a' associated partners: they have no obligation to report and their contribution cannot count as IKOP, FC, IKAA.
- Case 'b' associated partners: their contributions (IKOP, FC) will be reported by the *designated beneficiary*. Only case 'b' associated partners that are affiliated to private members can contribute and report IKAA. Contributing partners and their affiliated entities cannot contribute and report IKAA.
- In addition, IKAA is reported separately (outside MGA) in the IKAA reporting form via the Funding and Tenders Portal (either directly by the concerned entity or by the designated beneficiary).

2.4.4 Third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action

Beneficiaries may use in-kind contributions provided by third parties (i.e. personnel, equipment, other goods, works and services, etc), if deemed necessary to implement the action (see art. 9.2 HE GA).

Examples: *A civil servant working as a professor in a public university is also working on the action. His salary is not paid by the beneficiary (the university) but by the government (the ministry). The beneficiary may charge these costs to the grant, even if they are paid by a third party (the ministry/government).*

In-kind contributions refer to cases where a third party makes available some of its resources (non-financial resources) to a beneficiary, either for free (i.e. without any payment) or against payment. The costs for the in-kind contributions are eligible and may be charged to the grant by the beneficiary which will use them. In such a case, the beneficiary must declare the corresponding costs under the budget category it would use if they were its own costs (e.g. 'Personnel costs for seconded persons', 'Equipment costs', 'Costs for other goods, works and services', etc). The eligibility conditions for such costs are set out in Article 6 of the MGA.

Third parties giving in-kind contributions do not implement any action tasks. Third parties and the in-kind contributions they provide should be mentioned in Part B of the proposal in table 3.1j.

If in-kind contributions provided by third parties are charged during the grant, the beneficiaries must ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 of the MGA (e.g. granting authority, ECA; the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), OLAF) have the right to carry out checks, reviews, audits, and investigations also on the third parties.

2.4.5 Subcontractors

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

Subcontractors must implement their action tasks in accordance with Article 11. The costs for the subcontracted tasks (invoiced price from the subcontractor) are eligible and may be charged by the beneficiaries, under the conditions set out in Article 6 (cost eligibility criteria). The costs will be included in the budget as part of the beneficiaries' subcontracting costs. The beneficiaries are responsible for the proper implementation of the subcontracted action tasks by the subcontractors (*proper quality, timely delivery, etc*). They must moreover ensure that they comply with certain obligations as described in the HE MGA.

Examples: Subcontractors participate in the action to develop and maintain the project website, to run specific testing and analysis of an assay, medical writers for communication material, if described in the proposal Part B (and Annex 1 of the Description of Action if the proposal is selected for funding) as an action task.

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 (recordkeeping) also apply to the subcontractors. Subcontractors may be established outside the EU and Horizon Europe associated countries since there is no provision that restrains subcontractors to EU-based legal entities. However, subcontracting can under no condition be used to circumvent the rules for participation, for example, the provision of financing to a legal entity that would not otherwise have been eligible for funding.

2.4.6 Table summarising types of participants

This table gives an overview of the different kinds of IHI JU grant participants and indicates cost eligibility (not exhaustive):

Type of Participants (Summary)					
TYPE	Works on 'action tasks'?	What is eligible for the beneficiary / affiliated entity?	Must be indicated in the Part B of the proposal?	Conditions for participation	GA article
Beneficiaries (including the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners)	YES	Costs	YES	Must be eligible (if requesting funding)	Art. 7
Affiliated entities (including those of private members and contributing partners)	YES	Costs	YES	Must have a capital or legal link with a beneficiary and fulfil the same eligibility conditions	Art. 8
Associated partners (case 'a')	YES	/	YES	No specific conditions (APs do not receive funding)	Art. 9.1
Associated partners (case 'b')	YES	Costs (see 2.4.3 re: contributions from case 'b' APs)	YES (see 2.3.3)	Must be a constituent or affiliated entity to an IHI JU private	Art. 9.1

				member or a contributing partner or an affiliated entity of a contributing partner	
Third parties contributing to the project	NO, participate in the action as contributors	Costs	YES (in table 3.1j)	/	Art. 9.2
Subcontractors	YES	Invoiced price	NO (only subcontracted tasks must be indicated in table 3.1g)	Must be best value for money or lowest price and no conflict of interest	Art. 9.3
Third parties receiving financial support	Participate in the action as recipients	Amount of support given	YES	According to the conditions in Annex 1 GA	Art. 9.4

SUMMARY

The **coordinator** is responsible for managing the project, submitting reports and deliverables, distributing EU funding and acting as intermediary for all contacts with the IHI JU granting authority. The coordinator must have good operational and financial capacities to ensure stable coordination throughout the project.

The **other beneficiaries** must implement their part of the project and contribute to the grant administration (*preparing the grant, reporting, etc.*).

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. The main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities** (linked third parties in FP7, H2020, IMI1 JU and IMI2 JU grants). Other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.

Associated partners do not get any part of the grant money and will therefore have to organise other funding sources (*bear their own costs, internal reallocation of funding inside the consortium, find investors, etc.*). There are two types of Associated Partners. The default associated partner that operates in Horizon Europe (including IHI JU) actions referred as case 'a' and the associated partner that is affiliated with a private member/contributing partner of IHI JU referred as case 'b'.

Subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part of the project and will need to be justified (give reasons). Tasks may NOT be subcontracted inside the consortium (between beneficiaries or affiliated entities).

The consortium participants are **jointly responsible** for implementing the project activities (in accordance with their proposal/description of the action). If a project is not finished (or badly implemented), the grant money may have to be reduced.

3 Preparation and submission of a proposal in a nutshell

Proposals must be created and submitted by a contact person of the coordinating organisation via the Electronic Submission System of the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (accessible via the topic page of the call), using the forms and templates provided there.

- The **timelines (deadlines for the proposals submissions)** are clearly indicated both on the IHI JU website and on the calls pages in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) in the format: date (day/month/year), time (hh:mm:ss Brussels time/CET).
- Each call is clearly indicated both on the IHI JU website and the calls pages in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) and the participants are invited to carefully check this information in order to assess which call/topic they are interested in
- Clear information on the type of call – either **single-stage (full proposal – FP) or two-stage (short proposal – SP - for stage 1)-** is also provided both on the IHI JU website and on the calls' pages in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). Under a **two-stage submission scheme**, applicants must submit a short proposal for the first stage evaluation. All applicants requesting JU funding must be part of the short proposal. The applicants which are IHI JU members other than the Union, or their constituent entities and affiliated entities, and contributing partners and that are part of the industry consortium (identified as such under the section '*Industry consortium*' of a call for proposals) shall not apply at the first stage of the call. At the end of the first stage evaluation, under each topic, only the applicant consortium of the first ranked short proposal will be invited to prepare and submit a full proposal for the second stage evaluation together with the 'pre-identified industry consortium' for the relevant topic.
- **Admissibility and eligibility criteria** are indicated for each call in the IHI JU Work Programme. There are some differences between the IHI JU Calls and the general/standard HE calls.
- The **evaluation thresholds** are listed in the respective IHI JU Work Programme, which is part of the calls' documents and available on both the IHI JU website and the calls pages in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).
- **The evaluation criteria** for each call are presented in detail in the IHI JU Work Programme and applicants are invited to check each year the respective Work Programme. An evaluation form is also provided in the calls' documents in case applicants would like to self-check their proposal.
- **Templates for the proposals (Part B) including annexes** are provided in the calls' pages in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (they can be downloaded from the portal once the coordinator has created a draft proposal). They contain clear instructions on how to fill in the various sections. Applicants are advised to carefully read the instructions and follow them. To help applicants, model templates (pdf format for information only) are also provided both in the portal and the IHI JU website.
- **A proposal may consist of several documents/parts.** Applicants are invited to carefully check that when submitting the proposal (full proposal vs short proposal), all required documents/parts/information are correctly included. Failure to submit all the documents/parts/ information may render the proposal inadmissible/ineligible.
- Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents (see reference documents section for the proposal templates and annexes).

The **funding rates in IHI JU** grants: For all beneficiaries and all activities, the funding rate is 100 % of the eligible costs, while for indirect costs a flat rate of 25% applies.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement:

	Information on the outcome of the evaluation (single stage, or second stage of a two-stages)	Information on the outcome of the evaluation (first stage of a two- stages)	Indicative date for the signing of grant agreement
Single-stage	Maximum 5 months from the submission deadline.	NA	Maximum 8 months from the submission deadline
Two-stage*	Maximum 5 months from the submission deadline at the second stage.	Maximum 3 months from the submission deadline at the first stage.	Maximum 8 months from the submission deadline at the second stage.

*For two-stage calls, the applicants will be informed of the results of the first stage (SP results) at the latest 6 weeks before the deadline for the second stage submission (FP submission).

Important information

Check regularly the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) call page for updated information on the call.

Make sure all participants are registered in the Participant Register and have their 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

You can submit your proposal several times before the deadline, to make updates or changes. As long as the call has not been closed, the newly submitted version will overwrite the previous one. Once the deadline has passed, no further additions or resubmissions are accepted, unless we ask you to clarify any obvious clerical errors on your part.

Submit your proposal as early as possible and at least 48 hours before the deadline in order to avoid any last-minute technical issues. There is no reason to delay the submission for confidentiality concerns reasons as the system does not allow any access to the proposals before the call deadline.

In case of technical problems with the Submission System, please contact [IT Helpdesk](#) via their online contact form or call them at +32 229 92222 if you need immediate assistance.

For questions related to the call/topic you are applying for, please contact the IHI office at applicants@ihi.europa.eu

3.1 How to find partners for your application


As early as practicable, the IHI JU office publishes on the IHI JU website draft information on future call topics, ahead of the official call launch and its publication on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). This is to give potential applicants additional time to see if a topic could be relevant to them, assess how their involvement would be valuable, and start to find or build a consortium.

It is important that potential applicants building a consortium analyse the information in the call text, in particular the scope, and determine what and how their organisation, and other organisations that they intend

to include in the applicant consortium, could contribute to the project in terms of skills, expertise, resources, and experience to fulfil the requirements set in the topic text.

The most effective way of getting into or building a consortium is to use your existing professional and personal contacts. There are also other ways to search for partners:

- Use the [Partner Search function](#) of the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). This function allows you to look for experienced partners who already have ongoing projects, or to browse in the database of registered organisations. You can search by keyword/geographical area/funding type, etc. Search results include complete organisation profiles with lists of funded projects and the option to contact representatives of the organisation. If you have selected your area of interest via the topic search, you may publish your interest in one or more of the open/forthcoming topics of a call on the Portal. All your published interests will be visible on your organisation's page too.
- Participate in the webinars for applicants and brokerage events organised by IHI JU. These are advertised on the IHI JU website and are also a good opportunity to network and identify potential partners. Please refer to the IHI dedicated page where you can find further information and links (e.g. brokerage platform). <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/find-partners>
- Participate in conferences, brokerage events, info days organised by the EU or networks in the Member States (National Contact Points or Desks, Enterprise Europe Network, as well as their own network).
- Use social media to advertise your interest in a call topic.

 IHI JU cannot help individual organisations to find partners – our calls for proposals are competitive and providing personal assistance to some organisations would undermine the principle of equal treatment and fairness.

3.2 Proposal submission

Developing a proposal for an IHI JU call topic takes time. It is important that applicants allocate appropriate time prior to the deadline for proposal writing and development.

Setting up a proposal (principal) steps:

- the initiation and framing of the scientific outline;
- creation of a consortium with the expertise required;
- writing the proposal, ensuring it addresses the evaluation criteria: excellence – impact – quality and efficiency of the implementation;
- consolidating the administrative sections of the proposal such as IHI JU specific annexes, ethical issues and partners info;
- submitting the complete proposal.

Proposals are submitted using the application forms available in the Submission System.

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents.

The coordinator is the key actor in the (administrative) preparation of an IHI JU proposal. All participants can contribute to the parts, but it is the person from the coordinating organisation who created the application who finalises and submits the application and eventually signs the grant agreement if the proposal is selected for

funding. The coordinator should have the mandate of all participants to submit the application (explicit agreement to participate).

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, the coordinator will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.). Before signing the grant, each participant will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour. Proposals not complying with these requirements will be rejected. We advise you to read the Proposal Submission Service User Manual (available on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)) while preparing your proposal.

The electronic submission system is an online wizard that guides you step-by-step through the preparation of your proposal. The submission process consists of 6 steps:

Step 1: Log in to the portal.

Step 2: Select the call, topic and type of action in the portal

Step 3: Create a draft proposal (title, acronym, summary, main organisation and contact details) including the relevant IHI JU annexes.

Step 4: Manage your parties and contact details: Add your partner organisations and contact details.

Step 5: Edit and complete the web forms for proposal part A and upload proposal part B as well as proposal's annexes.

Step 6: Submit the proposal.

3.2.1 Instructions for completing Part A

The submission form is accessed via the call submission link in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#). The electronic form has 5 sections:

- General information
- Participants
- Budget
- Ethics and Security
- Other questions

These need to be completed before a submission can take place. Many fields are mandatory and are marked in red if left empty; failure to fill in any mandatory field will block submission.

A list of all participants in the proposal must be created by the coordinator. Please make sure that all participants are previously registered in the participant register and have their 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

For technical details on how to fill in Part A, we advise you to read the Proposal Submission Service User Manual (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/it-manuals/user-manual_sep_en.pdf available on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)) while preparing your proposal.

3.2.1.1 General Information

This section contains information about the proposal acronym, title, duration, keywords and abstract. The abstract should provide a clear understanding of the objectives of the proposal and how they will be achieved. Please note that if your proposal is funded, the abstract will be published. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information. This section also contains general declarations related to the proposal and participation in Horizon Europe, which must be filled in by the proposal coordinator.

