

# The Innovative Health Initiative (IHI): Engagement with Industry and preparing for IHI Call12

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## Czech national Information Day – Horizon Europe 2026

***13 January 2026***



# Outline

1. Introducing the Trade Associations: who we are, what we do and what is our role in IHI
2. Why participate in IHI calls?
3. How to participate in IHI call 12?
4. How to engage with industry?

# The Innovative Health Initiative

- A public-private partnership (PPP)
- Co-founded by the European Union and the health industries (pharma and medtech)
- Established under the Horizon Europe Programme, successor to the IMI2 PPP
- General objectives:
  - Turn health research and innovation into real benefits for patients and society;
  - Deliver safe, effective health innovations that cover the entire spectrum of care – from prevention to diagnosis and treatment – particularly in areas where there is an unmet public health need;
  - Make Europe's health industries globally competitive.

<https://www.ihi.europa.eu/about-ihi>

# Who are the healthcare industries in IHI?

Trade Association	Represents	Mission/Vision
<a href="#">EFPIA</a> 	Pharmaceutical industry	To create a collaborative environment that enables our members to innovate, discover, develop and deliver new therapies and vaccines for people across Europe, as well as contribute to the European economy.
<a href="#">COCIR</a> 	Medical imaging, radiotherapy, health ICT and electromedical industries	Our industry delivers innovative, data-driven, safe and efficient diagnostic imaging, radiotherapy and digital health solutions for personalized and sustainable care that benefits patients, health professionals and healthcare system.
<a href="#">MedTech Europe</a> 	Medical Technology industry (Medical Devices, IVD and Digital Health)	Make innovative medical technology available to more people, while helping healthcare systems move towards a more sustainable path.
<a href="#">Vaccines Europe</a> 	Vaccine industry	To support broad access to immunisation, enabling better protection of the health of individuals and the wider community throughout life, with both existing vaccines and those in development.
<a href="#">EuropaBio</a> 	Biotech industry	Committed to the socially responsible use of biotechnology to improve quality of life, to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure diseases, to improve the quality and quantity of food and feedstuffs and to move towards a biobased and zero-waste economy.

