HNN 3.0
HEALTH-NCP-NET

Health NCP Net

IHI Call Days

Q&A on the Call 13 Topics

www.healthncp.net

HNN3.0 (The Cluster 1 Health consortium of NCPs for Horizon Europe) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number 101057279

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On June 24th – 30th, 2026, the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) organized the virtual IHI Call Days for the Call 13. The IHI Call Days aimed to inform potential applicants about the rules and procedures of the two-stage Call 13 and the three topics.

The IHI Office has published the presentation and the recordings of all sessions including the questions and answers (Q&A) sessions.

This document prepared by NCPs will give you the **links to all sessions including the exact time in the video** where the questions are answered.

The aim of this document is to help Health NCPs provide their applicants with the best possible advice and support and to assist applicants in preparing a high-quality application.
This document is provided for information only. It has been written as part of the HNN 3.0 project, a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission, with the goal to improve and support the professionalization of the services rendered by Cluster 1 – Health NCPs across Europe, helping for a simpler access to different health related Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers and raising the average quality of the submitted proposals.

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Call 13 – Rules and procedures for two-stage calls

Watch the Recording of the Session or download the Presentation

Questions during the Session	Link to answer
In call text for Topic 1, the contributions from pre-identified industry consortium are indicated in a very general way. Is it possible to have further specific information in order to ensure complementarity with the applicant consortium contributions?	58:35
Are proposals submitted by the applicant consortium evaluated in stage 1 by the members of the pre-identified industry consortium?	1:00:10
Can different multiple legal entities from the same country participate?	1:01:30
In previous IHI project we successfully included a US partner who brought some valuable datasets to the project. Is it still the case that we can have essential US entities as partners pending review by the evaluation committee?	1:01:58
Can FTEs incurred by employees located in the US be declared as part of the industrial in-kind contribution? I believe under previous IMI/IHI arrangements, a limited amount of non-EU effort could be accepted under certain conditions. Is this still the case, and if so, what thresholds apply?	1:03:20
Is Israel an associated country?	1:06:00
What should startups be aware of regarding IP?	1:06:24
Is the first evaluation of proposals done only by external experts or are IHI representatives/topic promoters also part of the panel?	1:08:42
Can a large company be a beneficiary? How could it participate in order to receive a grant? Can two companies from the same group, located in different countries, both be beneficiaries? Would they count as two companies from two different countries?	1:09:50
Do you advise that consortia allow for agreements beyond the consortium agreement to define ownership of the IP as results are produced?	1:12:56
Regarding Topic 1: IHI European HealthCare Incubator Network, an FSTP is requested. As it has a big budget it may lead to cash flow tension. Can you please explain the IHI payment windows (e.g. pre-financing, mid-term, final, etc.), for example, for a 60-month proposal, in terms of timing and % of total budget for each window?	1:15:27
For Topic 1 - European HealthCare Incubator Network: 25% of the budget is dedicated to Operational Activities of the Network and 75% is for cascade funding. If the applying consortium has, for example, participants that contribute by offering selected SMEs access to infrastructure, I understand that these costs	1:17:20

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are not supported by the 25% budget for the IHI consortium, correct? Should they be considered to be supported by the FSTP recipient?	
How will you rank the proposals if they have equal scores?	1:18:40
Is there going to be a brokerage event?	1:19:42
What were the actual cut-off scores for funding in previous IHI calls?	1:20:28
How is the alignment of the proposal in stage 1 with the specific capacities and objectives of the pre-selected industry consortium taken into account during the evaluation stage 1?	1:22:35
Will the Consortium Agreement be managed by the industry lead?	1:24:10
What is the time given to sign the CA? We often hear from our legal experts that time is very limited with all partners involved.	1:25:51
Does the IHI legal team assess the CA content before signing the GA?	1:28:47

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Call 13 – Topic 1: A network to boost the next wave of European innovations in healthcare

