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Joint Transnational Call for Proposals (2027) for

Transforming the Health and Care Workforce for Sustainable and Resilient Systems *(THCS Grant* 101095654)

Call Text

Important Deadlines

Submission of Pre-Proposal: 21 January 2027 at 14:00 (CET)
Submission of Full-Proposals: 24 June 2027 at 14:00 (CEST)

For further information, please visit our website: https://www.thcspartnership.eu/

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1 History of changes

This is the original version of the document.

2 Introduction and aims of THCS

The Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) initiative has been established as a European Partnership under Horizon Europe, co-funded by the European Commission. Co-funded European Partnerships are instruments implemented in Horizon Europe as Programme Co-fund Actions. These partnerships are involving EU member states and associated countries, with research and innovation funders and other public authorities at the core of the consortium. The aim of THCS is to efficiently respond to increasing burdens on European health and care systems and deliver on their common commitment to high-quality health and care services[1]. Europe's evolving epidemiological transitions and technological developments together with recurrent health emergencies and a more uncertain operating environment, are driving the transformation of health and care systems towards more integrated, resilient, and coordinated solutions. These should be realised through a process that allows all stakeholders involved to design, study, and implement such solutions in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner, while keeping people at the centre of the health and care system process.

To align regional and national research strategies and funding activities, promote excellence, reinforce the competitiveness of European players while fostering EU cooperation and enhance European collaboration with non-EU countries, 33 funding organisations have agreed to launch the Joint Transnational Call 2027 (JTC 2027) for collaborative, innovative research projects co-funded by the European Union. The funding organisations participating in this call particularly wish to promote innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage transnational collaboration.

3 Participating regions, countries and funding organisations

The following participating funding partner organisations (FPOs) are jointly launching the JTC 2027. The JTC 2027 is managed by the THCS Joint Call Secretariat (JCS).

Country	Funding Partner Organisation (FPO)	Acronym
Austria	Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft	FFG
Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	FNRS
Canada	Canadian Institutes of Health Research	CIHR
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
Ireland	Health Research Board	HRB
Israel	Ministry of Health	CSO-MOH
Italy	Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale	AReSS

[1] https://www.thcspartnership.eu/kdocs/2101188/sria_thcs-feb2023.pdf

Italy	Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research, Lombardy Region	FRRB
Italy	Italian Ministry of Health	IT-MoH
Italy	Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute	ProMIS
Italy	Regione Emilia-Romagna	RER
Italy	Regione Toscana	RT
Latvia	Latvijas Zinātnes padome	LCS
Lithuania	Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba	LMT
Malta	Malta Council for Science and Technology	XM
The Netherlands	Zorgonderzoek Nederland/Nederlandse organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Regieorgaan SIA	ZonMW/NWO/ NWO-SIA
Norway	Norges Forskningsråd	RCN
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju	NCBR
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	Department of Health of the Basque Country	BIOEF
Spain	Instituto de Salud Carlos III	ISCIII
Spain	Consejería de Presidencia, Sanidad y Emergencias de la Junta de Andalucía	CPSEJA
Sweden	Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd	Forte
Switzerland	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds	SNSF
Switzerland	Schweizerischen Agentur für Innovationsförderung	Innosuisse
United Kingdom	National Institute for Health and Care Research	NIHR

4 Timeline of the call

Time	Activity
16 October 2026	Pre-announcement of the call
16 November 2026	Launch of the call
2 December 2026, 14:30-16:30 CET	JTC 2027 Information Webinar
21 January 2027, 14:00 CET	Deadline for submission of pre-proposals
6-8 April 2027	Peer review panel meeting
From 7 May 2027	Invitation to submit full-proposals
24 June 2027, 14:00 CEST	Deadline for submission of full-proposals
September 2027	Rebuttal stage
21-23 September 2027	Peer review panel meeting
October 2027	Ethical evaluation of the selected proposals
Late October 2027	Final funding recommendation announced to applicants
End of 2027	Regional/national administrative procedures
End of 2027/Early 2028	Expected scientific start of funded projects

5 Rationale of the call

Rapid societal change, population ageing and recurrent health emergencies are urging EU and associated countries to respond more effectively to the increasing pressures on health and care systems, and to deliver on the commitment to high-quality health and care services within the budgetary constraints imposed on healthcare systems. These challenges call for new and more effective responses to ensure the delivery of high-quality health and care services and require a comprehensive transformation of health and care systems. This transformation should ensure equitable, accessible, sustainable, efficient, resilient and inclusive health and care systems for all.

Over the past decade, substantial knowledge, tools, frameworks and examples of good practice have been developed through European, national and regional initiatives addressing workforce capacity and planning, recruitment and retention, workforce well-being, working conditions, distribution, skills development, education and training. However, the uptake, adaptation, implementation and scaling of these approaches remain uneven across countries, regions and settings. The challenge is no longer only to generate new knowledge, but to translate existing evidence into policy and practice and support sustainable health and care workforce transformation in real-world settings.

Health and care workforce capacities and dynamics is central for all health and care systems, and call for more efficient, sustainable, and coordinated responses[2]. The populations of European countries are ageing, leading to a larger share of the population living with chronic illness and long-term care needs. Although the European health and care sector employs more people than ever before[3], meeting future needs requires not only an expansion of the health and care workforce, but also its transformation[4]. Workforce needs should be derived from population health needs, not from existing professional structures and models of care. The challenge will be to develop a workforce with the right skills, competences and flexibility to support new and evolving models of care.

At the same time, the current health and care workforce is itself ageing[2,3], creating a growing need to attract a new generation of professionals. In addition, there are challenges in retaining health and care workers throughout their careers, driven in part by unfavourable employment and working conditions, which are exacerbating current and future shortages. While increasing the number of health and care workers remains important, expansion alone will not be sufficient to meet future needs. Current efforts to train, recruit and retain new health and care workers are insufficient. Furthermore, workforce shortages are most acute in rural and remote areas and in already under-resourced health systems, undermining care quality, access to services and universal health coverage.

Improving working conditions for health and care workers and supporting their physical[5] and mental well-being[6] will therefore be critical for ensuring a sustainable health and care workforce in

[2] Health and care workforce in Europe: time to act, WHO European Region (2022).
[3] Health at a Glance 2025, OECD (2025).
[4] Health at a Glance: Europe 2024, OECD (2024).
[5] Also encompasses the physical and built work environment — including the design of care settings, workspaces and technology-enabled environments — as determinants of working conditions, staff well-being, workflow efficiency and the quality of learning and training environments.
[6] The Mental Health of Nurses and Doctors (MeND) survey, WHO Regional Office for Europe (2025).

the future[7]. Such measures can help increase the attractiveness of health and care careers for future recruitment and improve retention throughout the career. Furthermore, they have the potential to improve the efficiency of the existing health and care workforce, as well as reduce health-related work absence. Adequate working conditions directly contribute to the resilience, quality and sustainability of health and care systems.

Moreover, health and care education is often insufficiently informed by the needs of services and new evidence from research. This affects the readiness of newly trained health and care workers to meet the requirements of health and care practice. Furthermore, there is often insufficient opportunity and time for the existing workforce to gain updated knowledge and skills through continuing professional development. Consequently, there is a misalignment between workforce capabilities and the competences needed to respond to digitalisation, artificial intelligence[8], the green transition and changing models of care, building on competences frameworks and skills initiatives developed through programmes such as BeWell and other EU-funded actions.[9]. The development of the health and care workforce must therefore keep pace with broader health system transitions[10], including the reconfiguration of professional roles and scopes of practice[11], addition of new and emerging professional roles, evolving health and care service organisation, reinforced role of university hospitals, care provision across settings and regions and professional collaboration. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for an integrated approach to workforce planning and development, both across disciplines and professions, and on local, regional and national level, moving beyond single profession, siloed organisation.

Meeting the challenges facing the European health and care workforce will require comprehensive strategies that align different stakeholders and apply coordinated measures across the sector. Recent European initiatives, including JA HEROES and other EU-funded actions, have generated substantial knowledge, tools, data and good practices to support evidence-informed workforce planning, governance and development in member and associated states. Building on these achievements, there is a need to support the adaptation, implementation, transfer and scaling of effective workforce solutions across diverse national, regional and local contexts[12]. Importantly, each context needs tailored policies and measures. It should also account for the effects of regional or territorial disparities on policy choices on education capacity, recruitment, deployment, retention and role reconfiguration. Furthermore, there is a need to coordinate national efforts[7], including the transfer and upscaling of good-practice examples.

Given that women represent the majority of the health and care workforce[3], particularly in lower-wage occupations in the sector, the workforce crisis has a clear gender dimension. This calls for targeted, gender-responsive policies and workforce planning[7].

Furthermore, many health and care systems are dependent on migrant, cross-border and seasonal workers. While this fills the gaps in the health and care workforce in destination countries, this can exacerbate shortages in source countries, including within the EU[2].

[7] The health workforce crisis in the European Union, European Parliament SANT committee briefing (2025).
[8] See also Apply AI Strategy, sectoral flagship on healthcare.
[9] BeWell: Building future skills for the health and care workforce, Eurohealth (2026).
[10] Including towards more preventative approaches and care models, in accordance with the EU's supply and demand model for the healthcare workforce (SANDEM).
[11] See the TASHI project and the Nursing Action initiative.
[12] See also EU4Health.

Attaining a strengthened, sustainable, resilient and efficient health and care workforce will require addressing both the needs of health and care systems and those of individual health and care workers. This includes improving working conditions, recruitment and retention; strengthening education, enhancing skills, competences and continuing professional development; and implementing effective workforce policies, governance frameworks and planning approaches, while supporting the uptake and adaptation of existing strategies and models for health and care workforce transformation.

6 Aim of the call

This joint transnational call aims to support implementation-oriented research and innovation that accelerates the uptake, adaptation, testing, evaluation and scaling of evidence-informed approaches to health and care workforce transformation. Building on the knowledge, tools, frameworks and good practices developed through previous European, national and regional initiatives, including JA HEROES, BeWell and relevant research projects, the call seeks to support health and education authorities, health and care providers, educational institutions and other relevant stakeholders in applying and sustaining effective workforce solutions in their specific contexts.

Proposals are expected to go beyond isolated measures and support the implementation and scaling of integrated workforce solutions that strengthen the capacity of health and care systems to attract, train, deploy and retain a skilled and resilient workforce. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how they build on existing evidence, initiatives and good practices, and avoid duplication of previous efforts. Projects should demonstrate how workforce transformation can support a shift towards population-oriented healthcare and apply implementation science approaches to identify barriers and facilitators to adoption, sustainability, scalability and transfer.

Non-traditional health and care workers, both at the clinical (e.g. system navigators, community health workers, peer support workers, etc.) and system level (e.g. implementation teams, coaches, practice facilitators, etc.), are also included in the scope of this call.

Proposals may address workforce governance, planning, forecasting, regulation, implementation and scaling where they contribute to workforce transformation, including measures that strengthen coordination across health and care services, education and training, and research and innovation systems, and support knowledge translation, uptake and system-level decision-making. While development of digital tools, including artificial intelligence, and technological components may support these innovations, the main focus must remain on health and care workforce transformation, sustainability, resilience, and implementation in real-world health and care systems.

Proposals are encouraged to address recruitment, retention, working conditions, education, skills development and workforce organisation as mutually reinforcing dimensions of workforce transformation.

Proposals are expected to adapt, pilot and evaluate integrated, system-level interventions that address workforce challenges in relation to working conditions[13], service delivery, organisational models, education and training, financing, planning and governance.

[13] Including compensation, recognition, workload, work environment and occupational risks.

Proposals may address one or more of the following:

- **Supporting workforce planning and forecasting;**
- Enabling frameworks, including legal, regulatory and accreditation provisions, that support workforce sustainability and system transformation;
- Strengthening employment conditions and promoting fair and ethical recruitment, diversity and inclusion;
- Testing and upscaling vocational and higher education models of health and care workers that align with population health needs and the requirements of integrated care pathways and new service delivery models, including transformative training environments, supervision models, and transferable educational and professional development interventions;
- Strengthening continuing professional development to enable and incentivise the health and care workforce to use new knowledge, co-create and adopt innovations and effectively apply digital and technological solutions within care pathways;
- Expanding and diversifying career pathways;
- Supporting advanced practice roles, new and expanded professional roles, and revised skills mixes and scopes of practice, enabling integrated, multi-professional teams across settings and levels of care and improving professional autonomy.
- Improving working conditions, including workload management, the physical and built environment, and organisational wellbeing;
- Co-created measures for monitoring and safeguarding of the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the health and care workforce;
- Preventing and responding appropriately to violence against health and care workers.
- Promoting effective leadership and organisational capabilities to support service integration, innovation, resilience and system-wide change, as well as research driven by health workers, particularly in primary care.
- Developing or applying digital tools or technological solutions to support system-level interventions for recruitment, retention and workload management;

Proposals are encouraged to address geographical and structural disparities, including challenges related to recruitment and retention of health and care workers in rural and remote areas or other under-resourced areas (“medical deserts”).

Proposals may address gender and social inequalities affecting the workforce, including in relation to recruitment, retention, pay, career progression, working conditions, leadership opportunities and the unequal distribution of unpaid care responsibilities, as part of wider system transformation efforts.

Proposals may further address the alignment of push and pull factors on migrant, cross-border and seasonal workers on health and care system performance and sustainability. Furthermore, proposals may address specific challenges faced by migrant, cross-border and seasonal workers, including transparent and timely recognition of qualifications, ethical recruitment practices, language and orientation support, mentoring, workplace integration and safeguards against inadequate living and working conditions. Proposals should build on and complement relevant European initiatives,

including the EU Fair Labour Mobility Package[14], and seek to promote synergies while avoiding duplication of existing efforts.

7 Expected outcomes and impacts

Research and innovation projects funded under this call are expected to deliver concrete, feasible, actionable, scalable and transferable results that contribute to improving the sustainability, resilience and efficiency of the health and care workforce in Europe and beyond.

Proposals must deliver comprehensive measures that combine several complementary elements, such as improved service models, interventions, workforce planning tools, competency frameworks, governance models, implementation guidelines, evaluation indicators, replication toolkits, training packages, policy briefs, health and care practices or scalable innovations embedded within care pathways and service delivery systems. These should address persistent challenges in the recruitment, retention training, education and professional development of the health and care workforce.

Proposals should specify how workforce outcomes (for example recruitment, retention, well-being, and skills-mix change) will be measured, and are encouraged to adopt common or comparable indicators to enable learning, comparison and transfer across funded projects and health systems.
Digital tools and technological solutions, including artificial intelligence, may be part of the project output, but must not be the primary output. This requirement should be understood as ensuring the project's focus remains on workforce transformation and its implementation in real-world systems — not as discouraging ambitious digital-, data- or AI-enabled workforce models.

Stakeholder involvement and ecosystem approach

Stakeholder engagement should explicitly include the health and care workforce as co-designers of its own transformation. This means involving frontline staff, professional and representative bodies and, for education and training, students and trainees, in the co-design, testing and evaluation of proposed solutions, not solely as their subjects.

Beyond health and care workers, stakeholder involvement includes:

- Decision makers, including public health authorities, social care agencies, payers, service providers, education and training institutions, professional and regulatory bodies, to ensure that project outputs are aligned with operational needs and can be embedded into existing governance, accreditation and delivery structures;
- Patients, service users and civil society organisations to ensure relevance, responsiveness and legitimacy;
- Enterprises and industry, to support implementation and scale-up;
- Workforce representatives and community actors, to ensure feasibility, uptake and sustained integration of project outputs within service delivery;
- Other end users that can give input to enhance adoption and support long-term impact.

[14] https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/moving-working-europe/working-another-eu-country/fair-labour-mobility-package_en

Stakeholder engagement must go beyond consultation and include co-design, testing, validation, and implementation wherever possible, ensuring that proposed solutions are fit for purpose within integrated health and care systems and capable of delivering sustained impact.

Proposals are expected to include expertise from social sciences and humanities. Applicants are also expected to actively involve relevant stakeholders through an ecosystem approach, ensuring alignment with system needs and facilitating uptake into practice, organisational development and policy.

Projects should address the well-documented challenge of transferring and scaling successful practices beyond their original settings. Proposals must describe how outcomes will be transferred and scaled across diverse contexts, and how adaptations will be made to local systems and needs.

This includes:

- A clear transfer strategy, taking into account differences in governance, service organisation and workforce structures
- Replication toolkits or guidelines to support uptake across settings
- Engagement with decision makers, stakeholders and end users[15], to ensure feasibility, ownership and system integration

Expected impact

1. **Improved workforce recruitment, retention and sustainability.** Improved ability of health and care systems to recruit, retain, support and develop the health and care workforce, including through better working conditions, more attractive career pathways, strengthened organisational support, and more responsive workforce models.
2. **Stronger education, training and professional development systems.** Better alignment of curricula, teaching methods, training capacity and continuous professional development with changing health and care needs, integrated care pathways, new service delivery models, and innovative and environmentally sustainable practices.
3. **Enhanced health and care system performance.** Improved resilience, efficiency, responsiveness and continuity of health and care delivery through better workforce planning, improved deployment of skills and competences, and more integrated service and organisational models.
4. **Reduced geographical, structural, gender and social inequalities.** Improved capacity to address disparities affecting the health and care workforce, including in rural, remote and other under-resourced areas, including “medical deserts”, as well as inequalities related to gender, social conditions, leadership opportunities, pay, career progression and the distribution of unpaid care responsibilities.
5. **Better evidence for policy, regulation and governance.** Stronger evidence base for policy development, regulation, accreditation, planning and governance concerning workforce recruitment, retention, education, training and professional development, including support for more flexible, responsive and integrated workforce models.

[15] Under the topic of this call, involvement of health and care workers actively practicing care delivery is particularly relevant.

6. **Improved knowledge translation, uptake and replication.** Stronger mechanisms for translating research and innovation into practice, organisational development and system-level decision-making, with greater transferability, replication and scale-up of successful solutions across countries, regions and settings.
7. **More effective ecosystem collaboration.** Stronger multidisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration within and beyond the consortium, bringing together relevant expertise from health and care services, education and training, public health, health economics, implementation research, social sciences, humanities, digital and technological fields, industry, civil society and end users, thereby increasing the transformational potential and real-world impact of the project.
8. **Improved quality, accessibility and equity of care.** Indirect but meaningful improvements in the quality, accessibility, inclusiveness and continuity of health and care services, resulting from a stronger, better prepared and more sustainable workforce.
9. **Long-term sustainability and environmental responsibility.** Greater consideration of the long-term sustainability of proposed solutions, including their organisational, financial and environmental sustainability, with due attention to greener health and care practices and adaptation to climate-related challenges.

8 Exclusion criteria

Proposals will be rejected if they:

1) Do not take into consideration an ecosystem-wide approach[16]
2) Fail to consider end-users' perspective in the design, implementation, and evaluation phases (see Section 9.1.2.2 End-user involvement and Guidance for Applicants for details).
3) Are limited to epidemiological or descriptive studies (e.g. mapping prevalence or analysing risk factors) without proposing concrete, actionable solutions or models for implementation in health and care systems.
4) Focus predominantly on clinical, pre-clinical, or biomedical aspects, without addressing systemic, organisational, or social components of health and care delivery.
5) Relate solely to welfare services and do not address issues related to health and care services.