3.2.1.2 Participants

This section contains the administrative information of all organisations participating in the proposal. In addition, for each participating organisation, you must provide the following information:

- List of researchers involved in the proposal, i.e. those engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge, improvement or development of concepts, theories, models, techniques, instrumentation, software or operational methods. People involved in the project in non-research roles do not need to be included.
- Role of participating organisation in the project (multiple choice is allowed).
- List of up to 5 publications, widely used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements relevant to the call content.
- List of up to 5 relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.
- Description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work.
- Whether the organisation has a gender equality plan. Please note that if the proposal is selected, public bodies, higher education establishments and research organisations (from Member States and associated countries) will need to have a gender equality plan before grant agreement signature.

Complete accurately the researchers table (Proposal Part A) and ensure a gender balance.

This might impact the proposal ranking in case of equal scores.

For more information see [Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annexes Part F — Procedure](#)

3.2.1.3 Estimated budget

This section explains in detail the different elements composing the budget table of a (full) project proposal. It also highlights the different thresholds to pay attention to when planning an estimated budget and provides concrete examples of budget tables for different consortium compositions and types of call.

The estimated budget of a full proposal is composed of **two compulsory parts**:

1. The budget table in the part A of the proposal.
Automatically generated based on the budget encoded in the Horizon Europe IT tool.

2. The Annex to the budget and type of participants.

Mandatory Annex to be submitted together with the full proposal (in a single-stage call or in the second stage of a two-stage call) as it includes IHI JU budget specificities (IKOP, non-EU IKOP, IKAA and FC paid) that are not reflected in the budget table in the part A of the proposal.

First, the applicant consortium needs to fill in the Annex to the budget and type of participants.

Then, once the budget is completed in the Annex, the full proposal budget needs to be encoded in the EC submission system, which will generate the budget table in the part A of the proposal.

The estimated budget (i.e. the two above mentioned parts) will be made available to the independent experts evaluating the full proposal.

Please be reminded that the estimated budget and the description of resources in Part B should be aligned.

With the exception of obvious clerical errors, in case of inconsistencies between the estimated budget and the description of resources in Part B, the figures entered in the estimated budget will prevail.

Applicant consortiums **must** fill in the **Annex to the budget and type of participants for their Full Proposal** to specify their detailed estimated budget and to verify if their (full) proposal reaches the eligibility threshold of 45% industry contribution (in terms of IKOP, non-EU IKOP, FC, IKAA).

All relevant annexes for preparing and submitting a proposal **can be found on the IHI JU [website](#)** and in the submission environment of the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

3.2.1.3.1 Composition of the estimated budget

The estimated budget needs to be provided for full proposals to single-stage calls and for full proposals to the second stage of two-stage calls. Each type of participant needs to be mentioned separately in the estimated budget. There is no estimated budget for short proposals in the first stage of two-stage calls. There, only the total requested EU contribution for the proposal should be specified in the submission system. See screenshot:

3 - Budget	
Total requested EU contribution for the proposal	0

The budget table in the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal is composed of the elements below.

No.	Participant type (please select)	Participant legal name	Total Eligible costs (include personnel, purchase, subcontracting, internally invoiced goods and services and 25% indirect costs)	Funding Rate	Max EU contribution to eligible costs [Funding rate * Total eligible costs]	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs	Income generated by the action	Financial contributions (FC) RECEIVED	Financial contributions (FC) PAID	IKOP (Total eligible costs - requested EU contribution - FC received)	Non-EU part of IKOP	Own resources	Total estimated income [columns N+O+P+R+T]	IKAA
-----	-------------------------------------	---------------------------	--	-----------------	--	---	--------------------------------------	---	---	---	------------------------	---------------	---	------

The budget table in the full proposal part A is composed of the elements below.

3 - Budget

No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs/€	Subcontracting costs/€	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence /€	Purchase costs - Equipment/€	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/€	Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (Unit costs-usual accounting practices)	Indirect costs/€	Total eligible costs	Funding rate	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs/€	Max grant amount	Income generated by the action	Financial contributions	Own resources	Total estimated income

Since some budget items (i.e. Total Eligible costs, Requested EU contribution to eligible costs; Income generated by the action; Financial contributions (FC) received; Own resources) appear in both the proposal budget in part A and in the Annex to the budget and type of participants, it is important to ensure the values inserted are the same.

All budget items are explained below.

Personnel costs (A)

The following types of personnel costs are allowed:

- Actual or unit costs for employees or equivalent (salaries and social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract or equivalent appointing act).
 - *actual costs* calculated with the following method: {daily rate for the person multiplied by number of day-equivalents worked on the action}, with the daily rate calculated as: {annual personnel costs for the person divided by 215 (for a full-time equivalent)}.
 - *unit cost* if the beneficiary uses average personnel costs according to its usual cost accounting practices. Note that the unit cost should not include indirect costs as they are already automatically calculated by the system (see explanations on Indirect costs (E) below).
- Actual costs for natural persons under direct contract other than an employment contract.
- Actual costs for seconded persons by a third party against payment or for free. (Example: a project team member who is employed by a third party outside the project. The team member is employed and paid by the third party, the third party is reimbursed by the participant (if the personnel is provided against payment), and the participant charges these costs to the project.)
- Unit costs for the work of SME owners for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises not receiving a salary) or natural person beneficiaries (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary).

Examples of calculation methods for personnel costs are included in the [EU Grants - annotated model grant agreement](#).

Subcontracting costs (B)

This budget category covers costs for subcontracted **action tasks**, i.e. service contracts for parts of the project that are not implemented by the beneficiary itself, but by a subcontractor.

A subcontracting cost is eligible if it corresponds to the amount invoiced by the subcontractor, fulfils the general eligibility conditions (see Article 6) and if the subcontractor is selected following the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests.

The contract between the beneficiary and the subcontractor is based on business conditions as it includes a profit margin for the subcontractor.

Only limited parts of the action may be subcontracted. Limited parts means that subcontracting remains proportionate both in terms of share of subcontracted action tasks as well as in terms of share in the eligible cost (e.g. coordination tasks of the coordinator cannot be subcontracted).

Subcontracting between participants is not allowed in the same grant. If one participant needs the services of another in order to perform its part of the work, it is the second participant who should declare its own costs for that work.

Subcontracting to a participant's own affiliate(s) is not allowed, unless they have a framework contract or the affiliate is their usual provider, and the subcontract is priced at market conditions. Otherwise, these affiliates may work in the action, but they must be identified as affiliated entities under Article 8 and declare their own costs.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in the proposal Part B in table 3.1j, and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in the budget. Subcontracts are normally wide in scope (implementation of a part of the project, i.e. action tasks). If a contract covers only individual equipment or consumables, this will be considered as a purchase (see Article 6.2.C.2 and C.3).

Purchase costs (C)

Purchase costs are eligible if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions (see Article 6) and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests.

The following types of purchase costs are allowed:

- C.1. Travel, accommodation and subsistence (Article 6.2.C.1);
- C.2 Equipment, infrastructure, or other assets (Article 6.2.C.2);
- C.3 Other goods, works and services, if necessary to implement the action (see Article 6.2.C.3).

Purchase contracts are normally limited in scope. If a contract covers the implementation of action tasks, this will be considered as a case of subcontracting.

Internally invoiced goods and services (D)

'Internally invoiced goods and services' means goods or services that the beneficiary itself produced or provided within the beneficiary's organisation to be directly used for the action. Costs of internally invoiced goods and services must be declared as unit costs in accordance with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices.

They may include for instance self-produced consumables or the use of specific devices or facilities for the action.

Indirect costs (E)

The financing of indirect costs is calculated automatically by the system as a flat rate of 25 % of the total eligible costs (categories A-D, except subcontracting costs and cost for internally invoiced goods and services, if any).

The indirect costs of 25% is automatic for all beneficiaries, also IHI JU the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners.

As the indirect costs are calculated automatically, there should be no indirect costs included in the other cost categories (as it would lead to double counting). E.g.: a company that uses average personnel costs and whose usual practice is to include indirect costs in the calculation of the full-time equivalent rate must recalculate the rate to exclude indirect costs.

Total eligible costs (H)

Total of all project eligible costs (sum of categories A-E).

They are calculated automatically in the submission system (that will generate the budget table in the part A of the proposal) but the values need to be inserted manually in the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal.

The applicant consortium should ensure values for total eligible costs inserted in both budget parts are the same.

Costs are eligible if they fulfil the eligibility criteria (Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of the MGA).

Details on eligible costs can be found in the call conditions, the Model Grant Agreement and the related guidance (in particular, the [EU Grants AGA Annotated Grant Agreement](#)).

Funding rate (U)

The funding rate is automatically set to 100 % for all consortium applicants.

As a result, participants that are not eligible for receiving funding still have a 100 % funding rate (e.g. large companies in two-stage calls).

Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs ($L = U \times H$)

The maximum EU contribution is automatically calculated by multiplying the total costs of the legal entity with its funding rate.

The maximum EU contribution is a positive amount for all consortium applicants (even the ones that are not eligible for funding) as the funding rate is automatically set to 100 %.

For entities participating as Associated Partners, it is equal to zero.

Requested EU contribution to eligible costs

The amount that a legal entity requests as EU contribution (i.e. IHI JU funding) to reimburse a part or all its project eligible costs. This amount can be equal to or lower than the maximum EU contribution (L).

The 'requested EU contribution' must be filled in manually and therefore it needs to be updated if changes are made to any of the cost categories (A-E). The requested EU contribution cannot be higher than the maximum EU contribution.

The applicant consortium should ensure that the values for requested EU contribution inserted in both budget parts (i.e. the detailed budget in the Annex and the budget in the proposal part A) are the same. If a participant is not eligible for funding, it should ensure that no EU contribution is requested even though the tool allows it (as the funding rate is set to 100 % for all participants).

Eligibility criteria for receiving IHI JU funding are detailed in section 2.3.

Eligibility for receiving IHI JU funding depends on the place of establishment of the participant, on the type of call and on the legal entity status (e.g. SME, non-profit, etc.) encoded in the participant register.

It is therefore crucial that each participant provides its legal and financial information in the participant register before the grant signature.

Max grant amount

This amount is automatically calculated by the tool and corresponds to the sum of budgeted eligible costs.

Income generated by the action

The expected income (revenues) generated by the action itself, throughout its duration (only applicable for beneficiaries that are profit legal entities).

Financial contributions (FC)

The financial contributions (i.e. contributions in cash), other than the EU funding, made to a beneficiary that will be specifically used for the action.

A FC can be paid:

1. by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and/or by contributing partners. FC paid by IHI JU the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners are important as they are considered for the calculation of the 45% eligibility threshold of a (full) proposal if they cover project eligible costs of an entity that is eligible for receiving EU funding.
2. by other sources and therefore do not count towards the 45% eligibility threshold.

Any type of beneficiary that is eligible for funding can receive FC (i.e. also the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members, contributing partners).

Eligible costs covered by the FC received should be included in the total eligible costs of the beneficiary that is receiving the FC.

Beneficiaries that are the recipients of FC must also ensure that the sum of their requested EU contribution and their FC received do not exceed their total eligible costs (i.e., no double funding of costs allowed).

In the particular case of a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner paying FC to another constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner (which is eligible for funding), the first one needs to specify it in 'FC paid' (in table 3.1k.) and the second one in 'FC received' but it also must **reduce its IKOP** by the amount of the FC received. If a constituent or affiliated entity of a private

member/contributing partner received a FC from another source, it does not impact its IKOP. The IKOP is calculated automatically in the Annex to the budget and type of participants.

Only FC received are captured in the budget table in the part A of the full proposal at the level of beneficiaries that are receiving them. FC paid are **not** reflected in the budget table in the part A of the full proposal at the level of the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners that are paying them.

For this reason, the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal reflects both **FC received and FC paid**.

Additionally, applicants must specify in the part B of their (full) proposal (in table 3.1k) the following elements concerning financial contributions (if applicable): the company name of the constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner/other entity paying the FC; the FC amount; the name of the beneficiary receiving the FC; and the project activities the beneficiary will carry out with the received FC.

Own resources

The amount of expected own resources the legal entity plans to use for the implementation of the action. A legal entity uses its own resources when its total project eligible costs are not entirely covered by IHI JU funding and/or by other sources of financing.

This category should always be zero for the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and for contributing partners as their own resources are actually their IKOP.

The applicant consortium should ensure values for Own resources inserted in both budget parts (i.e., the Annex to the budget for the full proposal and the budget table in the proposal part A) are the same.

Total estimated income

Such figures are calculated automatically in both budget parts (i.e., the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal and the budget table in proposal Part A) as the sum of the requested grant amount, income generated by the project, financial contributions received, IKOP and own resources. The amount should match the total estimated project costs when there is no associated partner in the applicant consortium.

In-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP)

IKOP consist of eligible costs incurred by constituent or affiliated entities of IHI JU private members and by contributing partners for implementing the action, less the requested EU contribution to those eligible costs, if any.

IKOP = total eligible costs – reimbursed costs, if any.

IKOP provided by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners are subject to the same HE rights and obligations (eligibility criteria rules, reporting rules, etc) as any other beneficiary signing the grant agreement.

In single-stage calls, the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners are entitled to receive funding if they are established in a Member State, a country associated to Horizon Europe or low- and middle-income countries. If they decide to request the reimbursement of some project eligible costs (i.e. request EU funding), their IKOP shall equal their project's eligible costs minus their reimbursed costs. This

is calculated automatically in the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal. In the particular case of a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner receiving FC from another constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner, the Annex to the budget and type of participants will automatically reduce also its IKOP by the amount of the FC received.

