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A brief history

• IMI – or the Innovative Medicines Initiative: joint undertaking of the European Commission and EFPIA
• IMI was launched in 2008 and currently has 46 ongoing projects.
• IMI supports education and training projects.
• During its first phase (2008-2013), IMI had a budget of €2 billion, half of which came from the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for research (FP7), and half of which came from in kind contributions by EFPIA companies.
• Focus on:
  – specific health issues, such as neurological conditions (Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia, depression, chronic pain, and autism), diabetes, lung disease, oncology, inflammation & infection, tuberculosis, and obesity.
  – broader challenges in drug development like drug and vaccine safety, knowledge management, the sustainability of chemical drug production, the use of stem cells for drug discovery, drug behaviour in the body, the creation of a European platform to discover novel medicines, and antimicrobial resistance. In addition to research projects, IMI supports education and training projects.
• €3.3 billion budget for the period 2014-2024, IMI is the world's biggest public-private partnership (PPP) in the life sciences.

• Half of IMI's budget comes from Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation.

• €1.425 billion committed to the programme by EFPIA companies, plus up to €213 million that could be committed by other life science industries or organizations that decide to contribute to IMI2 as members or associated partners in individual projects.

• EFPIA companies and other associated partners do not receive any EU funding, but contribute to the projects ‘in kind’, by donating their researchers’ time or providing access to research facilities or resources.
• The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is working to improve health by speeding up the development of, and patient access to, innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need. It does this by facilitating collaboration between the key players involved in healthcare research, including universities, the pharmaceutical and other industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organisations, and medicines regulators. IMI is a partnership between the European Union and the European pharmaceutical industry, represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).
Objectives

- The goal of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), in its second phase (2014-2024) is to develop next generation vaccines, medicines and treatments, such as new antibiotics.
- It will bring together companies, universities, public laboratories, innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient groups and regulators in collaborative projects that will pave the way for novel treatments to tackle Europe’s growing health challenges, and secure the future international competitiveness of Europe’s pharmaceutical industry.
Objectives

• IMI will provide Europeans, including the increasing numbers of older people, with more efficient and effective medicines and treatments.

• Cost savings will ease the burden on public healthcare systems and greater coordination across industry sectors will result in more reliable and faster clinical trials, and better regulation.

• IMI 2 research and innovation efforts will also open new commercial possibilities based on new services and products. The research, industry and societal sectors involved in IMI2 will benefit from the cooperation and knowledge sharing which take place in these projects.
Objectives

- In particular, IMI aims to deliver:
- a 30% better success rate in clinical trials of priority medicines identified by the WHO;
- clinical proof of concept in immunological, respiratory, neurological and neurodegenerative diseases in just five years;
- new and approved diagnostic markers for four of these diseases and at least two new medicines which could either be new antibiotics or new therapies for Alzheimer’s disease.
How it works:

• The general document for guidance is the **Strategic Research Agenda**;

• From the **SRA** are derived **Annual Implementation Plans**, which establish **the priorities** and **the topics** that are included in the **Calls for Proposals**

• In the preparation of Calls for Proposals, the EFPIA groups is designating the EFPIA contribution, which has to be “matched” by academia, SMEs, patient organizations and regulators. (named, for short, Academia)
How it works

• **Stage 1**: A Call for proposals is published on the IMI website, where all interested parties from academia, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organisations, regulatory agencies, large non-EFPIA companies etc. are invited to form Applicant Consortia and to submit an **Expression of Interest** in response to the Call.

• At least 3 entities from 3 member or associated states must be included in a consortium.

• The EOI must be completed and submitted within the time frame of the call.
• **Stage 2:** Following the **first stage peer review**, the **Applicant Consortium with Expression of Interest**, and the **EFPIA consortium associated to the topic**, are invited to form a **Full Project Consortium**.

• The **Full Project Proposal** contains a draft **Project Agreement** which is to be concluded between all members of the consortium governing their relationship, including detailed intellectual property rights based on the IMI intellectual property rights policy.
How it works

• The **Full Project Proposal** is evaluated based on consistency with the original **Expression of Interest**, on **scientific excellence**, the quality of the implementation plan and the potential impact.

• **Ethical issues** are also considered at this stage.

• Only **Full Project Proposals** that have been favorably reviewed in the evaluation process can be **selected for funding**. The selected project consortium will be invited to conclude a Grant Agreement governing the relationship between them and IMI.
How it works

- **Funding:** IMI projects receive funding from the European Commissions' Seventh Framework Programme for Research, which is matched by mostly in-kind contributions (consisting of research activities and other resources), provided by the research-based pharmaceutical companies that are members of EFPIA, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations.
Financial rules: Basic

The **legal entities eligible for IMI funding are the following:**
- Academia
- SMEs (according to the EU definition)
- Patient organizations
- Non-profit research organizations
- Intergovernmental organizations

These entities are defined as beneficiaries

The **legal entities not eligible for IMI funding are the following:**
- EFPIA companies (including their affiliates)
- Any type of organization not included in the above list of IMI eligible legal entities, (e.g. private companies not falling within the EU definition of SMEs).
Financial rules:

Funding rates are the following (only for beneficiaries):
• - Research activities: a maximum of 75% of total eligible costs
• - Other activities, including management and training activities: a maximum of 100% of total eligible costs

IMI may co-finance:
• - Direct eligible costs (personnel, consumables, equipment, etc.)
• - Indirect eligible costs = overheads calculated according a flat-rate of 20% of direct eligible costs (excluding subcontracting and third party costs incurred outside premises of a beneficiary), or actual indirect costs
Where to look:

• Partner search: https://cloud.imi.europa.eu/web/eimi-pst
• General info: http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/home
• Subscribe to IMI newsletter: http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/subscribe-imi-newsletter