9 Application

9.1 General Conditions

9.1.1 Multidisciplinary teams & intersectoral collaboration

In the dynamic landscape of healthcare, transformative solutions necessitate an ecosystem approach that extends beyond traditional boundaries. Health and care systems are facing challenges that require harmonised and coordinated solutions, devised through processes that enable all stakeholders involved to design, research and implement such solutions in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner, while keeping people at the centre of the systemic process. This

[16] The Guidance for Applicants contains a detailed description of what is meant by an ecosystems approach in the THCS partnership.

call for proposals invites innovative projects that demonstrate a profound and deep understanding of this approach, ensuring their alignment with existing policy contexts and the broader ecosystem of health and care.

Proposals **must encompass the development of comprehensive sustainability strategies** considering legal, financial, technological, and educational barriers to the implementation of the project outcome(s), as well as barriers to adaptation to the local context by stakeholders. These plans should reflect a clear strategy for engaging with relevant, wider ecosystems, ensuring that the project's reach and impact are maximized. This approach is anticipated to facilitate the creation of sustainable, user-centred solutions, leading to a meaningful transformation in health and care systems. **This aspect is assessed in the evaluation of proposals under criterion 2. (Impact).**

Proposals **must explicitly illustrate their integration within this ecosystem**, showcasing effective cooperation and coordination among diverse stakeholders. This includes, but is not limited to, health and care professionals, system owners, and, crucially, the service users. The emphasis is on transcending the confines of conventional health and care domains, fostering collaboration at local or regional levels. The consortium should include partners that have the strategic interest and the means to engage in transformation.

Proposals **must be interdisciplinary and intersectoral and clearly demonstrate the potential impact on the transformation of health and care systems, as well as the added value of transnational collaboration.** In order to achieve these goals, the necessary expertise and resources should be brought together from most if not all of the following areas: academia (including social sciences and humanities), clinical and public health sector (e.g. hospitals, community care, wellbeing and social care services), professional medical associations (e.g. General Practitioners associations), the private sector (e.g. SMEs, industry), public sector (e.g. regulatory authorities and HTA agencies), patient organisations and other operational stakeholders. Especially with respect to implementation approaches, relevant industry and end-user organisations should be partners in the consortium.

Consortia should include investigators from a broad range of relevant scientific disciplines, research fields or sectors, and bring together the necessary expertise, besides the medical fields targeted, to achieve the objectives as well as the expected impact of the research proposed. It is recommended to include, besides clinical research, public health research, bioinformatics, technology, digital health, Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects (ELSA) research, implementation research, health economics research, psychological and behavioural research, built-environment expertise, and end-user's perspective to empower the implementation of the proposed work. **The ecosystem approach through interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations is assessed in the evaluation of proposals under sub-criterion 1b. (Excellence).**

The involvement of patient organisations and enterprises is not mandatory but should be appropriate to the proposed project. Note that some participating FPOs may not allow funding to patient organisations and/or enterprises, while other FPOs may require the participation of enterprises (see Annex. I). **Involvement of patient organisations and/or enterprises is part of the evaluation under sub-criterion 1b. (Excellence) and, for full-proposals only, 3b (Implementation).**

9.1.2 Patients and citizens

Patient/citizen organisations can also be included in consortia as partners (on own funding or funded, if eligible according to regional/national FPOs' regulations). By actively engaging with this group,

applicants can ensure that the projects are grounded in real-world experiences, leading to more relevant and impactful outcomes. For instance, their involvement in research design and planning ensures relevance and appropriate delivery and dissemination activities enhances the reach and relatability of the research, while their participation in the utilisation of results ensures that the solutions developed are not only practical, but also embraced by those they are meant to serve.

9.1.2.1 Enterprises

Similarly, enterprises, ranging from start-ups to established corporations in the health and care sectors, act as catalysts for translating research into practical, innovative solutions. Their participation in this ecosystem ensures a continuous flow of new ideas and technologies, which is essential for addressing the evolving challenges in healthcare. The embedding of the endeavour into organisational strategies will raise the transformational power of the consortium. If the consortium has a commercial component, the workplan needs to include the development of business plans and reflect the reaching out to relevant wider ecosystems.

9.1.2.2 End-user involvement

Project partners of the joint applications should be complementary, and the proposed work should contain innovative and ambitious ideas with a high potential for application by the end-users and/or with a high potential for implementation to benefit of end-users. **It is compulsory for projects to consult with end-users and other stakeholders relevant for a successful implementation into health and care systems (e.g. policymakers, medical associations, regulatory authorities, health insurance providers) during the planning, design and course of the project running time.**

Active engagement of such end-users and stakeholders is highly encouraged. The proposal should describe how this involvement could be approached and how they might impact the overall implementation of the project. This involvement may concern the planning, realisation and implementation of the project, to dissemination activities and/or to the planned utilisation of the results. **This aspect is assessed in the evaluation of proposals under sub-criterion 1f. (Excellence).**

9.1.3 Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and ethical compliance

Projects should follow the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Consortia submitting proposals to this call should demonstrate a commitment for investigating and addressing social, ethical, political, environmental or cultural dimensions of the proposed research.

Furthermore, proposed work must respect fundamental ethical principles. Applicants have to describe any potential ethical aspects of the work to be carried out, and how the project will fulfil applicable requirements in institutional, regional/national and European Union legislation (including the ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe[17]).

Further information is available in the “Guidelines for Applicants” document, and consortia are requested to elaborate on both aspects, RRI and ethical dimensions, in the proposal application forms.

[17] https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm

9.1.4 Inclusion of sex, gender analysis[18] and underrepresented populations

Applicants are strongly encouraged to integrate sex and gender considerations, as well as underrepresented and vulnerable populations (e.g. ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, socioeconomically disadvantaged people), or underrepresented patient sub-groups (e.g. children or elderly) as well as social components (e.g. different economic, educational backgrounds) in proposals submitted to the THCS call. This includes not only the sex distribution of research teams and the distribution of roles in a consortium (gender balance), but also the inclusion of sex or gender analysis in the research per se (gender dimension). This applies especially when the proposed research or innovation involves individual participants. A project is considered sex- and gender-relevant when it concerns individuals or groups of people or when its findings may affect individuals or groups. **The inclusion of gender or sex or underrepresented populations analysis is assessed in the evaluation of proposals under sub-criterion 1e. (Excellence).**

9.1.5 Scientific Data Policy

Applicants must develop a data management strategy and describe how data from different sources (such as different institutions) will be combined, how different data streams will be merged and how the primary outcomes will be meaningful across different institutions. Proposals should explain how the data, tools, code or algorithms gathered, developed or used through the project will be maintained after the project end and would be available (findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable) or communicated to the wider research community, during and after the end of the project period.

9.2 Eligibility criteria

This call only grants funding to consortia comprising multiple partners. One partner per consortia has the role of the project coordinator, which submits the proposal on behalf of the consortium. For the purpose of this call, the term partner refers to an organisation, whilst principal investigator refers to the individual representing the partner. This call does not grant funding to individuals.

- 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) partners 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 partners must be legal entities 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 (see Section 9.3). 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.

[18] European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, gender equality – A strengthened commitment in Horizon Europe, Publications Office, 2021, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/97891

Widening measure[19] **(optional):** To promote inclusiveness, ensure global participation, relevance and impact of the submitted projects in and outside Europe, as well as to maximise the use of committed resources, the Joint Call may employ the following widening measure: in the full-proposal, consortia with less than 9 partners are allowed to increase the size of the consortium from the pre-proposal by adding one project partner funded by an underrepresented FPO (i.e. an FPO that is at risk of not using funds it committed to the call). Only partners eligible to receive funding from FPOs that agree to participate in the widening measure may be added. Project coordinators will be notified of the widening measure in their invitation letter to submit a full-proposal. A list of eligible FPOs adopting the widening measure will be provided to coordinators invited to submit full-proposals.

For regional/national eligibility check purposes, applicants must indicate during pre-proposal submission whether the submitted project is subject to other evaluation processes, such as other joint transnational calls and/or regional/national calls. Applicants must not apply to different calls for the same research activities. Double funding is not allowed.

The following groups or individuals cannot apply or take part in consortia:

- Members of the Call Steering Committee[20] (CSC).
- Individuals who participated in the final decision of the call topic. Potential applicants may have contributed by suggesting and discussing call topics prior to the decision of the call topic.
- Individuals who have participated in drafting the call text.
- Representatives of THCS beneficiaries who were involved in decisions on the call or in drafting the call text may not apply, nor may researchers whose main affiliation is the same unit (e.g. department or laboratory) of a research organisation as one of these representatives.

Please note that if a proposal includes an ineligible partner, the whole proposal will be rejected if the composition of the consortium does not meet the call's criteria (see 9.2 Eligibility criteria) or the ineligible partner is the project coordinator, without further review (for the definition of eligible partners see "Guidelines for Applicants" and regional/national funding regulations and contact your regional/national contact person listed in Annex. I).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their regional/national contact points to check their regional/national eligibility rules before submission (see Annex. I).

9.3 Funding recipients

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (according to regional/national regulations; certain categories may not be eligible for funding by a specific funding organisation, please see Annex. I):

- **Academia:** research teams working at universities, universities of applied sciences, other higher education institutions, research and knowledge dissemination organisations or research institutes;

[19] **Widening concept:** Consortia are allowed to include in the full-proposal phase a new project partner that is eligible to receive funding from a funding organisation that is underrepresented in the first stage of the call and that agrees to participate in the widening option

[20] The Call Steering Committee comprises a single representative from each country's/region's funding partner organisation.

- **Clinical/public health sector:** research teams working at hospitals, polyclinics, 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.

Consortia submitting applications under this call are strongly encouraged to include partners from different categories in line with the multifaceted nature of health and care challenges, where the aim is to integrate expertise from a variety of fields and sectors to reach a transformative impact on health and care systems. The number of participants, the category of partner organisations and their research contribution should be appropriate for the aims of the call, the aims of the project and should be reasonably balanced in terms of international participation (the different points are reflected in the three evaluation criteria). Each collaborative project should represent the critical mass necessary to achieve the ambitious goals and should clearly demonstrate the added value for the cooperation. **This aspect is assessed in the evaluation of proposals under sub-criterion 3b.**

Each project partner has to be represented by <u>one</u> principal investigator. Within a joint proposal, each project partner's principal investigator will be the contact person for the relevant regional/national funding organisation. Each principal investigator can represent a partner in up to two proposals. Of these, a principal investigator can only represent the coordinator of one proposal. For some funding organisations, the maximum number of eligible partners who can be funded in one project is limited to one (see also "Guidelines for Applicants" for individual funding rules). Applicants are, consequently, strongly encouraged to contact their regional/national contact points to check their regional/national eligibility rules before submission (see Annex. I).

Each consortium must nominate <u>one</u> project coordinator among the participating eligible partners (NOT a collaborator). The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally, will act as contact person for the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) and will be responsible during the entire process for the internal scientific management such as the application procedure, coordination of consortium agreement drafting, Data Management Plan, gender equality plan and reporting.

Partners not eligible for funding by one of the organisations participating in this joint transnational call (e.g. from non-funding countries or not fundable according to regional/national regulations of the participating funding organisations) may participate if they are able to secure their own funding. They are treated as full partners and must be included as **collaborators** in the pre- and full-proposal templates as such. Please note that **no more than two collaborators** are allowed in consortia, or **no more than three collaborators** if one or more of the collaborators is an operational stakeholder. A letter of commitment must be included as an annex to the full-proposal, summarising the commitment of the partner participating in the project with own funding and demonstrating the source of funding. The budget of a non-funded partner shall not exceed 30% of the total project budget requested. A collaborator cannot be coordinator of a consortium nor work package leader.

Although proposals will be submitted jointly by teams from several regions/countries, teams will be funded by the respective funding organisation of the region/country from which they have applied. Applicants are therefore subject to the eligibility criteria of the respective funding organisations (see also Annex. I and "Guidelines for Applicants"). They should therefore read the funding rules and eligibility criteria of their funding organisations carefully. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their relevant funding organisation (Annex I) prior to submission; please note that this step might be mandatory for some regions/countries.

The eligibility of the consortium will be approved by the Call Steering Committee (CSC).

Every partner in the consortium, including collaborators, need to have a Participant Identification Code (PIC) from the EC to be included in the submission. Applicants are strongly advised to ensure they have a valid PIC well in advance of submission.

Individual representatives from THCS Partnership Governing Board Members, THCS Partnership General Assembly Members or Funding Agency Board Members cannot submit proposals to THCS Joint Calls.

9.4 Financial and legal aspects

The minimum project duration is 12 months and projects must be designed to be achievable during a maximum funding period of 36 months.

Eligible costs (e.g. personnel, material, consumables, travel, other direct costs, overheads) and funding rules and provisions may vary according to the respective funding organisation's regulations. Project partners must refer and adhere to their own regional/national regulations and scientific remits (Annex. I).

This call for proposals constitutes a funding scheme that is notified to the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) Surveillance Authority (ESA) and must be practised in compliance with the applicable national (EU/EEA) State Aid rules.

9.5 Submission of joint proposals

A two-step submission and evaluation procedure has been established: pre-proposals and full-proposals. In both phases, one joint proposal document shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational project. **Pre-proposals** must be submitted by the project coordinator to the JCS via the electronic submission system (https://epss.proposals.ee/thcs/) no later than **21 January 2027 at 14:00 CET**. The pre-proposals must be written in English and completed online.

The decision on which applicants are selected to submit a full-proposal will be communicated to applicants solely by the JCS from **7 May 2027**. The JCS will send a full-proposal application template to the coordinators of those research pre-proposals invited to the full-proposal stage. Full-proposals must be submitted by the project coordinator to the JCS via the electronic submission system (https://epss.proposals.ee/thcs/) no later than **24 June 2027 at 14:00 CEST**. Please note that **joint full-proposals will only be accepted from applicants explicitly invited by the JCS to submit full-proposals**. Full-proposals need to be completed online.

Please keep in mind that the templates provide indications for section limits. The different sections of the proposal should not exceed the prescribed maximum space (any exceeding characters will be redacted).

For any technical questions regarding the submission procedure using the electronic submission system, please contact the technical helpdesk: epss.thcs@g.etag.ee.

No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the CSC between the pre-proposals and full proposals. **Minor changes may be possible to improve your proposal if the objectives remain unchanged.** Applicants must explicitly indicate in their full proposal and into the EPSS the changes made as compared to the pre-proposal.

Minor changes to the budget must be allowed by the relevant FPOs. There is no need to inform the JCS. The change(s) will have to be declared on the EPSS.

Regarding changes in the composition of the consortium i.e. changes (addition, removal or replacement) of Partners: **no change will be allowed, except in case of force majeure or if explicitly requested by the CSC** for the particular cases of i) ineligibility of a partner and/or ii) invitation to add a partner that will request funds to an undersubscribed FPO; the list of the undersubscribed FPOs will be provided to coordinators invited to submit a full proposal at the end of the first step selection process. Requests of changes in the composition of the consortium in case of force majeure must be communicated to the JCS and to the regional/national funding organisations at least one week before the deadline set for the submission of full-proposals. Requests will be discussed on a case by case basis with the involved FPOs. Any change in the composition of the consortium must comply with the general eligibility rules of the call and the regional/national regulations of the relevant FPOs. The eligibility of the new partners must be verified with the relevant FPOs before submitting the full-proposal.

The project coordinator and the PI representing the coordinator cannot be changed between pre- and full-proposal stages. This rule applies except in the event of "*force majeure*". A specific authorisation request must be sent to the JCS and explain the *force majeure* requiring a change of project coordinator or the PI representing the coordinator. Changes to the consortium, project objectives or requested budget communicated to the JCS and to the regional/national funding organisations after the end of the stage 2 will not be accepted.

Further information on electronic submission of pre- and full-proposals is available on the THCS website (https://www.thcspartnership.eu/) and in the "Guidelines for Applicants".

Applicants from some regions/countries may be required to submit an additional regional/national proposal and/or other information (in some cases before the deadline of this call) directly to their relevant regional/national funding organisations. Applicants are therefore **strongly advised** to check their funding organisation's specific regulations. See Annex I for more details.

Ethical and legal issues must be addressed in each application, according to the relevant region's/country's regulations.

The THCS CSC will take all lawful steps to ensure the confidentiality of the information and documents obtained during the joint call evaluation and selection procedure.

9.6 Further information

Applicants should contact their corresponding regional/national representative to enquire about eligibility with their respective funding organisations prior to applying (see Annex. I). For additional information, please contact the JCS.

An online Information Webinar for applicants will be held on **2 December 2026 14:30-16:30 CET**. Interested applicants are encouraged to register for the webinar at the following link: https://www.zonmw.nl/en/calendar/thcs-jtc-2027-information-webinar-applicants. The webinar will cover general information about the THCS partnership, explanation of the call topic and call procedure, giving an example project, and explanation of the partner search tool. The webinar will conclude with a questions and answers session.

10 Evaluation of proposals

10.1 Peer-review of proposals

The selection of projects is based on the principle of peer review. Experts in the field(s), hereinafter referred to as reviewers, carry out written evaluations at two stages of evaluation: the pre-proposal and full-proposal stages. In addition, the reviewers will participate in a Peer Review Panel (PRP) meeting at both the pre-proposal and full-proposal stages. Reviewers operate independently and confidentially, without exchange with third parties. They only have at their disposal the information included in the submitted proposal on the closing date and time of the call.

Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three (3) reviewers with qualifying expertise fitting the topic of the submitted application.

The reviewers will assess the proposals and provide a written evaluation form with scores and comments for each evaluation criterion (see 10.5 Evaluation criteria).

10.2 Formal check and evaluation of pre-proposals

The JCS will check all pre-proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria (see also 9.2 Eligibility criteria). In parallel, the JCS will forward the pre-proposals to the regional/national funding organisations, which will perform a check for compliance with their regional/national regulations.

If a partner is found to be ineligible by one of the funding organisations after the formal check, the entire proposal will be rejected if the composition of the consortium does not meet the call's criteria (see 9.2 Eligibility criteria) or the ineligible partner is the project coordinator, without further review. For a definition of eligible partners, see "Guidelines for Applicants", the regional/national regulations, and contact your regional/national funding organisation (Annex. I).

After passing the eligibility check (performed by the JCS and the participating funding organisations), pre-proposals will be sent to at least three (3) reviewers for the first evaluation (see 10.5 Evaluation criteria). The reviewers will assess the pre-proposal and complete a written evaluation form with scores and comments for the evaluation criteria.

In addition, the reviewers will assess whether the projects described in the pre-proposal documents fit the aim and scope of the call. Pre-proposals not fitting the call topic and objectives will not be invited to submit a full-proposal, regardless of their scientific quality.

The reviewers will meet in a Peer Review Panel (PRP) to discuss all pre-proposals, to produce a final consensus report for each pre-proposal and a ranking list of the pre-proposals. The CSC members will meet to decide which pre-proposals will be invited for full-proposal submission based on the PRP's ranking list, and to ensure a reasonable balance of requested funds as also consider the available regional/national budgets.

10.3 Formal check and evaluation of full-proposals

The JCS will review the full-proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal requirements and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals prior to sending them to the reviewers.

If a partner is found to be ineligible by one of the funding organisations after the formal check, or the ineligible partner is the project coordinator, the entire proposal will be rejected without further review. For a definition of eligible partners, see "Guidelines for Applicants", the regional/national regulations, and contact your regional/national funding organisation Annex. I).

