

IHI project guidelines for the dissemination of results

Dissemination of Results

Dissemination is a legal obligation, as stipulated in the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement under Article 17. It is therefore required for all IHI projects to share project outcomes, including scientific knowledge and results, in an open-access, reusable format as soon as possible, ensuring visibility and maximising the impact of research. Beneficiaries are responsible for planning and conducting dissemination activities throughout the project lifecycle and beyond.

This guide provides an overview of the rules related to the dissemination of results that apply to IHI, together with tips and links to help you prepare and report on dissemination activities.

What are Results?

Results are any tangible (e.g. innovative solutions, proof of feasibility, scientific publications, data or other engineered results and processes such as software, algorithms, prototypes, protocols and new infrastructures, etc.) or intangible (e.g. know-how, policy recommendations, guidelines, trained researchers and networks, etc.) output of the project, whether or not they can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights. Key results are the outputs generated during project implementation that can create an impact either during or after funded projects finish, either by the project partners or by other stakeholders that access such results and further build on them.

Why is dissemination essential?

Dissemination is your legal obligation and an essential element of all good research practice. In addition, by sharing the results of your research in a timely and effective manner, you can:

- contribute to progress the scientific knowledge, drive further innovation, and improve health technologies for the common good;
- help enhance the visibility of the project, ensuring that research reaches the stakeholders who can benefit from and build upon the findings;
- trigger novel approaches and solutions to the health product development process that will ultimately benefit patients and society;
- contribute to strengthening and promoting your organisation's profile;
- help to raise funds for the sustainability and exploitation of your results and for follow-up projects;
- make research more efficient and contribute to avoiding duplication of research resources;
- align with IHI's mission of fostering collaborative health innovation, increasing the value and recognition of the project consortium.

Who should you disseminate to?

In order to have an impact, your project results need to be disseminated in a targeted manner to those

stakeholders that can best make use of them in their work. Examples of potential beneficiaries are the scientific community, researchers, industry and other commercial actors, policy-makers, regulators and health technology assessment bodies, patient organisations and healthcare professionals.

When should you disseminate?

Dissemination activities must be continuous and carefully planned from the start of the project, throughout the lifetime of the project – and after its end. They should align with the project’s plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities, ensuring they address targeted European and international audiences. Consortia should bear in mind that dissemination is an aspect that evaluators examine during project reviews.

How do you disseminate?

As shown below, the dissemination activities should go beyond the standard practice of publishing research results in scientific journals. The activities must be effective, strategic and coherent.

Distinguishing between communication, dissemination and exploitation activities

IHI project partners have a contractual obligation to communicate on the project and disseminate the project’s results (**Article 17** of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

According to **Article 17** beneficiaries have the obligation to promote the action and its results via communication and dissemination activities by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

As the table below shows, communication and dissemination activities are closely connected but should not be confused.

Examples of communication and dissemination activities:

Communication	Dissemination	Exploitation
About the project and results	Results only	Concrete use of results for commercial, societal and political purposes
Multiple audiences (beyond the project’s own community, including media and the broad public)	Audiences that may use the results in their own work e.g. scientific community, industry and other commercial actors, regulators and HTA bodies, patient organisations, healthcare professionals, policymakers	People/organisations including project partners that make concrete use of results as well as user groups outside the project.
Inform and reach out to society, show the benefits of research in IHI as a public private partnership	Enable use and uptake of results by describing and making them available, thus maximising the impact of IHI projects	Turn results into concrete value and impact for society through scientific, economic, political or societal exploitation routes

Note that there can be exceptions to the obligation to disseminate results for certain activities if:

- the results need to be protected as a trade secret (i.e. confidential know-how), or;
- dissemination conflicts with any other obligations under the Grant Agreement (e.g. personal data protection).

Project Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities ('PDECA')

Any IHI-funded project is required to prepare a **Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities (PDECA)**. This is an admissibility condition when submitting a full proposal.

When must the PDECA be submitted?