# What do associations do in IHI?

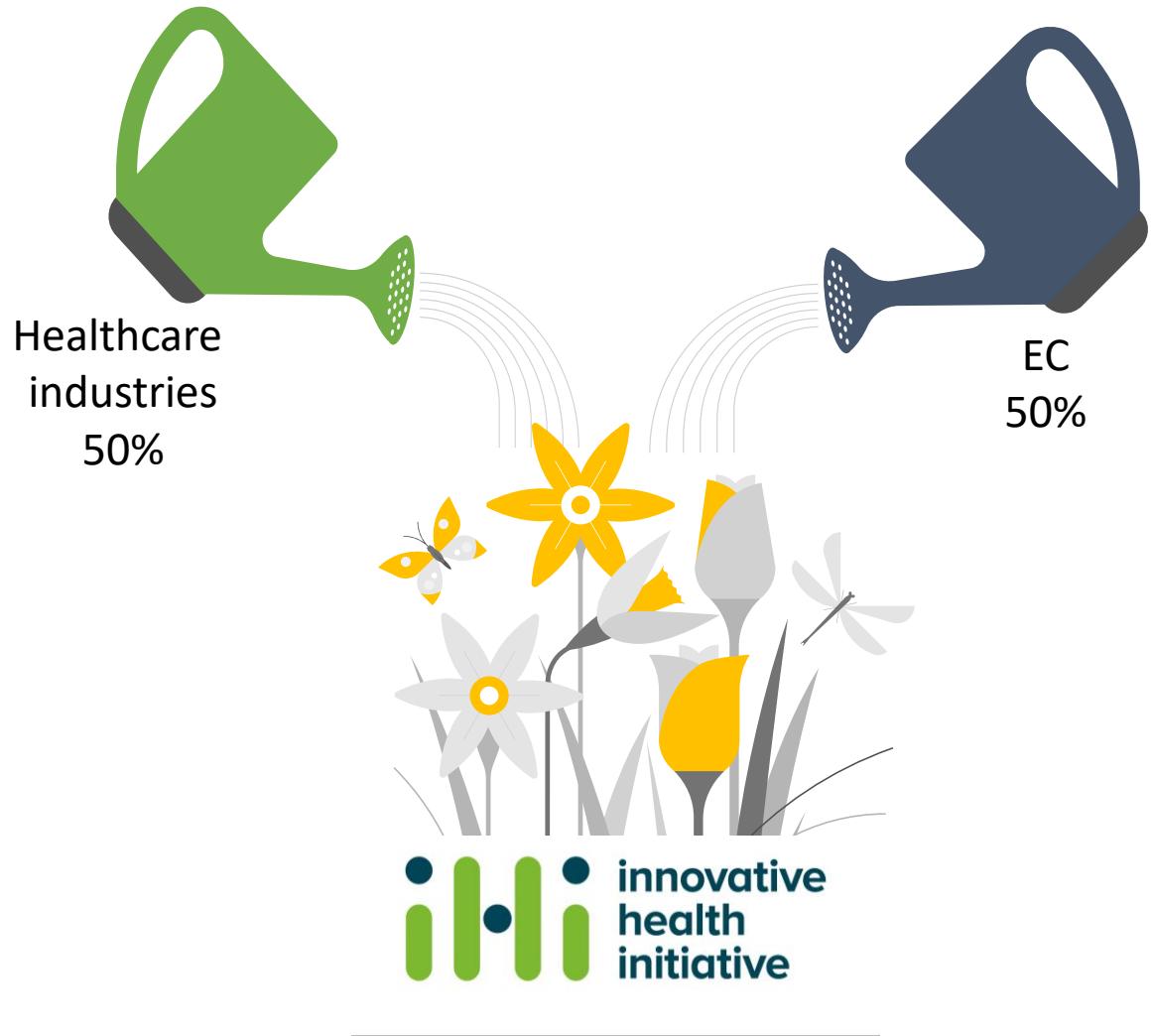
## **What do associations do in general?**

Represent the respective healthcare industry sector vis-à-vis the EU Institutions and other stakeholders

## **What do associations do in IHI?**

- Represent the respective healthcare industry sector **in IHI**
- We provide support related to industry participation in IHI:
  - We do not replicate the work of the IHI Office!
  - We are not NCPs or consultancies: we do not provide support in proposal preparation or bilateral matchmaking services
  - We work with members (corporate and national associations) to ensure mutual visibility in/of IHI
  - We are active in providing tailored information (e.g. how to engage with industry)
  - We collect and address feedback from stakeholders towards industry

# IHI: A public-private partnership (2021-2027)



## **Collaboration extends to:**

- Programming
- Financing
- Public and private partners collaborating in individual projects

# Industry associations: membership

**Who are our members who can contribute on the industry side?**

--> Companies that are:

- **Direct members of the European Associations:** [COCIR](#), [EFPIA](#), [EuropaBio](#), [MedTech Europe](#), [Vaccines Europe](#).
- **Members of national associations:**
  - Medtech: [czechmed](#), [czedma](#)
  - Pharma: [aifp](#)For all countries: see table [here](#)

See also industry one-pager: [How can my organisation contribute in-kind to an IHI project?](#)

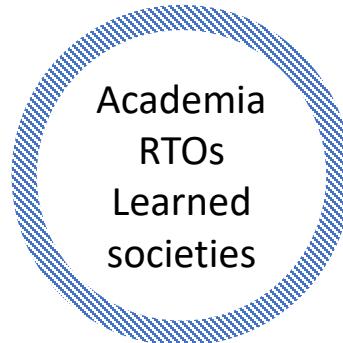
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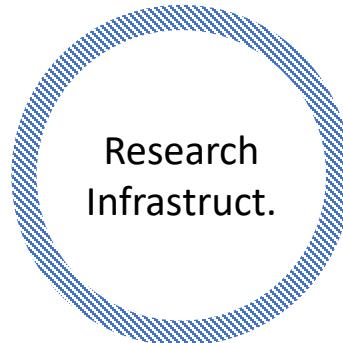
# Healthcare stakeholders: Potential participants to projects



Citizens  
Patients  
Carers



Academia  
RTOs  
Learned  
societies



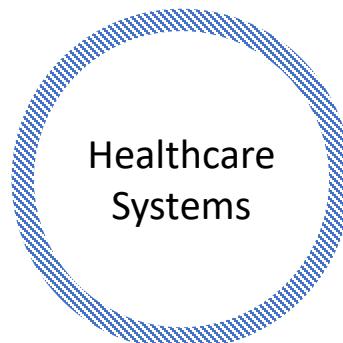
Research  
Infrastruct.