In two-stage calls, the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners may be eligible for funding or not (see section 2.3 on eligibility criteria). In any case, if the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners are pre-identified in the call text of a two-stage call, they are not eligible to receive EU funding. As a result, IKOP always equal project eligible costs for these beneficiaries.

In the budget table in the part A of the full proposal, IKOP cannot be specified as the submission system is standard for all EU programmes and does not capture budget specificities of IHI JU.

As a result, the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal has been developed by IHI JU in order for applicant consortium to specify their IKOP (if any). In this Annex, the column 'IKOP' is calculated automatically (as total eligible costs minus reimbursed costs) and can only be filled in by the constituent and affiliated entities of either private members and/or contributing partners. IKOP is always set to zero for associated partners and for participants that are not constituent and affiliated entities of the private members or contributing partners.

The column 'IKOP' should include all IKOP, i.e. both EU and non-EU IKOP. Those concepts are explained in the section below.

Non-EU IKOP

In-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) can be provided from within or outside the European Union and HE associated countries.

'Non-EU IKOP' refer to eligible costs for project activities carried out in third countries **outside** of:

- the 27 EU Member States and
- Associated countries to Horizon Europe¹⁴.

The 'non-EU' criteria take into account where the underlying activities are carried out, not where the company incurring the related costs is established.

Examples: Costs incurred by US-based constituent or affiliated entities of a private member or a contributing partner carrying out activities for a project in Germany are considered EU IKOP. Costs incurred by a German-based private member or contributing partner carrying out activities for the project in the US are considered non-EU IKOP. Non-EU IKOP cannot exceed IKOP as IKOP include both EU and non-EU IKOP.

Only IKOP can be 'non-EU'. Financial contributions are always considered as 'EU' and IKAA must be 'EU'.

In the proposal budget (Part A), non-EU IKOP cannot be specified (as the HE IT tool is standard for all EU programmes and does not capture budget specificities of IHI JU). Like for the IKOP, the applicant consortium should specify their non-EU IKOP (if any) directly in the Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal.

¹⁴ See the '[List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/updates-association-third-countries-horizon-europe_en)'. For up-to-date information on the current list of Associated countries see here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/updates-association-third-countries-horizon-europe_en.

The non-EU IKOP should also be specified in the Part B of the (full) project proposal, in Table 3.1I. In this table, the consortium needs to specify the company name of the constituent or affiliated entity of the private member/contributing partner contributing non-EU IKOP, the amount of non-EU IKOP, and the project activities to be carried out outside the EU and Horizon Europe associated countries.

As per the Regulation, the non-EU IKOP cannot exceed 20 % of the overall IKOP at programme level. However, **IHI JU may establish in the call conditions a different maximum percentage of non-EU in-kind contributions applicable to individual projects.** See below section 3.2.1.3.2 Thresholds in the budget table.

In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)

Contributions incurred by constituent and affiliated entities of the private members consisting of costs for implementing additional activities.

Only the constituent and affiliated entities of the IHI JU private members can contribute IKAA. Contributing partners can only contribute IKOP and FC, not IKAA.

IKAA can be programme-specific or project-specific. For the preparation of a (full) proposal, only project-specific IKAA are relevant.

Project-specific IKAA consist of additional activities contributing towards:

- the achievement of the objectives of IHI JU funded projects, or
- the dissemination, sustainability, or exploitation of IHI JU project results.

Additional activities are not project tasks (i.e. not IKOP). It is up to the applicant consortium to identify what are IKOP and what are IKAA for their respective proposal, depending on the proposal objectives. Activities identified as IKAA in one IHI JU proposal cannot be identified as IKAA or IKOP in another IHI JU proposal (no double counting allowed).

While IKOP consist of project eligible costs (i.e. costs that can be reimbursed by IHI JU if the concerned constituent and affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners are eligible for funding), IKAA are not project eligible costs, so they cannot be reimbursed by IHI JU.

Additional activities must contribute to IHI JU's general and specific objectives (as defined in Article 115 of the Regulation)¹⁵ but cannot be funded by the IHI JU or any other EU funding programme.

Additional activities must be carried out in the EU or in Horizon Europe associated countries.

Costs for additional activities can incur from the (full) proposal submission date and up to 2 years after the end date of the project.

The IKAA of a project should normally not exceed 40 % of the sum of IKOP and IKAA provided by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members to the project. If the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members want to contribute more IKAA than 40 %, they should inform their relevant industry office accordingly so that it can be closely monitored.

The IKAA planned for a specific (full) project proposal in a single-stage call or in the second stage of a two-stage call should be detailed in the **Annex on IKAA**.

¹⁵ IHI JU's general and specific objectives are also listed on IHI website: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/about-ih/mission-and-objectives>;

The information provided in the Annex should be complete and clear (e.g. avoid acronyms, no empty cells).

The Annex on IKAA is **compulsory for proposals including IKAA**.

If the proposal includes IKAA and the Annex on IKAA is not submitted as a part of the proposal via the EU Funding and Tenders Portal or if the Annex on IKAA is submitted but some additional activities are missing in the annex, the proposal can still be considered admissible (if all admissibility criteria are met) but the eligibility criterion of 45% is calculated without the IKAA that has not been specified in the Annex on IKAA. This means that if the 45% is then not reached, the proposal will be considered ineligible.

In case the 45% is reached (even without the concerned IKAA), it will be evaluated but the evaluators will consider the missing Annex on IKAA or the missing additional activities in the Annex on IKAA as a shortcoming (as the IKAA assessment is a sub criterion of implementation criterion).

Detailed information on IKAA can be found in the **IHI JU Guidelines for in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)** in [the IHI JU website](#).

In the proposal budget (Part A), IKAA cannot be specified (as submission system is standard for all EU programmes and does not capture budget specificities of IHI JU).

The Annex to the budget and type of participants for the Full proposal has been developed by IHI JU in order for applicant consortium to specify their IKAA (if any). In this Annex, the 'IKAA' values need to be inserted manually and can only be filled in by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members. This cost category is not editable for all other types of beneficiaries, contributing partners or associated partners.

3.2.1.3.2 Thresholds in the budget table

While preparing the budget table, the consortium must ensure the following thresholds are respected.

- **Industry contribution threshold of minimum 45 %**

For their (full) project proposal to be eligible, applicant consortia should ensure that at least 45 % of the action's eligible costs and costs for additional activities related to the action are provided by contributions (IKOP, FC paid, IKAA) from the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and/or from contributing partners.

Entities that are not constituent/affiliated entities of private members or contributing partners cannot provide IKOP/FC/IKAA and cannot therefore contribute to the 45% contribution threshold.

$(IKOP + FC \text{ paid} + IKAA) \geq 45\% \text{ of (action's eligible costs} + \text{action-related IKAA)}$

While the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members can contribute any of those contribution types, contributing partners can only contribute IKOP and FC paid, not IKAA.

The 45 % threshold can be reached by providing any of these types of contribution (e.g. only with IKOP).

The 45% threshold is an eligibility criterion. If it is not reached collectively by constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners of a (full) proposal, the proposal will NOT be evaluated.

The coordinator of a (full) proposal must submit a Declaration to confirm that the required 45% contributions will be provided (see section 3.2.2.2 Annex: Declaration of in-kind contribution commitment)

While the minimum threshold for proposals to be considered eligible is set at 45%, consortia are strongly encouraged to aim at having 50% of the action's eligible costs and costs for action-related additional activities provided by the industry consortium participants. This prudent approach is to ensure that the 45% threshold is maintained during the project implementation (eligibility criterion), despite any changes in the consortium composition and/or in the total contributions from the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners.

By correctly inserting data in the **compulsory Annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal** applicant consortium will be able to verify if their (full) proposal reaches the eligibility threshold of 45% industry contribution.

- **IKAA threshold of maximum 40 % at programme level**

The total IKAA provided by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members should not exceed 40 % of the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members' total in-kind contribution (IKAA + IKOP) at overall IHI JU programme level. The overall limitation of 40 % of IKAA at IHI JU programme level includes both programme-specific IKAA and project-specific IKAA.

For proposals, the same limitation of 40 % is recommended but it is not compulsory. In case IKAA exceed the 40 % threshold for a proposal, the constituent or affiliated entities of the private member(s) should inform the relevant industry association office so the overall IKAA threshold at programme level – which cannot exceed 40 % – can be properly followed-up and monitored by the industry.

- **Non-EU IKOP threshold of maximum 20% at programme level**

Under the Single Basic Act, at the IHI program level, at least 80% of the total in-kind contributions to operational costs ('IKOP') contributed by the constituent and affiliated entities of private members and contributing partners must come from EU and HE-associated countries. Consequently, a maximum of 20% of IKOP from non-EU countries can be accepted and count towards the matching target with EU funding. Any IKOP exceeding the 20% non-EU threshold will not be considered as IKOP.

For a **particular call**, IHI JU may establish in the call conditions a different maximum percentage of non-EU in-kind contributions applicable to the projects under that particular call.

During the proposal stage, if the non-EU IKOP exceeds 20% of the total IKOP (or the threshold specified in the call conditions, if applicable), it does not constitute a blocking issue, and the proposal may still be submitted. In such cases, the relevant constituent or affiliated entities of private members and contributing partners must notify the appropriate industry association office(s). This ensures proper monitoring and follow-up to maintain the overall non-EU IKOP threshold at the program level, which must not exceed 20%.

During the Grant preparation phase, non-EU IKOP exceeding the specific call threshold cannot be included in the calculation of the 45% in-kind contribution eligibility criterion. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the budget contains sufficient IKOP originating from EU and HE-associated countries to meet the 45% threshold.

Example of an IHI project in GAP for which the call conditions limit the non-EU IKOP to 20%: if the project requests €10m of EU funding, to be eligible, the consortium needs to bring a matching in-kind of at least €8.2m (45%) and at least €6.56m of the total IKOP (80%) needs to be incurred in the EU or HE associated countries for the GA to be signed.

At the reporting stage, companies may report a higher amount of non-EU IKOP than initially anticipated in their estimated budget. All reported IKOP will be acknowledged. However, the part of non-EU IKOP reported beyond the limit set in the call conditions will not count for the calculation of the 45% contribution for the concerned project.

All reported IKOP (including both EU and non-EU IKOP) is acknowledged for the overall execution of the programme. To meet the 45% eligibility criterion and align with the matching of the public funding, private members and contributing partners must collectively report at least 80% of EU IKOP originating from the EU and HE-associated countries.

3.2.1.3.3 Estimated budget examples

The following examples are tailored to IHI JU and give applicants detailed information on how to build their estimated budget.

For these examples:

- Only the most relevant columns from the estimated budget are considered.
- It is considered that the applicant consortium includes legal entities established in at least 3 different Member States, fulfilling therefore the eligibility conditions for participation (see section 2.2 on entities eligible to participate).
- It is considered that all legal entities are established in a Member State, Horizon Europe associated country or low- and middle-income country, fulfilling therefore the general eligibility condition for receiving funding (see section 2.3 on entities eligible for funding).

A. Proposal for single-stage call

In a single-stage Call, any legal entity established in a Member State, Horizon Europe associated country or low- and middle-income country is eligible to receive funding.

No.	Participant	Total eligible costs (H)	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs (M)	Financial contributions (FC) received	Financial contributions (FC) paid	IKOP (S)=(H)-(M)	Including Non-EU IKOP (T)	Own resources (R)	Total estimated income (M+FC received+S+R)	IKA (P)
1	Constituent or affiliated entity of a private member	6 000 000	2 500 000	0	0	3 500 000	1 000 000	n.a	6 000 000	2 050 000
2	Constituent or affiliated entity of a private member	2 000 000	0	0	500 000	2 000 000	0	n.a	2 000 000	0
3	Constituent entity of a private member	1 500 000	750 000	0	1 600 000	750 000	200 000	n.a	1 500 000	2 450 000
3.1	Affiliated entity of a private member	500 000	200 000	0	0	300 000	100 000	n.a	500 000	50 000
4	Contributing partner	1 000 000	500 000	0	0	500 000	0	n.a	1 000 000	n.a
5	Non-profit organisation	9 250 000	7 000 000	2 100 000	n.a	n.a	n.a	150 000	9 250 000	n.a

	(beneficiary receiving funding)									
6	For-profit SME (beneficiary receiving funding)	1 150 000	1 150 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	1 150 000	n.a
6.1	Affiliated entity (beneficiary receiving funding)	250 000	250 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	250 000	n.a
7	For-profit large company (beneficiary receiving funding)	1 100 000	800 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	300 000	1 100 000	n.a
	TOTAL	22 750 000	13 150 000	2 100 000	2 100 000	7 050 000	1 300 000	450 000	22 750 000	4 550 000

Key data

Total eligible costs (H) + total IKAA (P)	= EUR 27 300 000
Minimum 45 % industry contribution to be reached for the proposal to be eligible	= EUR 12 285 000 (45 % x 27 300 000)
Total industry contribution IKOP (S) + FC paid + IKAA (P)	= EUR 13 700 000 (EUR 7 050 000 + EUR 2 100 000 + EUR 4 550 000)
Percentage of industry contribution	= 50.18 % (13 700 000 / 27 300 000)

The estimated budget is correctly balanced: total eligible costs (H) of EUR 22 750 000 equals total estimated income, which is made of total requested EU contribution (M) + total own resources (R) + total IKOP (S) + total Financial Contributions received (FC received).

Please also note that the total amount of FC paid of EUR 2 100 000 matches the FC received.

The estimated budget fulfils the necessary thresholds.

Minimum 45 % industry contribution: Total Industry contribution of EUR 13 700 000 (IKOP+IKAA+FC paid) is **≥45 %** of (total eligible costs (H) + total IKAA (P)). In the above example, it is 50.18 %.

Note: This example illustrates all types of contributions (IKOP, IKAA, FC paid), but it is not obligatory for a proposal to have all types of contribution so long as the 45 % is secured.

