

EIT Health – An update for West Midlands (August 2016)

Dear colleagues,

I am aware that, though there are been communications with many of you on a one-to-one basis, it has been a long time since my last “broadcast” update. This is not to say that nothing is happening, in fact it has been a busy time as you will see below. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide (1) a brief update on the state of play with EIT Health locally, nationally and internationally, (2) highlight some WM successes, (3) identify some opportunities and (4) flag an event for your diaries on October 11th 2016.

EIT Health – where are we now?

The Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) for Healthy Living and Active Ageing was awarded to the InnoLIFE consortium in December 2014 and operations commenced in January 2015, now called EIT Health. There are still seven CoLocation Centres (CLCs) namely, UK and Ireland, Benelux, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Spain and the Innostars (central and eastern European countries). Each CLC has established a Board and in the UKI CLC, WMAHSN is a core member and is represented on the Board by Tony Davis. The UKI Director is Katharina Ladewig, based at Imperial College.

The headquarters is based in Munich which is home to small staff including the Chief Executive (Sylvie Bove), Chief Operating Officer (Jan Philipp Beck) and the Directors of Education (Ursula Mühle), Accelerator (Kurt Holler) and Innovation (Andy Browning).

A lot of the activity in 2015 was focused on setting up the operations and processes in preparation for the first year of full operations in 2016. WM was closely involved with the set up phase both nationally and internationally but that staff have been recruited, we have now stepped back to concentrate on optimising the engagement WM organisation with the partnership.

EIT Health runs on calendar years and has an annual business planning cycle. The annual business plan is submitted to EIT in the preceding September for authorisation, approved by EIT by December and work starts in January i.e. the 2017 Business Plan is in preparation now, will be ratified by the EIT Health Partner Assembly¹ in mid-September and submitted at the end of September 2016, approved by EIT in December 2016 and operations will commence on 1st January 2017 for twelve months.

At a local level WMAHSN is a core member of EIT Health and has paid the membership fee for 2015 and 2016 (€50K and €75K respectively) on behalf of WM partners. There is now a small, part-time team supporting the engagement of WM organisations with EIT Health comprising Paddie Murphy (paddie.murphy@wmahsn.org), Karen Morrey (karen.morrey@wmahsn.org) and Sinead Ouilon (Sinead.ouillon@wmahsn.org) who are the contact points for all queries relating to EIT Health.

WM successes

In 2016, the income to WM from EIT Health was in excess of €700K which included three innovation projects, two led by WM partners Aston and Keele universities and one project in which Keele

¹ The forum for all core and associate partners

University is partner. In addition, we received funding to provide leadership the development of Head Start and Proof of Concept funds at national and international level.

The deadline for proposals to the UKI Head Start and Proof of Concept Fund² at the end of May 2016 attracted over fifty applicants with eight from WM. Of these, we are aware of five that have been shortlisted (there may be more) and will pitch their innovation to a panel of experts at an event in Dublin on 5th September 2016. We're holding a practice session at the Fab Lab in Coventry on Friday 26th August for any of these companies to have a run through in advance. Good luck to everyone who will be participating.

In addition, one of our WM companies – Memrica – has been put forward by the UKI CLC to the EIT Health Business Plan Aggregator (a pan-European business plan competition) to go forward to pitch at the Innovation Conference in November. Good luck to Mary Matthews.

The 2017 Business Plan for Health is being developed now and we understand that it will include at least three projects involving WM participants which will bring over half a million Euros to the region in 2017. Details of the full WM portfolio will be presented at the WM Stakeholder event in 11th October 2016 (see below).

Opportunities for WM

The calls for proposals to be included in the 2017 Business Plan and HS/POC Fund have now closed but we know that the planning round for the 2018 Business Plan will start in Spring 2017. Whilst the precise implications of Brexit remain unknown, we expect that participation in EIT Health will remain unchanged for the next two or so years so we are encouraging WM partners to come forward with ideas for new education and innovation ideas that the team can support you to develop for the next round of calls which are likely to open around February and close around May 2017. An exploration of the opportunities for WM partners will be part of the event on 11th October 2016 (see below).

Hold the date – Tuesday 11th October 2016

We will be holding a briefing and networking event for all those interested in EIT Health on Tuesday 11th October 2016 at iCentrum in central Birmingham, 16:30 – 19:00. The purpose of the event is to:

- bring stakeholders together to identify ideas and projects that might be suitable for EIT Health (even if they are not, there may be other paths to follow)
- share “warts-an- all” experiences of participation in 2016
- bring everyone up to date on the 2017 Business Plan
- discuss what a post-Brexit EIT Health might look like.

You will receive an Eventbrite invitation shortly (also on the WMAHSN website) and we do hope that you will be able to join us. In the meantime, please hold the slot in your diary.

We will look forward to seeing you on 11th October 2016. In the meantime, if you have an questions please do not hesitate to contact Paddie or Karen (paddie.murphy@wmahsn.org / karen.morrey@wmahsn.org)

² HS/POC provides one off funding of up to €50K to accelerate the route to market for a new product or service