Each full-proposal will be allocated to at least three (3) reviewers. The reviewers will assess the full-proposal and complete a written evaluation form with scores and comments for each criterion (see 10.5 Evaluation criteria).

The reviewers will meet in a Peer Review Panel (PRP) to discuss all full-proposals, to produce a final consensus report for each full-proposal, and a ranking list.

10.4 Rebuttal stage

Prior to the PRP meeting to discuss the full-proposals, the JCS will provide the reviewers' assessment (by email or other electronic means) to each project coordinator who will have the opportunity to study the assessments and to provide comments on the arguments and evaluations of the reviewers, who remain anonymous. The rebuttal allows applicants to comment on factual errors or misunderstandings that may have been committed by the reviewers while assessing the full-proposal, and to reply to reviewers' questions. However, issues not related to reviewers' comments or questions cannot be addressed and the work plan cannot be modified at this stage. Answers sent after the notified deadline, or not related with reviewers' comments or questions will be disregarded.

During the PRP meeting, reviewers will take into consideration the rebuttal letters during the discussions and will produce a final consensus report for each full-proposal.

10.5 Evaluation criteria

Pre-proposals and full-proposals will be assessed according to specific evaluation criteria using a common evaluation form. A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate the proposal's performance with respect to the different evaluation criteria.

Scoring system:

0: Failure. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1: Poor. The proposal inadequately addresses the criterion, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2: Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4: Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Definitions for score descriptors

- A **minor shortcoming** is an issue that relates only to a marginal aspect of the proposal with respect to the criterion and/or can easily be rectified (it will not impact the scoring).
- A **shortcoming** is a problem that relates to an important aspect of the proposal. It impacts the scoring but does not render the proposal inappropriate for funding, i.e. the proposal is still expected to lead to useful results with positive impact.
- A **significant weakness** means that the proposal addresses the criterion in a limited and/or not sufficiently effective way (will lower the score below threshold). This can also be the case when the proposal includes a large number of shortcomings, each one of them not rendering the proposal inappropriate for funding, though all together make the proposal not addressing the criterion sufficiently in an effective way.

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria: excellence, impact, and implementation, each as a whole, and not separately for the different sub-criteria listed below each criterion. The sub-criteria related to the main criteria provide a level of detail adapted to the content and size of the pre- and full- proposal. The sub-criteria serve as a guide to help the applicant prepare the application and for the reviewer to conduct the evaluation. Each individual reviewer will independently give scores for each criterion. The three criteria are weighted equally. The final score for the proposal for each criterion is agreed upon by the panel members during the PRP discussion.

Evaluation criteria:

1. Excellence:
    a. Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives to the scope and objectives of the call.
    b. Transformative dimension for health and care systems, introducing ambitious and innovative approaches, technologies, or methodologies (including multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches) to solve the challenges related to the scope and objectives of the call.
    c. Soundness of the proposed concepts, methodology, organisational and business models, solutions, and services.

d. Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from a research and innovation perspective[21].
e. Appropriate consideration to societal responsibility and ethical issues such as gender dimensions, socioeconomic disparities, underrepresented and vulnerable populations and/or environmental factors.
f. Appropriate engagement and consideration of perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders/end-users, including patients, healthcare providers, policymakers, regulatory authorities, and insurance providers.

2. Impact:
   a. Clarity of the proposal for societal and policy relevance. Proposals must highlight the importance of the proposed work for solving wider pressing societal and policy issues related to the scope and objectives of the call, specify how the results will be translated to policy, decision makers and/or other relevant stakeholders, and contain details on the relevance of the proposed research and innovation to, e.g., specific management plans and processes, policy instruments or current legislation.
   b. The proposal will be expected to identify clearly stakeholders and end-users of the project outcomes, highlight potential arrangements for their wider uptake of knowledge and results and, as far as possible, to name organisations and individuals with whom the project plans to work on towards the wider uptake of its results.
   c. Credibility of the pathways to achieve THCS expected impacts under the relevant topic:
      i. enhance efficiency and effectiveness of health and care systems, including reduced healthcare costs, decreased hospital readmissions, and streamlined care pathways.
      ii. involvement of stakeholders in an ecosystem approach.
      iii. increase accessibility and equity of health services, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, geographic location, or cultural background, can access high-quality care.
      iv. promote people empowerment and self-management, enabling individuals to play an active role in their health and care.
   d. Scalability[22] and significance[23] of implementing the project's objectives within existing health and care systems and/or in different settings.

At stage 2 only (i.e. only for full-proposals), the following sub-criteria will also be included in the assessment of Impact:

   e. Suitability and effectiveness of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts such as dissemination and exploitation strategies to influence policy decisions, regulatory

[21] Transnational added value is the value resulting from the transnational research and innovation project, which is additional to the value that would have resulted from research and innovation projects funded at national or regional level.
Evidence of transnational added value can either be found directly among the countries involved in the research or innovation project, or through indirect value accrued as a result of their joint work. Such value could for example include relevance to international policy and management processes, linking expertise and efforts across international teams, or upscaling or downscaling of efforts, methodology and knowledge across countries and regions.
Furthermore, for this call, the transnational added value should be end-user oriented and benefit societal actors beyond researchers and innovators, generating insights on the way.

[22] **Scalability** refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. For example, in terms of the size of the target group, or the proportion of that group, that should benefit over time.

[23] **Significance** refers to the importance, or value, of those benefits. For example, number of additional healthy life years.

frameworks, and health care delivery, leading to evidence-based improvements in health and care systems, taking into consideration existing practices.

f. Consideration of the long-term sustainability of the proposed solutions and their environmental impact, including the promotion of greener health practices and adaptation to climate change.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation:
    a. Capacity and role of each participant (partners and collaborators) including appropriate expertise of partners responsible for proposed work packages and appropriate allocation of tasks.
    b. Appropriate interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations that bring together diverse expertise to achieve the project objectives.

At stage 2 only (i.e. only for full-proposals), the following sub-criteria will also be included in the assessment of Quality and efficiency of the implementation:

    c. Quality and effectiveness of the work plan (including adequacy of the time schedule) and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
    d. Suitability and robustness in monitoring progress towards the project's objectives and evaluating impact, including identification of potential barriers and risk mitigation measures.
    e. Appropriateness of the management structures, governance and procedures to address critical risks, innovation management, including ethical considerations.

10.6 Conflict of interest

All necessary steps will be taken by the JCS and the CSC to ensure that there is no conflict of interest concerning PRP members for those proposals assigned to them for review. The PRP members will be required to formally declare that no conflict of interest exists at any point in the evaluation process and to declare confidentiality concerning all documents and the entire review process. A reviewer cannot be part of the PRPs if they have been involved in the preparation of proposals, stand to benefit professionally, financially or personally from approval or rejection of a proposal, or have close familiar or personal relationship with any persons representing an applicant organisation in a proposal. In other cases of a conflict of interest towards specific proposals, the specific reviewer will be excluded from the meeting when discussing that proposal. Any PRP member who breaches the conflict-of-interest rule will be excluded from the PRP. Projects assigned to that reviewer will be assigned to another reviewer.

10.7 Ethical clearance

It is mandatory for applicants to complete an "Ethical self-assessment" (Annex 1 of the full-proposal application form). After the PRP meeting of stage 2, an Ethics evaluation will take place for the full-proposals which are recommended for funding by the PRP and selected for funding by the CSC, to verify alignment with ethical norms and regulations. If further clarifications are necessary, the consortium will be contacted to take some actions or submit additional documents. The ethics experts may put forward additional conditions that need to be fulfilled by the applicants. Only those proposals approved by both the scientific evaluation and ethical assessment, complying with the central Horizon Europe and regional/national ethical requirements, will be funded.

11 Final decision on funding

Based on the ranking list established by the PRP, the ethical clearance and available funding, the CSC will recommend the projects to be funded to the regional/national funding organisations. Based on these recommendations, final decisions will be made by the regional/national funding organisations, subject to budgetary considerations.

In case several projects with an equal overall grade cannot be awarded due to budgetary constraints, the CSC will prioritise according to the following core principles, in the order listed below:

1. Maximising the total output in terms of total funded budget in the call and number of funders involved;
   Aim is to allocate as much of the budget as possible and that all funders are involved in the projects funded.
2. Score of Excellence;
   If 1 cannot lead to an optimum selection with the highest budget allocation, the project with the highest excellence score will be considered first.
3. *Maximisation of the number of countries/regions involved in the funded project;*
   If 1 to 2 above cannot lead to a selection, then the involvement of the highest number countries/regions in the proposal will make that it is considered first.
4. Gender balance.
   If 1 to 3 above cannot lead to a selection, then the better gender balance among PIs within the consortium will make that it is considered first.
5. *Maximising inclusion of SMEs;*
   If 1 to 4 above cannot lead to a selection, then the involvement of the highest number of SMEs in the proposal will make that it is considered first.

The project coordinator will be informed by the JCS of the decision via email. The project coordinators are responsible to inform their project partners. A list of the funded projects will be published on the THCS website (https://www.thcspartnership.eu/).

12 Redress procedure

Applicants may appeal against the evaluation outcome if they suspect a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures, including the regional/national eligibility checks. The redress procedure covers only the procedural aspects of the call. It is not a scientific re-evaluation and does not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts. To be admissible, an appeal must be submitted to the JCS by the coordinator of the proposal concerned, by email (thcs@zonmw.nl), within fourteen (14) calendar days of the dispatch of the evaluation outcome email at the end of each stage (first or second stage). Only one appeal per proposal will be considered, and the outcome email will include information on this procedure. The appeal must state the name of the call, the proposal acronym and the proposal title. It must also describe the alleged breach and demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment, misuse of powers or conflict of interests. Appeals that do not meet these conditions, that do not concern the evaluation of a specific proposal, or that merely express disagreement with the result or reasoning of the evaluation may be deemed not suitable for redress. The JCS will acknowledge receipt within seven (7) calendar days, outlining the redress process and the expected date of the decision. All appeals received

by the deadline will be processed together, and the JCS will communicate its decision to the appellant within six (6) weeks of the appeal submission deadline.

13 Responsibilities, Reporting requirements and Dissemination

13.1.1 Granting Arrangements

Partners from the projects approved for funding will subsequently enter into granting arrangements with the relevant FPOs, according to their applicable grant awarding process and will be funded directly by the respective FPOs. Projects are expected to start late 2027 or early 2028 (may be subject to national/regional regulations, see Annex. I for details).

13.1.2 Consortium Agreement

Consortium members of projects selected for funding must fix a common scientific project start date, which will be the reference date for the annual progress reports and final reporting. The common scientific project start date must be stated in the project Consortium Agreement (CA).

Project coordinators will be responsible for drafting the mandatory CA specific to their consortium in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, intellectual property rights (IPR) and decision-making, and to avoid disputes that could compromise the completion of the project. The coordinator is responsible for sending the CA signed by all partners, including collaborators, to the JCS. The CA must state that funding and administrative matters are not regulated by the CA and are issues addressed bilaterally between each project partner and its funder in the relevant Grant Agreement (GA). The CA will be made available to the relevant funding organisations. The project consortium is strongly encouraged to sign this CA before the official project start date and, in any case, the CA should be signed and send to the JCS no later than three months after the scientific project start date. Please note that regional and national funding organisations' regulations concerning the requirement for a CA may apply. Further instructions will be provided by the JCS to the coordinators of the projects selected for funding. Some FPOs may require the signed CA to release the funds.

13.1.3 Data Management Plan

THCS expects proposals to develop data management plans (DMPs)[24] according to international state-of-the-art standards for data security (following the FAIR principles[25], the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[26] and in accordance with Ethical principles[27] for data management).

The Data Management Plan (DMP) should be sent to the JCS no later than three months after the scientific project start date. The DMP represents an essential document for the implementation of the research, as it helps to define the responsibilities of research data management ahead of the start of the project. The project coordinator is responsible for submitting an updated DMP at the end

[24] DMP template available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/report/data-management-plan_he_en.docx

[25] findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR): http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf

[26] GDPR: https://gdpr-info.eu/

[27] https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-data-protection_en.pdf

of the project together with the final scientific report. Compliance with or updates of the DMP, must be reported in each annual scientific project progress report.

13.1.4 Project Monitoring and Reporting

The project coordinator is required to fill out and submit an annual scientific progress report in English on behalf of the consortium to THCS, detailing how the project is progressing in relation to planned objectives. Furthermore, a final scientific report must be sent to THCS within a period of three months after the project has ended. In addition to the reports, information related to some indicators related to the project may be collected through a platform/survey. A report template will be provided by THCS stating the scientific progress, the goals that have been met and corrective measures in the event that the annual project plan has not been executed.

The project partners' principal investigators may also be required to submit individual reports to their respective funding organisation in accordance with the respective regional/national regulations.

In addition, project coordinators will be required to present the project results at THCS monitoring meetings, where attendance is mandatory. Additionally, they may be invited to attend at least two status seminars. Travel expenses to attend these mandatory meetings should be included in the proposal budget plans. In case of events being organised online, all partners of the consortia will be encouraged to participate. Funded project consortia shall participate in follow-up surveys up to two years after the project has officially been ended to assess impact of project results.

The coordinator must promptly inform the JCS in case of ANY changes in the work plan or in the consortium composition. The JCS will inform the relevant funding organisations, who will decide upon the proper action to be taken.

Upon notification, project coordinators are required to deliver a project abstract suitable for communication and dissemination purposes.

In addition, the funding recipients are expected to participate in, and contribute to, any communication activity or evaluation surveys initiated by THCS during the funding period (mandatory) and beyond. Funding recipients are required to add their project to the THCS Knowledge Hub and are encouraged to contribute project outputs, including descriptions of solutions and new knowledge (see 5 Knowledge Hub in Guidance for Applicants for more information).

13.1.5 Open Science

Publication of the scientific outcomes of the project is mandatorily subject to open access, and a corresponding budget should be allocated for this in the proposal's budget plan. Research projects funded through THCS are eligible to publish at no cost on Open Research Europe (ORE)[28], an open access publishing platform of the EC.

Importantly, all funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of transnational THCS-funded projects include proper acknowledgement of the THCS and the respective FPOs:

"This project received funding from [name of funding organisations, or an acknowledgment as requested by your regional/national funding organisation] under the frame of Transforming Health and

[28] https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/

Care Systems, THCS, (GA N° 101095654 of the EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme)".

For any oral presentation, the EU emblem should be displayed. Moreover, the beneficiary may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

13.1.6 Confidentiality

The THCS JCS takes all reasonable steps to ensure that information provided in the application is treated confidentially. The proposals will be handled confidentially by the JCS and by the regional/national funding organisations. In selecting the international reviewers for the PRP, the JCS shall endeavour to avoid any possible conflict of interest. Each reviewer will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest. In case of a conflict of interest the reviewer will be withdrawn from evaluating the respective proposal.

13.1.7 General Data Protection Regulation

Applicants are informed that their personal data submitted in their application to the call are processed in accordance with article 6.1 (e) and (c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679), and for the purposes of

- Processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
- Administering any subsequent funding award;
- Managing the funding organisations relationship with them;
- Analysing and evaluating the call;
- reporting to the European Commission/ European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) on the call;
- Providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects;
- Complying with audits that may be initiated by the funding organisations and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The CSC may share applicant's data with third parties (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in relation to the above activities including evaluators, auditors and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The members of the CSC may link the data that funding recipients provide in the application with regional/national, bibliographic or external research and innovation funding data which are available through public subscription-based databases (e.g., Scopus, Web of Science) or other national/open datasets.

Annex. I Regional/National Eligibility Criteria

Contact details

Country	FPO	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Austria	FFG	Gerda Geyer	gerda.geyer@ffg.at	+43(0)577554205
Belgium	FNRS	Joël Groeneveld Maxime Bonsir	international@frs-fnrs.be	+32 2 504 9270 +32 2 504 9236
Canada	CIHR	CIHR Contact Centre	support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca	1-888-603-4178
Czech Republic	MZCR	Monika Kocmanova[29] Olga Laaksonen[30]	monika.kocmanova@azvcr.cz; olga.laaksonen@mzd.gov.cz;	+ 420 778 973 186; +420 604 786 141
Denmark	IFD	Marie Friis Madsen	Marie.friis.madsen@innofond.dk	+45 61 90 50 59
Estonia	ETAG	Margit Suuroja	Margit.Suuroja@etag.ee	+372 731 7360
Finland	AKA	Marko Uutela	marko.uutela@aka.fi	+358 295 33 5113
France	ANR	Michael Joulie Maria Tsilioni	THCS@anr.fr	+33 (0) 1 80 48 83 57 +33 (0) 1 73 54 83 04
France	FR MOH	Mélanie Fisher Cécile Fragny	melanie.fisher@sante.gouv.fr cecile.fragny@sante.gouv.fr	
Ireland	HRB	Siobhán Hackett	HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie	+353 1 2345235
Israel	CSO-MOH	Dr. Irit Allon Netta Koren	irit.allon@moh.gov.il netta.koren@moh.gov.il	+972 (0)2 5082167 +972 (0) 545889393
Italy (Puglia)	AReSS	Agata Di Candia	management@aress.regione.puglia.it a.dicandia@aress.regione.puglia.it	Office : +39 080 5403222 Mob.: +39 347 1588361
Italy	IT-MoH	Grazia Papagni Benilde Tomei	g.papagni@sanita.it int-dgric@sanita.it b.tomei@sanita.it	
Italy	ProMIS	Valeria Troya	promis.amministrazione@promisalute.it promisalute@regione.veneto.it valeria.troya@promisalute.it	+39 3470155658 +39 3356504832
Italy	RER	Simona Ferlini	Simona.ferlini@regione.emilia-romagna.it Interassr@regione.emilia-romagna.it	+39 0515277112
Italy	RT	Teresa Vieri Monica Malacarne	thcs@regione.toscana.it	+39 055 4383289 +39 055 4382334
Latvia	LCS	Uldis Berkis	Uldis.Berkis@lzp.gov.lv	+371-29472349
Lithuania	LMT	Živilė Ruželė	zivile.ruzele@lmt.lt	(+370) 676 14383
Malta	XM	Kaylen Borg Ana Cuca	kaylen.borg.1@gov.mt ana.cuca@gov.mt General inbox: eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt	+356 2360 2134 +356 2360 2322
Netherlands	ZonMW/ NWO/ NWO-SIA	Ewoud van der Wal Universities of Applied Sciences can also contact Ewout Groeneveld	thcs@zonmw.nl e.groeneveld@regieorgaan-sia.nl	+31704126264 +31302594027

[29] National coordinator on Health-related European Partnerships (AZVCR).
[30] Head of the Science, Research, and Subsidies for Education Unit (MZCR).