Maximum 40 % IKAA: IKAA (P) is ≤ 40 % of (IKOP (S) +IKAA (P)). In the above example, it is 39.22 %.

Maximum 20 % non-EU : Non-EU IKOP (T) is ≤ 20 % of IKOP (S). In the above example, it is 18.44 %.

Explanations per participant

Depending on your participant type, you can go directly to the explanation relating to your participant number.

Participants 1, 2 and 3: Constituent and affiliated entities of the private members

- The constituent and affiliated entities of the private members are eligible for funding as we consider in this example for single-stage call that they are all established in a Member State, Horizon Europe associated country or low- and middle-income country. However, only Participants 1 and 3 are requesting IHI JU funding. Participant 2 may not be interested in receiving IHI JU funding because it needs to maximise its IKOP to reach the 45% threshold.
- The constituent and affiliated entities of the private members can provide all types of industry contribution: IKOP, FC paid and IKAA. They can provide either one, two or three of these contribution types (e.g. a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member can contribute only IKOP). In this example, participants 2 and 3 (both constituent and affiliated entities of the private members) pay FC to the participant 5 (a non-profit organisation).
- The constituent and affiliated entities of the private members' total contribution to the project is IKOP + FC paid + IKAA.
- IKOP (S) are eligible costs incurred to implement the project (H), minus the funding requested to IHI JU to partially reimburse these eligible costs (M). In some rare cases (not illustrated in this example), a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member that is eligible for receiving funding could receive FC from another constituent or affiliated entity of a private member or a contributing partner. In such a case, its IKOP should also be reduced by the amount of the FC received.
- Eligible costs included in IKOP can be incurred in the EU or HE associated countries (= EU IKOP) or outside the EU or HE associated countries (= non-EU IKOP). Non-EU IKOP (T) is the part of eligible costs included in the total IKOP (S) that are planned to be incurred outside the EU or HE associated countries.
- The constituent and affiliated entities of the private members can pay FC to other beneficiaries eligible for funding. Financial contributions (FC) are both declared by the beneficiary(ies) receiving the FC and by the constituent or affiliated entities of a private member that are paying the FC in the appropriate column.
- Only eligible costs incurred by the constituent and affiliated entities of the private members can be reimbursed by IHI JU, if requested and if they are eligible to receive funding. Costs for additional activities cannot be reimbursed by IHI JU.
- The column (R) for own resources is not applicable for the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members (i.e. it must be zero).
- IKAA (P) are costs for additional activities (i.e. not IKOP). This category is only applicable for the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members.

Participant 3.1: Affiliated entity of private member 3

- The affiliated entity 3.1 is financially/legaly linked to the constituent or affiliated entity of a private member 3.
- The information specified above for Participants 1, 2 and 3 is also applicable for the affiliated entity 3.1.

Participant 4: IHI JU contributing partner

- Contributing partners are eligible for funding as we consider in this example that they are all established in a Member State, associated country or low- and middle-income country.
- Contributing partners can provide IKOP and FC paid (either one or the other or both), but not IKAA.

- Contributing partners' total contribution to the project is IKOP + FC paid.
- IKOP (S) are eligible costs incurred to implement the project (H), minus the funding requested to IHI JU to partially reimburse these eligible costs (M).
- Eligible costs included in IKOP can be incurred in the EU or HE associated countries (= EU IKOP) or outside the EU or HE associated countries (= non-EU IKOP). Non-EU IKOP (T) is the part of eligible costs included in the total IKOP (S) that is planned to be incurred outside the EU or HE associated countries.
- Contributing partner can pay FC to other beneficiaries eligible for funding from the same consortium. In the proposal budget table, financial contributions received (FC received) are both declared by the beneficiary(ies) receiving the FC, and by the contributing partner that is paying the FC in the appropriate column.
- The column (R) for own contributions and (P) for IKAA are not applicable for contributing partners (i.e. they must be zero).

Participants 5, 6, 6.1 and 7: non-profit organisation, for-profit SME, and its affiliated entity, as well as for-profit large company

- In single-stage calls, any legal entity is eligible for funding if established in a Member State, associated country or low- and middle-income country. We consider this to be the case for Participants 5, 6 and 7 in this example.
- Total eligible costs to implement the action (H) are either reimbursed by IHI JU funding (M) and/or by financial contribution (FC paid) by the constituent or affiliated entity of private member(s) and/or contributing partner(s) and/or by the beneficiary itself with its own resources (R). In this example, participant 5 receives financial contributions of EUR 2 100 000 paid by participants 2 and 3 (the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members).
- For each FC it should be specified in the proposal Part B (table 3.1k): the company name of the constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner paying the FC, the FC paid amount, the name of the beneficiary receiving the FC and the project activities to be carried out by the beneficiary with the received FC. Only FC paid by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members or contributing partners and to participants that are eligible for funding count for the calculation of the 45% contribution.
- Participant 5 cannot request IHI JU funding for costs already covered by financial contributions. As a result, the amount of 2 100 000 must be deducted from the EU contribution (M) requested by Participant 5. Additionally, the FC received is to cover some of its eligible costs to implement the project. As a result, the amount of EUR 2 100 000 must be specified in its total eligible costs (H).
- Eligible costs that are not reimbursed (either by IHI JU or by financial contribution received from the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners/other or by both) are costs to be covered by the participants' own resources. In this example, while Participants 5 and 7 are eligible to get reimbursed 100 % of their eligible cost, they make the choice not to request the maximum EU contribution allowed and plan to bring instead some of their own resources to the project (EUR 150 000 for Participant 5 and EUR 300 000 for Participant 7).
- The columns IKOP (S), Non-EU IKOP (T) and IKAA (P) are not applicable for beneficiaries that are not constituent or affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners. As a result, their values must be zero for Participants 5, 6, 6.1 and 7.

B. Short proposal for the first stage of a two-stage call

In a two-stage call, constituent and affiliate entities of private members and contributing partners are pre-identified in the call text. Their contribution determines the maximum amount of EU funding available for the project proposal.

In the first stage of a two-stage call, the pre-identified constituent and affiliate entities of private members and the contributing partners, if any, (the 'pre-identified industry consortium') are not involved in the preparation of the short proposal and are not eligible for funding. The applicant consortium requesting funding should prepare and submit a short proposal, considering the call text and the maximum available amount of EU funding.

Other constituent and affiliate entities of private members and contributing partners who are not part of the pre-identified consortium may join during or after the preparation of the full proposal.

The applicants who are part of the pre-identified industry consortium in the topic texts cannot be a part of the applicant consortium. **In the short proposal, there is no estimated budget table, just a total amount to be specified as the requested EU contribution for the concerned proposal.**

In a two-stage call, legal entities must be established in a Member State, associated country or low- and middle-income country to be eligible for funding. Moreover, the following entities are not eligible for funding:

- Pre-identified constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and contributing partners (legal entities identified in the call text by the IHI JU as participating in the specific topic);
- Any for-profit company:
 - with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more;
 - directly or indirectly linked to for profit legal entities with an annual turnover of EUR 500 million or more.

C. Full proposal for the second stage of a two-stage call

Once a short project proposal has been selected, the pre-identified industry consortium join the rest of the applicant consortium in the second stage of the two-stage call to prepare together the full project proposal.

No.	Participant	Total eligible costs (H)	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs (M)	Financial contributions (FC) received	Financial contributions (FC) paid	IKOP (S)=(H)-(M)	Including Non-EU IKOP (T)	Own resource (R)	Total estimated income (M+FC received+S+R)	IKAA (P)
1	Public body (beneficiary receiving funding)	7 250 000	6 000 000	1 250 000	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	7 250 000	n.a
2	Non-profit organisation (beneficiary receiving funding)	1 500 000	1 500 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	1 500 000	n.a
2.1	Affiliated entity (beneficiary receiving funding)	3 500 000	3 500 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	3 500 000	n.a
3	For-profit SME (beneficiary receiving funding)	5 150 000	4 300 000	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	850 000	5 150 000	n.a

4	Associated Partner (e.g. for profit large company)	n.a	n.a	70 000	n.a	n.a	n.a	100 000	170 000	n.a
5	Constituent or affiliated entity of a private member (pre-identified)	5 300 000	n.a	n.a	0	5 300 000	1 000 000	n.a	5 300 000	2 500 000
6	Constituent or affiliated entity of a private member (pre-identified)	3 700 000	n.a	n.a	1 250 000	3 700 000	200 000	n.a	3 700 000	2 000 000
7	Contributing Partner (Pre-identified)	2 600 000	n.a	n.a	0	2 600 000	0	n.a	2 600 000	n.a
	TOTAL	29 000 000	15 300 000	1 320 000	1 250 000	11 600 000	1 200 000	950 000	29 170 000	4 500 000

Key data

Total eligible costs (H) + total IKAA (P)	= EUR 33 500 000
Minimum 45 % industry contribution to be reached for the proposal to be eligible	= EUR 15 075 000 (45 % x EUR 33 500 000)
Total industry contribution IKOP (S) + FC paid + IKAA (P)	= EUR 17 350 000 (EUR 11 600 000 + EUR 1 250 000 + EUR 4 500 000)
Percentage of industry contribution	= 51.79% (17 350 000 / 33 500 000)

The estimated budget is correctly balanced: total eligible costs (H) of EUR 29 000 000 equal total estimated income minus the estimated income from the associated partner, participant 4 (EUR 29 170 000 – EUR 170 000). The FC received by the associated partner should not be considered as it does not cover eligible costs.

The budget table fulfils the necessary thresholds.

Minimum 45 % industry contribution: Total industry contribution (IKOP+IKAA+FC paid) is **≥45 %** of EUR 33 500 000 (total eligible costs (H) + total IKAA (P)). In the above example, it is 51.79 %.

Note: This example illustrates all types of contributions (IKOP, IKAA, FC paid), but it is not obligatory for a proposal to have all types of contribution to reach 45 %.

Maximum 40 % IKAA: IKAA (P) of EUR 4 500 000 is ≤ 40 % of EUR 16 100 000 (IKOP (S) + IKAA (P)). In the above example, it is 27.95 %.

Maximum 20 % non-EU: Non-EU IKOP (T) is ≤ 20 % of IKOP (S). In the above example, it is 10.34 %.

Explanations per participant:

Depending on your participant type, you can go directly to the explanation relating to your organisation.

Participants 1, 2, 2.1 and 3: Public bodies, non-profit organisations, and their affiliated entities, as well as for-profit SMEs (all entities are not private member/contributing partner)

- In two-stage calls, these legal entities are eligible for funding if they are established in a Member State, associated country or low- and middle-income country. We consider this to be the case in this example.
- The eligible costs of these beneficiaries to implement the action (H) are either reimbursed by EU funding (M) and/or by financial contributions (FC received) from the constituent or affiliated entities of private member(s)/contributing partner(s)/other and/or by their own resources (i.e. at their own costs). In this example, Participant 1 receives financial contributions (FC received) from Participant 7 (a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member) of EUR 1 250 000.
- For each FC, it should be specified in the proposal Part B (table 3.1k): the company name of the private member/contributing partner paying the FC, the FC paid amount, the name of the beneficiary receiving the FC and the project activities to be carried out by the beneficiary with the FC received. Only FC paid by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members or contributing partners and to participants that are eligible for funding count for the calculation of the 45% contribution.
- Participant 1 cannot request IHI JU funding for costs already covered by the FC. As a result, EUR 1 250 000 must be deducted from the EU contribution (M) requested by Participant 1. Additionally, the FC received is to cover some of the eligible costs to implement the project. As a result, costs corresponding to the FC received must be specified in the eligible costs (H) of Participant 1.
- Eligible costs that are not reimbursed (either by IHI JU or by financial contributions received from the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners/other or by both) are costs to be covered by the participant's own resources. In this example, while Participant 3 is eligible to get reimbursed 100 % of its eligible costs, it chooses not to request the maximum EU contribution allowed and plans to bring instead some of its own resources to the project (EUR 850 000). These own resources cannot count as IKOP as Participant 3 is neither a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member or a contributing partner.
- The columns IKOP (S), Non-EU IKOP (T) and IKA (P) are not applicable for beneficiaries that are not constituent or affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners. As a result, their values must be zero for Participants 1, 2, 2.1 and 3.

Participant 4: Associated partner (standard case 'a' associated partner, not a case 'b' associated partner as explained under 2.3.3 above)

- Associated partners cannot request EU funding so they need to participate at their own costs and/or with financial contributions received from a third party. Cost incurred by associated partners cannot be declared as remunerable costs. As a result, column (H) must always be zero.
- Applicants may include the total estimated costs of their associated partners in the budget for their proposal (i.e. under the 'Financial contributions' and 'Own resources' headings) but this is for information purposes only. The information is not transferred to the grant as the associated partners are not required to report on their costs.
- The Participant 4 could be a for profit large company as in a two-stage call, this type of organisation is not eligible to receive EU funding.
- In the example above, the Participant 4 plans to receive financial contributions for an amount of EUR 70 000 from an external financing source (i.e. other than IHI JU or a constituent or affiliated entity of a private member/contributing partner and therefore these FC received of EUR 70 000 are not matched by equivalent FC paid) and plans to incur EUR 100 000 of costs (covered with its own resources) for working on the implementation of the project.

- Financial contributions paid (FC paid) by an entity to an Associated Partner never count as valid contributions for the calculation of the 45% threshold, considering an associated partner is not eligible to receive funding.
- The columns IKOP (S), Non-EU IKOP (T) and IKAA (P) are not applicable for associated partners. As a result, their values must be zero for Participant 5.