- in the project proposal: applicants must outline their PDECA within the proposal they submit in response to an IHI call for proposals. This should be in Part B of the proposal, which includes the detailed description of the project, the work plan, and the expected outcomes.
- a detailed PDECA is required as a mandatory project deliverable within 6 months after the start of the project. In addition, the PDECA is continuously updated and refined in alignment with the project's progress. This ongoing process ensures that the dissemination, exploitation, and communication activities evolve as the project progresses and results become available.
- at the project's end a final version of the PDECA is submitted in the final project report, summarising all the activities that were carried out and their impact.

Affordability, Availability and Accessibility ('3A') of results

General principles

Projects funded by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking must, during the lifetime of the project and for a period of four years after project end, use their best efforts to ensure that those products or services that are developed by any of the participants and are totally or partly based on the results of clinical studies performed as part of the activities of the selected project, will be broadly available and accessible, at fair and reasonable conditions (the "3A")

- The "3A" provision is established in the IHI JU legal basis (article 125(3)).
- The "3A" provision applies to all projects originating from call topics identified as such in the IHI work programme and the published call topic text. When a topic is designated as "3A" applicable, the topic will be identified as such under the 'dissemination and exploitation obligations' section and specific call conditions will apply to ensure "3A" implementation.
- The special conditions impose obligations:
 - During preparation of the proposal;
 - During the lifetime of the project;
 - Up to four years following the end of the project.

During and after the project, obligations are imposed on those participants generating results from clinical studies that lead to products or services that should be broadly available and accessible, at a fair and reasonable price.

Special conditions

Stage	3A obligations
Proposal stage	In the preliminary version of the Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities ('PDECA') the <u>applicant consortium must</u> : Identify a "3A" strategy and, if possible, potential and expected project results that may be subject to "3A".

Project implementation	<p>Through the project Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities ('PDECA') the <u>consortium must</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify potential and expected project results that may be subject to the “3A” conditions; • based on the progress of clinical studies conducted or to be conducted and in preparation for the project's internal review, update the “3A” strategy in the PDECA noting any pertinent action to be implemented both during and for four years after project end (see 'after project' below).
End of project	<u>The consortium must</u> update the PDECA to provide expected planning for relevant further product development and (if already scheduled) product launch arising from the identified “3A” results, within the timeframe of four (4) years after the project.
After project	<p>Within 12 months of project end: <u>The owner of “3A” relevant results</u> must submit a confidential report to IHI JU describing the status of the development of the product and any other exploitation actions, planned or undertaken, concerning the products/services.</p> <p>Each year for three years thereafter (four years in total following project end) <u>the owner of “3A” relevant results</u> must submit a confidential report similar to the above.</p> <p>The confidential report is comprised of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high-level abstract, to be made publicly available (not containing confidential information); • A confidential annex for review by the IHI JU programme office (containing confidential information as required).

Open Science

Horizon Europe moves beyond open access to **open science** for which it features a comprehensive policy implemented from the proposal stage to project reporting. The Horizon Europe Regulation sets the legal basis for the open science obligations and incentives that apply to Horizon Europe beneficiaries. The [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#) provides guidance on how to comply with the open science obligations required in the Model Grant Agreement.

Open science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process. It has the potential to increase the quality and efficiency of research and accelerate the advancement of knowledge and innovation by sharing results, making them more reusable and improving their reproducibility. It entails the involvement of all relevant knowledge actors.

You can find a summary of the requirements for projects on access to scientific publications and the management of research data by looking up the [IHI web page dedicated to Open Science](#).

Dissemination of your results – things to consider

When planning and carrying out the dissemination of your project's results, make sure you:

- ensure consistency between the dissemination activities and the project's Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities (PDECA): describe in your plan concrete measures for dissemination of all key results and verify that they facilitate and support each of the impacts aimed at in the work plan;
- ensure that the content of all Public deliverables and the Project Summary (completed on the Continuous Reporting) are of sufficient quality as they will be published on the [CORDIS](#) website. The Project Summary should be up-to-date and understandable by a general audience and at the end of the project should include a list of all key project outputs with hyperlinks to key publications, datasets, etc.
- consider the other beneficiaries' legitimate interests before undertaking a dissemination activity and give them — unless otherwise agreed — at least 45 days advance notice, together with sufficient information on the dissemination activity;

