

IHI JU responses to the Independent Observer's reports

Call ID: HORIZON-JU-IHI-2022-01

IHI JU 1st Call for Proposals

Dates of evaluation: 19 – 25 October 2022

Name of the Independent Observer (IO): **Silviya Aleksandrova-Yankulovska**

Summary of Recommendations

The observed evaluation process was robust and mature. It ran in accordance with the standards published.

There are a few minor recommendations:

- 1) In case of future engagement of one sole independent observer (IO), it will be useful to separate the briefings of the different topics in time so that the observer can be present in each of them to introduce himself/herself personally. The same is recommended for the last sessions.
- 2) Closer Involvement of the observer by copying his/her e-mail in the pre-meetings communication with the experts. This would allow gathering direct impressions at the stage of preparation of the call evaluations.
- 3) To try to achieve better gender balance of experts per topic.
- 4) To involve more experts from EU-13 countries.
- 5) To reconsider the time, allocated to the rapporteurs, for drafting consensus report.

IHI JU responses to the recommendations

IHI JU welcomes the Independent Observer (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) As panels usually operate in parallel, it's difficult allocate a slot to make sure the IO can introduce her/himself to the experts' panel. Nevertheless, whenever central evaluation week will allow it, IHI will introduce a specific slot for this purpose.
- 2) IHI already provides to the experts the IO details and encourage them to contact him/her. IHI will remind experts on more occasions to contact the IO so to transfer their personal impressions of the evaluation.
- 3) Experts' gender balance was fulfilled at call level. IHI will make efforts to ensure experts' gender balance as well at topic level.
- 4) Recalling the principle for which experts are chosen first in terms of skills and knowledge, IHI will make efforts to involve, whenever possible, experts of EU-13 countries (widening countries).
- 5) On the same tone of item 1, IHI will try to reserve more time for rapporteurs to draft consensus reports.