Participants 5 and 6: Pre-identified constituent or affiliated entities of the private members

- Pre-identified constituent or affiliated entities of the private members are not eligible for funding. As a result, their requested EU contribution (M) is equal to zero.
- (Pre-identified) constituent or affiliated entities of the private members can provide all types of industry contribution: IKOP, FC paid and IKAA. They can provide either one, two or three of these contribution types (e.g. they can contribute only IKAA). In this example, participant 6 provides 1 250 000 of FC paid to Participant 1.
- The pre-identified constituent or affiliated entities of the private members' total contribution to the project is IKOP + FC paid + IKAA.
- IKOP (S) is always equal to eligible costs incurred to implement the project (H) as the funding requested (M) is always equal to zero for pre-identified constituent or affiliated entities of the private members.
- Eligible costs included in IKOP can be incurred in the EU or HE associated countries (= EU IKOP) or outside the EU or HE associated countries (= non-EU IKOP). Non-EU IKOP (T) is the part of eligible costs included in the total IKOP (S) that is planned to be incurred outside the EU or HE associated countries.
- (Pre-identified) constituent or affiliated entities of the private members can pay FC to other beneficiaries **eligible for funding**. Financial contributions (FC) are both declared by the beneficiary(ies) receiving the FC and by the constituent or affiliated entities of a private member that is paying the FC in the appropriate column.
- The column (R) for own contribution is not applicable for (pre-identified) constituent or affiliated entities of the private members (i.e. must be zero).
- IKAA (P) are costs for additional activities (i.e. not IKOP). This category is only applicable for (pre-identified) constituent or affiliated entities of the private members.

Participant 7: Pre-identified contributing partner

- Pre-identified contributing partners are not eligible for funding. As a result, their requested EU contribution (M) is equal to zero.
- (Pre-identified) contributing partners can provide IKOP and FC (either one or the other or both) but not IKAA.
- The (pre-identified) contributing partners' total contribution to the project is IKOP + FC.
- IKOP (S) is always equal to eligible costs incurred to implement the project (H) as the funding requested (M) is always equal to zero for pre-identified contributing partners.
- Eligible costs included in IKOP can be incurred in the EU or HE associated countries (= EU IKOP) or outside the EU or HE associated countries (= non-EU IKOP). Non-EU IKOP (T) is the part of eligible costs included in the total IKOP (S) that is planned to be incurred outside the EU or HE associated countries.
- (Pre-identified) contributing partners can pay FC to other beneficiaries **eligible for funding**. Financial contributions (FC) are both declared by the beneficiary(ies) receiving the FC and by the company that is paying the FC in the appropriate column.

- The column (R) for own contribution and (P) for IKAA are not applicable for (pre-identified) contributing partners (i.e. must be zero).

3.2.1.3.4 Steps to build a proposal estimated budget

Different steps are necessary for the applicant consortium to build the full proposal estimated budget. These steps are explained below and illustrated with a concrete example.

The concrete example illustrates a case of a single-stage call, with a considered appropriate funding per proposal of 10 million EUR.

Steps 1 to 3 can be done using the Annex to the budget and type of participants.

1. **Step 1:** calculate the total contribution from the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners.

The constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners should bring together (in terms of IKOP, FC paid, IKAA) a total of 10 million EUR to match the EU funding (50% is a prudent approach recommended by IHI JU but 45% of the action's eligible costs and costs for additional activities is the formal minimum).

If the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members/contributing partners are eligible to receive funding, they may request EU funding to get part of their eligible costs reimbursed. In this example, we consider they would request to receive 4 million EUR.

Note that this example refers to a single-stage call which may include 'hybrid participants' (i.e. both requesting funding and providing in-kind and/or cash).

- **Step 2:** calculate the remaining funding available for beneficiaries requesting funding only (i.e., not entitled to contribute IKOP, FC, IKAA).

The EU funding left available = [Total contribution (IKOP+FC+IKAA) calculated in step 1] – [requested EU contribution calculated in step 1].

In this example, the EU funding left available for 'public partners (e.g.: public organisations, universities, patient organisation, SMEs, etc) is equal to 6 million EUR (10 million EUR – 4 million EUR).

- **Step 3:** based on the EU funding that remains available (calculated in step 2), bring on board the beneficiaries requesting EU funding ('public partners').
Their requested funding should remain within the limit available (EUR 6,000,000 in this example).
- **Step 4:** test other budget scenarios in the Annex to the budget and type of participants, if needed (optional)
- **Step 5:** Ensure the budget encoded in the Annex to the budget and type of participants is correct and complete, and that the eligibility threshold of 45% contribution is reached by the full proposal (compulsory).
The eligibility threshold of 45% contribution is automatically calculated for the proposal in the Annex to the budget and type of participants.
- **Step 6:** encode the budget in the EC IT submission tool ensuring values are the same as in the Annex to the budget and type of participants. The EC IT submission tool will automatically generate the budget table in the part A of the full proposal.

The Annex to the budget and type of participants always has to be filled in first. Then, once the budget is completed, the full proposal budget needs to be encoded in the EC submission system, which will generate the budget table in the part A of the proposal.

REMARK: Each type of participant needs to be mentioned separately in the estimated budget, but the participant types are different in the Annex to the budget and in the budget in part A of the full proposal.

In the Annex to the budget, the types of participants are:

- Beneficiary requesting funding, i.e. not contributing IKOP/FC paid/IKAA (also applicable for their affiliated entities),
- Associated partner,
- Constituent or affiliated entity of IHI private member (COCIR/EFPIA, including VaccineEurope, EuropaBio/MedTech Europe) contributing IKOP/FC/IKAA (whether requesting funding or not),
- IHI JU contributing partner (also applicable for their affiliated entities) contributing IKOP/FC (whether requesting funding or not).

In the proposal part A (based on the data encoded in the submission system) the types of participants are:

- Beneficiary,
- Affiliated entity,
- Associated partner.

The entities specified in the Annex to the budget and type of participants as 'beneficiary requesting funding' can be specified in the submission system as either 'Beneficiary' or 'Affiliated entity'.

The entities specified in the Annex to the budget and type of participants as 'Associated Partner' need to be specified in the submission system as 'Associated Partner' as well.

The entities specified in the Annex to the budget and type of participants as 'IHI Private member' or 'Contributing partner' can be specified in the submission system as either 'Beneficiary' or 'Affiliated entity'.

3.2.1.4 Ethics and security

The ethics issues table contains a list of elements to identify any ethics issues in the proposed work. It must be completed even if there are no ethics issues. If you answer YES to any of the questions, you are requested to complete an ethics self-assessment and provide information on:

- ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and impact;
- compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislation.

For more information on security and on each of the ethics issues and how to address them, see section 6 and 7.

3.2.1.5 Proposal including clinical studies

This section applies ONLY to full proposals to be submitted under single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls. Applicants must answer whether there are clinical studies¹⁶ included in the work plan. If the answer is YES, applicants are asked to provide details of their clinical studies in a dedicated annex that must

¹⁶ Clinical study means any systematic prospective or retrospective collection and analysis of health data obtained from individual patients or healthy persons in order to address scientific questions related to the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, monitoring or treatment of a disease, mental illness, or physical condition. It includes but it is not limited to clinical studies as defined by Regulation 536/2014 (on medicinal products), clinical investigation and clinical evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/745 (on medical devices), performance study and performance evaluation as defined by Regulation 2017/746 (on in vitro diagnostic medical devices).

be uploaded in the submission environment (Annexes). The information on clinical studies annex can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/information-on-clinical-studies_he_en.docx

3.2.2 Instructions for writing Part B

Part B is the Technical Description of the proposal, which needs to be prepared using the Word template downloaded from the Submission System. Once finished, it must be uploaded as a PDF file.

Please be aware of the formatting conditions indicated in the template, which must be respected.

Unless specified otherwise in the conditions set out in the IHI JU Work Programme (WP) for the call you have applied for, the page limit is 20 pages for short proposals and 50 pages for full proposals. The page limit will be applied automatically by the system; excess pages will be automatically blanked out and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. Experts will also be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

The IHI JU follows the Horizon Europe proposal template that consists of 3 basic sections: Excellence, Impact, and Implementation. However, please carefully read the instructions of the proposal templates since there are differences in certain sections compared to the Horizon Europe requirements to reflect the public-private partnership (PPP) nature of the IHI JU programme and the collaboration among all relevant stakeholders.

Please note that while the instructions in the template suggest the length of the different sections, applicants have flexibility in determining the length of each section, if the total pages limit is respected.

Brief explanations on the different sections of the Part B are given below, however, detailed guidance can be found in the proposal templates themselves (see reference documents section for the relevant links).

Section 1 – Excellence

The excellence part includes the project's objectives, ambition, and the suggested methodology.

For information on policy considerations to be covered under the proposal's methodology (gender dimension, 'do not significantly harm' principle, social sciences and humanities, and open science), please see the Horizon Europe Programme Guide (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf).

During the first stage of a two-stage call, the applicant consortium is expected, when developing their methodology and proposed activities, to consider the expected contribution of the pre-identified industry consortium and contributing partners, if any, which will join at the second stage to form the full consortium.

Section 2 – Impact

This section includes the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the Work Programme, and the scale and significance of the contributions due to the project. In addition, for single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls, it includes the measures to maximise impact with regards to dissemination, exploitation, and communication.

Section 3 – Quality and efficiency of the implementation

For single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls, applicants are expected to highlight the public-private collaboration, how the participants including IHI JU private members, their constituent or affiliated entities and, if any, contributing partners, complement one another and are effectively integrated for a successful public-private partnership as well as describe their contributions.

In addition to the Horizon Europe requirements, the implementation section was adapted for IHI JU by including tables to capture the financial contributions (FC), the in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA) and the non-EU part of the in-kind contributions for operational activities (IKOP).

Where relevant, templates of the reference documents and associated guidance can be found on the IHI JU [website](#) and in the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (IHI JU dedicated Call area).

Regarding the application forms for submitting proposals, the relevant templates and annexes are available to download in the submission system.

3.2.2.1 Annex: Type of participants

The ‘type of participants’ is an IHI JU-specific annex.

This is a compulsory annex, and it must be uploaded as a separate document in the submission system.

This annex is applicable to the first stage of two-stage calls.

3.2.2.2 Annex: Declaration of in-kind contribution commitment

The ‘Declaration of in-kind contribution commitment’ is an IHI JU-specific annex.

This is a compulsory annex, and it must be uploaded as a separate document in the submission system.

This annex is applicable to all single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls.

3.2.2.3 IHI JU annex: Contributing Partner application letter(s)

The ‘Contributing Partner application letter(s)’ is an IHI JU-specific annex.

This is a compulsory annex if the proposal involves contributing partner(s), and it is applicable to all single-stage calls.

3.2.2.4 Annex: In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)

The ‘In-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA)’ is an IHI JU-specific annex.

This is a compulsory annex if the proposal includes IKAA, and it is applicable to all single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls.

3.2.2.5 Annex: Essential information for clinical studies

This is a Horizon Europe annex, and it is compulsory if the proposal includes clinical studies.

Information on clinical studies can be found [here](#).

If your proposal does not include clinical studies, please upload a statement declaring your proposal does not include clinical studies, otherwise you won’t be able to submit the proposal.

The annex is applicable only for single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls.

3.2.2.6 Annex: Ethics

There is no specific annex for ethics in HE. This is because, the ethics self-assessment should be included in proposal part A. However, in calls where several serious ethics issues are expected, the character limit in this section of proposal part A may not be sufficient for participants to give all necessary information. In these cases, participants may include additional information in an annex to proposal part B.

This is an optional annex, and it is applicable to all single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls.

3.2.2.7 Annex to the Budget and Type of participants

The 'annex to the budget and type of participants for the full proposal' is an IHI JU-specific annex.
*This is a compulsory annex, and it must be uploaded as a separate document in the submission system.
This annex is only applicable to single-stage calls and second stage of two-stage calls.*

3.3 After proposal submission

At submission, the application package is combined into one document, sealed and an e-receipt is generated (with date and time of submission).

All contact persons of the coordinating organisation will receive an e-mail after the submission. If you do not receive an e-mail, the application has not been submitted. Please try again or contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

3.3.1 Access by IHI JU

IHI JU does not have access to the proposals until the call deadline has passed. However, in order to plan the evaluation process, we will ask your permission to access certain information prior to the deadline:

- call title and topic for which the proposal is submitted;
- title of your application, proposal abstract, keywords;
- PICs of the participating organisations.

A warning will inform you that the granting authority will be accessing this information and will give you the opportunity to refuse access.

Applicants must be informed that, at the end of the call evaluation, the IHI JU may provide the States' Representatives Group (SRG) and the Science and Innovation Panel (SIP), the IHI JU advisory bodies, with the following information on the proposals submitted:

- Proposal: number, acronym, title, status (eligible Y/N and selected Y/N), duration;
- Participant: role (Coordinator Y/N), country, legal name, PIC, organisation type, URL, total cost, requested JU contribution, IKOP, IKAA, FC;
- Ranking list;
- Evaluation summary reports¹⁷.

This will allow the SRG and the SIP to efficiently follow up the implementation of the programme, including the outcome of the calls and projects, in accordance with Articles 20(12), 21(7) and 124(4) of the SBA).

This information will be provided to the SRG and SIP subject to confidentiality and as such will be treated confidentially by the SRG and the SIP.

¹⁷ Note that the ESRs will not be sent before the applicant consortium are informed about their evaluation results, and may only be sent after the closure of the redress process.

3.3.2 Withdrawing a proposal

Before the call deadline, the coordinator can withdraw the proposal in the Submission System. After the call deadline, withdrawal must be requested via the [IT Helpdesk](#) contact form in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Once withdrawn, the new status will be shown on the My Proposals page (and you can delete the application with the Delete button).

3.3.3 Multiple proposals

If the coordinator submits a number of similar proposals, the Granting Authority may ask him to choose to withdraw one or more.

