

Request for Application for Experts

**For evaluation of RIS Innovation project
proposals for
EIT Health InnoStars e.V.**

10 Nov 2020

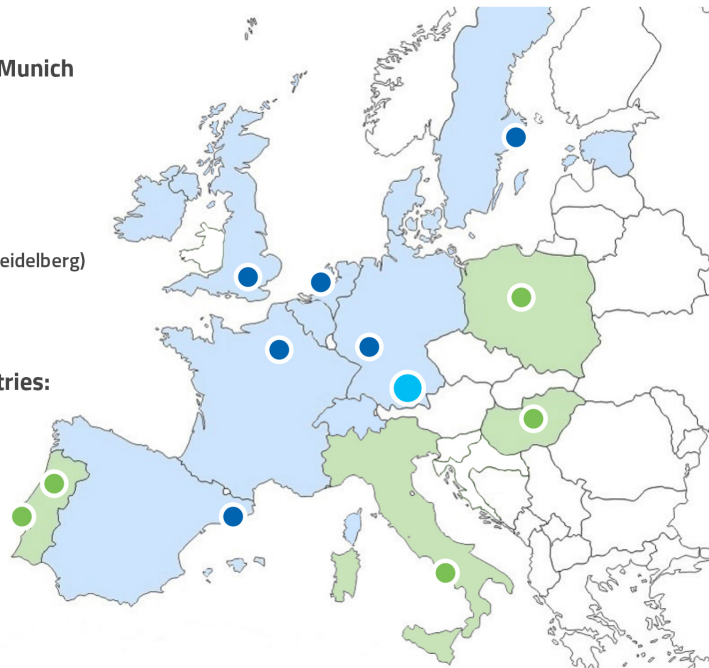
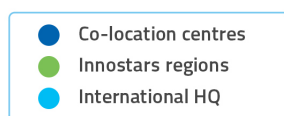
1. Background and overview

The EIT Health InnoStars e.V. (InnoStars) are regional clusters of EIT Health Partners representing industry, academia, and health providers linked to four countries (Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Italy) eligible for H2020 Widening Participation or ESIF funds.

InnoStars expertise in regional development opens new opportunities for EIT Health technologies and the resulting collaboration across cultures and backgrounds will enhance disruptive innovations. The knowledge and experience of InnoStars as well as the diversity of their populations, associated lifestyles, regulatory frameworks, and healthcare systems will help overcome barriers to rolling out innovations across Europe. Each InnoStars partner will provide innovation infrastructures, funded by Structural Fund investments and made available for use by EIT Health. InnoStars test beds and living labs will be able to test new ideas in a selection of EU regions with varied innovation capacities, each possessing differing governance and legal structures. The below map shows all EIT Health locations including those in InnoStars countries.

EUROPEAN REACH

- **International Headquarter** in Munich
- **6 Co-Location Centres (CLCs):**
 - UK-Ireland (London)
 - Scandinavia (Stockholm)
 - Belgium-Netherlands (Rotterdam)
 - Germany-Switzerland (Manheim/Heidelberg)
 - France (Paris)
 - Spain (Barcelona)
- **5 InnoStars regions in 4 countries:**
 - Hungary
 - Poland
 - Portugal
 - Italy



The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was introduced by the European Parliament and the Council as part of the EIT's Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) 2014-2020 and it is an integral part of the proposed [Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT 2021-2027](#)¹.

In line with the SIA, the EIT RIS is designed to close the gap between regions that are leaders in innovation and those regions which are progressing, as well as to widen participation in KIC² activities. The purpose of the EIT Health RIS programme is to promote healthcare innovation in countries with modest and moderate innovation capacity through the development and introduction of new healthcare products and services. Additionally, its aim is to match healthcare innovators from the EIT Health network with the talent pool and innovative organisations from across these regions.

At the moment there are 14 EIT Health Hubs in 13 countries: Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovakia, Portugal, Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Estonia. and Slovenia. These are mainly universities, incubators and innovation centres. The EIT Health Hubs are asked to develop the local innovation ecosystem with the help of EIT Health to find the best talents, entrepreneurs and start-ups from their region and take part in implementation of the Regional Innovation Scheme Programme.



Thanks to the Regional Innovation Scheme EIT Health InnoStars Partners can get access to productive inputs, talent pool, customer for innovative ventures, know-how and technology transfer possibilities as well as access to co-founding options. On the other hand, EIT Health Hubs can utilize EIT Health InnoStars network, its experts and mentors and access to relevant Partners.

¹ ANNEX to the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe, COM(2019) 330 final.

² Knowledge and Innovation Communities

2. Scope of work

2.1. General objectives

EIT Health RIS Innovation Call aims at funding the proof of concept phase of high-quality, strong, balanced projects, targeting EIT Health's six Focus Areas to be developed by local actors including both business and academic/research/health care institutions. Local KTI³ actors in EIT Health RIS countries are to apply on this innovation call, participating with original innovation projects.

