

SRG Annual Report on Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking 2025

1 Introduction

The States' Representatives Group (SRG) has an advisory role in relation to the activities of the IHI. Among others, per Article 20(10) of Council Regulation¹ 2021/2085, the SRG is requested to "*submit, at the end of each calendar year, a report describing the national or regional policies in the scope of the joint undertaking and identifying specific ways of cooperation with the actions funded by the joint undertaking*".

2 Feedback from the SRG

2.1 National and regional policies

The States Representative Group (SRG) maintains a consistent, open dialogue with the IHI office regarding national and regional policies relevant to the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI). The SRG's input is expected to guide IHI activities, including the work program, to maximize the alignment of IHI funding with national efforts. So far, the SRG provides input on the first draft, but only after it has been published and is near completion. The members of the SRG request earlier engagement in the process so that they can contribute during the preparatory or ideation phase and better help in defining the topics. This would allow the SRG to more effectively identify specific ways to cooperate with actions funded by the IHI joint undertaking, especially regarding national policies, the simplification of funding schemes, and initiatives.

IHI SRG members actively promote the Innovative Health Initiative and its calls in their respective countries. SRG promotional activities include dedicated information days, direct promotion to industry groups and research committees, one-to-one meetings with potential applicants, support activities, website promotion, newsletters, and social media outreach. State Representatives would like to acknowledge the participation and support of the IHI office and some IHI members, who have been valuable assets in the accomplishment of these activities. Yet, so far, these activities have not resulted in any significant spread of beneficiaries, as would be expected.

The SRG has also provided applicants with guidance and support on the very complex rules of participation in IHI. The SRG will continue to engage with industry representative groups to identify additional promotional opportunities and events across member states. Industry representative groups will be invited to attend the SRG meetings to ensure dialogue and exchange on future IHI calls and brokerage events. Specific examples of activities organised by the different member states to further promote the IHI program and create synergies between IHI objectives and national and regional activities are provided in the appendix.

¹ 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

The consensus of the State Representative Group is that the topics and research areas addressed in the IHI calls were sufficiently broad and aligned with the research community's interests across member states. SRG members welcomed the applicant-driven calls 9 and 12. There was wide support from the SRG for the respective in-person brokerage events. This type of event was viewed as an excellent opportunity to bring national and regional partners into close contact with the IHI office and the program as a whole, especially for newcomers. Interactions such as these have the potential to enhance the interplay between the IHI goals and national and regional policies.

2.2 SRG and SIP Joint Meeting and Engagement

In 2025, the SRG and the Science and Innovation Panel (SIP) held their first joint meeting since IHI was launched. This led to a fruitful dialogue about the outcomes of the IHI calls to date. The SRG shared their experience within IHI, and feedback from the research community, and the SIP provided the SRG members with an update on their activities and the process of their work.

The SIP is involved in analyzing the IHI funding portfolio and in reviewing and responding to 'Ideas' submitted by the wider research and innovation community for consideration as IHI topics. Most of the ideas submitted were not retained as topics, either due to a mismatch with IHI funding model or because they were not considered of interest to IHI members. It was noted that a considerable amount of the SIP's resources was devoted to evaluating the ideas put forward. The high-quality work of the Science and Innovation Panel was acknowledged in this process, but given the limited translation of ideas into calls for proposals, the SRG members consider that the resources currently allocated to the Ideas process should be reassessed. SRG members value open interaction with the research community to highlight innovative research, but the current 'Ideas' process has limited impact and needs refinement. The SRG recommends refocusing the SIP input on the content of the annual calls, especially given the short time remaining in the IHI program.

The SIP identified some areas of expertise that require reinforcement since they are not currently represented among the experts retained on the reserve list. The SIP proposed the nomination of *ad hoc* experts to complement the panel. The SRG can contribute to identifying expertise as soon as the IHI office establishes the procedures and schedule.

The SIP and SRG contributions are highly complementary, and this joint meeting was an excellent, mutually beneficial learning opportunity that, in hindsight, should have happened sooner and should happen more frequently. SRG members are keen to have a greater engagement with the SIP going forward.