Norway	RCN	Jostein Holmgren Siv Øverås Hege Johanne Magnussen	johol@forskningsradet.no sio@forskningsradet.no hjm@forskningsradet.no	+47 96646834
Poland	NCBR	Magdalena Krzystyniak Marcin Chmielewski	THCS@ncbr.gov.pl	+48 571 226 675 +48 571 226 666
Romania	UEFISCDI	Mihaela Manole Nicoleta Dumitrache	Mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro Nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro	
Slovakia	CVTI SR	Magdaléna Švorcová Marek Babušiak	Magdalena.Svorcova@cvtisr.sk Marek.Babusiak@cvtisr.sk	+421 917 733 493 +421 948 855 449
Spain	BIOEF	Ainhoa Martín Pagola	amartin@bioef.eus	+34 944536142
Spain	CPSEJA	Alicia Milano Curto	ep.fps@juntadeandalucia.es	+34 955040450
Spain	ISCIII	Maria Adrio	maria.adrio@isciii.es	(+34) 918222868
Sweden	Forte	Staffan Arvidsson	Staffan.arvidsson@forte.se	+4687754080
Switzerland	Innosuisse	Marina Dorner	eu-partnerships@innosuisse.ch	+41 58 343 60 72
Switzerland	SNSF	Clémence Le Cornec	thcs@snf.ch	+41 31 308 22 60
United Kingdom	NIHR	Sarah Puddicombe Tansy Evans Emma Munro	sarah.puddicombe@nihr.ac.uk tansy.evans@nihr.ac.uk emma.munro@nihr.ac.uk Cc internationalapplications@nihr.ac.uk	+44 2380560568

1.1 Austria – FFG

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG),
acting on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)

Funding commitment	1 Mio €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Minimum funding per Austrian participation in a project (1 or more partners): 100.000 €

Eligible institutions	Legal entities, partnerships and sole traders that are not part of the Austrian federal administration are eligible to receive funding.
	The following are particularly eligible for funding:
	– Companies of any legal form (e.g. AG, GmbH, KG, OG, etc.), but principally not partnerships under civil law (GesbR)
	– Institutions of research and knowledge dissemination
	  – Universities
	  – Universities of applied sciences
	  – Non-university research institutions
	  – Technology transfer institutions, innovation agents and other research-oriented organisations (e.g. cluster organisations, associations with a relevant purpose)
	– Other legal entities
	  – Non-research oriented associations
	  – Local authorities and autonomous bodies (Note: Activities of local authorities falling within their statutory mandate are not eligible for funding)

Table 1 : funding rates

Type of organisation	Research category Industrial research	Research category Experimental development
Small enterprise	80 %	60 %
Medium-sized enterprise	70 %	50 %
Large enterprise	55 %	35 %
Research institutions (non-commercial activities)	85 %	60 %
Non-economic institutions (non-economic activities)	80 %	60 %

Organisations excluded from funding	It is not possible to provide funding to undertakings in difficulty[31].
Additional eligibility criteria	Austria requires the fulfillment of the following Eligibility Criteria for Austrian participants and verifies them by means of an eligibility pre-check): • Registration at the eCall system of the FFG at https://ecall.ffg.at within the submission deadlines of the Call (phase 1 and phase 2); please consult the tutorial at https://ecall.ffg.at/Cockpit/Help.aspx; participant's cost information has to be filled in the FFG ecall proposal prior to submission deadline; • For companies: upload of the balance sheets of the last two years in the FFG eCall within the submission deadline; • FFG experts will check the financial potential (credit rating and liquidity) of the participating enterprises. Declaration of SME Status for associations and sole traders
Eligible costs	Eligible costs must be allocable directly to the project. This means that: – they are incurred additionally to the normal operating costs during the funding period – they are in accordance with the Funding Contract – they can be evidenced by receipts For details on the eligibility of costs see the Cost Guidelines.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Yes, see additional eligibility criteria If more than 1 Austrian partner participate in the same proposal, they will nominate one of the Austrian partners to act as the national coordinator. The duties of the national coordinator are listed in the « Leitfaden für kooperative F&E Projekte, Transnationale Ausschreibungen », Chapter 2.1 and Chapter 2.3. Contrary to Chapter 2.2 it is not mandatory that 1 enterprise must be part of the European project consortium, consequently, also the given percentages of effort of the partners are not applicable.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Yes, see additional eligibility criteria • For enterprises: upload of the balance sheets of the last two years in the FFG eCall within the submission deadline; • Declaration of SME Status for associations and sole traders

[31] Undertakings in difficulty as defined in the General block exemption Regulation (EU), Allgemeine Gruppenfreistellungsverordnung (ABl. L 187 S. 19, idF ABl. L 270/39 vom 29.07.2021)

Further guidance	The national rules on eligible costs for Austrian participants are available from the FFG webpage at https://www.ffg.at/recht-finanzen/kostenleitfaden, Kostenleitfaden 3.2 (Cost Guidelines). Legal background for funding: FFG Technologie-Richtlinie. More information can be found in the Guidelines « Leitfaden für kooperative F&E Projekte, Transnationale Ausschreibungen » and on the FFG Call webpage under www.ffg.at/THCS_Call5

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Austria	FFG	Gerda Geyer	gerda.geyer@ffg.at	+43(0)577554205

1.2 Belgium – FNRS

Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) **international@frs-fnrs.be**	
Funding commitment	300.000
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	300.000
Eligible institutions	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations.
Organisations excluded from funding	**Please note that the F.R.S.-FNRS only funds Basic research** (low Technology Readiness Level) carried out in a research institution from the "Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles". The F.R.S.-FNRS will not fund industrial partners or any activity related to the private sector. Nevertheless, partners funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS can be in a consortium where there are also partners from the private sector.
Additional eligibility criteria	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations.
Eligible costs	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations. This call is co-funded. Please do not include overhead costs in the budget, as these are covered through a separate agreement between the FNRS and the host research institution in the event that the project is funded.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Applicants to F.R.S.-FNRS funding must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application on e-space within 5 working days after the general deadline of the THCS call to be eligible. Please select the "PINT-MULTI" funding instrument when creating the administrative application. Proposals invited to the second stage will be able to complete the pre-proposal form and provide information for the full proposal upon validation by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
Further guidance	https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/financements

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
French speaking Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS	Joël Groeneveld	international@frs-fnrs.be	+32 2 504 9270
French speaking Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS	Maxime Bonsir	international@frs-fnrs.be	+32 2 504 9236

1.3 Canada – CIHR

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) **Email address: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca**	
Funding commitment	$1,500,000 CAD
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	The maximum amount per project is $100,000 per year for up to three (3) years, for a total of $300,000 CAD per project. If there are two Canadian partners in the same consortium, the total funding amount can be shared.
Eligible institutions	Eligibility criteria for all CIHR research funding programs apply. The business office of the institution of an eligible Nominated Principal Applicant generally administers CIHR funds. Refer to the Individual Eligibility Requirements regarding the eligibility requirements for individuals and institutions. For your application to be eligible to CIHR the Canadian researcher that is applying for funding from Canada must be an independent researcher at a CIHR eligible institution.
Organisations excluded from funding	Organizations that are not eligible to receive CIHR funding are excluded from CIHR funding.
Additional eligibility criteria	Projects must be focused on the health and care of older persons and/or their caregivers. Projects are encouraged to use a Patient-Oriented Research approach. Patient-oriented research (POR) involves engaging patients, caregivers, families, communities as well as knowledge users and decision makers as partners in co-creating research. This partnered approach is a key element of research excellence and increases the quality, relevance, and impact of research evidence, increasing its uptake into health policy and practice. Projects may include a Patient Engagement Plan with details on how People with Lived and Living Experience (PWLLE) and/or communities, including Indigenous, will be part of the research team, designing and executing the research and subsequent knowledge mobilization. For more information, please also refer to SPOR's Patient Engagement Framework.
Eligible costs	Applicants should review the Use of Grant Funds section of the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) Financial Administration Guide for a complete listing and description of allowable costs and activities.

	Indirect costs of grant activities are not an eligible expense. Eligible administering institutions may receive a Government of Canada supplement through the Research Support Fund (RSF), which is intended to help pay for a portion of the indirect costs associated with managing agency-sponsored research.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	A parallel submission to CIHR is not required.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	The Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI) overseeing the Canadian component will be required to submit an electronic Final Report. This online report will be made available through ResearchNet at the beginning of the grant funding period and can be filled in as the research progresses. It is incumbent upon the Canadian researchers to review and understand all expectations of the THCS Call Text, including the requirement for a Consortium Agreement (CA) and a data management plan that aligns with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The NPI does NOT need to send CIHR copies of these documents. The NPI will be required to also meet all THCS reporting requirements. Please consult the THCS website for more information.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Canada	Canadian Institutes of Health Research	CIHR Contact Centre	support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca	1-888-603-4178

*The NCP is Jessica Nadigel, Associate Scientific Director, CIHR's Institute of Health Services and Policy Research

1.4 Czech Republic – MZCR

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZCR)** **Email address** monika.kocmanova@azvcr.cz; olga.laaksonen@mzd.gov.cz.	
Funding commitment	500, 000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 250,000 € per project, regardless of the number of Czech partners in the project consortium.
Eligible institutions	**Research Organisations, Enterprises, Patient Organisations.** All eligibility rules and criteria can be found on the Czech Health Research website (THCS Výzva 2027 – AZV ČR). It is **strongly recommended** to contact the responsible person at the Czech Health Research Council (prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria). • **Conditions for PO funding** – Patients organisations can receive direct funding if they take an active role in the project´s research activities. This means they must contribute to specific research objectives (for example, by being involved in one or more work packages) and these types of research activities must be clearly described in their **statues.**
Organisations excluded from funding	NA
Additional eligibility criteria	**Eligibility criteria for the Principal Investigator:** The PI must hold a Ph.D. degree (for more information, please refer to the national document "*Podmínky pro zapojení českého uchazeče do výzvy",* available on the AZV CR website). MZCR/AZVCR sets a criterion for the **maximum workload**, **which must not exceed 1.00 FTE within a single submitted project**. There is **no minimum workload requirement for the PI** in relation to European Partnerships (EP) in health-care area imposed by the national funding authority (MZCR). However, the allocated FTE must correspond to the actual workload required for the project. Within the EP, the assigned FTE is subject to verification by the institution or organisation employing the PI. Therefore, the provisions of Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code, must be respected. AZV CR does not impose any additional FTE-related restrictions within the framework of the EP. **Definition of ECR -** A natural person engaged in research who, in the year of submission of the Project proposal to the call for proposals, has received their Ph.D. academic title or its equivalent in the past 8 years, or has obtained it no later than the date of conclusion of the Contract/issuance of the Project Decision. If the Proposer has been on maternity or parental leave, has suffered

	a long-term illness, or has interrupted his/her scientific career for similar objective reasons, the time limit of 8 years from the award of the academic degree of Ph.D. or its equivalent is increased by this period. These facts (award of the degree, parental leave, etc.) shall be documented by the Applicant by means of a Sworn Statement. **Eligible experimental approaches and disciplines:** The Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZCR) is not permitted to finance projects focused exclusively on basic research. It may, however, support projects that combine basic and applied research, provided that applied research plays the principal role.
Eligible costs	All eligibility of costs, types and their caps can be found on the Czech Health Research Council (THCS Výzva 2027 – AZV ČR). It is **strongly recommended** to contact the responsible person at the Czech Health Research Council (prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria).
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	**Submission of the proposal (or other information) at the national level:** Prior to submission of the pre-proposal to EP THCS, Czech researchers need to submit to the Czech Health Research Council the following documents: 1. **Sworn Statement of a Legal Entity / Natural Person (mandatory)** 2. **Sworn Statement for a Research Organisation (if relevant)** 3. **Sworn Statement of composition consortium (only if SMEs or industry are involved in the project proposal from the Czech side)** 4. **Application Form** Czech partners are required to complete a **national Application Form**, providing basic information about the applicant and any co-applicant(s), if applicable, including their respective budgets. It is necessary to list all national institutions involved in the project due to funding requirements. All these documents are available on the website at the Czech Health Research Council: THCS Výzva 2027 – AZV ČR. Prior to submission of the full proposal to EP THCS, Czech researchers need to submit to the Czech Health Research Council the following documents: 1. **Documents** related to **professional competence**, depending on the nature of the project, must be provided in the form of a **Sworn Statement**, which will be available on the website at the Czech Health Research Council AZV ČR – THCS Výzva 2027 – AZV ČR. 2. **Updated Application Form** Czech partners are required to complete the **updated national Application Form**, providing basic information about the applicant and any co-applicant(s), if applicable, including their respective budgets. It is necessary to list all national institutions involved in the project due to funding requirements. According to Czech regulations, the main Czech applicant will sign a grant agreement with the national funding authority (MZCR) and, if there are any

	other Czech co-applicant(s), will subsequently enter into a cooperation agreement with them. At the international level (pre- or full proposal), it is preferable to list only one Czech partner – the main applicant. If needed, it is possible to list more than one partner (in accordance with the call rules); however, at the national level, there will be one main Czech applicant while the remaining national institutions will act as co-applicants. Together, they must share the allocated project budget among themselves. The total project budget must not exceed **EUR 250,000.** In case the projects of Czech participants are recommended for funding based on the results of the international evaluation and after the approval of the representatives of the funding authorities of the countries participating in the EP THCS calls, the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic / the Czech Health Research Council may ask the successful Czech participants to submit additional documents in order to issue a decision on the provision of purpose-special support according to the rules established by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic / Czech Health Research Council.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	**IMPORTANT: All projects will be funded under the Programme for the Support of Applied Health Research for the Years 2024–2030 and must therefore start on 1 January 2028 and be completed no later than 31 December 2030, as the programme itself ends at the end of that year.** **In the Consortium Agreement, it must therefore be stated that due to the national funding conditions applicable to the Czech partner, the project duration for the Czech partner differs from that of the other consortium partners. The Czech partner must start its project activities on 1 January 2028 and complete them no later than 31 December 2030, without any extension possible.** **Please note:** the Call is administered by the Czech Health Research Council (AZV CR) at the national level but the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZ CR) is the funding organisation.
Further guidance	THCS Výzva 2027 – AZV ČR

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Czech Republic	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZCR)	**Monika Kocmanova**; National coordinator on Health-related European Partnerships (AZVCR); **Olga Laaksonen**; Head of the Science, Research, and Subsidies for Education Unit (MZCR).	monika.kocmanova@azvcr.cz; olga.laaksonen@mzd.gov.cz;	+ 420 778 973 186; +420 604 786 141

1.5 Denmark – IFD

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)** **Email address:**	
Funding commitment	1,600,000 EUR
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Min: 75,000 EUR Max: 400,000 EUR /650,000 for all Danish partners in a project
Eligible institutions	All
Organisations excluded from funding	-
Additional eligibility criteria	Projects MUST include at least one IFD-funded Danish or Greenlandic partner that is a company, public authority, hospital, GTS institute, end-user or stakeholder organisation, or national cluster organisation. Legal entities established in Greenland may be eligible for funding by IFD, provided that at least one other Danish partner in the project receives funding from IFD. Eligibility is contingent on prior written approval from IFD. Greenlandic applicants must obtain such approval before submitting an application
Eligible costs	See Guidelines for International Collaborations
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Danish applicants will be invited to e-grant, where they must upload the proposal.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Danish applicants will be invited to e-grant, where they must upload declarations.
Further guidance	

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark	Marie Friis Madsen	Marie.friis.madsen@innofond.dk	+45 61 90 50 59

1.6 Estonia – ETAG

Estonian Research Council (ETAG) **Email address: margit.suuroja@etag.ee**	
Funding commitment	300 000 EUR
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	max. 150 000 EUR as a project partner and max. 300 000 EUR as a project coordinator
Eligible institutions	The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. If the Host Institution is an undertaking, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account
Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	The Principal Investigator: 1. must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the preproposal submission deadline; 2. must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the preproposal submission deadline of the grant application at the latest; 3. must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline. If the applicant has been on pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or performed compulsory service in the Defence Forces, or has another good reason, they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time. If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Center or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report. If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.

	If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities.
Eligible costs	**Direct costs**: 1.**Personnel costs** are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution. 2. **Other direct costs** are: - travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel insurance; - consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project; - publication and dissemination of project results; - organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs); - fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project; - patent costs; - all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project and are directly and fully related to the project. **Indirect costs** (overhead) are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs of the Estonian sub-project. **Subcontracting costs** are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs of the Estonian sub-project. 5. **Double funding** of activities is not acceptable. 6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents. EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	No
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	After the preproposal deadline and upon the notice from the Funding Organisation, the Host Institution must confirm to the Funding Organisation in writing that the Estonian sub-project can be carried out on their premises in Estonia and that they will employ the Principal Investigator during the duration of the sub-project, should the project receive funding. If the Host Institution is an undertaking, the State aid and de minimis aid form must be filled in also.
Further guidance	https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Vastavusnouded-RV-uhiskonkurssidel_-EN_marts2026-2.pdf

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Estonia	ETAG	Margit Suuroja	Margit.Suuroja@etag.ee	+372 731 7360

1.7 Finland – AKA

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Research Council of Finland (RCF) **Email address kirjaamo@aka.fi**	
Funding commitment	1 000 000 € Anticipated number of funded research groups : ~4
~~Minimum~~/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max. 300 000 € (partner)/ Max. 400 000 € (coordinator)
Eligible institutions	Finnish research organisations such as higher education institutes, research institutes, technology transfer organisations, innovation intermediaries, regardless of their legal status (organised under public or private law). Research Council funding is not granted to support economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market regardless of whether profits are pursued or generated. When an organisation is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities.
Organisations excluded from funding	-
Additional eligibility criteria	In addition to a doctoral degree, the principal investigator (PI) of the proposed project must also have other significant scientific merits. If the PI does not have an employment relationship with, for example, a university or research institute, they must give an account of how their salary will be covered during the funding period. Applicants must describe this at the application stage.
Eligible costs	Research Council funding can be used to cover both direct costs (e.g. salaries, mobility of researchers, consumables, travel expenses, purchases of services, overheads) and indirect costs (e.g. rents for premises) of a research project. All costs are covered with the same funding percentage. Research Council's contribution to funding can be up to 70% of the total project costs. The host institution has to commit at least 30 % of the total project costs. Please ensure the commitment of the host institution before submitting the proposal.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Only in case of case of positive funding recommendation from THCS call, the applicant is invited to submit the proposal also in the Research Council of Finland's online services for national decision.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Finnish applicants, both partners and coordinators, are restricted from submitting more than one application. Please refer to Research Council of Finland's funding terms and conditions for further detail (https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-use-funding/). Terms concerning Academy Project funding apply. The applications must include a research security risk assessment and risk management plan: https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines/research-security/

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Finland	Research Council of Finland	Marko Uutela	marko.uutela@aka.fi	+358 295 33 5113

