**IMI2 JU responses to the Independent Observer’s Report**

**Call ID: H2020-JTI-IMI2-2019-19-single-stage**

**IMI2 19th Call for Proposals**

**Date of evaluation: 21-22 October 2019**

**Name of the observers: Jean Calleja Agius**

**Summary of Recommendations**

The evaluations were very well administered and there are just one modification that the observer can suggest to optimise the process. This regarding the fact that more time (possibly another afternoon/day) could have been allocated, in the event of hearings taking place on the day following the evaluation of each single proposal. In this particular evaluation, the process was successfully completed in time because the morning of the 2nd day which was initially set aside for a potential hearing was not in fact needed for any hearing. Therefore it was possible to continue the discussions on the second day, after the whole portfolio of the 5 proposals was separately evaluated in depth on the first day.

Nevertheless if hearings had been held or if there had been a larger number of proposals submitted, then there may not have been sufficient time to ensure that the comments and scores were fully aligned for each proposal.

Throughout the whole of the evaluation process, it was very clear to the observer that every proposal was given a very fair and thorough evaluation, and only the excellent proposals (2 out of 5 proposals) made it above the threshold and were funded, even though there was remaining allocated budget.

**IMI2 JU responses to the recommendations**

IMI2 JU is happy to have the Independent Observer’s confirmation that the evaluation process was very well organised, professionally run and of high quality.

Regarding the recommendation made by the Independent Observer, IMI2 JU will take into consideration the options to increase the time allocated to the in-house evaluation in case of complex calls with an expected high number of submitted proposals.