- identify areas and stakeholders that could make use of your results;
- use effective channels and platforms for all groups of potential users – stakeholder networks and platforms, innovation-domain-specific platforms, Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), your project website;
- evaluate if the planned dissemination activities are proportionate to the impact expected from the action;
- assess concrete follow-up actions/results of your dissemination measures;
- regularly update/review the Plan for the Dissemination, Exploitation, and Communication Activities (PDECA) of your project. It is essential to closely capture, monitor and manage results over the entire lifetime of the project (timed with the outputs of the project, and continuing after project end); adjust dissemination and exploitation plans accordingly;
- regularly update the project's website; it should contain complete information about the project, relevant events, results and potential impact. On the website you should also link to the website of IHI;
- prepare and publish on the project website summaries that are easily understandable by potential partners and others who could potentially be interested in your results. This will contribute to facilitating the exploitation of your results;
- inform your scientific officer and the IHI communications team (communications@ihi.europa.eu) of any important project outputs. The IHI office will disseminate them further;
- consistently specify that the project has received funding from IHI and display the IHI JU logo, the EU emblem accompanied by the words “Co-funded by the European Union”, the logos of COCIR, EFPIA, EuropaBIO, MedTech Europe, and Vaccines Europe (i.e. the members of IHI JU other than the European Union) and the logos of contributing partners participating in the project (if there are any) on any dissemination material. Remember that, whenever possible, the statement will have to be translated into the language of the dissemination activity. In line with Article 17.2 of the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement, the following formal acknowledgement of IHI's support should be included:

This project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) under grant agreement No [Number]. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and COCIR, EFPIA, EuropaBio, MedTech Europe, and Vaccines Europe [and [insert name(s) of any contributing partner(s) participating in the project.]].

If the character count does not allow the full acknowledgement to be used (e.g. for abstracts), the following phrase is permitted:

This project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking and its members [and contributing partners], under grant agreement [Number].

- include the reference to JU funding and support from the EU and JU members (and Contributing Partners, if any) – even when the dissemination of the project result is combined with other data;
- remember to include a disclaimer when disseminating a project result, clearly stating that it reflects only the author's view and that the JU is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Funded by the European Union, the private members, and those contributing partners of the IHI JU. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the aforementioned parties. Neither of the aforementioned parties can be held responsible for them.

How IHI can help your dissemination efforts

IHI will support the dissemination of your project and raise the visibility of your project results through:

- publication of project information and results on the IHI website: project factsheets, success stories from projects, newsletters, the IHI Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR), the Biennial Monitoring Report (BMR).
- additional communications channels: social media (e.g. IHI LinkedIn), brochures, leaflets, presentations

at IHI events or by organising your participation in other relevant sectoral events.

- Ad hoc end-of -project on-line events to showcase achievements of IHI projects.
- thematic webinars on a dedicated disease area. These are live sessions that IHI organises on IHI Impacts, where key actors explore the biggest challenges in their respective fields and demonstrate how IHI contributed to addressing them.
- communication material featuring project achievements: depending on your project outputs, communication materials may be produced, e.g. stories on specific findings, stories focused on specific partners, participant testimonials etc.

EU resources and platforms for dissemination and exploitation support

[Horizon Dashboard](#)

An intuitive and interactive knowledge platform where you can extract statistics and data on EU research and innovation programmes – sorted by topics, countries, organisations, sectors, as well as individual projects and beneficiaries.

[The Booster](#)

A free-of-charge initiative to providing tailored services to boost the dissemination and exploitation of your research results, guiding you and your innovation to the market and the wider world.

[Horizon Results Platform](#)

A public platform that hosts and promotes research results, thereby widening exploitation opportunities. It helps to bridge the gap between research results and generating value for economy and society. You can create your own page to showcase your results, find collaboration opportunities and get inspired by the results of others.

[Innovation Radar](#)

A data-driven method focused on the identification of high-potential innovations and the key innovators behind them in EU-funded research and innovation projects.

