IMI2 JU responses to the Independent Observer's report

Call ID: H2020-JTI-IMI2-2020-21-single-stage

IMI2 JU 21st Call for Proposals

Single stage evaluation

Dates of evaluation: 22-28 April 2020

Name of the Independent Observer: Ian Kitchen

Summary of Recommendations

1. *I recommend a more structured timed agenda for assessing proposals in the panel meetings is adopted in an effort to devise a more efficient process to writing consensus reports. In particular, I recommend identifying agenda time slots for reviewing each proposal which are adhered to.*

2. *I recommend greater focus is given to scoring the proposals in the formal agendas and that consideration should be given to determining the proposal scoring as a basis for completion of the consensus report comments, rather than vice-versa.*

3. *I recommend that where proposals are remotely ranked low by the majority of experts in the initial pre-panel meeting assessments these should be allocated only a minimum amount of time to arrive at a consensus report.*

4. *I recommend where two rapporteurs are appointed in a sub-panel they should be selected from different countries wherever possible.*

5. *When using remote evaluations, I recommend primarily using audio (with strict muting procedures when not talking) to maximise the efficiency of arriving at consensus between experts.*

6. *I recommend that expert panel members are routinely provided the e-mail contact details of the independent observer to make confidential comments on the panel process. This worked very well in this remote evaluation and should be adopted when evaluations return to normal face to face meetings.*

7. *There were some occasions where the start times of the sub-panels was brought forward or put back. For any future remote evaluations, I recommend panel moderators should contact the independent observer to advise of any changes in the timing of the*

agenda to facilitate the role of the independent observer in logging in to remote sessions.

IMI2 JU Responses to the recommendations

IMI2 JU is pleased to have the confirmation that IMI2 Call 21 evaluation followed a high-quality evaluation process and was run with a high level of professionalism and transparency.

Due to the nature of the call, addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to the pandemic itself this was an emergency call run under very tight timelines as well as the first IMI2 Call conducted fully in remote and with several sub-panels in parallel for the same budget split. The challenge of organising the evaluation was also compounded by the large number of full proposals received.

IMI2 takes note of the recommendations concerning the identification of fixed time slots in the agenda for discussion of each proposal, and the recommendation of allocating a shorter amount of time for proposals that have been ranked low by the majority of the experts at the individual evaluation phase. Scoring of proposals is an integral part of the agenda but we agree that it would be useful to have this aspect specifically highlighted in the meeting agenda. These are relevant points to be taken into account in future Calls of similar characteristics, i.e. single-stage Calls with large number of submitted full proposals.

The appointment of dedicated rapporteurs in consensus meetings in IMI2 has been very exceptional so far, due to the characteristics of most IMI2 Calls. Should the appointment of dedicated rapporteurs be considered again in the future, special attention will be paid to ensure overall heterogeneity in country of origin if possible.

The recommendations of using audio (with strict control of the mute function) to maximise the consensus meeting efficiency, and providing the experts with the e-mail of the independent observer to make confidential comments on the evaluation process, have already been implemented in subsequent IMI2 evaluations conducted remotely.

Finally, regarding the changes in the timing of the agendas occurred during the panel meetings, a closer follow-up of these changes and faster communication between panel moderators, Call Coordination and Independent Observers have been implemented in subsequent IMI2 evaluations conducted remotely, especially in those involving several panel meetings running simultaneously.