1.8 France – ANR

Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) **Email address thcs@anr.fr**	
Funding commitment	1 250 000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• Minimum for a partner: 15 000€ • Maximum for a partner: 250 000€ • Maximum for a coordinator: 275 000€
Eligible institutions	ANR may fund research organisations and undertakings, as defined by the EC regulation on State aid for research, development and innovation (see the ANR funding regulations for further reference). As for research organisations, only those that have their primary establishment in France may be funded. As for undertakings, those that have their real head office in an EU member State and having an establishment (primary or secondary) in France may be funded. Within this framework, public research institutions (such as EPST, EPIC partners in a project carried out in collaboration with public research institutions, Universities) as well as Foundations can apply in general for up to 100% of direct costs. This list is not comprehensive and funding rates vary. Enterprises may also be eligible: for fundamental and industrial research, the maximum funding rate is of 60% for small and medium enterprises, and of 30% for large enterprises. Associations as well as EPIC partners in a project carried out in collaboration with at least one (1) commercial company can apply for up to 50% of eligible costs. Please consult le Règlement financier | ANR for full details. All partners are asked to indicate their SIRET number in the pre- and full-proposal template (partner description: “Project Consortium”, “Other information”).
Organisations excluded from funding	• Healthcare institutions • Companies in difficulty (see the Règlement financier | ANR)
Additional eligibility criteria	• Submission of the proposal at the national level: At the full proposal stage, partners requesting funding from ANR will be asked to follow a parallel submission procedure on the ANR submission platform, please see below. • Submission of other information at the national level (e.g. bioethics approval): No • ANR prohibits double applications and double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects that have been funded through other calls. ANR will cross-check the proposals

	submitted o ANR through the national and international calls for possible demands of double funding. • Phase 3 and phase 4 clinical trials are not funded by ANR; • Partners, whether legal entities or natural persons, who are subject to sanction(s) imposed by the institutions of the European Union are excluded from this call. ANR will declare ineligible any Partners requesting funding who are, within the submitted project, associated with Partners subject to a sanction measure. As of the publication date, these exclusions concern in particular Partners from the following countries: Russia and Belarus; as well as Partners located in Ukrainian territories not under the control of the Ukrainian government. This list is not exhaustive and may evolve should new sanctions be adopted by the European Union.
Eligible costs	ANR may fund fundamental research, industrial research and experimental developments. Funding rates vary based on the type of research and the type of partners requesting support, please refer to the funding regulations of ANR at https://anr.fr/fr/rf/ to construct the project budget and fill the form related to economical activities to identify your funding rate. Standard ANR funding rules apply for eligible costs, unless stated otherwise in the Annex « Modalités de participation ». These rules are specified in ANR's "ANR Funding regulations" details ("at actual costs" version https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/2025/ANR-RF-072025-cout-reel.pdf). An explanatory note regarding the eligible costs is also available at: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/fiche-couts/ Eligible costs include (but are not limited to) the following: personnel costs; equipment costs; consumables and animal costs; travel and subsistence costs; sub-contracting costs. The ANR heading for "overheads" in the ANR financial regulations is «frais d'environnement». 13,5% of the total eligible costs must be applied for if the partner belongs to a public research organisation (or other organisation funded at "marginal" costs), or up to 68% of the total personnel costs and 7% of other costs for partners funded at full economic cost (such as enterprises). Please refer to ANR's financial regulations at actual costs ("*Règlement financier | ANR*") for full details.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Not at the pre-proposal stage. For the full-proposal stage, applicants to ANR funding must submit the proposal on ANR's e-grant system. For more details, please refer to the dedicated THCS 2027 Call page on the ANR website: https://anr.fr
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Not at the pre-proposal stage. For the full-proposal stage, applicants to ANR funding must provide administrative and financial data by submitting an administrative application on ANR submission platform. **Applicants are strongly advised to first prepare and complete their budget in the ANR submission platform, and then report the same figures in the EPSS.** This approach will help ensure consistency between both submissions and reduce the risk of discrepancies or errors in the financial data. For more details, please refer to the dedicated THCS 2027 Call page on the ANR website: https://anr.fr
Further guidance	ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND BENEFIT-SHARING: Funded partners participating in projects falling within the scope of the regulations on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (Nagoya protocol) will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate compliance with these obligations, and must ensure that all data relating to such genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge are kept in order to demonstrate that the necessary due diligence has been exercised. In keeping with the French "PPST" policy (Protection of the national scientific and technological potential), applicants to ANR should consult their local "FSD" (security and defense officer) regarding their project before applying. Applications to ANR may be forwarded to the HFSD of the French Ministry of research and higher education for screening. A negative appraisal by the HFSD will cause ANR to reject the proposal. In case of a conflict of interpretation between the terms and conditions stated in this annex and the "*Modalités de participation*" and the "*Règlement financier*", the latter shall prevail.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
France	ANR	Michael Joulie Maria Tsilioni	THCS@anr.fr	+33 (0) 1 80 48 83 57 +33 (0) 1 73 54 83 04

1.9 France – FR MoH

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) French Ministry of Health (FR MOH) **Email address** melanie.fisher@sante.gouv.fr cecile.fragny@sante.gouv.fr	
Funding commitment	1.500.000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Funding Scenarios - Case 1: A maximum of €500,000 per project may be granted. - Case 2: A maximum of €300,000 may be granted if the clinical study is already funded by the French Ministry of Health through a national call for proposals (notably PHRC-N). In this case, eligible costs are strictly limited to cross-cutting activities at the European level, provided they are not already covered by ECRIN. These activities may include: Data management, Comparative analyses between countries, Dissemination of results. Important Note: These two funding scenarios are mutually exclusive. The French Ministry of Health does not allow double funding for the same activities.
Eligible institutions	Eligible institutions: French ministry of Health (Fr MoH) funds French healthcare institutions defined by public health regulation articles L.611-1 and further, L.6141-1 and further, L6161-1 and further (établissements de santé), L6133-1 to 8 (groupements de coopération sanitaire), L6323-3 (maisons de santé) and L6323-1 (centres de santé) of the Code de la Santé Publique. A partner must be composed of a physical leader and of a health care institution, which manages the financing. The physical leader must be contractually linked to a healthcare institution specified above and get its approval to be part of the project. For example, leaders can be private health professionals if they have a binding agreement with a French healthcare institution. Minimum funding per awarded to a partner: 10 000 € Fr MoH will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects that have been funded through other calls.
Organisations excluded from funding	Organizations other than specified above

Additional eligibility criteria	None
Eligible costs	Funds are reserved for the exclusive use of French healthcare institutions involved in the project. Transfer for part of these funds to other French structures, organisations or physical or legal person may be allowed provided they are not eligible for funding by another financing body of the partnership. The healthcare institution would also have to demonstrate that they do not have the necessary skills. If so, public tenders rules including call of bides applies. This must be included in the project application. Investment expenses giving rise to depreciation are not eligible. Management costs up to 10% of personal expenses are eligible. Further information and questions pertaining to specific eligible costs can be found in the rules and FAQ detailed in the budget grid.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	**Proposal Submission**: A pre-proposal and a full proposal must be submitted electronically on the partnership website dedicated to the call for projects, in accordance with the terms and procedures defined in the call text. No proposal will be accepted through any other channel. **Additional administrative and budgetary documents** must be submitted to the FR MOH (DGOS) in parallel with the pre-proposal submission, via the Démarches Numériques platform: - A signed submission certificate (to be valid, the document must bear at least three of the required signatures) - A budget grid Submission Date: Same as the deadline for submission of pre-proposal These documents will be available for download on the website of the French Ministry of Health: Partenariat européen Transforming Health and Care Systems - THCS - Ministère de la Santé, de la Famille, de l'Autonomie et des Personnes handicapées The link to the Démarches Numériques platform for submitting the documents will be available as soon as the application submission phase opens.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Each funded institution is required to submit a report on expenses to FR MOH each civil year. The expenses reported must be in direct relation with the project. They must be necessary for project implementation and conform to the selected project.
Further guidance	The delegation of funds will be performed through budgetary circulars of the Fr MoH. Funds will be allowed regarding project progression.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
France	FR MOH	Mélanie Fisher	melanie.fisher@sante.gouv.fr	
France	FR MOH	Cécile Fragny	cecile.fragny@sante.gouv.fr	

1.10 Ireland – HRB

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Health Research Board (HRB) **Email address** HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie	
Funding commitment	€1,060,000
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum budget • Partners: €330,000 direct costs • Coordinators: €405,000 direct costs (with the additional €75,000 for coordination-specific activities) Additionally, the HRB will contribute to the indirect costs of the research through an overhead payment of: • 25% TDMC of desk-based research • 30% for laboratory or clinical-based research The is applied on Total Direct Modified Costs, which excludes student fees, equipment and capital building costs. Overheads should be applied in accordance with the HRB Policy on Usage of Overheads.
Eligible institutions	Approved HRB Host Institutions, approved no later than two calendar months before the closing date of a call. See also the Policy on Approval of HRB Host Institutions
Organisations excluded from funding	Any organisation that is not a HRB Host Institution (see above). The HRB cannot provide funding to Enterprise organisations as partners or collaborators.
Additional eligibility criteria	Please refer to the HRB call webpage at https://www.hrb.ie/funding-scheme/thcs-2027/
Eligible costs	Please refer to the HRB call webpage at https://www.hrb.ie/funding-scheme/thcs-2027/
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	The Host Institution must send the application to HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie within three working days following the submission deadline, along with a completed Host Institution sign off form (available on HRB's call webpage).

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	There are additional requirements for new applicants for JTCs and researchers who do not hold a permanent post. For more details refer to HRB's call webpage. At full proposal stage, applicants must complete HRB's Budget and Deliverables templates. These will be provided after invitation to submit a full proposal.
Further guidance	**Please see HRB's dedicated scheme page on HRB's call webpage for more detailed guidance and FAQs specific to applicants based in Ireland.** All Irish partners who are undertaking feasibility and/or interventional studies must adhere to the HRB Clinical Trial and Interventions Research Governance Policy. In projects where consortia include enterprise partners, applicants requesting HRB funding will be advised that funding awarded will be subject to, and must comply with, State aid rules and conditions of the European Commission General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). All applicants should contact the HRB with any queries regarding the requirements of this policy.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Ireland	HRB	Siobhán Hackett	HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie	+353 1 2345235

1.11 Israel – CSO-MOH

Chief Scientist office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH) **http://www.health.gov.il/**	
Funding commitment	Up to 320,000 €, depending on budget availability
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 140,000 € Additional 20,000 € for coordination
Eligible institutions	
Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	Position in a university, research center or hospital. Research authority must approve position prior to submission. PI should hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.M.D., D. Sc or equivalent degree and employed by an eligible institution. Research will not be funded simultaneously by CSO-MOH on more than one grant (Era-NET or national). Researchers can not apply for more than one grant from any ERA-NET funded by CSO-MOH or submit more than one proposal for any programme.
Eligible costs	Materials and consumables; Travel and hosting (up to 5%); No salaries for applicants; No heavy equipment, Institutional overhead 10%.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Prior to submission, researchers will submit to CSO-MOH an abstract approved by their research authority including budget distribution. No submission of abstract can result in declaration of the consortium as ineligible.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	If the application involves human or animal experiments, bioethics approvals must be submitted with the application or up to 4 months later.
Further guidance	Please see detailed instructions of application at the national level and reporting at https://www.gov.il/he/service/era-net-instructions-for-israeli-researchers

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Israel		Dr. Irit Allon	irit.allon@moh.gov.il	+972 (0)2 5082167
Israel		Netta Koren	netta.koren@moh.gov.il	+972 (0) 545889393

1.12 Italy – AReSS

Italy – AReSS Puglia **Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale** **management@aress.regione.puglia.it**	
Funding commitment	€ 60.000
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum funding per awarded to a partner: AReSS has a maximum funding per partner for this call: a research team can be funded with a maximum amount of 30.000 € for a coordinating Partner and 15.000 € for a simple partner. AReSS reserves the right to increase the budget within the maximum funding commitment if only one project will be eligible for funding.
Eligible institutions	AReSS can finance only legal persons with legal and/or operational headquarters in Puglia falling into the following categories: • SMEs • Universities (public and private) • Research institutions (public and private) • Research organizations (public and private) in compliance with the EU Reg. no. 651/2014 of the European Commission - 17 June 2014. • Other private subjects who carry out research activities in the sector of interest for the tender as well as end users whose contribution is functional to the achievement of the project objectives Patient organisation can be funded as a partner if they perform research activities. Otherwise, patient organisation can be funded as sub-contractor of an Italian partner and if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the EC. AReSS cannot finance natural persons.
Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	Maximum funding per awarded to a partner: AReSS has a maximum funding per partner for this call: a research team can be funded with a maximum amount of 30.000 € for a coordinating Partner and 15.000 € for a simple partner. AReSS reserves the right to increase the budget within the maximum funding commitment if only one project will be eligible for funding. • Submission of the proposal at the national level: No • Submission of other information at the national level (e.g. bioethics approval): No • AReSS will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects that have been funded through other calls. • AReSS will cross-check the proposals submitted to AReSS through the national and international calls for possible demands of double funding. • Large clinical trials are not funded by AReSS.

Eligible costs	Activities classifiable as fundamental or basic research, industrial research and experimental development (Reg. EU n. 651/2014) are eligible - experimental development activities must not be predominant (in terms of costs) • The costs must be incurred during the course of the project or between the start date and the end date of the international project • The following types of costs are allowed: Personnel, Equipment, Consulting and equivalent services, Consumables and General expenses. • Overheads cannot exceed 50% of personnel expenses. Travel expenses, dissemination and coordination costs should be included in overheads or other cost categories where possible.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Decreto-Legge 22 giugno 2012, n. 83, convertito, con modificazioni, dalla Legge 7 agosto 2012, n. 134, articoli 60, 61, 62 e 63 di cui al Titolo III, Capo IX "Misure per la ricerca scientifica e tecnologica" Decreto Ministeriale n. 1314 del 14 dicembre 2021 - Nuovo sistema di concessione delle agevolazioni del MUR alle attività di ricerca Decreto Ministeriale n. 1368 del 24 dicembre 2021 - Modificazioni all'articolo 15 del decreto n. 1314 del 14 dicembre 2021

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Italy (Puglia)	Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale (AReSS)	Agata Di Candia	management@aress.regione.puglia.it a.dicandia@aress.regione.puglia.it	Office : +39 080 5403222 Mob.: +39 347 1588361

1.13 Italy – FRRB

1.14 Italy – IT-MoH

Italian Ministry of Health **https://www.salute.gov.it/**	
Funding commitment	tbd
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 400.000 € per project. In case two eligible partners (IRCCS) are involved in the Consortium, the total amount must be shared between them. No more than two partners may receive funding under the same project.
Eligible institutions	Only IRCCS (Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) researchers are eligible to apply.
Organisations excluded from funding	Not eligible for funding: Universities, other research Institutes, companies
Additional eligibility criteria	• A Principal Investigator (PI) cannot participate in more than one 2027 Joint Transnational Call (JTC) funded by the Italian Ministry of Health. If the PI is already the beneficiary of other active projects funded by the Italian Ministry of Health within European JTC schemes, the researcher is not allowed to submit a new application. • A PI holding an active IT-MoH grant may submit a proposal to a new JTC only if the ongoing project has been formally closed prior to the pre-proposal submission deadline. A project is deemed closed only upon submission and formal acceptance by the Italian Ministry of Health of both the final financial report and the final scientific report through the Workflow Research platform. If the ongoing project is expected to conclude within six months from the JTC pre-proposal deadline, the PI must submit a formal declaration stating that no request for project extension will be made. • These eligibility restrictions apply exclusively to individuals serving as Principal Investigators. Co-investigators, collaborators, and other project team members who are not designated as PIs are not subject to these limitations. • No more than two Italian PIs are eligible to apply for the same project.
Eligible costs	**Direct Costs:** • Personnel (only temporary contracts or permanent contracts for the number of hours dedicated to the project) Max. 60%. • Consumables/Supplies. • Equipment (only on leasing or rent). • Travel (Max. 30%). • Dissemination activities (Max. 1%).

	• Publication costs: Max. 2%; Open Access Max 5%. **Other direct costs such as:** •Patients' recruitment costs. •Animals/Model costs. •Coordination costs only for Coordinator **Indirect Costs:** Overhead (Max.10%, of direct costs). Other indirect costs are not eligible. Transfer of eligible funds abroad is not allowed. **Subcontracts (max 10%)**: they are allowed ONLY upon approval by Italian Ministry of Health presenting via Workflow research platform (ER communication code) a request together with the pre-eligibility check form, 20 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. Subcontracting cannot involve the core activities of the project. Italian PAOs can be funded as a sub-contractor of an IRCCS if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the EC.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	• Applicants are required to complete and submit a pre-eligibility check form to the Italian Ministry of Health using the Workflow Research platform (ER communication code), before submitting their pre-proposal to the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS). The completed form has to be submitted no later than 20 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. • If subcontracting is envisaged, it must be explicitly requested and pre-approved by the Italian Ministry of Health as part of the eligibility clearance process. Such requests must be submitted alongside the pre-eligibility check form. • Changes to the PI, the project acronym or budget declared in the pre-submission eligibility check are not permitted. • The mandatory pre-eligibility check form and the GDPR Article 13 Information Notice can be downloaded at the following link: https://www.salute.gov.it/new/it/tema/sistema-ricerca-del-ssn-enti-e-finanziamenti/internazionalizzazione-della-ricerca-biomedica/ • Applicants will receive written notifications of their eligibility status.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	• After completion of the JTC peer review process and endorsement of the final (scientific) ranking list by the Call Steering Committee, the Italian Ministry of Health will contact the PIs of the awarded projects for the necessary follow-up actions. • Submission of final scientific and financial reports at Italian Ministry of Health will be required
Further guidance	Further information on the rules and guidelines of the Italian Ministry of Health can be found at https://www.salute.gov.it/new/it/tema/sistema-ricerca-del-ssn-enti-e-finanziamenti/internazionalizzazione-della-ricerca-biomedica/

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Italy	IT-MoH	Grazia Papagni	g.papagni@sanita.it int-dgric@sanita.it	
Italy	IT-MoH	Benilde Tomei	b.tomei@sanita.it	

1.15 Italy – ProMIS

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) AZIENDA ULSS 4 VENETO ORIENTALE - Programma Mattone Internazionale Salute (ProMIS) Email address promisalute@regione.veneto.it; promis.amministrazione@promisalute.it	
Funding commitment	650.000€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Each project must have a minimum budget of 100.000€. For **Regions in group A below** the maximum budget that can be requested is of 450.000€ For **Regions in group B below** the maximum budget that can be requested is 200.000€ Anticipated number of proposals: It is expected to fund a maximum of 3 proposals
Eligible institutions	A. Regions and Local Health Authorities beneficiaries of the "PN Equità nella Salute": Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia and Sicily B. Regions, Local Health Authorities and Autonomous Provinces based in the following territories: Abruzzo, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Marche, Piedmont, Tuscany, PA Trento, PA Bolzano, Umbria, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto
Organisations excluded from funding	Private companies and Italian public organisations not included in the above-mentioned list

Additional eligibility criteria	**National Pre-Eligibility Criteria** To be considered eligible for funding, applicants and proposed research initiatives must meet at least one of the following pre-eligibility criteria: 1. Applicants must demonstrate participation in, or a clear and documented alignment with the outcomes and priorities of, the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established under the TSI *"The Italian EU Resources Hub for sustainable investing in health: a case study on health workforce and smart programming tool using AI"* (TWG1: Regulatory Framework and Competency Certification; TWG2: Digital Transformation and AI; TWG3: Recruitment, Attractiveness and Retention; TWG4: Health Investment Hub). 2. Applicants (Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Local Health Authorities) must demonstrate that health workforce challenges and priorities are explicitly addressed within their institutional strategies and that the proposed research initiative contributes to these priorities. 3. Proposed research initiatives must demonstrate complementarity and concrete synergies with existing European (including JA HEROES and other EU-funded actions), national and regional initiatives and instruments in the field of organisational research, with a specific focus on the health workforce. 4. Proposed initiatives must demonstrate a clear and concrete commitment to translating research outcomes into institutional policies and practices at regional and/or national level, making use of existing national coordination and governance mechanisms, such as the *Commissione Salute* and the *Conferenza Stato-Regioni*. 5. Proposed initiatives must ensure the active and meaningful involvement of relevant stakeholders, including patient organisations, professional federations and other key actors, throughout the implementation of the research activities. 6. Proposed initiatives must adopt an interdisciplinary approach and demonstrate effective collaboration between the health and social care sectors, ensuring the integration of complementary expertise and perspectives.
Eligible costs	Eligible costs must comply with the applicable rules and procedures of the Italian National Programme for Health Equity (PNES Programma Nazionale Equità nella Salute) and with the relevant EU and national

	regulations governing the use of ESF+, as applicable. Costs must be necessary for, directly attributable to and incurred in connection with the implementation of the funded project, fall within the eligible expenditure categories authorised under the relevant PNES framework, be incurred within the applicable eligibility period, and be supported by adequate accounting documentation and evidence of payment. The following cost categories may be considered: **Personnel** costs: costs of staff directly involved in the implementation of the project **Travel and subsistence costs:** travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses related to project activities **Equipment and materials**: equipment, consumables and other materials necessary for project implementation **Subcontracting:** costs of external expertise, services or subcontracting necessary for the project and shall not exceed 30% of eligible direct costs **Other direct costs:** other costs directly attributable to project activities, provided that they are expressly permitted by the applicable funding framework **Indirect costs:** may be eligible and shall not exceed 7% of eligible direct costs The eligibility of each cost item is subject to verification against the applicable PNES rules. https://www.pnes.salute.gov.it/it/tema/programma-nazionale-equita-nella-salute/gestione-e-controllo/