We ultimately aim at:

- 1- Development of the local innovation ecosystem in RIS regions.
- 2- Facilitate and foster cooperation among local KTI actors.
- 3- Bridge the funding gap of EIT Health RIS regions by operating a proof of concept fund.
- 4- Support innovation teams through grants, training, mentoring and matchmaking to further develop and commercialize their scientific output.
- 5- Provide teams in EIT Health RIS regions with appropriate tools/technics/skills to be matched with EIT Health partners and apply for EIT Health Amplifier programme and/or to get funded from other EU programmes.
- 6- Provide EIT Health RIS regions with internationalization tools.

InnoStars engaged experts to be part of RIS innovation call evaluator pool in 2019 and intends to extend the expertise of the pool and especially looking for professionals in the following fields:

1. Stroke
2. Obesity
3. Neurology
4. Neurotoxicology
5. Pulmonology
6. Nephrology
7. Parkinson's disease
8. Physiotherapy
9. Histology
10. Diabetes
11. Preventive healthcare
12. Occupational Health
13. Immunology
14. Cell biology
15. Biomedicine
16. Applied Neurosciences
17. Physiological Data Analytics
18. Blockchain technology
19. Artificial Intelligence
20. Healthcare Services
21. Healthcare Technology management
22. Financial expertise in the field of healthcare or healthcare innovation

³ Knowledge Triangle Integration actors are leading entities from higher education, research and business areas.

Each expert/evaluator will assess the projects within set evaluation criteria according to their field of expertise. Remote evaluation will be completed via the Optimy tool. All scores and feedback shall be submitted via Optimy, according to a common evaluation grid.

In this context, the expert/evaluator will have access to confidential information coming from the project holder. This "confidential information" includes any oral or written information, either contained in the application files or communicated during the projects' review.

2.2. Detailed work scope

InnoStars requests the following services:

- Participating in the expert webcast briefing(s);
- Reading and analysing the background information (especially the proposal, the call and the briefing material);
- Review and evaluate application documents submitted for the InnoStars RIS Innovation Call;
- Drafting and submitting the evaluation report(s) for the evaluated proposal(s);
- Providing adequate scoring and justification on each proposal in the evaluation reports (based on the received scorecard template);
- Create consolidation report in case of rapporteur task assigned (optional⁴).

All work must be done remotely via Optimy platform.

2.3. Deliverables

Expert undertakes to review the EIT Health RIS Innovation Call applications and create consolidation report in case of rapporteur task assigned until the indicated deadline(s). The exact timing and deliverables will be set out in individual assignment sheets (Annex of the Framework agreement). Proposals reviewed by the Expert are based on the evaluators' professional background.

InnoStars provide the following documents needed for the review in a digital form:

- Scorecard with instructions
- Proposals to be reviewed (via Optimy)

Expert shall continuously inform InnoStars during the completion of services especially if any information for completion is necessary from InnoStars.

2.4. Methodology and organization of work:

Experts meeting the requirements of this request for application will be included in the InnoStars evaluator pool and InnoStars enters into a framework contract with the Expert. InnoStars will order the specific tasks listed in section 2.3 individually.

When performing the Services, Expert shall use its own tools and materials, work forces.

⁴ Not a mandatory exercise, rapporteur task will be assigned based on mutual agreement only)

2.5. Location, timing, planning, reporting

2.5.1. Location

The project will not have a specific office during the implementation. We intend to work like a virtual organization. Video conferences and telephone conferences are preferred options for any meetings.

2.5.2. Start date & period of implementation

Experts will be included into the expert database right after the evaluation and positive decision on their application. The intended start date of the evaluation depends on the specific tasks. The contract will end on December 31, 2022. Since InnoStars implements yearly business plans, the continuation of the contract is dependent on the approval of InnoStars' business plan of the given year.

2.5.3. Payment terms

Expert is entitled to submit an invoice after completing each evaluation round. Payment shall be made upon the acceptance of the deliverables completed. InnoStars shall issue Performance certificate 15 days after the completion of Services.

3. Application Process

3.1. Participation

Participation in this application procedure is open, legal persons as well as natural persons can apply. All participants must sign the Declaration of Honour form attached and submit it with the application via Optimy. Please note that the applicant may not modify the text, it has to be submitted signed as provided by InnoStars attached to this Request for Application document as Annex 1.

3.2. Submission of application

Applications can be submitted under the following link continuously but no later than **20.11.2020 23:59 CET**:

<https://eithealth.optimytool.com/en>

Please include in attachment the filled and signed Declaration of Honour.

Responses should be concise and clear. The applicant's application will be incorporated into any contract that results from this procedure. Applicants are, therefore, cautioned not to make claims or statements that they are not prepared to commit to contractually. Subsequent modifications and counterapplications, if applicable, shall also become an integral part of any resulting contract.

The applicant declares that the individual submitting the natural or legal entity's application is duly authorized to bind its entity to the application as submitted. The applicant also affirms that it has read the request for applications and has the experience, skills and resources to perform, according to conditions set forth in this application and the applicants' application.

3.3. Additional information before the deadline for submitting applications

The instructions to applicants should be clear enough to avoid applicants having to request additional information during the procedure. In case the applicants need additional information, please address it to the address below.