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Questions during the Session	Link to answer
We are the health incubator of a PRIVATE university, are we eligible?	46:50
The final call text discusses TRLs 3-5, but the slides say TRLs 2-5. Which is correct?	49:15
Please define "incubator" as in some ecosystems an incubator is a physical building, without any services, while in others an incubator is merely a set of support services.	49:44
Can you confirm / further specify Enabling Technologies? So this means start-ups developing a novel therapeutic or diagnostic would not be eligible for FSTP funding? Is this exclusively for enabling technologies / technology platforms?	50:53
We are the Hungarian BioTechnology Association representing hundreds of SMEs and start-ups in Health - as EuropaBio partner organisation, are we eligible to apply? and what would be the best forum to partner with the leading EU16 incubators for this call?	52:51
How about the pre-incubation stakeholders? Would they also be welcome to join the network?	53:35
Related to my earlier question: if the FSTP funding is exclusively for enabling technologies / technology platforms - should the "NETWORK" then still demonstrate a pan-European support for health start-ups broadly (so therapeutics, diagnostics, digital...)?	54:59
What is the role expected of contributing partners BioInnovation Institute Fonden and OBELISQUE IMMOBILIER SARL during Stage 1? (both entities cover some of the capabilities required from Stage 1 applicants)	57:06
Are you involving patients' lived experience?	58:26
Speaking about the incubators network, do you foresee that all the incubators are project partners or future participants of the network?	59:00
Do you envision service providers (preclinical, regulatory as project partners?	1:00:16
Could the OITBs (Open Innovation Test Beds) concept be a good foundation for this endeavour?	1:00:30
May previous experience in managing FTTPs projects a must for this one?	1:00:47

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The Horizon Europe proposals templates are structure around the pathway to impact concept where impact is what happens in the long term after the project and outcomes in the intermediate term after the project. Outputs are meant to contribute to the outcomes and impact. Do you expect the impacts to be achieved in the course of the project or is the goal to contribute outputs that will substantially contribute to long term impact?	1:02:16
We are an innovation district. What should the ideal mix (academics, hospitals, patient organisations, SMEs…) of an applying consortium in stage 1 be?	1:03:09
And what about Arizona? This entity is not mentioned in the call text.	1:04:23
We have started such a Network in 2025, with almost the structure, stakeholders and goals like the call, but our Network is focused on the topic of Oncology Innovation (www.onco-innovate.org). Are we eligible and can we integrate?	1:04:55
The Commission's life science strategy 2025 says "Early regulatory guidance for researchers and innovators plays a critical role in the life science innovation journey. The Commission plans to create an AI-powered interactive tool to help researchers and innovators navigate the EU regulatory landscape,..." Is this AI-powered interactive tool built through other calls or avenues, or can it be built within this call?	1:07:29
How much contribution from SMEs?	1:09:50
Do you expect one applicant representing one ecosystem to join a consortium, or can several ecosystem partners join the consortium to provide all services and infrastructure that are necessary.	1:10:50
Are startup accelerators eligible?	1:11:24
Are in-licensable enabling technologies from academia or research institutes considered equivalent to start-up technologies, assuming similar maturity and readiness levels?	1:11:39
What is the contribution of academic research? Must the university already be part of the proposing startup company's network? Does industry intercept potential academic collaborators?	1:12:55
Is the funding allocated to startups via the FSTP intended to finance services provided by incubators that are themselves partners in the consortium?	1:14:40
Startups are supposed to get 1+1 M EUR with the 2nd M "if applicable" what does it mean? Is min 1 M, max 2 M? Is this free for the applicant consortium to decide?	1:15:20
Should only companies receiving the FSTP Funding will be supported via the consortium? This would not be a large number of companies (given the intended funding amount for each) then for such a big project?	1:17:40
How many proposals will be funded?	1:19:14

