Ref. Ares(2026)10427926 - 06/11/2026

IHI JU responses to the Independent Observer's reports

Call ID: HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-11-two-stage

IHI JU 11th Call for Proposals – stage 1 and stage 2

Dates of evaluation: 18 – 20 November 2025 and 4 June 2026

Name of the Independent Observer: Kim Reilly

Summary of Recommendations

This documents contains the replies to the recommendations made by the Independent Observers for stage 1 and 2 of the call HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-11-two-stage.

From the Independent Observer´s overall general impression, the evaluation process was run very smoothly, efficiently and transparently. The consensus evaluation process is considered successful, transparent, fair and at the highest standard possible based on the HE rules.

The Independent Observers (I.O.), in collaboration with expert evaluators, proposed the following recommendations.

1) With regard to specific recommendations the IHI could consider the remuneration of rapporteurs for stage 1 evaluations, and should seek to ensure that even in complex Topic evaluations with a large number of proposals that the sessions are well planned in advance with clear timings and with fair break times to prevent the experts from becoming exhausted.

2) The post-award monitoring of IHI funded projects could be more clearly described in the website and in the Call documentation.

IHI JU responses to the recommendations

IHI JU welcomes the IO conclusions, which confirm that the overall quality of the evaluation was high. Furthermore, IHI office will take into condition the recommendations made, whenever possible:

1) The EU expert model contract uses a methodology to determine the amounts and working days for the remote work of expert evaluators; each task was given the number of work units that correspond to the working time normally required for it. The fees for remote work are composed of different unit costs per task and proposal. The tasks and fees are fixed in advance for each expert in their contract and will apply automatically, depending on the number of tasks assigned. IHI will therefore investigate the possibility, with the relevant EU Commission services, to increase the number of work units associated to drafting the consensus reports. IHI recognises the importance of careful planning for evaluations involving a large number of proposals. Panel moderators regularly consult experts to define clear timings and appropriate breaks, while maintaining the flexibility needed to accommodate the progress of discussions.

2) IHI acknowledges that clearer information on the post-award monitoring process could be beneficial. We will consider how best to improve the information provided on the website and in future call documentation.