

Call for transnational proposals 2025

# Better care closer to home: Enhancing primary and community care

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE  
THIRD JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL

## DEADLINES

Submission deadline for pre-proposals: 30 January 2025, 14:00 CET

Submission deadline for full-proposals: 19 June 2025, 14:00 CEST

## Electronic proposal submission

For further information, visit our website:

<https://www.thcspartnership.eu>

or contact the

THCS Joint Call Secretariat:

[thcs@zonmw.nl](mailto:thcs@zonmw.nl)

## The European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)

The Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) initiative, established as a European Partnership under Horizon Europe and co-funded by the European Commission, aims to address the increasing burdens on European health and care systems. The initiative focuses on developing coordinated, harmonized solutions involving EU member states, associated countries, research and innovation funders, and other public authorities. The overarching goal is to ensure high-quality, sustainable health and care services by fostering transnational collaboration, aligning regional and national research strategies, and promoting interdisciplinary excellence.

### Aim of the call

The aim of this call is to fund research and innovation projects that strengthen primary and community health and care systems and provide policy and decision makers with the necessary knowledge and tools to govern the transitions needed in the primary and community care sector. Projects funded under this call will deliver promising financial, organizational, and practice-based service innovations that promote the transformation of health and care systems and contribute to faster exchange of best practices across different countries and regions.

Proposals are expected to address one of two sub-topics:

- Sub-topic 1: Strengthening the primary and community health and care system - This involves reducing reliance on institutionalized treatment in favour of seamless care pathways and different forms of primary and community care through organizational innovations, operational improvements, and innovative models of service delivery.
- Sub-topic 2: Systemic approaches to modernizing the primary and community care sector - This involves providing evidence-based knowledge to support policy development and strategic planning for the modernization of the primary and community care sector, leveraging multidisciplinary and transnational perspectives.

### General conditions for participation

#### Duration of projects

The minimum project duration is 12 months.

The maximum project duration is 36 months.

#### Type of action

This call mandates collaborative, transnational research, innovation, and assessment actions. It is compulsory to engage in one or more of the following types of action: applied research, implementation research, piloting, upscaling and/or testing. All projects must demonstrate proof of concept(s), validate concepts, models, or solutions, and showcase



demonstrations of solutions in relevant health and care ecosystems. Translation to other settings of already adopted solutions is also within scope of this call.

### Type of project partners

Proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (eligibility of project partners may vary according to national/regional regulations):

- **Academia:** research teams working at universities, universities of applied sciences, other higher education institutions, research and knowledge dissemination organisations or research institutes;
- **Clinical/public health sector:** research teams working at hospitals, policlinics, medical practices, public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations;
- **Companies:** private companies of all sizes;
- **Operational stakeholders:** e.g. citizens and/or citizen representatives, local communities, schools, municipalities, local/national NGOs, consumer organisations. Operational stakeholders should be in a position to provide useful knowledge to the consortium, ensure the consortium's research is useful and translatable to their (or other) organizational contexts, and/or influence decision making or create change within their organisations. Operational stakeholders should be engaged in the research process from conception of the study to dissemination.

### Composition of a consortium

Only transnational projects will be funded. The following conditions apply to the composition of consortia:

- The consortium must include a minimum of three (3) eligible partners asking for funding from at least one (1) EU Member State and at least two (2) other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries, whose funding organisations participate in the call. Each of these partners must be eligible and request funding from the respective funding organisation. All three legal entities must be independent of each other.
- Maximum number of partners eligible for funding is nine (9).
- Maximum two (2) eligible partners from the same country.
- The project coordinator must be eligible for funding by a regional/national funding organisation participating in the call.
- Maximum of two (2) collaborators per consortium are permitted. Collaborators are self-funded partners, i.e. partners that do not request funds from one of the participating funding partner organisations (FPOs) (i.e. partners from non-funding countries or partners who are not eligible according to national/regional regulations of the participating funding organisations). Collaborators do not count towards the maximum number of partners.

## Submission of proposals

A two-step submission and evaluation procedure has been established for joint applications: pre-proposals and full-proposals. In both phases, one joint proposal document shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational project.

