InnoStars Connect Programme
Call for Proposals

EIT Health InnoStars e.V.

Version 1.2
June 26, 2025

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History of changes

Version	Publication date	Changes
1.0		Initial version
1.1	27.05.2025	The deadline has been extended from 30 May to **June 13, 2025**. Other parts of the call remain unchanged. In line with the deadline extension, the timeline for evaluation is slightly changed as follows: • Proposals submissions deadline: 13.06.2025 • Proposals evaluation: June 2025 • Invitations to hearings: End-June 2025 • Announcing the final selected teams: July 2025 The change is indicated in red in the call document.
1.2	26.06. 2025	- Clarified the mentor selection process. -Removed the post-programme activity and optional services because they are out of the scope of this call and could lead to confusion if they are mandatory parts of the action or not

Any changes to this call are listed in the table above. Amended copies of the call will be available on the call website.

1. Call summary

MAIN FEATURES	
Why should you apply	Join InnoStars Connect, an open innovation and challenge-based collaboration programme. It brings together **EIT Health InnoStars partners**—who act as challenge owners—with European healthcare startups, hospitals, universities, research institutions, and SMEs. It allows them to work closely together to address and solve real-world healthcare challenges.
Who can apply	This programme is open to the following legal entities: • SMEs as defined by the European Commission (including spin-offs and start-ups) • Healthcare institutions, Academic institutions, Research institutions and Universities Applicant shall: be legal entities registered in one of the following RIS eligible countries:

	• **EU Member States**: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain. • **Horizon Europe Associated Countries**: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Israel. • **Outermost Regions**: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain) Applicant has: an innovative solution with a maturity level of at least **TRL 6 up to TRL 9** where the technology/service/solution has been demonstrated in working/relevant environment.
Key dates	• Call opening: 31.03.2025 • Proposals submission deadline: 13.06.2025 • Proposals evaluation: Early-July 2025 • Invitations to hearings: Mid- July 2025 • Announcing the final selected teams: Early August 2025 • Bootcamp first cycle: September 2025 (offline) • Bootcamp second cycle: November 2025 (online/offline) • Activity closure & Reporting: December 2025
Challenge Owners 2025	• Chiesi Group • ULS de Coimbra
Budget and maximum funding	We offer a lump sum of **€10,000/per team** to be utilized as follows: • **6000 €** solution development • **3000 €** traveling to bootcamp • **1000 €** mentoring and coaching
Link to the submission portal	EIT Health Application Platform
Eligibility and alignment check	Before initiating the evaluation process, applicants must be verified as legal entities in the specified regions, their maturity level assessed, and their solutions ensured to align with the EIT Health focus areas.
Evaluation criteria – (step one)	Three independent evaluators will assess each proposal based on: • Alignment with the specified challenge (40%) • Excellence and well-defined product/service description. (30%) • Impact and market suitability (20%) • Quality and efficiency of the implementation and strength and commitment of the team (10%)

Selection criteria- (step two)	The top 15 proposals with the highest ranking will be invited to participate in the short hearing and project selection phase. In total, 10 teams will be selected to join the programme.
Contact details	sarah.haddadin@eithealth.eu

2. Background

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is Europe's largest innovation ecosystem bringing together close to 2,400 partners from top business, research, and education organisations across Europe in over 50 innovation hubs. The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, composed of leading companies, research labs, and universities each dedicated to solving a pressing global challenge, from climate change to health to renewable energy. For more information visit https://eit.europa.eu/

EIT Health is a network of best-in-class health innovators with approximately 130 partners and is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. We collaborate across borders to deliver new solutions enabling European citizens to live longer, healthier lives. As Europeans face the challenge of increasing chronic diseases and multi-morbidity and seek to realise the opportunities that technology offers to move beyond conventional approaches to treatment, prevention and healthy lifestyles, we need thought leaders, innovators and efficient ways to bring innovative healthcare solutions to market. EIT Health addresses these needs. We connect all relevant healthcare players across European borders – making sure to include all sides of the "knowledge triangle" so that innovation can happen at the intersection of research, education and business for the benefit of citizens. For more information visit: www.eithealth.eu.