2.3 Call 9 - An Applicant Driven Approach

Although the SRG appreciated the introduction of an applicant-driven approach in Call 9 in 2025, the resulting outcomes were considered somewhat mixed. The increase in applications across all five topics in the applicant-driven call was a positive development following undersubscription and low application rates in previous IHI calls. This allowed the IHI office to spend the carryover budget and address the accumulated underspend to date.

However, Call 9 results confirm a growing disparity between the performance and participation rates across Member States. Participation rates and successful applications are increasingly concentrated in a few Member States, while participation in the others declines. Additionally, the EU funding appears to primarily benefit the same small group of organizations across calls. The participation rates of widening countries and SME could still be improved.

The SRG also notes the importance of accurately reflecting the diversity of private-sector participation within IHI. Different sectors of private partners participate under different funding arrangements. With very limited exceptions,

entities that are members of EFPIA do not request IHI funding, in line with the long-standing principles established under IMI and continued under IHI. In contrast, Europa Bio, COCIR & MedTech Europe member companies request funding in IHI single stage calls. Call 9 confirms a rising trend in which industry partners, members of IHI industry associations like COCIR and MedTech Europe, are securing IHI JU funding, mechanically at the expense of funds received by public bodies and SMEs. Furthermore, in call 9, few large industry partners and linked subsidiaries from IHI industry associations participated together in selected projects, resulting in a concentration of 20-40% of IHI JU funding towards few related beneficiaries. In contrast, participation by Europa Bio industry members, mainly SMEs, in IHI projects is very low. This is undesirable given the EU Commission's growing emphasis on 'Biotech,' which is regarded as a key technology.

The overall outcome is a decline of funding for public sector entities, SME's and other stakeholders such as patient organisations, regulatory bodies and contributing partners which is detrimental to the diversity and balance of the entities involved in the partnership. This trend is a growing concern for SRG members, who believe that a lack of equilibrium can become an obstacle for IHI in attaining its main objective of engaging a broad range of public and private partners to solve ambitious challenges in health. SRG members urge the Governing Board and the IHI office to mitigate against this trend to avoid reputational damage and disengagement of health research leaders from the program.

2.4 Acknowledgment of IHI Progress to date

The SRG acknowledges the notable progress achieved by the IHI program and the high-impact potential of the comprehensive portfolio of ongoing research initiatives. This is evidenced by the execution of numerous grant agreements and the successful initiation of projects addressing important challenges for European health. These encompass the application of areas requiring strong cross-sectoral contribution, such as artificial intelligence, big data, imaging, and diagnostic technologies, to advance cancer detection and treatment, as well as the development of digital platforms and the focus on key research areas such as neurodegenerative and cardiovascular disorders.

3 Conclusions

The State Representative Group considers that, overall, the topics and research areas were relevant and broadly aligned with their national research priorities. However, the rules of participation and call structure (particularly single-stage calls) are not resulting in broad engagement of the large European Health Research community but in a disequibrated distribution of EU public funding concentrated among a few beneficiaries.

SRG members would like to see a rebalancing of public funding in future calls, increasingly directed towards public sector bodies, SMEs involvement and broader country participation. We request that the EU Commission representatives on the Governing Board take steps to safeguard IHI equilibrium.

In addition, the participation of contributing partners in IHI projects should be closely monitored. The SRG welcomes the approach of including philanthropic organisations to strategically support IHI in specific areas of research. The SRG, however, has concerns about the growing number of SMEs becoming contributing partners in IHI.

SRG members are ready to engage in earlier and more substantial discussions on IHI plans for the remaining IHI calls to ensure that rebalancing of EU funding occurs and to ensure the connection of national initiatives, resulting in wide sectoral and geographical benefit.

The SRG would like to request that the IHI office and Science and Innovation Panel reassess the Idea's portal to allow the Science and Innovation Panel to focus on the content of the annual call topics in the final years of IHI.

We look forward to further dialogue and engagement with the IHI Governing Board members, the Science and Innovation Panel, and the IHI office regarding future calls and the structure of the remaining calls in the IHI program.