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Pre-eligibility check: Applicants intending to apply for funding are required to complete, sign and submit a Letter of Intent prior to the submission of their pre-proposal. The duly completed and signed Letter of Intent must be uploaded to the designated webpage at least 30 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. ProMIS will assess the information provided in the Letter of Intent and will provide feedback only in the case of major eligibility issues that may prevent the applicant from participating in the call. Further information, the template and instructions on how to complete and submit the Letter of Intent will be made available on the designated ProMIS webpage in due time.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	For any further information, please refer to the contact person. General information and relevant documents for applicants can be found at this link.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Italy	**ProMIS**	**Valeria Troya**	**promis.amministrazione@promisalute.it** **promisalute@regione.veneto.it** **valeria.troya@promisalute.it**	**+39 3470155658** **+39 3356504832**

1.16 Italy – RER

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **Regione Emilia-Romagna** RER **Email address** InnovazioneSanSoc@regione.emilia-romagna.it	
Funding commitment	300.000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 0.3 Mio. € per project Max 0,3 M€ per project, if more than one Emilia-Romagna partner is in the same consortium 0,3 M€ will be shared. Only one proposal from Emilia-Romagna applicants will be pre-selected and admitted to participate in the Joint Transnational Call.
Eligible institutions	Local Health Authorities and University Hospitals of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Health Service The Principal Investigator must be affiliated to one of the eligible bodies.
Organisations excluded from funding	For profit entities
Additional eligibility criteria	Mandatory eligibility clearance
Eligible costs	Only costs generated over the lifetime of the project will be considered eligible: - Personnel (ad hoc temporary contracts ONLY); - Consumables (no limit); - Equipment (on hire/leasing or eligible amortisation rate ONLY); - Travel (Up to 10% of the requested fund) Travel expenses and subsistence allowances associated with activities only linked to the project; - Other direct costs: - dissemination of results (publications, organization of meetings/workshops etc.- up to 5% of the requested fund); - patients' recruitment costs - data handling and analysis - subcontracting (up to 20% of the direct costs of the projects) - Overheads (up to 10% of the direct costs of the project excepted subcontracting). The cost of structured personnel is not eligible for funding

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	**MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY CLEARANCE** Applicants from Emilia-Romagna must successfully complete a mandatory eligibility clearance procedure in order to be eligible for regional funding. Project proposals must demonstrate adequate knowledge of, and alignment with, national and regional actions, planning instruments and the regulatory framework. Where relevant, they should also be consistent with the implementation phases of the regional care model.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Emilia-Romagna region will publish a ***regional supplementary notice*** with detailed information on the eligibility clearance procedure, including submission arrangements, to be published on the Emilia-Romagna Region website (**www.regione.emilia-romagna.it**).
Further guidance	

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Italy	Regione Emilia-Romagna	Simona Ferlini	Simona.ferlini@regione.emilia-romagna.it Interassr@regione.emilia-romagna.it	+39 0515277112

1.17 Italy – RT

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) REGIONE TOSCANA RT **Email address thcs@regione.toscana.it**	
Funding commitment	400.000,00 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 0.4 Mio. € Anticipated number of potential project partner: 1-2 Max 0,4 M€ per project, if 2 Tuscany partners in same consortium 0,4 M€ will be shared
Eligible institutions	A. Authorities of the Tuscany Health Service-SST (Local Health Authorities, University Hospitals) and the SST bodies that carry out institutional research activities (Fondazione Toscana Gabriele Monasterio and ISPRO Institute for Study, Prevention and Networking Oncology) located in the territory of Tuscany. B. Universities and other research institutes located in the territory of Tuscany. NB: Institutions referring to point B are eligible only in partnership with institutions referring to point A. The Principal Investigator must be affiliated to one of the eligible bodies
Organisations excluded from funding	Enterprises Please note that for private partners coming from the Tuscany Region, Tuscany Region is only providing funding to applicants from non for profit research organisations
Additional eligibility criteria	
Eligible costs	Only costs generated over the lifetime of the project will be considered eligible: - Personnel (ad hoc temporary contracts ONLY); - Consumables (no limit); - Equipment (on hire/leasing or eligible amortisation rate ONLY); - Travel (Up to 10% of the requested fund) Travel expenses and subsistence allowances associated with activities only linked to the project; - Other direct costs: • dissemination of results (publications, organization of meetings/workshops etc.- up to 5% of the requested fund); • patients costs -data handling and analysis - subcontracting (up to 20% of the direct costs of the projects) - Overheads (up to 10% of the direct costs of the project excepted subcontracting).

	The cost of structured personnel is not eligible for funding
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL PLANNING Project proposals must ensure appropriate knowledge and integration with the National and Regional actions, planning and regulatory framework and, when appropriate, with the phases of the delivered regional care model (DM 77/2022) and with the National/Regional Telemedicine Infrastructure. Project abstract and alignment with regional acts, plans, models and infrastructures has to be detailed by sending to thcs@regione.toscana.it a Letter of Interest - LoI (dedicated form available on Tuscany Region institutional web-site or on request to mail to: thcs@regione.toscana.it) at least 30 days before the pre-proposals submission deadline. MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY CLEARENCE Tuscany Region will grant an eligibility clearance to the potential applicants prior to the submission of their proposals. The eligibility check will be performed by Tuscany Region offices after receiving a dedicated form (available on Tuscany Region institutional web-site or on request to mail to: thcs@regione.toscana.it) duly filled and signed by the Tuscan Principal Investigator and by the legal representative of the beneficiary. The form should be sent to Tuscany Region (mail to: thcs@regione.toscana.it), at least, 10 days before the pre-proposal submission deadline It is strongly recommended to contact in advance the Regional focal point to receive adequate support referring the LoI and the regional eligibility.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Financial guidelines: Decreto dirigenziale n. 11238 del 29.05.2023 https://www.regione.toscana.it/ricerca-atti#/searchAttiDirigenti/detailsAttoDirigente/2023AD00000012588

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Italy	Regione Toscana	Teresa Vieri Monica Malacarne	thcs@regione.toscana.it thcs@regione.toscana.it	+39 055 4383289 +39 055 4382334

1.18 Latvia – LCS

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Latvian Council of Science (LCS) **Email address lzp@lzp.gov.lv**	
Funding commitment	600 000 EUR
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum funding for a Latvian partner eligible for funding by LCS is 100.000 EUR/ **per year** Maximum 2 partners funded by LCS per project allowed provided the funding commitment can cover all costs
Eligible institutions	Only the following **legal** persons: 1) Research institutions registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions, e.g. - Research Institutes - Universities And must have the status of Research and knowledge dissemination organization (Regulation EC 651/2014) 2) Business enterprises entered in the Latvian Commercial registry as companies, assumed they are eligible to do the specific research and have specific capacity and resources to do the research in Latvia and have their main activity in Latvia. Limitations of EU legislation apply (Regulation 651/2014) together with financial reporting requirements, in this case this is state aid. Two previous statements with sworn auditor's approval should be provided and they must reflect the correspondence to the regulation as well as evidence of previous scientific activity and presence of capacity. They must provide audited statements of 2 previous closed financial periods. Enterprises not having closed two annual financial periods are not eligible.
Organisations excluded from funding	All entities not listed under eligible institutions are ineligible to be funded by LCS
Additional eligibility criteria	To receive funding by LCS, Consortium agreement duly signed should be presented. Enterprises shall provide audited statements of 2 previous closed financial periods on request. Audits according to the LCS regulations. The applicants for State aid must submit a certification that it does not correspond to the criteria laid down in laws and regulations to be subject to insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor.

	Upon request applicants for State aid must provide all requested documents to evaluate the financial situation and financial viability. Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. (Regulation 651/2014) In case of State aid the undertakings are assessed for eligibility at each of the application stages and at the conclusion and during execution of the contract with LCS for project funding. If the eligibility criteria are not fulfilled, project funding can not be approved or continued. Operations with LCS funding shall take place via account at a bank registered and operating in Latvia.
Eligible costs	1. Personnel costs incl. taxes; 2. Consumables; 3. Subcontracts (up to 25% of direct costs), needs detailed justification, includes all external services, project core activities cannot be subcontracted; 4. Equipment (only depreciation costs during project directly attributable to project tasks); 5. Replaceable and fully consumable during project elements of equipment (e.g. electrodes); Travels (according to travel plan); Indirect costs (up to 25% of direct costs excluding subcontracting). In case of State aid indirect costs shall be proven via audited statements and accounting evidence.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	No national proposal submission during application process
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Applicants for State aid must send before the call deadline (both 1st and 2nd stages) to the e-mail address lzp@lzp.gov. lv, stating the acronym and the title of the project, applicant name and registration number, the following document: a certification that the applying entity does not correspond to the criteria laid down in laws and regulations to be subject to insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor. It must be electronically signed by valid legal representative (s). Upon request applicants for State aid must provide all requested documents to evaluate the financial situation and financial viability.

	Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. (Regulation 651/2014)
Further guidance	Support is provided according to Provisions Nr 259, 26.05.2015 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers (http://likumi.lv/ta/id/274671-atbalsta-pieskirsanas-kartiba-dalibaistarptautiskas-sadarbibas-programmas-petniecibas-un-tehnologiju-joma) These provisions should be respected without exceptions. The maximum rates should respect the Provisions. The requirements in the provisions to specific applicant groups must be respected. LCS cannot fund implementation support, nor training activities. LCS is funding only research.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Latvia	LCS	Uldis Berkis	Uldis.Berkis@lzp.gov.lv	+371-29472349

1.19 Lithuania – LMT

Research Council of Lithuania (LMT) **info@lmt.lt**	
Funding commitment	0,3 M Eur
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Min per grant about 150 000 Eur Max per grant 250 000 Eur Within a single project proposal, the maximum funding can be: up to EUR 150 000 – for a mere consortium partner; up to EUR 200 000 – for a coordinator or 2 eligible mere partners in a consortium; up to EUR 250 000 – for a coordinator and 1 eligible mere partner in a consortium
Eligible institutions	Institutions eligible for funding include Lithuanian research and higher education institutions listed in the Register of Education and Research Institutions; public healthcare institutions; the Academy of Sciences referred to in the Law on Science and Studies; and other state public institutions, such as national libraries, archives, and museums. The eligible beneficiary institution, acting as the grant holder, manages the state budget funds allocated to the project in accordance with the applicable legal acts and represents the project partners, where applicable. For these purposes, a project partner means a public or private legal entity that, together with the eligible beneficiary institution, has created the conditions necessary for the implementation of the project.
Organisations excluded from funding	Only eligible beneficiary institutions may receive funding directly. Other institutions may receive funding only as project partners of an eligible beneficiary institution.
Additional eligibility criteria	Principal investigator must be a PhD holder; additional eligibility criteria for Lithuanian participants are listed the national call text that is published in parallel with the THCS JTC2027 on the LMT website here. Moreover, other general LMT rules of competitive funding for research and networking projects also apply.
Eligible costs	Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project, related to project are eligible: staff, travel, consumables, subcontracts, contractual research, consultancy, equipment and instruments, dissemination of results, data handling and analysis, overheads (up to 20 % from all direct costs).
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Not required

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Following funding decision, grant signing institution and the PI must complete and submit the national document (the template can be found following this link) containing this information: more detailed planed budget, foreseen dissemination and communication activities and expected outputs from project results with the granted research team contribution (scientific papers, patents, etc.) Final reports nationally are required.
Further guidance	For any information, please refer to contact person. General information and relevant documents for applicants submitting proposals to European Partnerships calls can be found here.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Lithuania (LT)	LMT	Živilė Ruželė	zivile.ruzele@lmt.lt	(+370) 676 14383

1.20 Malta – XM

Xjenza Malta (XM) eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt kaylen.borg.1@gov.mt ana.cuca@gov.mt	
Funding commitment	€ 500,000
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	The maximum amount that national partner/s can jointly request per project is €500,000.
Eligible institutions	1. Malta-based applicants that are Eligible Undertakings, with an Operating Base in Malta, planning to carry out Fundamental Research, Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development projects and must either be: a. A partnership constituted under the Companies Act, being a partnership *en nom collectif*, *en commandite* or a limited liability company; or b. Be duly registered as a co-operative society under the Co-Operative Societies Act, or c. Professional body; or d. NGOs; or e. Non-profit making entities (including Foundations). **will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the latest version of the National Rules for Participation (State Aid).** Any Public Entity or Public Research or Knowledge-Dissemination Organisation registered in Malta, that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the latest version of the National Rules for Participation (Non-State Aid).
Organisations excluded from funding	Further information can be found in the detailed National Rules accessible from the Xjenza Malta website: https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/funding-schemes/
Additional eligibility criteria	Further information can be found in the detailed National Rules accessible from the Xjenza Malta website: https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/funding-schemes/
Eligible costs	Eligible costs and rates of funding depend on the type of the Malta-based entities and the funding route chosen. Eligible costs include the following: personnel; instruments, specialised equipment, and research consumables; IP and

	knowledge transfer activities; travel and subsistence; subcontracted activities; overheads and other operating expenses. Further information can be found in the detailed National Rules accessible from the Xjenza Malta website: https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/funding-schemes/
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	The **national application form** together with the **required annexes** can be downloaded from the Xjenza Malta website (https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/funding-schemes/) and must be sent to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt by the national deadline specified in the detailed National Rules.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	The **national application form** together with the **required annexes** can be downloaded from the Xjenza Malta website and must be sent to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt by the national deadline specified in the detailed National Rules. For any further information and assistance with partner search, applicants can contact the Xjenza Malta call managers Mr Kaylen Borg (kaylen.borg.1@gov.mt) and/or Ms Ana Cuca (ana.cuca@gov.mt).
Further guidance	Further information can be found in the detailed National Rules accessible from the Xjenza Malta website: https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/funding-schemes/

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Malta	Xjenza Malta	Kaylen Borg Ana Cuca	kaylen.borg.1@gov.mt ana.cuca@gov.mt General inbox: eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt	+356 2360 2134 +356 2360 2322

1.21 The Netherlands – ZonMW/NWO/NWO-SIA

Zorgonderzoek Nederland / The Netherlands organisation for health research and development (ZonMw) **thcs@Zonmw.nl**	
Funding commitment	**€2.000.000,-** Budget for this call is made available by: • The Dutch Research Council (NWO) • Taskforce for Applied Research (NWO-SIA) • The Dutch Organisation for knowledge and innovation in health, healthcare and well-being (ZonMw). Note: SIA is making €900,000 in earmarked funds available for participation by Dutch universities of applied sciences.
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	National institutions as described under 'eligible institutions' can apply for a maximum financial contribution of **€400.000** per proposal. The maximum financial contribution can be increased to **€500.000,-** per proposal when all conditions below are met: • The consortium includes two eligible national partners within the same proposal. • The maximum budget per partner is €400.000
Eligible institutions	**The following categories of applicants are eligible for funding through NWO and ZonMw:** • Universities • University Medical Centers (UMCs) • Universities of Applied Sciences recognised under the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) • Other organisations which do research and have obtained research organisation status through a qualification request to ZonMw. • Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) In this call Universities, UMCs and WHW-recognised Universities of Applied Sciences are automatically regarded as research organisations. Other organisations which do research must submit a qualification request to ZonMw to be recognised as a research organisation. For more information see Annex A in this document. If no qualification is obtained, the organisation may only participate as an SME.
Organisations excluded from funding	Large enterprises

<table>
<tr>
<td>Additional eligibility criteria</td>
<td>
End-user involvement: For proposals with national applicants, the involvement of patients, carers or citizens is mandatory. This involvement may be as an advisor, as a formal (funded) partner within the application, or in the role of (non-funded) collaborator

State Aid: No grants will be awarded if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid. Therefore, this funding route falls under Article 25 of the General Block Exception Regulation (GBER, EU Regulation No 651/2014). This means that there are specific conditions for funding and rules for budgets, you can find more information here in Annex B

The table below summarises the applicable maximum funding rates:
<table>
<tr><th>GBER Article</th><th>Type of activity</th><th>Research organisation*</th><th>Medium-sized enterprise</th><th>Small enterprise</th><th>Effective collaboration</th></tr>
<tr><td>25</td><td>Fundamental research</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>25</td><td>Industrial research</td><td>50%</td><td>60%</td><td>70%</td><td>+15% (max. 80%)</td></tr>
<tr><td>25</td><td>Experimental development</td><td>25%</td><td>35%</td><td>45%</td><td>+15%</td></tr>
</table>

Considering the European Commission’s ongoing work on a regulation intended to replace Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, ZonMw informs that the conditions governing the provision of support set out in this documentation may be amended following the entry into force of the new European Commission regulation

Double funding is not allowed and projects or part of projects that have been funded through other calls will not be financed. All THCS-proposals submitted for funding will be cross-checked with national and international calls of ZonMw, NWO and NWO-SIA for potential double funding.
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<tr>
<td>Eligible costs</td>
<td>
The following costs are eligible:
- Staff/personnel costs
- Travel costs
- Material/ equipment and consumer goods
- Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs
- Datamanagament / data steward
- End-user involvement

The budget of eligible organisations must comply with the financial conditions of ZonMw.
</td>
</tr>
</table>

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Only proposals recommended for funding by the THCS Call Steering Committee will be invited to submit a national application with regards to the national granting process. Make sure to consult the ZonMw Open Access publication and Data management policies. For more information, please consult the General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants ZonMw
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Dutch partners are required to submit a specified budget sheet by email to thcs@zonmw.nl during both the pre proposal and full proposal phase. The budget sheet must be submitted before the deadline of the relevant phase. More information can be found here in Annex C in this document.
Further guidance	Awarded projects will need to deliver a Consortium Agreement (CA) and a Data Management Plan. With regards to the Consortium Agreement, national projects will be requested to submit a copy of the CA, signed by all partners, within 6 months of the project start date.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Netherlands	ZonMw Universities of Applied Sciences can also contact: NWO-SIA	Ewoud van der Wal Ewout Groeneveld	thcs@zonmw.nl e.groeneveld@regieorgaan-sia.nl	+31704126264 +31302594027

1.22 Norway – RCN

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **Email address**	
Funding commitment	€1 850 000 Depending on the volume of submitted and eligible projects, up to 25 % additional funding may be allocated to the call to fund additional projects on the ranking list.
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Each Norwegian participant can apply for up to €300 000. If a participant has the role of coordinator in the project, they can apply for an additional €100 000, for a maximum of €400 000. For funded projects, the contractual budget will be in Norwegian kroner (NOK) using the exchange rate from the pre-proposal deadline. The official exchange rate can be found on the websites of the European Central Bank.
Eligible institutions	The Norwegian participant must be an approved research organisation (university, university college, research institute, health trust, or other approved research organisation); small, medium or large enterprise; public-sector; user organisation; or NGO.
Organisations excluded from funding	The Research Council cannot award support to an enterprise that is defined as an "undertaking in difficulty" under the state aid rules (see General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) Article 2, paragraph 18). "Enkeltpersonforetak" (Norwegian companies with sole proprietorship) cannot participate as coordinator.
Additional eligibility criteria	All applicants and partners must comply with the State Aid rules. All projects are to be carried out as effective collaboration between the partners. Enterprises that participate in the consortium must also not receive indirect state aid in the form of advantageous conditions for cooperation with the research institutions taking part in the consortium. Enterprise partners are funded with up to 50% of their eligible project costs. See *Conditions for awarding state aid* for more details. The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects.
Eligible costs	See *What to enter in the project budget*. Costs in the category Procurement of R&D Services are not eligible for funding under this call.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	No separate submission of the proposal in parallel with the transnational proposal is required.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	After the funding decisions have been communicated to applicants, Norwegian partners in proposals recommended for funding will be invited to submit an administrative application through RCN's application system.
Further guidance	

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Norway	RCN	Jostein Holmgren Siv Øverås Hege Johanne Magnussen	johol@forskningsradet.no sio@forskningsradet.no hjm@forskningsradet.no	+47 96646834

1.23 Poland – NCBR

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym): National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
Email address: THCS@ncbr.gov.pl

Funding commitment	2 000 000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 400 000 € per project, regardless of the number of Polish partners in the project consortium
Eligible institutions	The following entities are eligible to apply: • Enterprises[32] - Micro, Small, Medium and Large, • Research organisations[33], • Groups of entities comprising at least two enterprises, • Groups of entities comprising at least one research organisation and at least one enterprise, • Group of entities comprising at least two research organisations. Entities must be established under Polish law either as a legal person[34] or as a sole trader[35] and must conduct business, R&D activity or other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register[36].
Organisations excluded from funding	Organizations and entities that do not meet national eligibility criteria for funding (see the "Eligible institutions" section) are excluded from funding.
Additional eligibility criteria	For a group of entities to participate as an Applicant in the call, it must formally exist on the date the pre-proposal is submitted. This existence must be evidenced by an agreement made by the members - at least conditionally - to create the group of entities (consortium). Please note that a group comprising two partners from Poland counts towards the limit on the number of participants from the same country (further details can be found in the call text).

