



Press Statement: 12 December 2011

EUA welcomes changes to Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Funding Rules

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI Joint Undertaking) has announced important changes to its funding rules. Previously, the reimbursement of indirect costs in IMI-funded research projects was at a fixed rate of 20% of direct eligible costs. This was not economically viable, and therefore unattractive, for many potential participants, and was therefore repeatedly criticised by many stakeholders, including the European University Association (EUA) and EARTO (the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations).

In last week's announcement, the IMI said that participants (including universities) may, alternatively, claim reimbursement on the basis of actual indirect costs. Furthermore, IMI's funding rules have now also been further aligned with the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) rules, by permitting the use of average personnel costs.

EUA Deputy Secretary General Dr John Smith said: "EUA welcomes these changes, which we believe should encourage much broader interest and participation in IMI research activities. In the light of this decision, EUA urges the European Commission to re-consider its recent Horizon 2020 proposals, which foresee the use of the 20% fixed rate reimbursement model for indirect costs that IMI has just abandoned."

Ends

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The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

Notes to editors

- The IMI announcement on its new funding rules can be found [here](#).
- More information about the IMI can be found [here](#).
- EUA's previous statements on the IMI can be found here:
 - [Stakeholders request urgent revision of Innovative Medicines Joint Technology Initiative \(IMI\)](#)
 - [EUA challenges the funding conditions of European Commission's Innovative Medicines Initiative \(IMI-JU\)](#)
- EUA's first reaction to the European Commission's proposals for Horizon 2020 can be found [here](#).