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Are spin-offs/start-ups affiliated to a partner able to apply for the FSTP? Or would this be considered a conflict of interest and therefore make the companies ineligible for applying?	1:20:35
The Call in Objective 1 description, when mentioned as activity, "Develop a formal EU incubator network partner map", what does "formal" mean in this context?	1:21:51
In the context of Objective 4 (sustainability) with regards to the activity "Develop training modules on (pre)clinical validation and develop a business development toolkit (go-to-market plans, reimbursement strategies, commercial models)", what is the aim or target? Entities being already incubated (i.e. FSTP recipients?), Entities to be incubated in the future under future batches beyond the project duration? Toolkits to be provided freely (MOOCs, etc) or to be provided to incubators joining the network?	1:23:37
If a non-profit organisation joins the consortium, will its eligible project costs be funded at 100% by IHI funding, or will it be required to provide co-funding?	1:25:26
It is still not clear if the IKOP should come also from the consortium brought together for this 1st stage. Should SMEs also contribute to the IKOP? Or that is just for the pre-identified industry members? Is the funding 100% to all beneficiaries in the consortium in stage 1?	1:26:15
Regarding the Open Call organisation, and thinking about sustainability, could we launch additional calls for subprojects ending later than end-of-the project, if no FSTP from EC contribution is delivered to them (only in kind or other sources)?	1:28:03

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Call 13 – Topic 2: An AI foundation toxicology model and framework to support waiving a second species in drug safety studies

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Questions during the Session	Link to answer
Regarding the data, what kind of datasets will industry actually precisely contribute? How many compounds from industry are we discussing?	43:44
Is toxicogenomic data from different tissue from the second species available? Or only study reports and pathology information?	45:44
Does the topic allow generation of animal-free datasets to be used as a training basis for AL/ML models?	47:11
How much new experimental data (e.g. from NAMs, to inform/validate the AI model predictions) do you envisage being generated by the consortium?	48:51
The data used for the validation of the model will be data already available or will be data generated during the course of the project? (I am referring to either in vitro NAM data and in vivo data).	50:08
Are human-based in vitro NAM data intended to be included for the foundation model development, including pre-clinical species in vitro data?	51:42
Are new in vitro experimentation using e.g. LiMT from different species in combination using e.g. omics technology be included to support the data-driven AI approaches?	52:48
Is it your intention to predict human toxicity directly, using NAMs and/or pharmacovigilance and clinical databases, rather than toxicity in a second animal species?	53:39
Can you please provide a definition of "foundational model" is this methodologically restricted?	55:30
Should we tailor this up with any specific disease use cases to show the relevance of models we develop?	58:00
Any priority on species that you are looking forward to seeing in applicant consortium?	58:58
Should we map how we foresee the mapping with private consortium or can it be more generally included.	1:00:55
Can we be specific with companies or should mention preidentified industry consortium as a whole.	1:03:22
This is a RIA can some models be developed from scratch or what maturity do you expect for these tools?	1:04:24

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Does the duration have to be 5 years? Such project can be done in 3 years.	1:05:33
Is there a match making event associated with this call. Or how do you envision that consortia will be formed?	1:06:04
Is federated learning a must? Is there possibility to federate datasets in one virtual dataset?	1:07:02
Is data sharing going to be using a federated learning approach or whole datasets?	1:08:40
What are the expected validation procedures?	1:09:20
Are tissue blocks available to the applicants from historic second species studies? E.g. of omics analysis if not available or digital pathology approaches for AI integration?	1:11:01
Will it be allowed to include budget for establishing and using private compute infrastructure for the consortium or is it expected that the partners use pre-existing services with the understanding that data may be have to be shared to third party servers?	1:11:46
Are the industry consortium partners involved in the evaluation of the Stage 1 short proposals?	1:13:30
How to share the project result back to EFPIA? Do you expect a functional platform including all AI tools? Or an assessment framework? A concept?	1:14:46
Is there ADME data from second species available? kinetic data	1:16:05
What is the timeline/deadline to consider to enrol as an industry partner in the consortium?	1:17:29

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Call 13 – Topic 3: Decode the immuno-science of age-related immune-mediated diseases