EIT Health InnoStars is one of the eight geographical areas of EIT Health. It covers half of Europe, including Poland, Hungary, Italy, and Portugal, as well as additional regions included in the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme. This is a group of countries qualified by the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) as moderate innovators. InnoStars is focused on promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and education in the domain of healthcare, healthy living and active ageing in the region and closing the innovation gap between regions.

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS) was created by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to close the gap between regions that are leaders in innovation and those regions that are progressing. It aims to incubate the regions in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe, discovering their unique innovation assets and engaging local innovators to participate in pan-European Programmes. In the field of healthcare, the Programme has been developing since 2016, and it is coordinated by EIT Health InnoStars. The list of the eligible RIS countries can be found at https://eit.europa.eu/activities/eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris-closing-innovation-divide-europe

3. Scope

3.1 Programme Overview

InnoStars Connect is an open innovation and challenge-based collaboration programme. It brings together EIT Health InnoStars partners—who act as challenge owners—with European healthcare startups, hospitals, universities, research institutions, and SMEs. It allows them to work closely together to address and solve real-world healthcare challenges. The activity provides financial support to selected applicants to further develop their innovative solutions, while also aiming to commercialize these solutions after the programme.

The programme provides bootcamp sessions and mentoring to participants, helping them refine their value propositions to meet the specific needs of the challenge owners. By fostering these collaborations, InnoStars Connect drives innovation, enhances patient outcomes, and supports the development of value-based healthcare delivery models. It ensures that all challenges align with the strategic goals of the EIT Health InnoStars ecosystem while enabling health tech innovators to deliver impactful solutions.

For challenge owners, the programme offers access to cutting-edge innovations and collaboration opportunities with health tech innovators. This ensures that solutions are tailored to tackle the most pressing challenges faced by healthcare systems, keeping these organisations competitive and future ready. Through this process, InnoStars Connect bridges the gap between innovative health tech solutions and the specific needs of the healthcare sector, driving transformational change across the industry. The programme supports the growth of start-ups while enabling challenge owners to deliver better care, optimize resources, and achieve measurable results for patients. Ultimately, InnoStars Connect ensures that innovation moves beyond theory, creating practical solutions that directly benefit healthcare systems and their stakeholders.

The programme first edition took place in 2024, featuring two dedicated challenge owners: Synlab Italia and Chiesi Group. Ten selected teams had the opportunity to pilot their solutions with leading players in the European healthcare sector. This provided a unique chance for participants to showcase their innovations and potentially make significant contributions to advancing healthcare.

For the second round, the challenge owners will be Chiesi Group and ULS de Coimbra, leading the next phase of innovation and collaboration. Participants will have the opportunity to work closely with them to develop impactful solutions for healthcare challenges.

Chiesi Group is looking for groundbreaking solutions for their first challenge in **Neonatal Respiratory Care**, particularly for **Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (NRDS) and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD).** These are critical challenges in neonatal care, impacting survival and long-term health. For their second challenge, they are seeking innovative solutions to enhance **prenatal and neonatal care**, providing support for both preterm babies and their parents.

Meanwhile, **ULS de Coimbra** seeks innovative **digital solutions to optimize hospital scheduling, enhancing clinical workflows** and **patient appointment management**.

Further details can be found in **Annex 1.**

3.2 Objectives

EIT Health, in collaboration with its network, can harness transformative forces to eliminate barriers to innovation specific to the healthcare sector, turning challenges into opportunities. The programme contributes to the following EIT Health KPI:

- Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by KICs for at least 2 months in year N, provided the KIC's services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth).

- Number of entities/organisations participating in EIT and KIC activities from regions outside the KICs' CLC regions.

- Investment attracted by KIC supported EIT RIS start-ups/scale-ups: Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by supported start-ups/scale-ups established in the EIT RIS countries, that have received KIC business creation services support of total duration of at least two months, within a maximum of three years following the last received KIC KAVA support activity.

3.3 Activities

Stage 1: Online applications

Eligible legal entities apply online on EIT Health Application Platform (**SmartSimple**). In their application form, applicants describe their product or service, and how it is aligned with the outlined challenges and meet the challenge owners' needs and expectations, business plan including growth strategy, team and achievements.

Stage 2: Proposal evaluation, hearing and selection

After the evaluation and selection process (see Chapter 5) all applicants are informed about the selection results. In total, 10 applicants will be selected.