EU and  
National  
Regulators



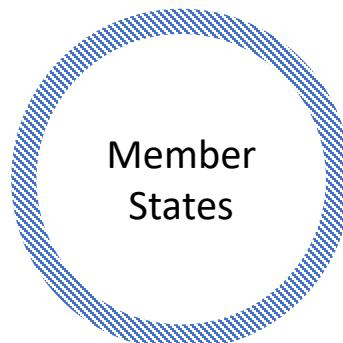
Industries  
all sectors  
& sizes



Healthcare  
Systems



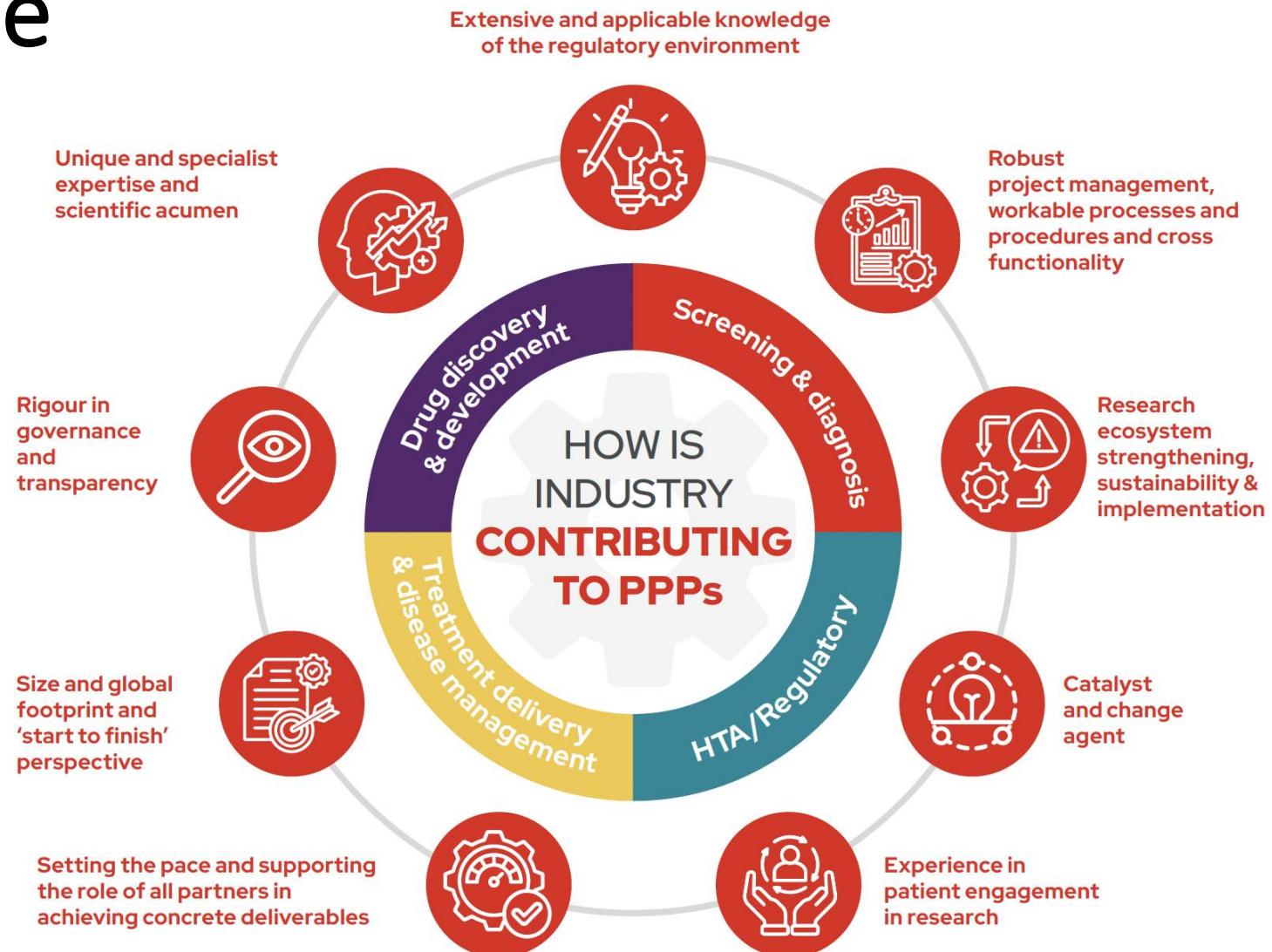
Healthcare  
Profession-  
als



Member  
States

# The complementary value that the industry brings to the table

Example on rare diseases:



# What makes IHI different from regular Horizon Europe calls?

- IHI equally **associates the EC and Industry in priority setting**
- Each IHI project requires ideally **50% of the budget from industry**...unlike Horizon where there is no minimum funding from industry
- IHI aims at delivering (direct and concrete) **impact on the healthcare delivery**
- The **average budget of an IHI project is usually >15 M€**, sometimes much more (ex: 60 M€)... unlike Horizon projects with budget on average <15 M€

# IHI for companies: Value of participating in IHI

- **Strategic commitment** and investment in the **long term**
- **Pre-competitive**: no product around the corner
- Collaboratively **building landscape** for long term European research and healthcare
- **Share and pool knowledge** – be part of long-term shaping of Europe
- Grant **funding should not be driver** for industry participation\*
- Most industrial engagement will be through in-kind contribution

## Advice we give companies to consider for a role into a project:

- Within your **capacity to contribute diverse expertise, knowledge, experience, and resources**
- Part of wider organisation **strategic development**
- **Long term**, slower moving than 'normal' projects

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# Up-to-date information always on the IHI website