[32]As defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (hereinafter referred to as "Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014");
[33]Research organisation - an entity as defined in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, and in Article 37(1) of the Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1170 as amended), in conjunction with Article 7(1)(1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 6b, 6c, 8) Act of 20 July 2018 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Polish Journal of Laws 2024, item 1571 as amended);
[34]Legal person - an entity other than a natural person that has the legal capacity to hold and to exercise legal rights and obligations within a certain legal system, in particular to enter into contracts, sue and be sued;
[35] Sole trader (sole proprietor, self-employed person) – a natural person conducting economic activity in their own name and on their own account, including as a partner in a civil law partnership (spółka cywilna).
[36]If applicable. Does not apply to legal persons that are not obliged to register in a relevant Polish official register according to Polish law (e.g. KRS or CEIDG).

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the pre-proposal application form the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eligible costs</td><td>The eligible costs shall be the following:

A. For research organisations:
1. personnel costs
2. consumables
3. equipment
4. travel
5. other direct costs
6. subcontracting – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project
7. additional overheads – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. These costs are counted by multiplying direct costs (excluding subcontracting [6]) by 25%. It means 7 = (1+2+3+4+5)*25%.

B. For enterprises:
1. personnel costs
2. equipment
3. other direct costs – please refer to cost eligibility guide (przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów) for more details
4. subcontracting – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project
5. additional overheads – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. These costs are counted by multiplying direct costs by 20%. It means 5=(1+2+3+4)*20%.
For more details on eligible costs, applicants are advised to check cost eligibility guide (przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów) in the call announcement on NCBR webpage.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Large Enterprises</th><th>Medium Enterprises</th><th>Small Enterprises</th><th>Research Organizations</th></tr>
<tr><td>Fundamental/Basic Research</td><td>Not eligible</td><td>Not eligible</td><td>Not eligible</td><td>Not eligible</td></tr>
<tr><td>Industrial/Applied Research</td><td>Up to 50 + 5/15/25 (max 75 %)</td><td>Up to 50 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)</td><td>Up to 50 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)</td><td>Up to 100%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Experimental Development</td><td>Up to 25 + 5/15/25 (max 50 %)</td><td>Up to 25 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 60 %)</td><td>Up to 25 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 70 %)</td><td>Up to 100 %</td></tr>
</table>

In any case only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development are eligible for funding. Fundamental/Basic research is not eligible for funding.</td></tr>
</table>

	Other activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) must not be included into separate tasks. Funding quotas for Polish participants may reach up to 100% for universities and research organisations. For enterprises, the quota will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account company size and the type of research and development activity, pursuant to Section 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development (Journal of Laws 2020, item 1456). For entrepreneurs independently undertaking projects at the national level (meaning there is no Polish group of entities or Polish group of enterprises), there is no possibility of increasing the intensity of state aid **by 15 percentage points** for industrial research and experimental development based on the condition of effective cooperation between entrepreneurs or between entrepreneurs and research organisations.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Participants from Poland will be informed and invited to submit a national application form (NAF) once the international evaluation and the ranking list have been established. Only projects recommended for funding will be asked to submit a NAF. **If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national application must be submitted jointly by a consortium (group of entities) comprising Polish entities only.** All entities invited to submit national application form (NAF) are obliged to use European Central Bank's exchange rate in force on the day the call is opened.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	In justified cases, the composition of group of Polish entities may be changed before the funding decision is issued by NCBR. Any changes must meet the call's eligibility criteria and be approved in advance by the international project consortium, the call secretariat, NCBR, and any other funding institutions involved. Changes must also respect the principle of equal treatment of applicants. Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level: Annual scientific reports are obligatory.
Further guidance	Sample documents are available at: https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/wniosek-krajowy-w-lsi We encourage you to learn about and use our **PartFinder** (Partner Search Tool), which allows you to match science and industry entities from around the World with each other. The search engine is available at: https://partfinder.ncbr.gov.pl/

	Relevant documents All proposals must be aligned with national regulations, inter alia: • The Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science; • The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development; • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, which is in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation); • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 17 September 2010 on the detailed mode of performance of tasks of the National Centre for Research and Development. In light of the European Commission's ongoing work on a regulation intended to replace Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) informs that the conditions governing the provision of support set out in this documentation may be amended following the entry into force of the new European Commission regulation. NCBR may enter into a project contract provided that the participating entity: 1) is not excluded from applying for funding on the basis of: a) Article 207(4) of Act of 27 August 2009 on Public Finance; b) Article 12(1)(1) of the Act of 15 June 2012 on the consequences of entrusting work to foreigners staying illegally in the territory of the Republic of Poland; c) Article 9(1)(2a) of the Act of 28 October 2002 on the liability of collective entities for acts prohibited under penalty ; 2) is not an entity subject to an obligation to repay aid because the European Commission has declared such aid unlawful and incompatible with the internal market, 3) is not in arrears with payments of public dues or with social security and health insurance contributions, 4) is not an undertaking in difficulty[37] within the meaning of EU state aid rules and is not under receivership, 5) is not subject to exclusion from applying for funding due to sanctions.

[37] the definition of an undertaking in difficulty is set out in Article 2(18) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Poland	NCBR	Magdalena Krzystyniak	THCS@ncbr.gov.pl	+48 571 226 675
Poland	NCBR	Marcin Chmielewski	THCS@ncbr.gov.pl	+48 571 226 666

1.24 Portugal – FCT

1.25 Romania – UEFISCDI

Funding Agency Full name - EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FUNDING - UEFISCDI **Email address**	
Funding commitment	1.000.000 EURO
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• 250.000 euro in case a Romanian institution is the coordinator (together with other Romanian partner(s) – if it is the case); • 200.000 for one/all Romanian partner(s) participating in a proposal.
Eligible institutions	Eligible entities for funding are universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions, joint-stock companies, SME's and Large companies, NGOs (associations, foundations, etc.), others. Funding rates vary in accordance with state aid legislation. For more information: https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene A person, as project manager, regardless of whether the Romanian institution is a project coordinator or partner, at the level of a transnational competition, can participate in a single project proposal.
Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	• 250.000 euro in case a Romanian institution is the coordinator (together with other Romanian partner(s) – if it is the case); • 200.000 for one/all Romanian partner(s) participating in a proposal.
Eligible costs	a. Staff costs; b. Logistics expenses - Capital expenditure; - Expenditure on stocks - supplies and inventory items; - Expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25 % of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work; c. Travel expenses; d. Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 25 % of direct costs.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	NO

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	NO
Further guidance	

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Romania	UEFISCDI	Mihaela Manole	Mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro	
Romania	UEFISCDI	Nicoleta Dumitrache	Nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro	

1.26 Slovakia – CVTI SR

Centrum vedecko-technických informácií Slovenskej republiky (CVTI SR)
cvti@cvtisr.sk

Funding commitment	350 000 EUR
Minimum/ Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	The minimum funding amount per Slovak project partner is 100 000 EUR. The maximum funding amount per Slovak project partner is 200 000 EUR. If a single project involves two Slovak partners, their combined maximum funding is 250 000 EUR in total. These amounts can be further increased by up to 15 000 EUR if a partner submits a patent, trademark, or design application, and/or publishes project results in an internationally indexed (peer-reviewed) scientific journal (e.g., WoS/Scopus). Funding rates:
Eligible institutions	Legal entities established in the Slovak Republic, such as public or private research and academic institutions, higher education institutions, SMEs, public sector entities, and other relevant organizations actively involved in research, development, and innovation. • Research institutions (e.g. the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes) • Academic sector (e.g. universities and higher education institutions) • Non-governmental non-profit organizations • Cluster organizations • Private sector entities (entrepreneurial/business sector) Public administration bodies, including local and regional government authorities, are eligible to participate; however, they are not eligible to receive funding and therefore cannot have a budget allocated to them.
Organisations excluded from funding	Entities not established in the Slovak Republic and applications from individuals (natural persons) will not be accepted.

Type of beneficiary	Max. total funding (EU Contribution + National) as % of the Eligible Cost (Research and Innovation actions)	Max. total funding (EU Contribution + National) as % of the Eligible Cost (Innovation actions)
Large enterprises - for profit, non SMEs	50%	40%
SMEs	70%	60%
Research organisations, non - profit	100%	100%
Academic sector (e.g. universities and higher education institutions)	100%	100%
Non - governmental non profit organisations	100%	100%
Cluster organisations	100%	100%

Additional eligibility criteria	The proposed research activities must be carried out in Slovakia, and their results must be applicable and utilized within the Slovak Republic's environment. The maximum funding duration for Slovak partners is 24 months (until the end of 2029). If the international project is designed for a longer period (up to 36 months), any subsequent activities or costs incurred after December 31, 2029, must be covered from the Slovak partner's own resources, while ensuring that all reporting and financial settlement with CVTI SR are successfully finalized by the end of 2029.
Eligible costs	Only costs that are essential to the project implementation and are directly related to its activities and timeline are eligible. Overheads are not eligible. All costs must be fully utilized and accounted for by the end of 2029. Eligible costs: • Personnel costs (salaries of researchers, technicians and other support staff employed by the beneficiary, to the extent that they are directly involved in the project, salaries of project management personnel and other essential positions necessary for the implementation and coordination of the project; • Costs of instruments and equipment; • Costs for contract research, technical knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under market conditions, as well as costs for consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project; • Other direct costs (such as travel costs, costs for materials, publication and dissemination costs) General eligibility rule: All expenditures incurred by Slovak project participants must comply with: • Programme Slovakia, specifically Priority 1P1 Science, Research and Innovation, Specific objective RSO1.1: Development and enhancement of research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, Measure 1.1.3: Support for international cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation • The provisions of the State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia; • Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027. Slovak applicants are advised to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Guide for Applicants in European Co-funded Partnerships and Guide to Eligibility of Expenses under the Programme Slovakia, as the planned co-financing will be provided through this programme. It is further recommended that at least 30% of the Slovak applicant's total budget be dedicated to the actual performance of research activities.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Submission of the pre-proposal and full proposal through the dedicated THCS JTC 2027 EPSS platform only.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Following the receipt of the formal international funding recommendation, applicants will be required to submit a separate application for national funding via the national submission platform. This serves as the final formal step, with the official funding decision issued by CVTI SR once the project has been successfully recommended by the Partnership.
Further guidance	All Slovak applicants are strongly advised to contact the CVTI SR's contact points before submitting their proposals. No change of the applicant institution is allowed between the stages. The information given in the pre-proposal is binding and no major changes regarding the proposal's content or objectives are allowed between the pre-proposals and full proposals (if invited to stage 2) including the proposed budget. However, a limited number of minor administrative changes including small budget reshuffles may be allowed. Any modification must be communicated with CVTI SR and ensure that the total funding requested in the full proposal does not exceed the amount declared in the pre-proposal stage. The proposed project activities must be in line with the priorities defined in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), which serves as the strategic framework for research, development and innovation investments in Slovakia. All Slovak entities must have their contractual financial matters settled with CVTI SR by the end of 2029. Relevant national documents: Programme Slovakia, Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia. Useful links: Programme Slovakia SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027

	State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Slovakia	CVTI SR	Magdaléna Švorcová	Magdalena.Svorcova@cvtisr.sk	+421 917 733 493
Slovakia	CVTI SR	Marek Babušiak	Marek.Babusiak@cvtisr.sk	+421 948 855 449

1.27 Spain – BIOEF

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym): "Departamento de Salud Gobierno Vasco" (DPTO SALUD) through BIOEF ("Fundación Vasca de Innovación e Investigación Sanitarias"). **Email address:** amartin@bioef.eus	
Funding commitment	350,000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• No minimum funding per awarded partner • Maximum funding per awarded partner: 200,000€ for a coordinating partner and 150,000€ for a partner.
Eligible institutions	• Agents integrated in the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network (RVCTI) will be eligible for these grants. • **The participation in the consortium of at least one RVCTI Agent accredited in the category of Health Research Centers will be an essential requirement.** Proposals without a Health Research Center will not be eligible.
Organisations excluded from funding	• Organizations not fulfilling eligibility criteria
Additional eligibility criteria	• The members of the research teams must officially have a staff, statutory staff or contractual link with the beneficiary RVCTI Agent, with the centre that is carrying out the project or with the entities with which the RVCTI Agent holds an agreement in force covering the link with the researcher. • Coordinating PIs may only participate in this role in a single project. • **Double funding of the same concept is not allowed.**
Eligible costs	Eligible costs include the following: • **Personnel costs for the required and specifically dedicated staff in order to carry out the project, who have a contractual labour relation with the beneficiary entity.** • Travel and subsistence costs incurred directly as a result of the research project. • Consumables and services costs: This includes small scientific equipment used to carry out the project, consumables and complementary expenses (use of central and general research support services of the beneficiary entity), and expenses related to the publication and dissemination of project results, duly justified and necessary for the successful completion of the project.

	• Subcontracting costs: cannot exceed 50% of the funding. Nor scientific aspects nor the management of the project should be subcontracted. • Overheads 21%
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	YES
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	YES
Further guidance	In regional call for grants to be published in BOPV ("Boletín Oficial del País Vasco"), after final funding recommendation by Call Steering Committee: https://www.euskadi.eus/web01-bopv/es/bopv2/datos/Ultimo.shtml

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Spain/Basque Country	Departamento de Salud Gobierno Vasco (DPTO SALUD/BIOEF)	Ainhoa Martín Pagola	amartin@bioef.eus	+34 944536142

1.28 Spain – CPSEJA

Consejería de Presidencia, Sanidad y Emergencias de Junta de Andalucía (CPSEJA) ep.fps@juntadeandalucia.es	
Funding commitment	500.000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 125.000 € for partners and Up to 250.000 € for coordinators
Eligible institutions	Eligible organisation must be Andalusian Non-profit entities registered as Agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System (Registro de Agentes Andaluces del Conocimiento) with research and innovation activity in Biomedicine and Health Sciences, ie: Research managing foundations of the Andalusian Public Health System. Eligibility criteria established in Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023
Organisations excluded from funding	For profit organizations, other organisations not complying with the eligibility criteria
Additional eligibility criteria	• Principal investigators must be linked through a civil servant, statutory or labour relationship with the applicant or performing centre. For Health Research Institutes (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria, IIS), the link may be with any of the public or private law entities that are part of the IIS provided that the entity meets all the specific requirements determined in each action, and, in any case, be personnel assigned to the IIS. • More than one partner from Andalusia may participate in the same project. • A PI can only participate in one application per call. • For receiving regional funding, the final funding decision issued by the corresponding program's decision-making body must be accredited. The duration of the projects shall be determined by the corresponding JTC. In any case, this period shall be stated in the award resolution.
Eligible costs	**a. Goods and services**: consumables, bibliographic material, equipment rentals, software licenses and external services. **b. Personnel costs**: specifically hired for the project, including salaries, employer Social Security contributions, legally established compensation and other duly justified expenses derived. **c. Travel, accommodation and subsistence** according to the maximum amounts of compensation for service established in Decree 54/1989, of March 21, on compensation for service of the Junta de Andalucía, exclusively for people who are part of the research group or hired

	under the funded project. Exceptionally, any expense outside these amounts, or for people other than those listed before, must be authorised by the granting body. **d. Registration fees for congresses or conferences** for the presentation and dissemination of the results. Publication costs **e. Other expenses** duly justified and necessary for carrying out the project. **f. Indirect costs** 21% **g. Subcontracting costs**: cannot exceed 50% of the funding and need prior authorization from the granting body. Nor Scientific aspects nor the management of the project should be subcontracted. The following are not considered eligible expenses - Equipment or Equipment repair and maintenance - Items or amounts that, after analysis, are not considered justified - Amounts paid to persons participating in the project, except for expenses necessary for special attention to patients that involve compensation for their participation in the project not derived from an employment relationship. The sum of the funding or income received for the same purpose may in no case exceed the cost of the funded activity.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	• The deadline for the submission of regional applications will be established in the regional call and will be informed through the website of the Regional Ministry • Regional applications must be submitted exclusively by telematic means, please see section 10.c Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	• Beneficiaries must submit financial and scientific reports to the Regional Ministry (please see section 22.b) 3º and 25.f) 1º Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023) • Additionally, for projects involving invasive procedures on human beings, their biological material and/or clinical data, a favourable report or a document accrediting the request for its evaluation by the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee must be provided. The documents to be provided are detailed in section 14 of the Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023.
Further guidance	The projects must respect the fundamental principles established in national and international declarations, protocols and conventions on research ethics, as well as respect the requirements established in national and regional legislation in the field of biomedical research, development and innovation, personal data protection and bioethics. When the results are not susceptible to protection of industrial or intellectual property rights, the scientific publications resulting from the funding granted must be made available in open access, in accordance with article 37 of Law 14/2011, of June 1.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Spain	CPSEJA	Alicia Milano Curto	ep.fps@juntadeandalucia.es	+34 955040450