Stage 3: InnoStars Connect Programme

The programme provides (online/offline) tailored bootcamp sessions along with tailored mentoring, allowing participants to choose experts from EIT Health's Mentoring and Coaching Network (MCN) or find mentors on their own that best suit their needs.This support helps them refine their value propositions and develop solutions that best meet the specific needs of challenge owners

3.4 Duration

Publication date of the call: 31st of March 2025
End of the implementation: 31st of December 2025

3.5 Available budget, form of funding and payment schedule

The indicative EIT funding available for the grants under this call is: EUR 100,000.
The maximum amount of the financial support InnoStars provides for each selected proposal under this call is EUR 10,000.
 The grant is provided as a lump sum action grant. For more details for lumps sum grants please consult the Horizon Europe lump sum Model Grant Agreement[1] and Commission guidance[2].

Selected participants are entitled to payments as follows:

Payment type	Amount	Payment schedule
Pre-financing	50%	30 days after the signature of the subgranting agreement
Final payment (payment of balance)	50%	30 days after the approval of the final report

3.6 Timeline

If there are any changes to the dates, the participants will be notified well in advance.

Milestone	Dates
Call opening	31.03.2025
Info sessions about the call	**ULS de Coimbra**: April 7, 2025, from 11 AM to 12 PM CET **Chiesi Group**: April 11, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM CET
Proposals submissions deadline	13.06.2025
Evaluation,hearing and selection	Takes up to 30 days following the submission of application. Invitation sent for the hearing maximum 35 days following the submission of application.
Notification of Applicants	Notification of eligibility: Maximum 20 days following the submission of application. Notification of results: Maximum 60 days following the submission of application.

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/ls-mga_en.pdf
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum/guidance

Deadline for appeals	10 days following receiving the letter of notification on the results
Activity closure, reporting	December 2025

4. Call conditions

4.1 Admissibility

Applications must be submitted before the deadline(s) indicated in Chapter 5.1.
Applications must be submitted **electronically through** the electronic submission tool specified under Section 5.1.

Applications must be submitted in English using the forms provided inside the electronic submission system. The structure and presentation must correspond to the instructions given in the forms.
Applications must be readable, accessible, and complete and contain all the requested information and mandatory annexes and supporting documents.

Submissions that are incomplete, late, or made through any other channel (for example, email or on paper) will not be accepted.

In addition to the admissibility conditions mentioned above, specific limits may be applied to documents, pages, or sections of the application. The character limits are clearly shown in the application templates in the electronic submission system. After the call deadline, parts that exceed the limit and extra documents that are not specified as part of the application will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.

4.2 Eligibility

4.2.1 Entities eligible to participate

The call is open to the following legal entities:
- SMEs as defined by the European Commission (including spin-offs and start-ups)
- Healthcare institutions, Academic institutions, Research institutions and Universities

Applicant shall
1. be a legal entity registered in one of the following RIS eligible countries:

- EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Israel.
- Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)

2. participate in the boot camp sessions which are mandatory, and it is required that the same team member(s) remain involved throughout the boot camp.
3. choose mentors from either the Mentoring and Coaching Network (MCN) of EIT Health or find mentors on their own that best suit their needs. Mentoring is mandatory, and **a total budget of EUR 1,000 needs to be fully allocated to it.**
4. be willing to travel to other European locations for the bootcamp and the demo day event.
5. not be an an individual or large enterprise, as they cannot apply for funding under this call.
6. not participating in other EIT Health RIS programme concurrently.
7. note that if applying to multiple challenges, only their best and eligible proposal will be selected.
8. have an innovative solution with a maturity level of at least **TRL 6 up to TRL9** where the technology / service /solution has been demonstrated in working/relevant environment. Additional information regarding the Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) can be found here.

4.2.2   Eligible activities

Smart funding of a lump sum of EUR 10,000 per team to facilitate and support the collaboration between the participants and the challenge owners, which must be utilized as follows:

- 6000 € solution development
- 3000 € traveling for bootcamp
- 1000 € mentoring and coaching.

Each proposal must provide a detailed breakdown of cost estimation, outlining the resources mobilized for the activities specified above. The estimates should approximate actual costs and comply with the eligibility criteria outlined in chapter 12. The cost estimation must be submitted as part of the proposal. The budget template can be downloaded from the application platform.