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Questions during the Session	Link to answer
When is the deadline for this call?	30:13
One short proposal is invited to submit the full proposal, correct? What then happens if the full proposal is not evaluated positively?	31:10
What are the requirements for the group composition? Is it Principal Investigators from several EU countries or inclusion of companies required?	32:10
Do the applicants of the pre-proposal have to be in contact with the pre-selected consortium in advance?	34:16
Is the transition from childhood to adulthood eligible for this call?	34:57
What is the expected consortium size and minimum number of industry contributing partners for Call 13?	35:18
Can a translational SME laboratory take a Work Package lead role, and what are the in-kind contribution requirements for SMEs? Is there a brokerage platform or matchmaking event specifically for Call 13 where we can connect with potential consortium partners?	37:20
Should we cover all three diseases included in the call text?	38:20
How do you expect a digital biomarker would be used in drug development after the project? As a secondary endpoint? For screening? For additional evidence related to quality of life?	39:07
Can other respiratory diseases, such as tuberculosis, be eligible for this call?	39:36
Can UK investigators be involved as participants and/or PI?	39:55
Is Vietnam eligible for this call?	41:13
Can academic PIs from Kazakhstan participate in this call as part of a consortium?	41:44
Will the topic encompass all relevant dimensions, including understanding, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care?	42:20
Can you expand on the meaning of "expertise on therapeutics modalities"? Do you mean "mode of action"?	42:36
Can the applicants contact directly the pre-identified consortia (or a is single consortium?)? If yes, is there a functional mail box?	43:18

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Does inflammatory myositis (e.g. statin-induced inflammatory myopathy) could be the topic of investigation?	43:44
What types of digital health technologies are you considering (actigraphs, smartphone apps, etc)? Or is this entirely undecided?	44:10
To what extent can an applicant consortium anticipate having access to datasets from industry?	44:55
Shall a Contributing Partners participate in the 1st Stage?	45:45
Approximately, how large do you expect the study to be, i.e. number of participants, number of countries, number of sites?	46:55
Are Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication activities expected to be included? Or how active should a patient organization be considered as a partner?	48:06
Can a PI be involved in two proposals—one as coordinator and one as partner?	49:49
Is representation of ethnicities (e.g. Caucasian vs. Asian) within the biobanks a consideration?	51:03
Can 2 start-ups with 1 university clinic can be a consortium for this call topic?	51:47
Is multiple sclerosis eligible?	52:35
For the stage 2 is it only one project/consortium that is selected or several?	52:49
Is the proposed cross-disease approach—aimed at identifying both disease-agnostic immune-ageing signatures and organ-specific mechanisms—aligned with the intended ambition of the topic?	53:10
Would the inclusion of asthma, bronchiectasis and emphysema be considered consistent with the respiratory disease area of the topic?	53:37
Is AMD eligible?	54:27
What are the deadlines?	55:49
Beyond generating new scientific knowledge, what would success look like from IHI's perspective in 5–10 years?	56:28
Is immunoageing in transplantation eligible?	57:56
Can an SME have a work package lead role?	58:25
Australia will associate as of Jan 1 2027. Will Australian universities be able to participate?	58:43
At Stage 1, is the applicant consortium expected to already identify and briefly describe the clinical studies to be conducted or would it be preferable to present	59:37

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partner-based clinical use cases and available cohorts, leaving the final definition of the studies to be jointly developed with the pre-identified industry consortium at Stage 2?	
To demonstrate the feasibility of the project, are preliminary data required?	1:01:13
What is the purpose of the pitch that potential applicants will be able to present on July 6th?	1:02:42
Progression of asthma and/or allergy at different stages of life – childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age – is this eligible?	1:03:07
Templates and important documents can be found here: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents	
A guide for applicants is also available here: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/apply-funding/call-documents	
When the call is open, information will be available here: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/apply-funding/open-calls	
The guide for regulatory impact can be found here: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/Documents/ProjectResources/Guide_RegulatoryConsiderationsIMI_IHI_Projects_final.pdf	
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Frequently Asked Questions can be found here: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/sites/default/files/uploads/Documents/Calls/Call_FAQs.pdf	

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