## Learn about our future calls for proposals

We publish information on future call topics a few months ahead of the official call launch. We do this to give you additional time to find or build a consortium and prepare a strong proposal. Note that while topics are still under development, the texts may change considerably between the drafts published here and the final version, and you should always check the final topic texts once they are approved by the IHI Governing Board.

### IHI call 12 - final version of the call text now available

IHI call 12, which will be launched in early 2026, will invite applicants to explore new opportunities for IHI projects in the [IHI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#).

The call builds on the success of IHI call 9, which was launched earlier this year and piloted the applicant-driven approach. Under IHI call 12, proposals will have to adhere to the philosophy of IHI. In other words, they will have to: address an unmet public health need; require a large-scale, ambitious, cross-sector, public-private partnership; have clearly-described impacts on society, the economy and science; take account of the pre-competitive nature of IHI projects; and contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the EU's health industries and the implementation of relevant EU policies.

From a practical point of view, IHI call 12 will be a standard, single-stage call for proposals. This means that applicants will have to ensure that half of their project's costs are covered by in-kind contributions from IHI's industry members and (if relevant) IHI contributing partners.

#### Find out more

- Download the [final version of the call text](#) (published on 11 December following approval by the IHI Governing Board).
- Catch up on the [IHI Brokerage Event](#), which featured pitches on project proposal ideas as well as presentations and panel discussions highlighting useful advice to applicants
- Register for our [brokerage platform](#), which will remain open until the call deadline.