The project coordinator must submit pre-proposals to the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) via the THCS Partnership Online Submission System by January 30, 2025, 14:00 CET. Full proposals must be submitted by June 19, 2025, 14:00 CEST. Please note that joint full-proposals will only be accepted from applicants explicitly invited by the JCS to submit full-proposals.

Prior to the peer review panel (PRP) meeting for the discussion of the full-proposals, applicants will receive the reviewers' individual written assessments in order to give a rebuttal to the arguments and evaluations of the reviewers. The rebuttal allows applicants to comment only on factual errors or misunderstandings that may have been committed by the reviewers while assessing the proposal, and to reply to reviewers' questions.

Proposals must be written in English. Please note that the national/regional funding organizations may require additional documentation from applicants according to national/regional regulations. It is the responsibility of each project partner to ensure that all the necessary documents are submitted on time to the appropriate recipient.

## Call timeline

|                                           |                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November 26, 2024</b>                  | Publication of the call                                          |
| <b>14:00-16:00 CET, December 17, 2024</b> | JTC2025 Information Webinar                                      |
| <b>January 30, 2025</b>                   | Deadline for submission of pre-proposal                          |
| <b>June 19, 2025</b>                      | Deadline for submission of full-proposals                        |
| <b>August 2025</b>                        | Rebuttal phase – Evaluations are sent to applicants for rebuttal |
| <b>October 2025</b>                       | Final funding recommendation announced to applicants             |
| <b>Early 2026</b>                         | Expected scientific start of funded projects                     |

## Participating countries/regions and respective funding agencies

| Partner Country | Funding Organisation                             | Acronym |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Austria         | Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft | FFG     |
| Belgium         | Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique               | FNRS    |
| Czech Republic  | Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic         | MZCR    |
| Denmark         | Innovationsfonden                                | IFD     |

|                 |                                                                           |              |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Estonia         | Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur                                           | ETAG         |
| Finland         | Research Council of Finland                                               | AKA          |
| France          | Agence Nationale de la Recherche                                          | ANR          |
| France          | Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention                                 | Fr MoH       |
| Iceland         | Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands                                                  | Rannís       |
| Ireland         | Health Research Board                                                     | HRB          |
| Israel          | Ministry of Health                                                        | CSO-MOH      |
| Italy           | Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale                             | AReSS        |
| Italy           | Ministero della Salute                                                    | IT-MoH       |
| Italy           | Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca                                 | MUR          |
| Italy           | Regione Toscana                                                           | RT           |
| Latvia          | Izglītības un zinātnes ministrijas                                        | LZM          |
| Lithuania       | Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba                                                    | LMT          |
| Malta           | Xjenza Malta (formerly MCST)                                              | Xjenza Malta |
| The Netherlands | Nederlandse organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Regieorgaan SIA | NWO-SIA      |
| The Netherlands | Zorgonderzoek Nederland                                                   | ZonMw        |
| Norway          | Norges Forskningsråd                                                      | RCN          |
| Poland          | Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju                                          | NCBR         |
| Portugal        | Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia                                    | FCT          |
| Portugal        | Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro              | CCDRC        |
| Spain           | Department of Health of the Basque Government                             | DPTO SALUD   |
| Spain           | Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla                          | IDIVAL       |
| Spain           | Instituto de Salud Carlos III                                             | ISCIII       |
| Spain           | Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía                    | CSCJA        |
| Sweden          | Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd                          | Forte        |
| Switzerland     | Schweizerische Agentur für Innovationsförderung                           | Innosuisse   |
| Switzerland     | Schweizerischer Nationalfonds                                             | SNSF         |

## More information

If you want to know more on this third THCS call, please do attend the information webinar for applicants on 17 December 2024, 14:00-16:00 CET.

More information on the THCS call and partnership can be found on the webpage:

[www.thcspartnership.eu](http://www.thcspartnership.eu)

## Disclaimer

**Please note:** The content of the call described in this pre-announcement is indicative and may be subject to changes and is not legally binding.

Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications.