

## 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

## Competition Rules and Criteria

### Section 1 - Aim

The aim of the BALTIC SEA REGION HEALTH INNOVATION AWARD (HIA), organized 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 commercialization of ideas and inventions from the health industry in the Baltic Sea region. Furthermore, the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern will benefit from the expansion of international networks and scientific cooperation in the region.

### Section 2 - Participation and candidates

The competition is open to founders of new businesses and start-ups (operating for no more than five years), as well as to individuals or teams preparing to start a business, from the Baltic Sea region and current or former partner countries of the NCHE. Applications for projects submitted in previous years are also welcome if they have been substantially 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 (e.g., diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, medical devices, and laboratory, outpatient and hospital equipment and systems), laboratory equipment, digital technologies/eHealth (including AI), healthcare concepts, and other services related to healthcare and the life sciences. The idea or invention should lead to the development and commercialization of a product or service that benefits patients and attracts potential investors to the Baltic Sea region.

### Section 4 - Definition

Only innovations for which the applicant(s) can demonstrate ownership of the relevant intellectual property 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 their innovation to the award jury. The above-mentioned criteria also apply here.

## Section 6 - Awards

**Following the applicant presentations, three prizes will be awarded to the winning teams:**

- **First prize:** EUR 10,000 (EUR 5,000 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 5,000 in benefits in kind)
- **Second prize:** EUR 5,000 (EUR 2,500 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 2,500 in benefits in kind)
- **Third prize:** EUR 2,000 (EUR 1,000 as a monetary prize and up to EUR 1,000 in benefits in kind)

Benefits in kind may include, for example, start-up consulting, hands-on coaching, rent subsidies, support in accessing health-related or industry-specific networks, and marketing support. The specific benefits to be provided will be determined jointly by the award winner and the prize sponsor during a coaching session.

The rent subsidy depends on the amount of the prize money and includes a 30% discount on the standard rental rate. All benefits in kind must be redeemed within three years of the award ceremony.

Projects supported through these 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 healthcare economy and innovation capacity in the long term.

In addition, the teams with the highest scores will receive a travel grant of up to EUR 500 to attend and present their contributions at a forum during the 21st National Conference on Health Economy, which will take place on 11–12 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](http://www.bsrhia.de) to submit your idea.

If you need more information, please send an e-mail to: [hia@bcv.org](mailto: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](http://www.bsrhia.de) by March 29, 2026. The jury will select up to six finalist teams who will be invited to a pitch event to present their ideas.

### *Important milestones for the HIA:*

Call for applications: 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Closing date for applications: 29<sup>th</sup> 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 conclude non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with the members of the jury and any external experts involved. The organizers accept no responsibility for any misuse of the information disclosed.

## **Section 12 - Prize donors**

This year's prizes are donated by vfa. – Verband forschender Arzneimittelhersteller e.V. (Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies), BioConValley 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 reserves the right to invite additional prize sponsors.