3.3.4 Complaints about failed submission

If you think that the submission of your proposal has failed and that this was due to a technical error on the portal side, you may lodge a complaint through the [IT Helpdesk](#). The complaint must be filed within **4 calendar days** after call closure. You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt on the same or next working day.

What else to do? You should secure a PDF version of the part B and annexes of your application holding a time stamp before the call deadline (file attributes listing the date and time of creation and last modification), as well as proof of the alleged failure (screenshots). You may be requested by the IT Helpdesk to provide these items.

The EC services will check the IT logs (application log files and access log files of the Commission IT systems involved) and see if they show a technical problem on the portal side which prevented you from submitting (or resubmitting) the proposal.

You will be notified about the outcome as soon as possible.

If your complaint is justified, the files you provided to the IT Helpdesk will be used as your proposal and sent for evaluation. If you did not provide any files, the last version recorded in the IT system will be used.

4 Proposal admissibility and eligibility

4.1 Admissibility criteria

Once you have submitted a proposal, IHI JU will check it for admissibility (i.e. if it is complete and properly put together).

The admissibility conditions are described in the General Annexes (Annex A) of the Horizon Europe Work Programme.

They are generally the same across all EU programmes. The proposal must:

- be submitted through the online Submission System before the call deadline;
- be complete —application form correctly filled out, all sections of Parts A and B completed, all annexes and supporting documents provided;
- be readable, accessible, and printable. Furthermore, the proposal should respect the page limit set out in the application form. Excess pages will be automatically made illegible and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.

In case of an 'obvious clerical error' (e.g. *omission to submit evidence or information on a non-substantial element of the proposal*), we may first ask you to provide the missing information or supporting documents. Please note that if the missing information or document would change the proposal substantially, it will not be taken into account.

4.2 Eligibility criteria

For admissible proposals, IHI JU will check their eligibility (i.e. they fulfil the eligibility conditions). For more information, see section 2.2.

4.3 Proposal page limit

Unless stated otherwise in the WP applicable to a specific call, in the first stage of a two-stage submission and evaluation process, the page limit for the short proposal is maximum 20 pages.

In a single-stage call / the second stage of a two-stage call, the page limit for the full proposal is maximum 50 pages.

The proposal should respect the page limit set out in the application form.

Excess pages will be automatically blanked out and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.

4.4 Outcome of the admissibility & eligibility check

If the proposal is considered inadmissible or ineligible, we will inform the coordinator (via a '**proposal rejection letter**' sent through the electronic exchange system), together with the reasons why and how to appeal.

For complaints procedures against such rejections, see section 5.3.7 - Complaints.

5 Evaluation of proposals

5.1 Independent experts and observers

If your proposal is admissible and eligible (or if admissibility and/or eligibility cannot immediately be determined), it will pass to the evaluation phase. All proposals submitted under a call (or within a coherent part of the call, i.e. a topic) are evaluated together.

In order to ensure that only proposals of the highest quality are selected for funding, IHI JU relies on **independent experts** ('evaluators') for the evaluation of proposals. IHI JU appoints evaluators for each topic in a call from the EU database of external experts. When selecting evaluators, IHI JU looks for a high level of skills, experience and knowledge in the relevant areas, e.g. scientific area, project management, innovation, exploitation, dissemination and communication.

Provided the above condition can be satisfied, a balanced composition of the evaluation panels in the following criteria will be also taken into account:

- gender¹⁸;
- geographical diversity;

¹⁸ Commission Decision [2000/407/EC](#) of 19 June 2000 relating to gender balance within the committees and expert groups

- experience in the private and public sectors;
- an appropriate rotation of independent experts from year to year.

Proposals are evaluated by at least three experts (in many cases, five or more).

The names of the independent experts specifically assigned to IHI JU calls are not made public. However, their names will be included in the general lists of independent experts who have participated in the Horizon Europe programme, which are published every year (name, nationality and fields of expertise) in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

The evaluation process may be monitored by one or more external experts acting as **independent observers**. Observers are contracted to check the functioning and execution of the overall process, verify compliance with the procedures, and provide IHI JU with independent advice on:

- the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation process;
- how evaluators apply award criteria;
- how to improve the procedure.

Observers, however, do not express views on the proposals or on the evaluators' scientific opinions. Therefore, it is not necessary that they have specific expertise in the area of the topics being evaluated. In fact, selecting observers without specific expertise on the topics under review may be an advantage to avoid possible conflicts between their individual opinions on the outcome of the scientific evaluation and their assessment of the evaluation process.

In order to follow the remote evaluation phase, observers are given access to the evaluation system (as observer role only) and to all communications between IHI JU and the evaluation experts. Observers attend the consensus and panel review meetings during the proposal evaluation process, liaising with the IHI JU staff members involved in the evaluation, and may contact some or all the evaluation experts to collect their opinions on the evaluation.

After each evaluation session, the observers set out their findings and recommendations in a report to IHI JU, which is made public on the IHI JU website together with the IHI JU's responses to the observers' recommendations.

5.2 Conflicts of interest

Independent experts must adhere to a code of conduct in their contract, which includes obligations of impartiality and confidentiality. Experts who have a conflict of interest (Col) will be excluded from the evaluation.

In case a potential Col is spotted or brought to the attention of IHI JU, the JU reserves the right to take the final decision on the case and to take the appropriate measures.

IHI JU considers that a conflict of interest exists if an expert:

- was involved in the preparation of a proposal;
- benefits directly or indirectly if a proposal is accepted;
- has a close family or personal relationship with any person representing an applicant;
- is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of an applicant;
- is employed or contracted by one of the applicants or any named subcontractors;

- is a member of governance body or an advisory group set up by the IHI JU to advise on the preparation of IHI JU Annual Work Plan in an area related to the call;
- is a HE National Contact Point (NCP) or is directly working for the Enterprise Europe Network;
- is a member of a Horizon Europe programme committee.

Such an expert may, however, exceptionally be invited to take part in the evaluation session, if all of the following apply:

- the expert works in a different department/laboratory/institute from where the action is to be carried out;
- the bodies operate with a high degree of autonomy;
- such a role is justified by the requirement to appoint the best available experts and by the limited size of the pool of qualified experts (and this is documented).

IHI JU will however decide whether a conflict of interest exists — taking account of the objective circumstances, available information and related risks — when an expert:

- was employed by one of the applicants in the last three years;
- is involved in a contract or grant agreement, grant decision, membership of management structures (e.g. member of management or advisory board etc.) or research collaboration with an applicant or a fellow researcher, or had been so in the last three years;
- is in any other situation that could cast doubt on their ability to participate in the evaluation of the proposal impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.

A conflict of interest of an expert may require the expert to refrain from assessing one single proposal or the entire set of proposals submitted for a given topic or call. For more detailed information, please refer to the Horizon Europe Expert Model Contract and in particular its Annex 1 Code of Conduct:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

5.3 Evaluation process

The evaluation process has three phases:

Phase 1 — individual evaluation

Phase 2 — consensus group

Phase 3 — panel review

Before starting the evaluation process, the evaluators are briefed on:

- the evaluation process and procedures (including award criteria);
- the content of the topics under consideration;
- the terms of their contract (e.g. confidentiality, impartiality, conflicts of interest, completing tasks and approving reports, penalties for non-compliance);
- the need to evaluate proposals as they were submitted, rather than their potential should certain changes be made.

Proposals are evaluated and scored against selection and award criteria - excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation. The standard evaluation criteria and thresholds are described in detail in the Work Programme that all applicants should read carefully.

The evaluation form that experts use to evaluate proposals is available on the IHI JU website and in the [Funding & Tenders portal](#) for each call.

Experts score each **award criterion** on a scale **from 0 to 5** (half point scores may be given):

- 0** – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1** – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2** – Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3** – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4** – Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5** – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The maximum overall score is thus 15 (3x5).

In Horizon Europe, there is no scope for recommending improvements to proposals (including improvements on the budget). In particular, proposals with an inflated budget, considering cost efficiency considerations, should receive a lower score. However, experts may identify shortcomings, and formulate remarks which may be of assistance to the consortium if the proposal proceeds to the next stage (i.e. the second stage and grant preparation).

Proposals will be evaluated on their own merit, and not their potential should certain changes be made. Proposals with an inflated budget are likely to receive a lower score.

5.3.1 Phase 1 — individual evaluation

During the individual evaluation for a given topic, the evaluators work individually. Each evaluator gives a score for each criterion, with explanatory comments, and prepares an 'individual evaluation report' (IER).

They should also indicate if the proposal


- is out of scope, i.e. it falls entirely outside the scope of the part of the call topic which they are evaluating;
- involves security issues that will need further scrutiny.

5.3.2 Phase 2 — consensus group

After the individual evaluation for a given topic is finalised, all evaluators who have evaluated the proposal will get together in a 'consensus group', to agree on a common position on comments and scores.

The consensus group will have an impartial moderator coming from the IHI JU staff who will seek a consensus and will ensure that each proposal is evaluated fairly and according to the award criteria.

A rapporteur (normally one of the evaluators, or an external expert contracted as dedicated rapporteur), will draft the consensus report of the proposal, after the consensus group's agreement on the comments and scores. If the consensus group cannot reach a common view, the consensus report will set out both the majority and minority views.

 In some cases, we may ask additional experts to examine the proposal, to establish whether a clear majority view exists.

5.3.3 Phase 3 — panel review

After the consensus phase, the evaluation panel will review all the proposals under each topic (or within a call, or part of a call, when specifically mentioned in the WP/call) to:

- make sure that the consensus groups have been consistent in their evaluations;
- if necessary, propose a new set of marks or revise comments;
- resolve cases where evaluators were unable to reach a consensus.

There will be no panel review:

- if the IHI JU WP/call provides for an exception;
- if there are sufficient funds to support all the proposals that passed the relevant thresholds;
- if the same consensus group has examined all the proposals. In this case, their final review will be done together with the consensus reports. This is considered to constitute the panel review.

In IHI JU, the consensus group (phase 2) and panel review (phase 3) are normally merged in one meeting when the same consensus group has examined all the proposals submitted for a given topic of the call and there is a separate budget per topic.

If a panel review takes place, it is moderated by a ‘panel chairperson’ (normally an IHI JU staff member) who must ensure fair and equal treatment of the proposals. A rapporteur (who may also be the chair) may be appointed to draft the panel’s report.

As part of the panel deliberations, IHI JU may organise **hearings with the applicants** to:

- clarify the proposals and help the panel establish their final assessment and scores;
- improve the experts’ understanding of the proposal.

The call documents will indicate if hearings may be organised.

Following the submission of the proposals, if hearings are to be organised, IHI JU will inform applicant consortia and will provide them with details in relation to the hearing through the coordinator contact person indicated in the submitted proposals.

Hearings are held if deemed necessary by the evaluation panel, in particular:

- in the first stage of a two-stage evaluation, invitations to hearings may be sent to the coordinators of up to the four highest-scoring short proposals;
- in the second stage of a two-stage evaluation, an invitation to a hearing may be sent to the coordinator of a full proposal;
- in a single-stage evaluation, invitations to hearings may be sent to all the proposals that have passed the individual thresholds (even if they fall short of the overall threshold).

In these instances, the consortia coordinator will be provided beforehand with a list of questions.

Hearings may not be used to modify proposals or add missing information. You may only provide explanations and clarifications in response to questions provided by the panel in advance. You may choose not to attend the hearing and to reply only in writing.

Hearings may be held remotely via web-conference or by telephone, or on-site in Brussels.

The 'panel report' includes:

- the 'evaluation summary report' (ESR) for each proposal, based on the consensus report, including comments and scores, and considering the panel's deliberations and any new scores or comments considered necessary;
- the 'panel ranked list' of proposals passing all thresholds, along with a final score.

For each group of proposals with the same score the prioritisation criteria shall apply. Please note that the prioritisation criteria might differ depending upon the type of call and a given call specificities. For more information check the relevant section of the concerned IHI JU Work Programme available here: <https://www.ih.europa.eu/about-ih/plans-reports-and-finances>

5.3.4 Outcome of the evaluation: IHI JU ranked list

The proposals that passed the thresholds will be ranked according to the results of the evaluation. The IHI JU Governing Board will issue a decision approving the evaluation results after the evaluation is completed in a single-stage procedure, and after the evaluation of short proposals and the evaluation of full proposals is completed in a two-stage procedure.

No priority order will be given for proposals that are well above or below the funding envelope.

Grants will be awarded based on this ranking, subject to the availability of budget.

Under an IHI JU two-stage evaluation procedure, at the end of the first stage, for each topic only the highest ranked proposal will be retained for stage 2 and invited to prepare a full proposal together with the pre-identified industry consortium and the contributing partners.

Under a single-stage evaluation procedure, the IHI JU ranked list consists of:

- a main list (proposals proposed for funding);
- normally also a reserve list (in case proposals are withdrawn, excluded or extra funding becomes available);
- a list of proposals that cannot be funded because of insufficient budget.

In addition, IHI JU will make a list of proposals that did not pass the thresholds or have been found to be ineligible (e.g. out of scope).

If the proposal has been successfully evaluated:

- at the end of the first stage of a two-stage evaluation, the coordinator will be informed that the short proposal has been successfully evaluated and that will be invited to submit a full proposal together with the pre-identified industry consortium and contributing partners;
- at the end of a single-stage evaluation or the second stage of a two-stage evaluation, we will **invite the successful proposal to the grant agreement preparation** via a grant preparation invitation letter sent through the electronic exchange system within 5 months of the call submission deadline.

If the proposal is second or third-ranked in the first stage under a two-stage evaluation process, or put on a reserve list, we will inform the coordinator and let them know of any subsequent change.