E-mail: innostars.procurement@eithealth.eu

3.4. Requirements

Information and formalities necessary for evaluation if the requirements are met. The expert should demonstrate competence by including all the necessary information on the professional background and expertise for evaluation.

- A. The expert should have a command of English language skill of native speakers/full professional language proficiency
- B. The expert should have high level of professional experience in the field of BioTech, MedTech or Digital Health and
- C. He/She should have professional experience at least a combination of 2 of the following areas:
 1. Academic background in the field of healthcare innovation
 2. Technology transfer expertise, working experience in Technology Transfer office,
 3. Healthcare technology management
 4. Healthcare, research and healthcare systems e.g. healthcare providers, hospitals, private/public systems, clinical/medical /research/practice etc.
 5. General Industry expertise e.g. product development/design, IP strategy, regularity etc.
 6. Market expertise e.g. go to market, competition knowledge
 7. Business/commercial expertise e.g. business model development, pricing & reimbursement, market access, business development/sales, early road map/planning, revenue model development, raising money/pitching, public and private funding, valuation etc.
 8. Investors' expertise e.g. private/public investments (VCs, corporate, business angels, crowdfunding etc.)
 9. Financial expertise in the field of healthcare or healthcare innovation

We are especially looking for professionals in the following fields:

- a) Stroke
- b) Obesity
- c) Neurology
- d) Neurotoxicology
- e) Pulmonology
- f) Nephrology
- g) Parkinson's disease
- h) Physiotherapy
- i) Histology
- j) Diabetes
- k) Preventive healthcare
- l) Occupational health
- m) Immunology
- n) Cell biology
- o) Biomedicine
- p) Applied Neurosciences
- q) Physiological Data Analytics
- r) Blockchain technology

- s) Artificial Intelligence
- t) Healthcare Services
- u) Healthcare Technology management
- v) Financial expertise in the field of healthcare or healthcare innovation

We expect that experts will significantly contribute to the expert pool with working/personal experience in the areas above (e.g. an active investor or working with startups in an incubator/accelerator or a medical clinical expert who has developed a business of its own etc.) or from participation in similar committees and panels in the past.

In case of the high number of applications the applicants will be ranked based on seniority levels of their expertise, the alignment of the above criteria and former EIT Health evaluation experience.

3.5. Expert Training

An online training will be provided for the selected experts introducing the whole evaluation process, aspects and expected criteria of evaluation. The first proposal will be shared with the expert with a shorter deadline and it must be evaluated remotely via Optimy. InnoStars team will provide feedback(s) on the first proposal evaluation, until the adequate quality level is achieved, and evaluation content comply fully with the criteria.

In alignment with this standardized evaluation process the same quality level of each submitted evaluation needs to be ensured.

3.6. Price

We hope that experts are personally and professionally motivated to participate in the Evaluation procedure. One evaluation is considered as the capacity of 1/3 FTE; therefore, Expert is entitled to receive 150 EUR (including all additional costs and VAT) for the evaluation of one proposal. In this context the daily compensation for the evaluation of 3 applicants is maximum 450 Euros which is considered as the full daily capacity of an FTE. The maximum number of proposals that could be evaluated by one evaluator is 40. The same fee (150 EUR) applies to the rapporteur's tasks. Deadlines for performing the requested services is indicated in the delivery section.

Expert is personally responsible and liable for his/her annual tax declaration, the payment of the compulsory income taxes and the payment of contributions for social insurances and employee insurances.

3.7. Validity of applications

The application shall be valid until December 31, 2022. Please state in your application that it will remain valid until this date. Once your application is accepted during this period, the price quoted in your application must remain unchanged for the entire period of the resulting contract unless otherwise specified in this Request for Application.

3.8. Negotiation about the submitted application

After checking the administrative compliance of the applicants, InnoStars can negotiate the contract terms with the applicants. In this negotiation InnoStars will ask all applicants to adjust the application or specific sections of the application within an appropriate time limit.

3.9. Evaluation of applications

The selected experts will be enrolled to the database right after the evaluation of the application. The evaluation is continuous, the application will be evaluated shortly after the submission.

3.10. Signature of contract(s)

The successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed about the result of the award procedure by email.

3.11. Cancellation of the application procedure

In the event of cancellation of the application procedure, InnoStars will notify applicants of the cancellation. In no event shall InnoStars be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of an application procedure, even if InnoStars has been advised of the possibility of damages.

3.12. Appeals/complaints

Applicants believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. Appeals should be addressed to InnoStars. The applicants have 3 days to file their complaints from the receipt of the letter of notification.

3.13. Ethics clauses / Corruptive practices

The InnoStars reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the selection procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud. If substantial errors, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the Contract, the InnoStars may refrain from concluding the Contract.

The applicant shall take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the contract is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). He should inform the InnoStars immediately if there is any change in the above circumstances at any stage during the implementation of the tasks.

3.14. Safeguarding of EU's financial interest

The potential or actual expert should accept that during the implementation of the contract and for four years after the completion of the contract, InnoStars has the right for the purposes of safeguarding the EU's financial interests to transfer the application and the contract of the expert to internal audit services, EIT, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Declaration of Honour

www.eit.europa.eu



EIT Health is supported by the EIT,
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