Martha Cahill, Chairperson



Jasper Claessen, Vice Chairperson

On behalf of the IHI JU States' Representatives Group

Appendix to SRG Annual Report 2025

National and regional policies

To further the impact of IHI, it is important to ensure that IHI projects align with national initiatives and policies. This is best achieved by ensuring that there is broad understanding of the IHI research priorities, that new calls are well-advertised and that there is divers participation in research projects, both geographically as well as by public and private parties.

The SRG is an important liaison to ensure that national and regional policies and IHI programming align to achieve better health outcomes. In this appendix, a number of examples are given through with the different member states aim to achieve this.

Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
Germany					
German National Contact Point Health	Joint Austrian German Information Event on Call 12, 20 September 2025	News on IHI included in the Newsletter (weekly) of the German National Contact Point Health	Several regional/local Information events on Horizon Europe Cluster Health including IHI	Dedicated IHI information on the Website of the German National Contact Point Health (https://www.nksgesundheit.de/)	Joint Austrian German Information Event on Call 12
German National Contact Point Health			Information Event and exchange on Cluster Health including IHI, German Ministry of Health, 11 March 2025	German Network of National Contact Points (https://x.com/NKS_Horizon_EU)	R & I in Europe Networking Event in Düsseldorf, 6-7 March 2025

German National Contact Point Health			BMFTR - German Stakeholder Forum on European Partnerships - presentation of IHI, 16-17 September 2025		IHI Brokerage Events - Support of German applicants
German National Contact Point Health			Update on IHI within the annual exchange of the German National Contact Point Health with multipliers at German universities, university clinics, research organisations and industry, 26 November 2025		

Spain					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
CDTI Spain	6 March 2025 - 2025 Q&A IHI - Calls 9 & 10: Online session organized by CDTI with the main objective of responding to questions from those interested in participating in calls 9 and 10 of IHI. https://eventos.cdti.es/agenda/Sesion_IHI_Preguntas_y_Respuestas_Convocatorias_9y10	Publication of IHI news on the Spanish Horizon Europe website (https://www.horizonteeuropa.es) and dissemination of information through social media, CDTI newsletter, etc.	14 May 2025- National Info day of Cluster 1- Health: Onsite event organised by CDTI in collaboration with FECYT and HADEA to promote the 2025 calls from Horizon Europe's Health Cluster. During this event IHI was also presented. https://eventos.cdti.es/agenda/InfodayNacional_Cluster-1_2025		IHI Brokerage Event Call 12 (4-5 November) - Support of Spanish applicants

CDTI Spain	17 Jun 2025 - IHI National Info day – Call 11: Online event organised by CDTI in collaboration with AseBio, Farmaindustria, Fenin and Nanomed Spain. Paloma Mallorquín, from the IHI scientific team, presented the Call 11, as well as the conditions and rules of participation. The experience of a success case (READI project) was also shared https://eventos.cdti.es/agenda/Jornada_IHI_Convocatoria-11		22 October 2025: : IHI National Info day – Call 12: On-site event organised by CDTI together with ASEBIO, FARMAINDUSTRIA and FENIN. During the event, representatives from national associations shared their views on the Initiative and the IHI office (representatives of the scientific and legal teams) presented the content of the future call 12, and their conditions and rules of participation. The event also included the sharing of a success story (SYNTHIA project) and an evaluator's perspective, as well as a pitching session to present potential project ideas. https://eventos.cdti.es/agenda/Jornada_IHI_Convocatoria-12		
CDTI Spain			Cluster Health regional Info days: IHI has been also promoted in several regional Info days held during 2025 (Andalucía, Cataluña, País Vasco y Navarra)		
CDTI Spain			Participation in 2 Post graduated courses informing on IHI among other opportunities in the Health area in Horizon Europe: -UPM. EUROPEAN RESEARCH		

			MANAGER. https://blogs.upm.es/researchmanager/ -CAMPUS IBERUS. European Research Expert. https://www.formacionproyectos.eu/		
CDTI Spain			IHI is promoted also to multi-players, industrial associations, technological Platforms and bilateral meetings with relevant entities (public and private).		