Eligible activities:

a) Tailored mentoring and coaching from experts in the EIT Health Mentoring and CoachingNetwork based on team needs or any mentors that best suit their needs.
b) Engaging and collaborating with leading companies in the health sector.
c) Participate in the (online/offline) tailored bootcamp sessions & the demo day which will help participants adapt and scale the proposed solution based on the challenge owners' needs and expectations. Participants will learn to master healthcare regulations, refine their concepts, perfect their pitches, and work with top experts to gain tools for thriving in the healthcare industry.
d) Participants will have the opportunity to become part of the largest health innovation network with EIT Health InnoStars. They will be able to showcase their solutions to EIT Health InnoStars' core industrial partners and market experts. Additionally, participants will have the chance to attend the grand final, where the top three teams will receive financial prizes.

4.2.3 Eligible costs

InnoStars provides lump sum funding under this call, in order to reduce administrative burden, risk of financial error, and complexity. As a result, there won't be thorough cost reporting at the end of the project; instead, a detailed cost estimate and work plan must be included in the proposal, and payments will be made upon the completion of activities.

For lump sum grants proposals, the estimated budget must be described in a detailed budget table. This will be used as a basis for justifying and/or fixing the lump sum amount. The lump sum must approximate the actual costs incurred, the costs included in this detailed budget table must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, Article 6). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must ensure best value for money (or, if appropriate, the lowest price) and be free from any conflicts of interest. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grants may be reduced (even later on during implementation of the project or after they end).

For a lump sum cost to be eligible, the following criteria must be met:
- the costs must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned as described in Article 6.1 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement[3] and listed below;
- the costs must be declared under one of the budget categories listed below;
- the costs must be necessary and justified by the activities proposed;
- the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with the work plan annexed to the subgranting agreement;
- the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in the call and subgranting agreement (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards).

General eligibility conditions:
- must be actually incurred by the beneficiary;
- must be incurred in the project period set out in the Financial Support Agreement;
- must be incurred in connection with the action as described in the proposal and the Annex of the Financial Support Agreement;
- must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices;
- must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security.
- must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

Eligible cost categories for cost estimation:

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[3]https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

- Personnel costs;
- Subcontracting costs;
- Travel and subsistence (on the basis of the costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel);
- Other goods, works and services.

Indirect cost for this project is not eligible.

4.3   Exclusion

If an entity falls into in one of the exclusion situations described in Articles 136 and 141 of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046, they will be excluded from participation at any time (during the evaluation, contracting or implementation phases).[4] Applicants will have to confirm that they comply with the above conditions for receiving EU funding by signing a declaration of honour.

5.   Selection

5.1   Submission

Applications must be submitted no later than **June 13, 2025, 16:00 (CET).**

Applications must be submitted electronically through the [EIT Health Application Platform](#) (**SmartSimple**).

Proposals must be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents as follows:
- Proposal
- The [Declaration of the SME Status](#) needs to be uploaded onto the application platform when submitting the proposal. It is important to ensure that it is signed before uploading it to the platform.
- Company registration certificate
- [Budget table](#)

Applications must be submitted in English using the forms provided inside the electronic submission system. The structure and presentation must correspond to the instructions given in the forms.

Applications must be readable, accessible, and complete and contain all the requested information and mandatory annexes and supporting documents.

To support the preparation of the call, **a webinar for ULS de Coimbra will be held on April 7, 2025, from 11 AM to 12 PM CET.** Please join us on this link:

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[4] See Articles 136 and 141 [EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046](#).

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86552469740?pwd=Hz3AVMQo9N7Ed9I3nb7kqDdmInqI3D.1

Additionally, a **webinar for Chiesi Group will be held on April 11, 2025 , from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM CET**. Please join us on this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84293145117?pwd=291VsJrRzofghzMad0SYA795K16cJl.1

Any submission done by any other means and/or after the deadline will not be considered eligible. We encourage you to complete your application sufficiently before the deadline to avoid late submissions. Problems due to last-minute submissions will be at your risk.

5.2   Award criteria and scoring

The admissible and eligible proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria:
- Alignment with the specified challenge (40%)
- Excellence and well-defined product/service description (30%)
- Impact and market suitability (20%)
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation and strength and commitment of the team (10%)

5.3   Procedure

The call is subject to a single-stage submission and two-step evaluation procedures.

