

IMI2 JU responses to the Independent Observer's report

Call ID: H2020-JTI-IMI2-2019-18-two-stage

IMI2 JU 18th Call for Proposals

Stage 2 Evaluation

Dates of evaluation: 3-5 May 2020

Name of the Independent Observer: Hans Lehmann

Summary of Recommendations

Consensus meetings as remote meetings, using a video conference tool are an option, respectively a necessity under the current circumstances of a pandemic. With the organization, the material provided and the management as described in this report and in particular the dedication of the independent experts and the IMI2 JU staff, the video conference format gives equivalent results as compared to onsite face to face meetings. Nevertheless, if there is a choice, my recommendation is to stay with onsite consensus meetings.

In case of future video consensus meetings, however, I recommend to split the meetings and divide them into two consecutive days or half-days, with the formulation and sending out of the questions at the end of the first day and the start of hearings at the onset of the second day.

Independent of video or face-to-face meetings there is another consideration. Assumed we will have face to face meetings again, in the future it might anyway be reasonable to have remote hearings as standard, the video conference tool for this part of the evaluation is –as has been demonstrated- fully appropriate.

IMI2 JU Responses to the recommendations

IMI2 JU is pleased to have the confirmation that the Stage 2 evaluations were very well administered and that the remote consensus meetings had the same high quality as the face-to-face meetings previously attended by the independent observer at Stage 1.

The decision of having remote consensus meetings followed the EC guidelines on programme implementation as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak, which affected all evaluations from March 2020 until further notice. Therefore, the option of moving back to

face-to-face consensus meetings will depend on the evolution of the pandemic and consequent updates of the guidelines on programme implementation by the European Commission.

IMI2 JU will take into consideration the recommendation of splitting the one-day consensus meeting at Stage 2 into two half-days when setting up the organisation of Stage 2 evaluation in future Calls.

IMI2 JU also thanks the independent observer for the recommendation of establishing remote hearings as the standard practice even in future face-to-face consensus meetings. We acknowledge this may simplify the logistical aspects of the consortium's preparation for the hearing while at the same time fulfilling the purpose of the hearing.