[Horizon Standardisation Booster](#)

An initiative that supports European research and innovation projects to valorise results through standardisation, supporting them to contribute to the creation of new standards or the revision of existing standards

[Open Research Europe Platform](#)

A platform that makes it easy for beneficiaries of European research and innovation projects to comply with the open access terms of their funding and offers researchers a publishing venue to share their results and insights rapidly.

[Research and Innovation success stories](#)

A collection of the most recent success stories from EU-funded research & innovation.

Questions?

If you want to learn more, do not hesitate to reach out to your scientific officer or the IMI communications team at: communications@ihi.europa.eu For a comprehensive overview, these guidelines should be read together with the [IHI Project Communications Guide](#) and the [Open science guidelines](#).

Dissemination of results cannot replace communication activities (or vice-versa); both provisions must be complied with.

Always inform us of interesting results concerning your project. We can help make them more visible.

Useful links

[IHI Call document](#) pages (access to IHI templates, legal and guidance documents)

[EU Funding and Tenders Portal Online Manual 'Dissemination & Exploitation of Project Results'](#)

[Your guide to Open Science in Horizon Europe](#)

COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION & EXPLOITATION WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE AND WHY THEY ALL MATTER

Communication Inform, promote and communicate activities and results	Dissemination Make knowledge and results publicly available free-of-charge	Exploitation Make concrete use of results for commercial, societal and political purposes
<p>For whom Citizens, stakeholders and the media</p> <p>How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Having a well-designed strategy ✓ Conveying clear messages ✓ Using the right channels <p>When From the start until the end of the action</p> <p>Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engage with stakeholders ✓ Attract the best experts ✓ Raise awareness of how public money is spent ✓ Show the success of European collaboration <p>It is a legal obligation! Article 17 of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement</p>	<p>For whom For those who can learn and benefit from the results, such as: scientists, industry, public authorities, policymakers, civil society</p> <p>How Publishing results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scientific magazines ✓ Scientific and/or targeted conferences ✓ Databases <p>When</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Anytime, as soon as results become available ✓ Up to four years after the end of the project <p>Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maximise the impact of the action ✓ Allow other researchers to go a step forward ✓ Contribute to the advancement of world class knowledge ✓ Make scientific results a common good <p>It is a legal obligation! Article 17 of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement</p>	<p>For whom For those who can take the results forward or invest in them, such as: researchers, stakeholders, industry (also SMEs), public authorities, policymakers, civil society</p> <p>How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Creating roadmaps, prototypes, software ✓ Sharing knowledge, skills, data <p>When</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Towards the end of the action and beyond, as soon as exploitable results are available ✓ Up to four years after the end of the project <p>Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lead to new legislation or recommendations ✓ For the benefit of innovation, the economy and society ✓ Help to tackle a problem and respond to an existing demand <p>It is a legal obligation! Annex 5: Specific Rules and Article 16 of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement</p>



EUROPEAN COMMISSION TOOLS TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION

Horizon Magazine

The latest news and features about thought-provoking science and innovative research projects funded by the EU.

Horizon Dashboard

An intuitive and interactive knowledge platform where you can extract statistics and data on EU research and innovation programmes – sorted by topics, countries, organisations, sectors, as well as individual projects and beneficiaries.

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A data-driven method focused on the identification of high-potential innovations and the key innovators behind them in EU-funded research and innovation projects.

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- COMMUNICATION
- DISSEMINATION
- EXPLOITATION

Horizon Results Booster

A free-of-charge platform to benefit from one of these services:

1. Portfolio dissemination & exploitation strategy
2. Business plan development
3. Go-to-market support.

Horizon Results Platform

A public platform that hosts and promotes research results, thereby widening exploitation opportunities. It helps to bridge the gap between research results and generating value for economy and society. You can create your own page to showcase your results, find collaboration opportunities and get inspired by the results of others.

CORDIS

Multilingual articles and publications that highlight research results, based on an open repository of EU project information.

Research and Innovation success stories

A collection of the most recent success stories from EU-funded research & innovation.

More information

- Contact your Project Officer
- European Research Executive Agency
- Dissemination and exploitation of research results
- Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
- Research Enquiry Service