5.3.1   Formal and quality evaluation

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of 3 independent external experts (quality evaluation) for operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their quality score.

The evaluators are contracted by EIT Health InnoStars e.V. and receive training on the EIT Health strategy, rules, and procedures. They will be instructed to check for conflict of interest and inform the EIT Health headquarters before evaluating the proposals' proceedings. These experts may work remotely and, if necessary, meet as an evaluation panel to apply the evaluation criteria.

The independent evaluators will give a maximum of **100 points** in the remote evaluation. The overall score will be the average of all the evaluators. Based on the scores the top 15 proposals with the highest ranking will be invited to participate in the hearing and project selection phase.

For proposals with the same score the priority order will be determined as follows:
1. Proposals that address aspects of the call that have not otherwise been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority.

2. The proposals identified under 1), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'.
3. If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
4. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call, or to Horizon Europe in general. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects or, where relevant and feasible, involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

5.3.2 Hearings and project selection

Based on the quality evaluation, the top 15 proposals with the highest ranking will be invited to participate in their respective challenge hearing sessions. These hearings will be managed by the EIT Health InnoStars selection committee. The jury will include the InnoStars Connect programme manager, the challenge owners and independent experts who were involved in the proposal assessment.

In total, 10 applicants will be selected, with the final decision made by the InnoStars selection committee.

5.3.3 Notification and contracting

Following the evaluation, all applicants will be notified of the evaluation result via email within 10 days of the final evaluation decision. Successful applicants will be invited to sign agreements.

Upon acceptance, participants need to sign the sub-granting agreement. This legal document outlines the conditions for receiving financial support from EIT Health InnoStars, as well as communication guidelines and reporting requirements for activities completed during the programme. **The standstill period for accepting the sub-granting offer is 30 days**.

If any selected applicants cancel their participation, the next applicants with evaluation scores closest to the selection will be invited to the programme.

5.4 Gender Equality

The European Commission is committed to promoting gender equality in innovation and technology. The EIT, as a body of the European Union and an integral part of Horizon Europe, plays a vital role in supporting the EU'S objectives of creating sustainable economic growth and jobs by enabling entrepreneurs and innovators to turn their best ideas into products and services for Europe. EIT Health shares the EIT KIC gender diversity value statement through supporting well-being at work, compliance with domestic and EU regulations, attracting and retaining talents, economic benefits, excellence and

quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of innovations and technology and as leverage for organisational change. Consequently, the gender requirements in Horizon Europe are of significant importance for all EIT Health-supported and funded activities.

5.5 Grounds for appeal and appeal procedure

If an applicant disagrees with the selection decision, they may appeal the process for the selection of their own proposal(s) within 10 calendar days of receiving the result notification.

The only grounds for appeal are:
- Process errors;
- Technical problems beyond the control of applicants (e.g., the technical failure of the electronic submission system);
- Human/technical errors made by EIT Health staff;
- Factual errors during the evaluation process;

What does not constitute grounds for appeal:
Scores awarded in the course of the evaluation process. Minding that the technical part is only one aspect of a good project, the EIT team must assess the business prospects and the innovation potential

Appeal process:
- Applicants should send their appeals in writing to the managing director of EIT Health InnoStars as soon as they identify an error, but no later than 10 calendar days after the error occurred.
- EIT Health InnoStars assesses the claim and deliver a first response.
- If there are grounds for appeal, the staff will attempt to remedy the consequences, e.g., if a technical error of EIT Health InnoStars prevented the submission of a proposal or application, a late submission may still be accepted as eligible.
- The Supervisory Board is notified about the matter if:
  - the applicant does not accept a rejection of the appeal, or
  - there are grounds for appeal, but the problem cannot be remedied any more without disrupting the process.

5.6 Legal and financial set-up of the Agreements

Entities that are accepted for funding must execute the subgranting agreement. Finalisation of the terms and conditions of the agreement will commence immediately after notification.

No activity funding will be released prior to execution of the subgranting agreement, but beneficiaries will be able to claim their costs retroactively from the notification date.

