

Baltic Sea Region Health Innovation Award of the National Conference on Health Economy

under the patronage of

**Honorable Manuela Schwesig,
Minister President of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**

founded by

Rules and criteria

Section 1 - Aim

The aim of the BALTIC SEA REGION HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD (HIA) by the National Conference on Health Economy (NCHE) under the patronage of the Minister President of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Manuela Schwesig, is to provide sustainable support for the economic exploitation of ideas and inventions from the health industry in the Baltic Sea region. What's more, the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is to benefit from the expansion of international networks and scientific cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Section 2 - Participation and candidates

The competition is geared to founders of new businesses, start-ups (no more than five years in business) and people getting ready to go into business (individuals, teams) from the Baltic Sea region and this year's as well as former partner countries of the NCHE. Follow-up applications, i.e., applications from projects that were already submitted in previous years, are explicitly welcome if the projects have been significantly further developed.

Section 3 - Scope

The competition has a broad, multidisciplinary scope. Prizes will be awarded to ideas or inventions in the fields of medical technology (for instance, diagnostic and therapeutic tools and technologies, medical tools, lab, out-patient and hospital equipment and systems), laboratory equipment, digital technologies/eHealth (including AI), healthcare concepts and other services related to healthcare and life sciences. The idea or invention should launch the development and commercialization of a product or service concept that benefits patients and attracts potential investors in and to the Baltic Sea region.

Section 4 - Definition

Only innovations for which the applicant(s) can demonstrate documented ownership rights will be considered.

Section 5 - Evaluation criteria

The following criteria are used for evaluation in a two-stage competition procedure.

In the first stage, the written application is evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Degree of innovation
2. Feasibility
3. Market potential
4. Professional expertise of the team

In the second stage, the shortlisted finalists present/pitch their innovation before the award jury. The above-mentioned criteria also apply here.

Section 6 - Awards

Following the applicant presentations one EUR 10,000 prize (EUR 5,000 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 5,000 in kind), one EUR 5,000 prize (EUR 2,500 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 2,500 in kind) and one EUR 2,000 prize (EUR 1,000 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 1,000 in kind) will be awarded to the winning teams.

Benefits in kind include, for example, start-up consulting, on hand coaching, rent subsidies, support in accessing health-related or industry-specific networks and marketing support. The specific benefits to be claimed are decided jointly by the award winner and the award sponsor during a coaching session.

The rent subsidy depends on the amount of the prize money and comprises a 30% discount on the usual rent. All benefits in kind must be redeemed within three years of the award ceremony at the latest.

The projects supported by the benefits in kind should be implemented in the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region or at the location of the respective prize sponsor in order to strengthen the regional health economy and innovative power in the long term.

In addition, the teams with the best score will be awarded a travel grant (up to EUR 500) to attend and present their contributions in a forum at the 21th National Conference on Health Economy which is to be held on 11 and 12 June 2026.

Section 7 - Application

The official language of the competition is English. Applications can be submitted up to the published entry closing dates. Please use our application form at www.bsrhia.de to submit your idea.

If you need more information, please send an e-mail to: hia@bcv.org.

Section 8 - Application procedure and schedule

The winners of the BALTIC SEA REGION HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD will be decided in a two-stage application and presentation process.

Applications must be submitted online at www.bsrhia.de by March 15, 2026. The jury will select up to six winning teams who will be invited to a pitch event to present their ideas.

Important milestones for the HIA:

Call for tender: 02nd February 2026

Closing date for applications: 15th March 2026

Successful candidates will be notified of the dates for the pitch event and the award ceremony in advance.

Section 9 - Selection of the prize winners

The prize winners will be selected by a jury made up of high-ranking international and national experts and leading personalities from the healthcare industry.

Section 10 - Organizers

The BALTIC SEA REGION HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD competition is held as part of the National Conference on Health Economy under the auspices of the Minister President of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and is organized by BioConValley® GmbH.

Section 11 - Confidentiality and responsibility

All proposals will be treated as confidential. The organizers will enter into NDA agreements with the members of the jury and any external specialists brought in. The organizers accept no responsibility for any misuse of the information disclosed.

Section 12 - Prize donors

This year's prizes have been donated by vfa. – Verband forschender Arzneimittelhersteller e.V. (Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies), BiocCon Valley e.V., the University and Hanseatic City of Greifswald, WITENO GmbH, MICROMUN Institut für

mikrobiologische Forschung GmbH (MICROMUN - Institute for Microbiological Research) and Technologiepark Warnemünde GmbH (TPW)/Technologiezentrum Warnemünde e.V. (TZW) (Warnemünde Technology Park/Warnemünde Technology Center). The organizer is entitled to invite additional prize sponsors.