Don't wait until the official call launch: start networking with partners on potential projects as soon as draft texts are available

**Open calls:** Check out our calls that are open for full proposals (single-stage) or short proposals (two-stage).

**Future opportunities** : Learn about the topics that are in the pipeline for future calls for proposals.

**Draft call texts published early on;** e.g. in April 2025 for Call 11, mid-October 2025 for Calls 12

→ at least 3 months before official call launch: <https://www.ihi.europa.eu/apply-funding/future-opportunities>

# Call 12 to be launched in January 2026: final texts already available since 11 Dec 2025

IHI call 12, scheduled for launch in January 2026, to invite applicants to explore new opportunities for IHI projects in the [IHI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA) → “applicant-driven call”

## Focused on the 5 specific objectives of IHI SRIA:

1. Improve our understanding of the factors that affect our health and the development and treatment of certain diseases.
2. Integrate fragmented health research and innovation efforts by bringing together health industry sectors and other stakeholders. This will enable the development of tools, data, platforms, technologies and processes that will in turn facilitate the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases, especially in areas where there is an unmet public health need.
3. Demonstrate the feasibility of integrated healthcare solutions that draw on various technologies from different sectors and address the needs of the people who will use them, such as patients and healthcare professionals.
4. Make better use of opportunities to gather health data and use it in research and care, all while respecting relevant privacy legislation.
5. Develop ways of assessing the value of innovative, integrated health care solutions to patients, carers, healthcare professionals and organisations, and other stakeholders



Register for IHI Call days - webinars on 19-20 January: <https://www.ihieuropa.eu/news-events/events/ihicalldayscall12>

# 2 types of calls

## Single-stage (Call 12, early 2026)

- **Broad topics**, not specific to one single product/technology/solution
- **Private Members apply simultaneously with Public Members in mixed consortia** and co-develop their proposal for the single application
- Private Members can receive funding, but Pharma companies abstain from requesting funding
- **In-kind contributions** by private and contributing partners must be **secured during proposal preparation**

## Two-stage (Call 13, later in 2026)

- Targeted topics suited for a single, unified approach
- Industry and public consortia are formed separately
- Public consortia submit competing short proposals in the first round of the call
- A single top-ranked public consortium is selected and paired up with the industry consortium to prepare a joint, full proposal
- Private Members are not eligible for funding and no funding will be made available for companies with > 500M EUR annual turnover
- Industry contributions are committed prior to call launch: no need for public participants to secure further in-kind contributions

# Ongoing projects/calls: avoid duplications or overlaps

→ Please refer to IHI website, projects factsheets on Calls 1-7 (links for each call):

- [Call 1](#): CLAIMS, GUIDE.MRD, IDERHA, IMAGIO, PROMINENT
- [Call 2](#): HEU-EFS, iCARE4CVD
- [Call 3](#): AD-RIDDLE, COMBINE-CT, EDENT1FI, GRIPonMASH, IMPROVE, LIVERAIM, PaLaDin, PREDICTOM, SASICU
- [Call 4](#): ENKORE, NHPig, PharmEco, Project-COMFORT, READI, RealiseD
- [Call 5](#): Accelerate.EU, ILLUMINATE, SEARCHH, SYNTHIA, Thera4Care, UMBRELLA, VICT3R
- [Call 6](#): CAREPATH, GREG
- [Call 7](#): AUTOPIX, BRECISE, EASYGEN, EuroHeartPath, GRACE, INTERCEPT, SHERPA, VIROMARKERS
- [Call 8](#): BRIDGE, UNIFIED, + 2 projects coming soon on osteoarthritis and on prevention of CVDs
- [Call 9](#): more info on selected projects expected in January

+ Launched two-stage calls (one project per topic):

- [Call 10](#): topics PFAS, EHDS & IP, Digital labelling of medical technologies (deadline was April 2025)
- [Call 11](#): topics on brain dysfunction, the link between infections and non-communicable diseases, pharmacovigilance, type 1 diabetes, and ambulatory surgical centres (deadline was October 2025)

+ Many [IMI2](#) projects still ongoing, see [here](#).