France					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
FRENCH RESEARCH MINISTRY			Information session Call 9 and 10. February 2025		
FRENCH RESEARCH MINISTRY			Joint meeting French National Research Programmes and IHI members. ONLINE NOVEMBER 2025. The objective was to familiarise the pilots leading priority programmes in health with IHI objectives and work modalities as well as a common share of priorities.		

FRENCH RESEARCH MINISTRY			Information session IHI Call 12 by IHI towards French community. Hybrid meeting. October 2025		
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Austria					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	We have promoted IHI in different webinars, at workshops and conferences on national basis. We have informed our research community about the calls, rules for participation, where to find project partners and supported our applicants with bilateral consultations and proposal checks.	News on IHI were promoted on a regular basis in our newsletter, distributed twice a month.	We have promoted IHI in different meetings on national basis. In particular, strategy meetings took place at 3 Medical Universities, discussing the potential for IHI.	We were promoting IHI via Dedicated IHI information on the FFG Website https://www.ffg.at/europa/heu/cluster1	For the promotion of Call 12, we organised a joint webinar with our German colleagues from DLR on 20 October 2025, with 102 registrations.
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Workshop with Austrian Multipliers to Cluster Health including Partnerships, 16 Jan 2025			LinkedIn posts on a sent on a regular basis.	IHI Brokerage Events - Support of Austrian applicants
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Webinar on Medical University Vienna for Cluster Health including Partnerships, 30 Jan 2025				

AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Workshop for Universities in Innsbruck for Cluster Health including Partnerships, 3 April 2025				
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Onco-Innovate Conference, for cancer funding with IMI/IHI cancer portfolio, 14 May 2025				
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Life Science Day Linz, for Cluster 1 including IHI as partnership, 8 October 2025				
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Joint Austrian German Information Event on Call 12, 20 October 2025				
AT: FFG Austrian National Contact Point	Deep Dive Webinar Health in Horizon Europe, including partnerships and IHI, 20 November 2025				

Ireland					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
Ireland	Webinar on IHI opportunities and conditions and rules for participation. On campus at universities and research centres in Ireland.	Updates on IHI opportunities in newsletters	One-to-one meetings and support for interested applicants	SRG support and IHI updates and Communications are promoted as part with the wide range of EU funding	

				opportunities at events and through webinars.	
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Sweden					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration

VINNOVA - Sweden's Innovation Agency	Two Joint Nordic Info Sessions on Call 9 & 10 and on Call 12; Two National webinar with the other funding agencies on EU partnerships; Two information meetings with a national Health Reference Group of 50 reps. In collaboration with the other national funding agencies.	Regular newsletters from our Dep of Com and from our NCP; Target info camping to Swedish SMEs; Promoting IHI calls and events on our website and through LinkedIn accounts	Attended all SRG meetings; Two meetings with Swelife and invited public stakeholders to discuss potential proposals and consortia for Call 9; Swelife rep travelled at the Brokerage event - Call 9 promoting 4 ideas for proposals from Swedish stakeholders; Several physical and digital meetings with Swedish universities, research institutions, Public Authorities, and participants in ongoing IHI-projects; Member of WG on Vinnova's yearly Horizon Europe report on participation - focusing on EU partnerships; IHI included in coursework for Stockholm Trio training - academic researchers attending from three universities; One-day workshop on Sustainable Drug Development and MDs - participants from academia, industry and from the IHI project PHARMECO	Website, LinkedIn, Webinars and digital meeting through MS Teams and Zoom, newsletters, QlikSense	Close collaboration with our Nordic SRG colleagues
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Norway					
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Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
Norwegian research council	21st Jan 2025: Nordic info webinar on call 9 and 10, in collaboration with SRGs in Finland, Sweden and Denmark.				Call 9 and 10 webinar in collaboration with SRGs in Finland, Sweden and Denmark.
Norwegian research council	10th dec 2025: Nordic IHI webinar on call 12, with networking opportunity. In collaboration with SRGs in Finland and Sweden.				Call 12 webinar in collaboration with SRGs in Finland and Sweden.
Norwegian research council		e-mail: Dissemination of published draft topic texts call 11			
Norwegian research council		e-mail: Dissemination of published flyer with information on upcoming call 12			