Legal document to be executed:

- The Financial Support Agreement outlines the terms and conditions for receiving financial support from InnoStars, including the start and end dates of the project, the form of grant, the cost eligibility, milestones, deliverables, reporting and payment arrangements.

The standstill period for accepting sub-granting is 30 days from notification to signature of the agreement.

6. Confidentiality and conflict of interest

All proposals submitted through the application platform are accessible only to EIT Health InnoStars and EIT Health Central Office staff members for the processing of the application.

During the selection process, proposals are shared with assigned external evaluators, who are contractually bound to confidentiality, and the challenge owners, who will have the full right and final decision to choose the teams they wish to collaborate with.

Additionally, EIT Health may give access to documentation provided during the due diligence phase to external advisors to support the assessment. Furthermore, EIT Health may give access to the submitted data to sub-contractors who are tasked with maintaining the application and project monitoring platform. All such third parties are also bound by confidentiality provisions.

To comply with the obligations under EIT agreements, EIT Health InnoStars may provide access to data to EIT Health and EIT staff, as well as selected external experts for reporting, checks, reviews, and auditing reasons.

EIT Health staff are bound by the policy on conflicts of interest. Applicants and potential beneficiaries of the EIT grant in selected activities must avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and sound financial management.

7. Intellectual property rights rules

InnoStars does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action. InnoStars and the Recipient may enter into additional arrangements regarding the use of the Results.

'Results' means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

InnoStars has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from the beneficiaries (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination, and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.).

For more information, please see Article 16 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement here.

8. Communication and dissemination

Communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.) must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement.

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

9. Right to ex-post monitoring

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables, and reports.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest. The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

10. Where to get help?

If you have any questions or require any further information about the call, please contact us by email at: sarah.haddadin@eithealth.eu

Annex 1: InnoStars Connect Challenges

Chiesi Group

Challenge 1 : Improving Neonatal Respiratory Care (In particular NRDS & BPD)

Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (NRDS) and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) are critical challenges in neonatal care, impacting survival and long-term health.

Key NRDS Challenges:
- Limited access to neonatal care and surfactant therapy, especially in underserved areas.
- Lack of reliable early diagnostic tools beyond FiO_2.
- Need for less invasive treatments and reduction of comorbidities like BPD.

Key BPD Challenges:
- No standardized definition, leading to inconsistent diagnosis and treatment.
- Lack of targeted therapies to reduce severity and long-term impact.

Chiesi Group is looking For innovative and sustainable solutions to improve neonatal care, focusing on:
- Early diagnosis & risk assessment (biomarkers, predictive models) also of possible comorbidities.
- Non-invasive monitoring (NICU & home settings).
- Smart, sustainable drug delivery & neonatal care solutions.
- Digital health innovations (apps for baby monitoring).
- Expanded neonatal care access, especially in low-resource settings.

Examples of Potential Innovations: Predictive -OMIC profiling, genetic testing, parental risk profiling, regenerative stem cell therapies, smart NICU solutions, remote monitoring, mHealth support, and improved enteral nutrition.

Chiesi Group

Challenge 2: Enhancing Prenatal & Neonatal Care

Supporting Preterm Babies:
- Improve disease management, reduce comorbidities, and provide respiratory rehabilitation.
- Use digital tools (apps, wearables) for early risk detection (e.g., preeclampsia, high blood pressure).
- Reduce rehospitalization and infection risks.
- Ensure access to appropriate prenatal care (e.g., steroid injections).
- Prevent complications in infants with BPD (e.g., COPD, infections)

Supporting Parents:

- Strengthen parent-child bonding and provide psychological support.
- Educate parents on home care (vaccines, infection prevention, oxygen portability).
- Improve clinical trial experiences (decentralized televisits, remote monitoring).
- Address health inequities by enhancing existing initiatives or launching new ones.

ULS de Coimbra

Topic A. Digital Solutions for Hospital Management - Automatic Scheduling of Clinical Events: Solutions must be capable of processing and responding to real-time updates to avoid double bookings or delays.

Topic B. Digital Solutions for Hospital Management - Patient Management and Appointments: Systems should consider patients' preferences and constraints, such as availability on specific days and language needs, to ensure equitable and effective scheduling. Utilizing AI chatbots can enhance this scheduling process and improve patient communication.

Annex 2: Read through our presentation for Q&A