Under the second stage preparation process, the applicant consortia of the second and third-ranked short proposals (the first stage) for a given topic may be invited by the IHI JU, in priority order, for preliminary discussions with the industry consortium **if the preliminary discussions with the highest ranked proposal and the industry consortium fail.** The IHI JU may explore this possibility if the first ranked applicant consortium and the pre-identified industry consortium jointly notify the IHI JU that the preparation of a second stage proposal is not feasible. This notification must be sent without delay and not later than 30 days from the invitation to submit the second stage proposal. It must also be accompanied by a joint report clearly stating the reasons why a second stage proposal is considered not feasible for the IHI JU to take the decision whether or not to invite the next ranked proposal. In the absence of a joint notification within the deadline, it is deemed that the first ranked applicant consortium and the industry consortium are going to submit the second stage proposal. Accordingly, the second and third-ranked short proposals will be formally rejected.

If your proposal has not been retained for funding or invited to the following stage, we will inform the coordinator (via a proposal rejection letter sent through the electronic exchange system), together with the reasons why and how to appeal. The means of redress for such rejections are described in the next section 'Complaints.'

If the proposal is retained for funding, but one organisation may not participate (e.g. because it is found to have insufficient operational capacity or to be ineligible), we will inform that organisation and the coordinator via an 'applicant rejection letter' sent through the electronic exchange system.

5.3.5 Grant agreement preparation

After the evaluation, the proposals proposed for funding will receive from IHI JU the 'evaluation summary report' and the successful consortia will be requested to help prepare a grant agreement. The agreement must be signed at the latest 3 months after starting grant preparation.

Please note that the grant preparation invitation is not a formal commitment that we will fund your project. The final decision on the project will only be taken at a later stage — this depends on the finalisation of grant preparation and further checks which we still need to make (i.e. financial capacity, non-exclusion, etc).

The grant agreement will set out the framework for the grant and its terms and conditions, particularly concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The grant agreement must not differ from the proposal. This is without prejudice to corrections needed:

- changes to meet legal and financial requirements;
- requirements resulting from ethics review or security scrutiny;
- due to the removal of a participant (if agreed by IHI JU);
- correction of clerical errors and obvious inconsistencies;
- eligibility and viability checks;
- anti-fraud measures and risk-based controls are carried out;
- shortcomings identified by the experts in the 'evaluation summary report' may be corrected, if this does not delay the preparation of the grant agreement beyond the applicable deadlines.

The members of the consortium are also obliged to sign a consortium agreement between themselves. In principle the consortium agreement must be concluded before the signature of the IHI JU GA. This may be challenging especially for large consortia. Consequently, the applicants are advised to give appropriate consideration to this as early as feasible. For more information, see Article 7 of the HE MGA, which clarifies that

'the beneficiaries must have internal arrangements regarding their operation and coordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly. 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' the Grant Agreement. Please note that the IHI JU does not sign the CAs, nor does the IHI JU prepare a template of CA. However, to simplify the preparation of this document and to support participants, IHI JU provides links to templates of consortium agreements already available for IHI JU Actions. One template has been prepared by IHI JU private members specifically for IHI projects (the links are available on the IHI JU website under Call Documents / Consortium Agreement: <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents>), while a general template for Horizon Europe projects, but not tailored to IHI specificities, is the DESCA (Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement) model which is available at the following link: <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/what-is-desca/> .

5.3.6 Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

5.3.6.1 Financial capacity assessment (FCA)

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects¹⁹.

The financial capacity check will be done based on the documents uploaded in the [Funding & Tender Portal](#) during the grant preparation stage (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also consider other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for the coordinator if the requested grant amount is equal to or greater than EUR 500 000, except for:

- public bodies (entities established as a public body under national law, including local, regional, or national authorities) or international organisations; and
- cases where the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (low value grant).

If needed, it may also be done for other applicants, including affiliated entities. If the financial capacity is structurally guaranteed by another legal entity, the financial capacity of that legal entity will be verified.

If the granting authority considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, they may require:

- further information;
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibilities of affiliated entities; and

¹⁹ The Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA) is a necessary step of grant agreement preparation, and its legal basis are Articles 196 and 198.3 of EU Financial Regulation (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) and Article 27 of the Horizon Europe regulation (Regulation EU 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination).

- prefinancing paid in instalments; or
- propose no prefinancing;
- request that the applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

If the FCA must be checked, the entity will be contacted by the Central Validation Service via its PIC account in the participant register in the [Funding & Tender Portal](#).

Supporting documents requested to perform FCA:

- balance sheet and profit and loss account or business plan for new established entities;
- external audit report (or signed self-declaration) if requested EU contribution exceeds EUR 750 000;
- explanatory notes and/or annexes that form part of the above financial statements (if available);
- any other type of document to be requested in case of missing information.

Once completed, the assessment is valid for 18 months from the closing date of the assessed documents.

 For more information, see [Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

5.3.6.2 Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications, and resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 'quality and efficiency of the implementation.' It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment, applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form (Part B):

- general profiles (qualifications and experience) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project;
- description of the consortium participants; and
- list of EU-funded actions/projects in the last 4 years.

Additional supporting documents may be requested if they needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

The role of Coordinator is assigned to entities with good operational and financial capacity, aligned with the needs of the specific IHI project.

5.3.6.3 Exclusion

Applicants that are subject to **EU administrative sanctions** (i.e. exclusion)²⁰ or are in one of the following **exclusion situations**²¹ that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of fraud, corruption, having links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they have shown significant deficiencies in complying with their main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant); or
- they have created under a different jurisdiction an entity with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that²²:

- during the award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information; or
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call, and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

²⁰ See Article 136 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²¹ See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

²² See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

5.3.7 Complaints

If the applicants consider that a proposal rejection was based on a flaw in the selection procedure, the coordinator can submit a complaint following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter.

The means of redress are the following:

- admissibility/eligibility or evaluation review (redress review) — within 30 days of receiving the rejection letter;
- action for annulment under Article 263 TFEU — within 2 months of receiving the rejection letter.

Please do not take more than one formal action at a time. If you would like to use more than one means of redress, start with the administrative review procedure first. Wait for the reply to your first complaint, and then take further action against that decision if you continue to disagree. We will count the deadlines for further action always as from when you receive the reply to the previous complaint.

Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access in the system (see [Portal Terms and Conditions](#)).

5.3.7.1 Evaluation review procedure

Redress requests must be related to the evaluation process or admissibility/eligibility check.

An internal committee may be convened by IHI JU to examine the redress requests that have been submitted within the deadline mentioned above through the means described in the rejection letter. Requests that do not meet the above-mentioned conditions, or do not deal with the admissibility, eligibility, or evaluation of a specific proposal, will not be admitted. Applicants who, before the deadline, submit redress requests via other means than those set out in the rejection letter will be requested to resubmit using the dedicated means.

Your complaint must demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment or misuse of powers. Mere repetitions of your application or mere disagreement with the result of the evaluation or the scientific assessment done by the experts will not be considered.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the profile and expertise of the independent experts, their individual comments, and the evaluation summary report. However, the committee will not call into question the scientific judgement of the independent experts.

Your review request will not automatically trigger a re-evaluation of your application. A re-evaluation will only be carried out if your request shows that the selection procedure was flawed by a breach which affects the final decision on whether to fund your project.

If the complaint is justified, IHI JU will arrange for a re-evaluation and inform the coordinator.

If the complaint is not justified, IHI JU will inform the coordinator, together with the reasons why.

Should your request lead to a re-evaluation, it will be done on the application as initially submitted; no additional information is admissible. The re-evaluation will be partial (limited to the criterion affected by the error) or full (when the entire procedure was flawed), depending on the case. The score following re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. Please be aware that this may result in the score being lower than the original score.

Only one request for review per proposal will be considered.

All requests for review will be treated as confidential.

6 Ethics and integrity

In addition to the scientific evaluation, proposals above threshold and considered for funding (in single-stage calls and the second stage of two-stage calls) will undergo an ethics review carried out by independent ethics experts. Projects involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics requirements that will become part of the grant agreement.

The ethics review procedure focusses on the compliance with ethical rules and standards, relevant European legislation, international conventions and declarations, national authorisations and ethics approvals, proportionality of the research methods, and the applicants' awareness of the ethical aspects and social impact of their planned research.

The ethics review covers issues as: human rights and protection of human beings, animal protection and welfare, data protection and privacy, health and safety, environmental protection, and artificial intelligence. It may also cover issues of research integrity, including fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or in reporting research results.

For all activities funded by the EU, the ethical dimension is an integral part of research from beginning to end, and ethical compliance is seen as pivotal to achieve real research excellence. There is a clear need to make a thorough ethical evaluation from the conceptual stage of the proposal not only to respect the legal framework but also to enhance the quality of the research. Ethical research conduct implies the application of fundamental ethical principles and legislation to scientific research in all possible domains of research. This includes the adherence to the highest standards of research integrity as described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

The process to assess and address the ethical dimension of activities funded under Horizon Europe is called the ethics appraisal procedure.

For more information read the **Ethics Appraisal Procedure** https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

6.1 Ethics appraisal procedure

The ethics appraisal procedure concerns all activities funded under Horizon Europe and includes the ethics review procedure, conducted before the start of the project, as well as ethics checks, reviews and audits conducted during the project.

When preparing a proposal, the consortium must conduct an ethics self-assessment, starting with the completion of an **ethics issues table**. You can read further practicalities in the following guide on how to complete your ethics self-assessment: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

6.2 Ethics review procedure

All proposals above threshold and considered for funding will undergo an ethics review carried out by independent ethics experts. The review starts with the ethics screening which can include, in the cases where there is no ethics issue identified in the proposal, a pre-screening to confirm or not the absence of ethics issues (this check can be conducted by qualified staff). If appropriate, a further analysis called the **ethics**

assessment is conducted. The ethics assessment can lead to **ethics requirements** that become **contractual obligations**.

The ethics review covers issues as:

- human rights and protection of human beings;
- animal protection and welfare;
- data protection and privacy;
- health and safety;
- environmental protection;
- artificial intelligence.

It may also cover issues of research integrity, including, fabrication, falsification and plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or in reporting research results; this includes misrepresenting credentials and improprieties of authorship.

6.3 Ethics screening

The ethics screening is carried out during the scientific evaluation or soon after.

The ethics experts are asked to flag the proposals that have serious or complex issues (based on the guidelines on serious and complex ethics issues) that will be the subject of a more in-depth analysis (ethics assessment).

Proposals involving the use of human embryonic stems cells (hESCs), or human embryos (hE) automatically proceed to the second step, the ethics assessment. Further to the ethics screening, the proposals that will be funded and are not flagged as serious or complex must handle the ethics issues in the proposed activities in line with national and European legislation and practice and the 'how to complete your ethics self-assessment' guide.

The ethics summary report will list the main ethics issues identified in your proposal. Ethics screening will not issue ethics requirements but can lead to the obligation to nominate an external independent ethics advisor or board to assist the project in adhering to the relevant ethical and legal standards.

6.4 Ethics assessment

For the proposals flagged as serious or complex and for all the proposals involving the use of hESCs or hE, the ethics screening is followed by an ethics assessment prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

The ethics assessment is an in-depth analysis of the ethical issues of the proposals, considering the analysis made during the ethics screening.

The ethics assessment can lead to ethics requirements that are inserted as obligations in the grant agreement. If the proposal undergoes an ethics assessment, you will receive an ethics summary report with an ethics opinion on your proposal. The possible outcomes of the ethics assessment are:

- ethics clearance;
- conditional ethics clearance;
- request for additional information (intermediate outcome);

- no ethics clearance;
- ethics requirements and ethics work package;
- ethics checks, reviews, and audits.

6.5 Summary of the ethics appraisal steps

Activity	Who?	When?	How?
Ethics self-assessment	Applicant	Application phase	Consideration of ethical issues of the proposal
Ethics screening	Ethics experts (and/or qualified staff if a pre-screening is conducted)	Evaluation phase	Review of application material
Ethics assessment (for proposals involving hESC/hE or flagged as serious or complex)	Ethics experts	Evaluation/ Grant preparation phase	Review of application material
Ethics check/review/audit	Project officer and/or ethics officer and/or ethics experts	Implementation phase	Review of project deliverables/interview with applicants/on-site visit

7 Security

Activities carried out under the programme must comply with the applicable security rules and, in particular, rules on the protection of classified information against unauthorised disclosure, including compliance with any relevant Union and national law. Where appropriate, the actions carried out under the Horizon Europe Programme must comply with Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444, and its implementing rules. The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement includes specific security related obligations (Article 13 and Annex 5). The Horizon Europe Programme Security Instruction (PSI) must be followed in case a proposal selected for funding will lead to a project that involves classified information.

Security issues will be checked systematically in all proposals above threshold and considered for funding (in single-stage and at the second stage of two-stage calls), based on the **security self-assessment** provided by the applicants at the submission phase. The focus of the check is on:

- whether the proposal uses or generates EU classified information;
- potential of misuse of results (that could be channelled into crime or terrorism);
- whether activities involve information or materials subject to national security restrictions.

The security pre-screening is carried out during the scientific evaluation or soon after, in the following cases:

- if the proposal has been submitted under a call or topic not flagged as security sensitive and the applicant has replied positively to at least one of the questions in the security issues table in the Part A of the proposal;

- if the proposal has been submitted under a call or topic not flagged as security sensitive and the applicant has replied negatively to all the questions in the security issues table, but the granting authority has, nevertheless, detected security issues.