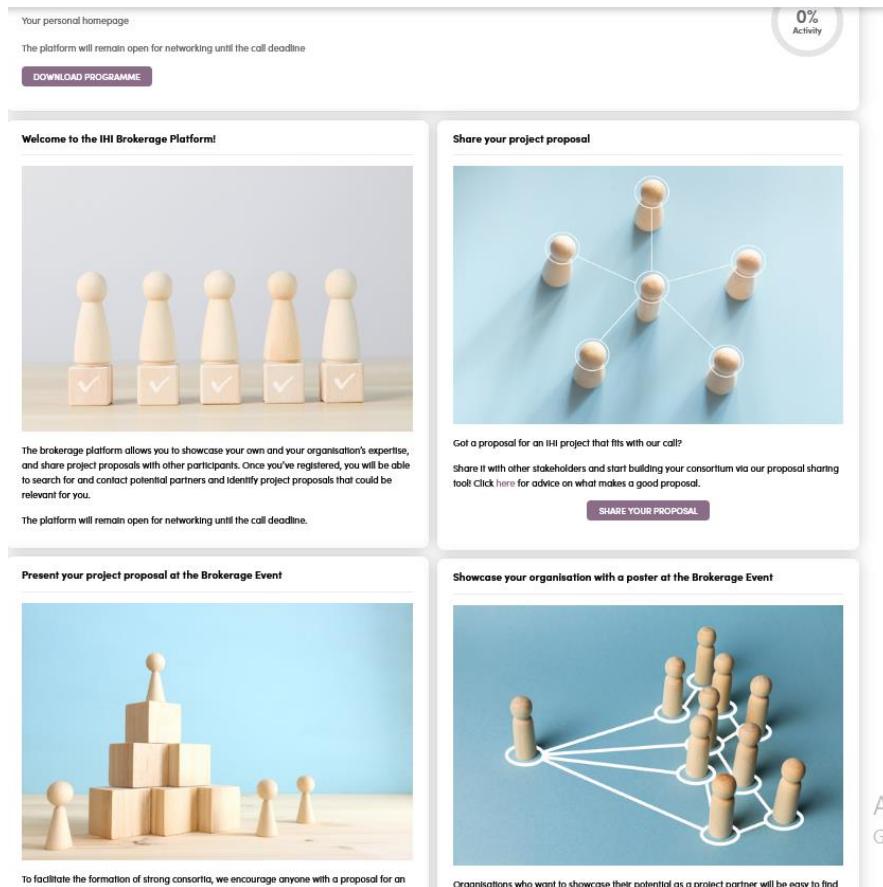
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# IHI Brokerage platform for IHI's 2026 calls

<https://ihicalldays2025.converve.io/>

find info on proposals, meet partners potentially interested to participate-contribute in a proposal



→ Check info and the search filters in:

+ Register for **IHI Call days**:  
webinars on 19-20 January  
<https://www.ihieuropa.eu/news-events/events/ihicalldayscall12>

# Important for you to know: how does industry contribute?

- Industry contribution has to be **balanced** with IHI funding overall at programme level
  - Therefore, expectation that each project provides a 1:1 matching
  - Legal requirement is that each application's budget has **at least 45% of private contribution**. To be on the safe side & plan for any mitigations -> **go for 50%**
- **What does industry contributions consist of?**
  - **IKOP (in-kind in projects)**: personnel, consumables, subcontracting, clinical studies, organisation of meetings, equipment...
  - **IKAA** = additional activities contributing to project objectives / IHI objectives (costs usually similar to above)  
Important: subject to HE rules, therefore based on actual costs incurred during the project, not on value
- Companies' commitments **usually require green light at management level**:
  - Single-stage calls: reaching out to companies one month before the deadline is simply too late
  - Two-stage calls: we cannot launch call topics without upfront commitments

# Tips for finding partners

- **Start early!** Consortia start forming as soon as draft topics are released (e.g., i.e. 6 to 7 months before submission deadline)
- **Be proactive** and be prepared to invest time and energy
- Good starting point: **build on your existing network**
- Think of **industry as *partners*** in a ***collaborative*** project, not as suppliers or future customers
- Be aware of the high intensity of matchmaking, make sure to share **relevant information** concisely:
  - Who are you and what is your expertise?
  - Why are you reaching out (e.g. responding to a pitch, proposing a new idea...)?
  - What is your interest in this topic?
  - Keep in mind the concept of IHI: why does your idea need a public-private partnership?
- Pay attention to the rules on consortium size / composition
- Use the **consortium agreement template** developed by industry specifically for IHI

# Contacts at Industry Associations



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# Thank you for your attention