Poland					
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration
NCBR	There is also a sectoral medical national contact point (BPK PORT)operating in the country, which focuses particularly on European partnerships and offers services for companies. This point has conducted several online training sessions and webinars.	Publication of IHI news on the through social media, NCBR newsletter, etc.	10-12.04.2025, Poznań, 16th International Conference of Contemporary Oncology Presidential Conference: Main Panel Lecture by the National Contact Point (NCP) on All Funding Opportunities within Cluster 1		IHI Brokerage Event Call 12 (4-5 November) - Support of Polish applicants.
			15-16.05.2025, Kraków Research and Innovations for health and quality of life; Presidential Conference featuring an IHI keynote presentation and the participation of an EFPIA representative in the panel discussion and workshops		
			04.09.2025, Warsaw, National Information Day of the EU Health Programme at the Ministry of Health (HE, EU4Health and Digital Europe), featuring a main panel lecture by the National Contact Point (NCP) presenting all funding opportunities within Cluster 1.		
			6-7.10.2025, Warsaw, Conference “Innovation, Trends, and the Future of Research: Horizon Europe and the 10th Framework Programme”, including a panel lecture by the National Contact Point (NCP) on all funding opportunities within Cluster 1.		

			19.11.2025, Warsaw, Networking Meeting of Grant Offices from National Institutes and Medical Universities, including a main panel lecture by the National Contact Point (NCP) on all funding opportunities within Cluster 1.		
			05.12.2025, Warsaw, Polish Mission Cancer Hub Conference (based on the ECHOS project); including a panel lecture by the National Contact Point (NCP) on all funding opportunities within Cluster 1.		
			IHI is promoted also to multi-players, industrial associations, technological Platforms and bilateral meetings with relevant entities (public and private).		

Netherlands						
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration	Dates
RVO			Promoted IHI call 9 during an info session at Oncode Institute			13/02/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI calls 9 and 10 during an info session at Twente University			14/03/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI calls 9 and 10 during an info session at RadboudUMC			29/01/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI calls 9 and 10 during an info session at Technical University Eindhoven			18/03/2025
RVO	Promoted IHI during an info session at OECl (Organisation of					20/03/2025

	European Cancer Institutes)					
RVO	Dedicated webinar on IHI for members of FMed.nl					01/04/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI during an info session at Nanomedicine Symposium Delft			04/07/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI call 12 during an info session at Hanze University of Applied Sciences			06/11/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI call 12 during an info session at Delft University			18/11/2025
RVO			Promoted IHI call 12 during an info session at Amsterdam UMC			01/12/2025
RVO		Prepublication call 11 topics announced				28/04/2025
RVO		Impact on cancer webinar of 19-5-25: shared recording link				26/05/2025
RVO		Announced opening of IHI call 11				11/07/2025
RVO & NKC		IHI promoted through Netherlands Cancer Collective website publication https://nederlandskanckercollectief.nl/update/europa-financiert-mee-maar-hoe/				09/09/2025

RVO		IHI Call 12 and Brokerage event announced				03/11/2025
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Greece						
Organisation	Webinars	Newsletters	Meetings	IT tools	International collaboration	Dates
Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens			In-person and online IHI Info Session with representatives from Industry Associations and IHI, online pitching from applicants and networking			19/04/2024
National Documentation Center	Info session with IHI and national representatives					25/01/2024
Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens	Promoted IHI Call 9 during info session with industrial partners					3/12/2024
National Documentation Center		Newsletter to promote info session, Call 9 and IHI brokerage event	Promoted IHI calls 9 and 10 during an info session at Technical University Eindhoven			11/04/2024 4
National Documentation Center		Newsletter to promote webinar, material on IHI website and IHI brokerage event				15/01/2024

Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens			One-to-one meetings and support for interested applicants			2025
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