8 Points to remember

- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries and affiliated entities must be registered in the [participant register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the application form. Associated partners can register later on (at the latest during the grant preparation stage). For validation, beneficiaries and affiliated entities will be requested to upload the necessary documents showing their legal status and origin during the grant preparation stage.
- **Consult** the topic page on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) regularly. IHI JU will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **Do not wait until the last moment to submit** — Complete the application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last-minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at applicants' own risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended at the request of applicants. Additionally, here are some further tips to minimise the risk of **technical problems** during the submission phase.
- **Read carefully the instructions of the proposal templates.**
- **AVOID** editing (your part of) the proposal with **MORE THAN ONE USER** from your organisation at the same time!
- **DO NOT** edit the proposal in **MORE THAN ONE BROWSER TAB/WINDOW** at the same time!
- **SAVE** your changes **FREQUENTLY!** No data is saved until you click on SAVE.
- **DO NOT USE** file names containing **SPECIAL CHARACTERS** for files you upload. Only alphanumeric characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, _ (underscore), - (dash), . (dot) or space are allowed.
- **DO NOT ENCRYPT** or **DIGITALLY SIGN** your PDF files.
- **DOUBLE-CHECK AFTER UPLOAD** of files whether they can be opened without problems, and that these files are fully readable (no words are missing or cut) and do not contain links to webpages.
- **Think Public-Private Partnership:** all IHI JU projects should be built as public-private partnerships leveraging know-how and resources both from the public (JU contribution) and the constituent and affiliate entities of private members (IKOP/IKAA/FC) and contributing partners (IKOP/FC) side.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up the consortium, applicants should think of organisations that can help them reach objectives and solve problems. The roles should be attributed according to the degree of participation of each participant in the project. The main participants should participate as beneficiaries (including the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members and/or contributing partners) or affiliated entities; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, or third parties giving in-kind contributions. Associated partners and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). Subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by another beneficiary). The consortium agreement allows the grant to be customised to the needs of the consortium. It is also important that the consortium considers on how best to reflect the public-private partnership nature of IHI JU in the allocation of the consortium roles, for example via dual leadership of the work packages, including the appointment of a scientific leader.

- **The consortium should ensure that the 45 % contribution** is secured collectively by the constituent or affiliated entities of the private members or contributing partners, in compliance with the rules on IKOP and IKAA, otherwise the proposal will be declared ineligible and therefore will not be evaluated.
- While building the **budget table** (see also examples in the relevant sections of this guide), pay special attention to IHI JU specific columns (IKOP/FC/Non-EU/IKAA). These amounts will be assessed and define the eligibility of your proposal.
- The proposal should respect the **page limit** set out in the application form. Excess pages will be automatically blanked out and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- If you plan to be the consortium coordinator, ensure that you are financially viable. Otherwise, if your proposal is selected, your organisation should be replaced during the grant preparation phase, and this may delay the signature of the grant.
- Ensure that all information is explicitly described to allow the expert-evaluators to assess your proposal against the evaluation sub-criteria. Carefully read the topic text, get familiar with the evaluation sub criteria, and provide (explicit) answers to these sub-criteria in your proposal. Follow the proposal structure / template, paying special attention on **how to complete your ethics self-assessment**.
- **Right to object to transfer of ownership and exclusive licensing of results** (See Annex I)
- **Affordability, availability, and accessibility of results** (See Annex II)
- **Participation of the UK and Canadian entities** (see Annex III)

Annex I: IHI JU Right to Object

The right of IHI JU to object to the transfer or exclusive licensing of project results by project participants

According to Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe MGA, the IHI JU has a right to object to transfers of ownership or exclusive licensing of results generated within the framework of the action. The Call conditions will clarify where the IHI JU can exercise or not the right to object in the specific call topic.

Where this right is applicable, beneficiaries that intend to transfer ownership or grant an exclusive licence must therefore formally notify the IHI JU before the intended transfer or licensing takes place and provide details of the planned transfer/licensing. This notification should be made by the project Coordinator via the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#), using the submission template and uploading any relevant related documents.

Waiver to IHI JU right to object

A Beneficiary that intends to transfer or exclusively licence results to a specifically identified third party, may request that the IHI JU formally waive the right to object with respect to those project results and that specific third party. The waiver request must:

- Be submitted following grant signature, but it can be submitted prior to signature of the specific beneficiary's accession form,
- Identify the specific results concerned (expected, if not yet produced), the details of the transfer/licence, and the specific third party/ies to whom the results are to be transferred/the exclusive license is to be issued.
- Include reasons supporting the request and a clear reference to the appropriate measures in place to safeguard EU interests, sufficient to allow the IHI JU to assess the request and make an informed decision.
- Be submitted by the project Coordinator using the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Upon receipt of the request, the IHI JU will provide a written reply within 60 days of either receiving the initial request or receiving any additional information requested by the IHI JU in response to the initial request.

Results must be specifically identified by referencing either a line item in the 'Key Expected Results' list in the specific action's Description of Action or a line item in the specific action's 'Work Package Deliverables' list. The project's Results Ownership List comprised in the Final Report must also include and identify all results covered by the waiver (both anticipated and unanticipated results).

Waiver Request Letter Template

The waiver request letter template is available on the IHI JU website here: <https://www.ihj.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents>

Annex II: Affordability, availability, and accessibility of results

Article 125.3 of the Regulation establishing IHI JU requires that participants to indirect actions ensure that products and services they develop based or partly based on the results of clinical studies undertaken as part of an indirect action are affordable, available, and accessible to the public at fair and reasonable conditions (the “3A”).

In line with this approach, the 3A provisions will apply to those IHI JU call topics as determined by the IHI JU. When a topic is designated as 3A applicable, the topic will be identified as such under the ‘dissemination and exploitation obligations’ section and specific call conditions will apply to ensure 3A implementation.

Activities that would not fall under the scope of Article 125.3: clinical studies that serve the purpose of establishing and validating an infrastructure, capability, or methodology; phase 0 and 1 clinical trials; re-use of existing data, generated outside of projects.

Additionally, non-project assets (products or services) are not impacted by Article 125(3) if they indirectly rely on IHI JU project results from previous 3A IHI JU designated projects. Non-project assets are considered those assets which were not investigated (in whole or in part) under a 3A designated IHI JU project and which are developed by the beneficiary outside or after such project, and where there is an indirect reliance on results of such project (without the intention to commercialize such results themselves). Examples are the reliance on a placebo arm result of a 3A designated IHI JU action for the development of a non-project asset, or the reliance on a patient stratification biomarker result identified in a clinical study in an action, for identification of suitable patients for further clinical development of the non-project asset.

Project results coming out of 3A designated IHI JU projects that are subsequently made available to the research community by means of a scientific publication, through open access or equivalent terms, will be also exempted from further obligations on 3A under Article 125.3.

Examples where 125.3 would apply: clinical studies testing an investigational asset of any nature (drug, device including IVD, combination product or a related service) for product/service development of such investigational asset.

Examples where 125.3 would not apply: small pilot or exploratory studies; clinical studies involving an already marketed asset; projects that are setting up clinical trial infrastructures or services such as placebo-controlled basket trials, application of micro sampling capabilities for decentralized trials; projects that utilize data from prospective and/or retrospective clinical trials carried out independently of the selected project(s).

Annex III: Participation of the UK and Canadian entities

With respect to entities based in the UK and Canada, the following approach must be followed:

1. IHI JU Calls 1 – 5

For calls IHI JU 1- 5 the UK and Canadian entities are:

- Eligible to participate in IHI JU actions; but
- Not eligible to receive funding.

➤ Participation

As a result, in projects under Calls 1-5 the UK and Canadian entities cannot sign the IHI JU Grant Agreement.

Therefore, the UK and Canadian entities cannot participate in projects under IHI JU Calls 1-5 as:

- Beneficiaries; or
- Affiliated Entities.

Because the UK and Canadian entities cannot take the role of Beneficiaries, they **cannot act as coordinators** in actions under IHI JU Calls 1-5.

The UK and Canadian entities **may** however **participate** as Associated Partners (see article 2.3.3 above).

➤ Funding

The UK and Canadian entities will not, generally, receive funding from IHI JU under Calls 1-5.

(For entities that are constituent or affiliated entities of either private members or contributing partners of IHI JU, please see the relevant section below).

In case of the UK entities under Calls 1-5 they may however be eligible to receive funding from the UK Research and Innovation ('**UKRI**') through the UKRI guarantee fund (see below).

UK entities participating in IHI actions under Calls 1-5 and receiving funding from UKRI

The securing of funding from UKRI under Calls 1-5 is the responsibility of the UK entity. IHI JU takes no role in such arrangements. The UKRI, on its website (see link below) has laid out some guidelines for applicants. UK entities are urged to review the materials available and contact the UKRI directly for up-to-date information.

For the sake of clarity, you can find herewith the instructions that UKRI is providing to UK applicants, and which are for the moment compatible with IHI policy:

- UK entities should join the applicant consortia, and be described in the proposal, as beneficiaries requesting funding;
- By the GAP stage (in case the proposal is selected for funding and the consortium is thus invited to GAP), if there is no EU-UK association agreement in place, UK entities will be switched from beneficiaries to associated partners;

Reminder - it is the responsibility of UK entities to confirm their eligibility and subsequent remuneration from the UKRI guarantee fund under Calls 1-5.

Useful link: UKRI: <https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/horizon-europe/apply-for-funding/#contents-list>

UK and Canadian entities participating in IHI actions that are constituent or affiliated entities of either private members or contributing partners of IHI JU and are contributing in-kind or FCs under Calls 1-5.

Legal entities based in the UK and Canada that are providing in-kind or financial contributions to IHI actions as constituent or affiliated entities of either IHI JU private members or contributing partners that are:

- Not eligible for funding in two-stage calls for proposals or;
- Established in the UK (or in a country not generally eligible for funding in accordance with Part B of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023 – 2024).

May exceptionally take the role of beneficiaries (and therefore sign the grant agreement).

The above is contingent upon the following conditions being met (these conditions are cumulative):

- The entity participates without requesting any funding;
- Their participation is considered essential by the granting authority.

The essentiality of the applicant's participation will be ascertained by the IHI JU programme office.

2. IHI JU Calls 6 – 10

For the purposes of Calls 6-10, the United Kingdom and Canada are considered associated countries to Horizon Europe²³. Therefore, the UK and Canadian entities are treated as any other entity originating from an EU or Horizon Europe associated country.

The UK and Canadian entities are eligible to participate, to receive funding; and to take the role in projects under IHI JU Call 6-10 of:

- Beneficiaries; or
- Affiliated Entities; or
- Associated Partners.

The UK and Canadian entities may also become a coordinator of projects under IHI JU Call 6-10.

In case of contributing partners originating from the United Kingdom and Canada, their contributions will be considered as EU.

3. IHI JU Call 11

Call 11 has some specificities regarding the eligibility of the United Kingdom and Canadian applicants to receive funding from IHI JU, depending on the topic.

Topic to which participating legal entities established in the UK and Canada are eligible to receive funding:

- **Call 11 Topic 01:** Towards precision medicine: platform for transdiagnostic stratification of brain dysfunction

²³ See List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

The UK and Canadian entities are eligible to participate, to receive funding; and to take the role in projects under IHI JU Call 11 Topic 01 of:

- Beneficiaries; or
- Affiliated Entities; or
- Associated Partners.

They may also become a coordinator of projects under IHI JU Call 11 Topic 01.

In case of contributing partners originating from the UK and Canada, their contributions will be considered as EU.

Topics to which participating legal entities established in the UK and Canada are not eligible to receive funding:

- **Call 11 Topic 02:** Understanding how infections foster and induce non-communicable diseases
- **Call 11 Topic 03:** AI-Powered Signal Detection in Pharmacovigilance
- **Call 11 Topic 04:** Leveraging Europe's Expertise to accelerate Cell Therapy for Type 1 Diabetes
- **Call 11 Topic 05:** Establishing Ortho and Cardiology Ambulatory Surgical Centres in Europe

For Call 11 topics 02-05 the UK and Canadian entities are:

- Eligible to participate in IHI JU actions; but
- Not eligible to receive funding.

In projects under Call 11 topics 02-05 the UK and Canadian entities cannot sign the IHI JU Grant Agreement.

However, the UK and Canadian entities may participate as Associated Partners (see article 2.3.3 above).

Because UK and Canadian entities cannot take the role of Beneficiaries, they **cannot act as coordinators** in actions under IHI JU Calls 11 topics 02-05.

Reminder

Under Call 11 topics 02-05 UK entities may be eligible to receive funding from the UK Research and Innovation ('UKRI') through the UKRI guarantee fund.

It is the responsibility of UK entities to confirm their eligibility and subsequent remuneration from the UKRI guarantee fund under Call 11 topics 02-05.

4. IHI JU Call 12

IHI JU Call 12 has some specificities regarding the eligibility of the UK and Canadian applicants to receive funding from IHI JU, depending on the topic.

Topics to which participating legal entities established in the UK and Canada are eligible to receive funding:

- Call 12 Topic 01: Boosting innovation for a better understanding of the determinants of health.
- Call 12 Topic 02: Boosting innovation through better integration of fragmented health R&I efforts.

- Call 12 Topic 03: Boosting innovation for people-centred integrated healthcare solutions.
- Call 12 Topic 05: Boosting innovation for better assessment of the added value of innovative integrated healthcare solutions.

The UK and Canadian entities are eligible to participate, to receive funding; and to take the role in projects under IHI JU Call 12 Topics 01, 02, 03, and 05 of:

- Beneficiaries; or
- Affiliated Entities; or
- Associated Partners.

They may also become a coordinator of projects under IHI JU Call 12 Topic 01, 02, 03, and 05.

In case of contributing partners originating from the UK and Canada, their contributions under IHI JU Call 12 Topic 01, 02, 03, and 05 will be considered as EU.

Topics to which participating legal entities established in the UK and Canada are not eligible to receive funding:

- Call 12 Topic 04: Boosting innovation through exploitation of digitalisation and data exchange in healthcare.

Because UK and Canadian entities cannot take the role of Beneficiaries, they **cannot act as coordinators** in actions under IHI JU Calls 12 topic 04.