

Call for transnational proposals 2026

Access to Care

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOURTH JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL

DEADLINES

Submission deadline for pre-proposals: 2 February 2026, 14:00 CET

Submission deadline for full-proposals: 30 June 2026, 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

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 the call is to fund research and innovation projects that contribute to ensuring equitable access to and utilisation of health and care services. Through the funded research and innovation projects, policy and decision makers should gain the knowledge and tools necessary to implement the reallocation of resources as the health and care system undergoes a transition to meet new and ongoing challenges.

Projects funded under this call will build on existing evidence to deliver innovative solutions that enable key stakeholders to reduce inequalities in access to and utilisation of health and care services. Projects will address how to improve access to all levels of health and care through financial models, models for delivering health and care services and setting up of interdisciplinary integrated care programmes.

General conditions for participation

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. patient organisations, 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 at least three (3) eligible partners from three different countries whose funding organisations participate in the call. At least two (2) members of the consortium should be legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries. 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, or a maximum of three (3) collaborators if one or more of the collaborators is an operational stakeholder. Collaborators are self-funded partners, i.e. partners that do not request funds from one of the participating FPOs (i.e. partners from non-funding countries or partners who are not eligible according to regional/national 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 2 February 2026, 14:00 CET. Full proposals must be submitted by 30 June 2026, 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

21 November 2025	Publication of the call
10 December 2025 14:00-16:00 CET	JTC 2026 Information Webinar
2 February 2026, 14:00 CET	Deadline for submission of pre-proposal
30 June 2026, 14:00 CEST	Deadline for submission of full-proposals
September 2026	Rebuttal phase – Evaluations are sent to applicants for rebuttal
October 2026	Final funding recommendation announced to applicants
Early 2027	Expected scientific start of funded projects

Participating countries/regions and respective funding agencies

Country	Funding Organisation	Acronym
Austria	Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft	FFG
Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	FNRS
Czech Republic	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic/Czech Health Research Council	MZCR/AZVCR
Denmark	Innovationsfonden	IFD
Estonia	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur	ETAG
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	Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research, Lombardy Region	FRRB
Italy	Ministero della Salute	IT-MoH
Italy	Regione Toscana	RT
Latvia	Izglītības un zinātnes ministrijas	LCS
Lithuania	Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba	LMT
Malta	Xjenza Malta (formerly MCST)	Xjenza Malta

The Netherlands	Zorgonderzoek Nederland	ZonMw / NWO / NWO-SIA
Norway	Norges Forskningsråd	RCN
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju	NCBR
Portugal	Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro	CCDRC
Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT
Romania	Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation	UEFISCDI
Slovakia	Centrum vedecko technických informácií Slovenskej republiky	CVTI SR
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI
Spain	Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía	CSCJA
Spain	Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla	IDIVAL
Spain	Instituto de Salud Carlos III	ISCI
Sweden	Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd	Forte
Switzerland	Schweizerische Agentur für Innovationsförderung	Innosuisse
Switzerland	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds	SNSF
United Kingdom	National Institute for Health and Care Research	NIHR

More information

If you want to know more on this fourth THCS call, please do attend the information webinar for applicants on 10 December 2025 14:00-16:00 CET.

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