1.29 Spain – ISCIII

Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)	
Funding commitment	**1.000.000 €** National Programme: ***The Strategic Action in Health (Strategic Lines of Health Research 2024–2027, hereinafter AES 2027***)
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	**Maximum ISCIII funding for each awarded Spanish project** • If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII **IS NOT** the Coordinator of the transnational project: • **200.000€** (overheads included), if there is only **one** Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. • **250.000€** (overheads included), if there are **two Spanish Partners requesting funding to the ISCIII** in the proposal. • If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII **IS** the Coordinator of the transnational project: • **275.000€** (overheads included), if there is only **one** Spanish Partner in the proposal, acting as a coordinator. • **350.000€** (overheads included), if there is one Spanish Partner in addition to the Spanish Coordinator in the proposal, **both requesting funding to the ISCIII.** **Projects' duration** : from 24 months to 36 months The level of funding will take into account the evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of the primary health care and the financial resources available.
Eligible institutions	A maximum of two different partners requesting funding from ISCIII may participate in the same project proposal. The participation of the **public Spanish primary health care** is crucial to the success of this call so for that. The participation in the consortium of at least one Spanish primary health care center is mandatory in this call. **Proposals without a public Spanish primary health care center will not be eligible**. Therefore, only projects with at least one Principal Investigator (PI) **belonging to an** (assigned/affiliated) primary care center participates **will be** eligible for funding. • In the event that the corresponding primary care center forms an integral part of an Accredited Health Research Institute (IIS) and the **PI** is affiliated with the IIS, the eligible institution will be the Institute. In this case, additional groups from the same IIS may participate in the

	same proposal, taking into account the maximum number of entities per country established in the eligibility criteria of the call. **Eligible institutions**: • **Accredited Health Research Institutes** (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria acreditados, **IIS**). Accredited according to the RD 279/2016 (These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated according to the Spanish Act 50/ 2002, of December 26th). See the list of **IIS** in this link. • **Hospitals or public health administration of the Spanish National Health System** (SNS) These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated in accordance to the Spanish Act 50/2002, of December 26th (a copy of the foundation's statutes may be submitted). • **CIBER.** Only one PI can be eligible by ISCIII per consortium, fulfilling that the team members applying to the call must be from at least two groups belonging to CIBER in two different home institutions and one of these two should be a hospital, primary health care or public health administration of the Spanish National Health System (SNS) or Accredited Health Research Institutes (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria acreditados, IIS). Please contact CIBER (pai@ciberisciii.es) for more information related to CIBER's eligibility. • Public **Spanish primary health care** will be eligible institutions even if they apply independently. This would also apply in the case that the PI from CIBER or from the Accredited Health Research Institutes (IIS) belongs to primary health care. • **Public Research Institutions (OPIs)** as defined in article 47 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 202/2021, of 30 March and Non-**profit Private health entities**. These entities **can only participate** if they apply together with **a public Spanish primary health care** partner in the same proposal. It is not allowed for these entities to apply independently, thus there **must be two beneficiary** Spanish institutions requesting funding to ISCIII in the same proposal. **Applicants** from ISCIII are also eligible as OPI. Eligibility criteria from AESI 2027 apply.
Organisations excluded from funding	**NOT eligible institutions:** • **National Technological centres** and other **private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities** in Spain. Those declared by AES **2027** as ineligible to receive funds by ISCIII. Private profit entities are not eligible.

Eligibility of PI and team members	• It is mandatory for principal investigators (PIs) to hold a **PhD degree**. • PIs can only participate in one project proposal per call. • PIs belonging to an **Accredited Health Research Institutes** (IIS) could apply **only from the IIS**. • The PI and all members of the research group must belong to the eligible institutions in the call. • Only one PI per beneficiary institution may be funded within the same proposal. • PIs that has an ongoing International Collaboration (PCIN) project of the same initiative and purpose that this call and that the project has an ending date after the 31st of December 2027 will not be able to apply for this call. This incompatibility will affect only to the PI. And this incompatibility will not apply in the case that the PI participate as coordinator in the new application or in the ongoing project. For additional incompatibilities please review AES 2027 **Excluded** personnel as Principal Investigator (PI): • Those undergoing a postgraduate training in Health Specialization (MIR, EIR, FIR, QIR, BIR, PIR, RFIR). • Those undergoing research training (e.g. PhD students, or "Río Hortega" contracts). • Those undergoing postdoctoral training (e.g. "Sara Borrell" or "Juan de la Cierva" contracts). • Researchers contracted by a RICORs and platforms funded by ISCIII.
Eligible costs	**Personnel costs:** Personnel costs will be eligible for contracts with the needed professional category (superior technician, BSc (grado), MSc (master), PhD (doctor) for the project development accordingly to the published salary tables in ISCIII's webpage. **Personnel cost will precisely adhere to the salary tables**, no other amount will be considered, either upper or lower - Personnel costs will be eligible with a maximum of **36 PM** in total for the personnel contracts altogether. - Personnel costs will not be eligible when corresponding to contracts for PhD students and PhD (doctor) under the frame of Art. 21 and Art. 22 of Law 14/2011, of 1st June, following the specifications established in AES2027. - Personnel costs will NOT be eligible when they correspond to civil servants or the equivalent personnel (as specified in **AES 2027**) either employed by the beneficiary entities or belonging to the research team. -The hiring of permanent personnel already belonging to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible expenses, unless that applies the exception stated in **AES 2027** for eligible personnel costs, for contracts framed under the Law 17/2022, 5 September, article 23bis in the specified Entities of Public sector.

	• **Other eligible costs**: Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, complementary expenses (use of central and general research support services of the beneficiary entity), publication and dissemination of results and other costs as included in ***AES 2027*** that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. • **Overheads**, according to ***AES 2027*** (25%). • Double funding of the same concept is not allowed.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Due to administrative and legal regulations, the ISCIII has set the end of **October 2027** (tentative) as the national deadline for the Call Steering Committee to decide on the fundable project consortia that include Spanish partners requesting funding from ISCIII. Any national applicant whose proposal is declared fundable after this date will be considered ineligible for funding from ISCIII. **Additional clause regarding the available grant:** After the evaluation process, depending on its budgetary availability, of the requested funding of the selected projects, and giving priority to projects requesting funding from ISCIII, ISCIII and other Spanish funding agencies may exchange applicants with each other in order to optimize the available funds, provided that the respective eligibility rules are met. Such applicants must submit the national phase of ISCIII, in time and form.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	**National phase:** Full proposal applicants selected must submit a national application to ISCIII, in accordance with the timeline and procedures outlined in the **AES 2027** (probably **September/October 2027).**
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level only for proposals funded by the ISCIII: As specified by ISCIII's instructions (please check ISCIII's webpage).
Submission of a pre-eligibility form needed at national level	In order to expedite the eligibility check process after the proposal submission it is mandatory that all applicants submit a **CVA-ISCIII**. The CVA must clearly indicate the date of award of the PhD and, where applicable, any career interruptions or periods of reduced research activity (e.g. maternity, paternity or parental leave, caregiving responsibilities, long-term illness, or other relevant circumstances), including the start and end dates and the duration of each period. In the case of the IPs of public primary health care it will be mandatory also a certificate signed by the legal representative of their entities. A template of this certificate can be downloaded in their link **Certificado Vinculación IP Atencion Primaria.**

	These documents shall be submitted by the PI before the pre-proposal submission deadline to **maria.adrio@isciii.es** indicating her/his full name and proposal acronym in the email subject line. The checking of these documents will be done during the eligibility checking process after the proposals submission.
Requirements on data and repositories	• Researchers funded by ISCIII must make public the human genomic data, as well as relevant data (phenotype and exposition data) generated inside the funded project and will use open access repositories. Researchers must also make public all the necessary information for the interpretation of these genomic data, including lab protocols, data instruments survey tools. Regarding genomic data it is understood: association of complete genomes (GWAS), matrixes of polymorphism of a single nucleotide (SNP) and sequence of genome, and transcriptomic, metagenomic, epigenomic and gene expression data. The researchers whose projects are funded by ISCIII are recommended to store their scientific data at the "ELIXIR Core Data Resources", or if non-European repositories or data bases are to be used they must be certified by ELIXIR or the US National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). • ISCIII may not fund any project that may require a repository and/or a data base without a plan ensuring sustainability and decommissioning after the end of funding.
Requirements for clinical studies	Spanish groups that are involved on the performance of a clinical trial in the proposal, are recommended to include in their team a member from their scientific node of the EU Clinical Trials Network (**SCReN** or **ECRIN-ERIC**) or if it does not exist, a member from the personnel of their Clinical Research Supporting Platform of their institutions (UIC).
Use of Research infrastructures and platforms	Researchers funded by ISCIII are encouraged to make use of the resources available through the European Research Infrastructures and the Spanish Platforms funded by ISCIII for supporting the biomedical and health R&I.
Acknowledgements	Any publication, data base, product or event protected with IPR or not, resulting from the granted project must acknowledge "Award no. XX by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through "*La Acción Estratégica en Salud (Líneas Estratégicas de Investigación en Salud 2024-2027*)" 2027 and within the THCS Partnership. This acknowledgment must be included even after the project has ended and must also incorporate additional acknowledgments that may be specifically requested by ISCIII. For further information, please consult ISCIII's ROR here. .

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Spain	ISCIII	Maria Adrio	maria.adrio@isciii.es	(+34) 918222868

1.30 Sweden – Forte

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Forskningsradet for Halsa, Arbetsliv och Valfard (Forte) **Email address staffan.arvidsson@forte.se**	
Funding commitment	15 million SEK (approx. 1.4 million Euros)
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 3 million SEK per Swedish partner and project, if coordinator max 4,5 million SEK. Maximum 4,5 million SEK in total to Swedish partners within the same project
Eligible institutions	The grants paid out by Forte must be administrated by a Swedish organisation. They need to be a Swedish legal entity with a Swedish organisation registration number. There is an exception, grants may be paid out to a foreign organisation in accordance with governing documents or agreements. An approved administrating organisation must conduct research, which means having a documented research activity and being assessed as capable of taking on commitments in accordance with the general conditions for research grants.
Organisations excluded from funding	An administrating organisation cannot use grants for economic activity. As a general rule, all companies are assumed to conduct economic activity. Associations and other organisations may also be included here, depending on what sort of activity they conduct. For organisations that conduct both economic and noneconomic activity, it is possible to be an administrating organisation if grants are used for the non-economic activity. Grants cannot be used for the economic activity. The accounts for the different activities must be kept separate.
Additional eligibility criteria	The main applicant must be employed by a Swedish organisation that is approved as an administrating organisation. However, the main applicant does not need to be employed by the administrating organisation at the time of application. The main applicant must have a doctoral degree.
Eligible costs	Among others, eligible costs may include the following: personnel costs; equipment costs; consumables and travel. The costs of general publication may not be included as direct cost in the application.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	For the full proposal phase, applicants also need to submit their proposals to Forte´s application portal, Prisma. This is not required in the pre-proposal phase.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	No.
Further guidance	For additional information, please go to: Who can apply for a grant? - Forte (English)

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Sweden	Forte	Staffan Arvidsson	Staffan.arvidsson@forte.se	+4687754080

1.31 Switzerland – Innosuisse

Swiss Innovation Agency (Innosuisse) **eu-partnerships@innosuisse.ch**	
Funding commitment	2.7 Mio. Euro
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	
Eligible institutions	**Swiss implementation partners**: Organisations that later produce, sell or apply the results of the projects in practice, e.g. end-user organizations, health providers, companies, or other organizations based in Switzerland. **A Swiss company identification number (UID number) is required for each implementation partner.** **Swiss research partners**: Eligible research partners are defined by law and must be accredited by Innosuisse before the submission of an application. They include higher education research centres or non-commercial research centres outside the higher education sector, etc.
Organisations excluded from funding	Non-Swiss based Organisations and companies. Consultants. Shell Companies or domicile address: The applicant must have sufficient operational substance in Switzerland to implement the project independently. This requires a registered operating establishment with a transparent organizational structure and own staff employed under Swiss contracts. A mere Shell company or domicile address without dedicated operations does not qualify. If the applicant is part of a corporate group, strict operational control over project activities must reside within the Swiss entity. Furthermore, no subsidies are granted without Swiss added value. The project must be primarily managed and implemented using local resources and the mere transfer of funds abroad is not allowed.
Additional eligibility criteria	The Swiss part of the consortium must contain at least one Swiss implementation partner. Participation of a Swiss research partner is optional. The share of the total eligible costs of the Swiss implementation partner/s must be higher than the cost of the Swiss research partner/s. Implementation partner counting less than 250 FTE must document their capacity to fund their own contribution. **For detailed eligibility criteria refer to the THCS Call 2027 on the**

	Innosuisse Call Website.
Eligible costs	Only costs necessary for the execution of the project plan specified in the application form are eligible. Limits of eligible costs are defined in the THCS funding conditions document on the Innosuisse Call Website. Only effective costs documented by Swiss employment contracts or invoices to Swiss project partners will be reimbursed. All expenses must be specified and documented in detail for reporting and auditing purposes.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	All Swiss applicants requesting funding from Innosuisse will be requested to submit a proposal to Innosuisse **at the full proposal stage** via the national platform Innolink.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Implementation partners counting less than 250 FTE must provide compulsory financial documents at the date of submission. **Please follow the guidelines for the THCS Call 2027 detailed on the Innosuisse Call Website.**
Further guidance	Calls for projects and applications (innosuisse.ch)

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Switzerland	Innosuisse	Marina Dorner	eu-partnerships@innosuisse.ch	+41 58 343 60 72

1.32 Switzerland – SNSF

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) **Email address**	
Funding commitment	2'000'000 CHF, the exact amount in EUR will depend on the exchange rate at date of the final selection of the projects.
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Minimum budget: 100'000 CHF / project Maximum budget: 300'000 CHF / project
Eligible institutions	Applicants must comply with the SNSF Funding Regulations and the SNSF Regulations on project funding.
Organisations excluded from funding	**The SNSF exclusively funds research conducted for purposes that are not directly commercial.** Pursuant to the Research and Innovation Promotion Act RIPA and the legal framework of the SNSF, no research grants are awarded if the relevant research is conducted for directly commercial purposes or if the persons involved in the research work do not enjoy scientific independence.
Additional eligibility criteria	**Participation of Swiss-based partners requesting financial support from the SNSF is restricted to one project** (Art.6.3, SNSF Regulations on project funding). They may, however, participate in other consortia projects as self-financed partners. **Proposals with overlapping funding periods with ongoing SNSF projects** are only approved if the research projects pursue different goals (Article 17 of the SNSF Funding Regulations).
Eligible costs	**Eligible costs** are outlined in the SNSF Funding Regulations (Art. 28) and the SNSF General Implementation Regulations (Section 2). **Project overhead costs** cannot be applied for. They are calculated on the basis of the research funding acquired by eligible institutions under eligible funding schemes. Overhead contributions are paid in retrospect at a flat rate to the institutions of the SNSF awardees.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	**Mandatory, parallel submission of pre- and full-proposal via SNSF Portal** Swiss-based full consortium partners who apply for SNSF funding to participate in this Call must submit pre-proposals and full proposals **via the SNSF Portal** at the same submission deadline of the consortium application. These submissions are mandatory and do not replace the submission of the consortium application to the Call Secretariat. **Pre-proposal** forms are created by selecting "European Partnership: THCS". In case the pre-proposal is invited to a full proposal, a notification will be received by email. The original pre-proposal application will be accessible again for adjustments. Once all the necessary updates are made, the **Full-proposal** can be submitted. **In case of multiple, Swiss-based partners participating in the same consortium**, only one application is to be submitted on the SNSF Portal, whereby one Swiss-based partner must act as "contact person". All Swiss-based partners are to be listed as "applicants". **Self-funded partners and international partners of the consortium** applying for funding at different funding agencies from the SNSF and cannot be declared as "project partners" in the sense of article 11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations. For the submission via the SNSF Portal, they are to be declared as "consortium members" under the tab research plan instead and must apply for their funding at their respective research funding organisation.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	See above.
Further guidance	**Data management plan** Applicants will have to complete the DMP once the project is approved, regardless of whether a DMP is requested by the consortium. The DMP has to cover the research data, which are collected, observed, generated or reused in the Swiss part of the

	project and has to comply with the SNSF Open Research Data Policy. **Grant management** Grants will be managed according to standard SNSF rules described in SNSF Funding Regulations. Yearly financial reports for the use of SNSF funds must be submitted. In terms of scientific report, the SNSF requests the submission of the scientific reports submitted to the FOREST Call Secretariat. No other scientific report is requested. **6. Other relevant documents/links:** Information available at: • SNSF Funding regulations • General Implementation Regulations • SNSF Regulations on Project Funding Please contact the SNSF administrative offices should anything be unclear.

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Switzerland	SNSF	Clémence Le Cornec	thcs@snf.ch	+41 31 308 22 60

1.33 United Kingdom

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Department of Health and Social Care (delivered via the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)) Email address sarah.puddicombe@nihr.ac.uk; tansy.evans@nihr.ac.uk; emma.munro@nihr.ac.uk cc: internationalapplications@nihr.ac.uk (Emma Lofthouse)	
Funding commitment	GBP £2 million for 2027 call /approximately €2,280,000
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max GBP £500,000 /approximately €570,000 and minimum of £100,000 GBP/ approximately €114,000 for any one project. Although we would anticipate funding 4 - 6 awards from the total £2 million/€2,280,000 allocation. Applicants must justify that the budget requested is appropriate and proportionate to the outlined research plans and ensures value for money. For conversion to GBP, please use your institution's standard exchange rate; NIHR does not mandate a fixed exchange rate and total costs must be within the max funding threshold per award.
Eligible institutions	Academic Higher Education institutions/ Research Institutes, NHS bodies and providers of services, local authorities, industry, charities, social care organisations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (check individual NIHR programme remits for further details). NIHR issues research contracts to a lead UK contractor organisation within the consortium who will need to establish agreements with other eligible collaborators or recruitment sites via collaboration or subcontracting agreements. The contracting organisation must be able to meet these NIHR contract terms without amendments in any way. UK Public and Patient organisations may be partners to this call but are not eligible to act as the UK lead contracting organisation. Example contracts are found here https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/signing-contract. Please familiarise yourself with them. The Lead Applicant will be responsible for appropriate distribution of funds to any other UK collaborators via collaboration, Service level and/or consortium agreement. See guidance on Intellectual Property and Commercial partners https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/policies-and-guidelines/intellectual-property-and-commercialisation-guidance as background and foreground IP arrangements will be required to be detailed as part of the contract.

Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	**In Scope:** For this call eligible UK components will need to demonstrate a clear primary focus on social care (long-term care) workforce research which is an area of priority for the UK. This would include staff working in adult social care. Applicants will need to demonstrate the following: ● Fieldwork in UK involving social care workforce ● Awareness of evidence and practice on workforce, labour market, regulation and employment conditions in UK ● Expertise and experience in applied social science research ● Include a comparative research component involving the UK and one or more other countries or regions and demonstrate a clear pathway to impact for UK policy, practice and/or workforce outcomes. ● For the UK component, demonstration of how the proposed research complements (and does not duplicate) research being completed as part of active NIHR awards including substantive workforce research partnership and policy studies. **Out of scope:** ● NIHR does not fund research involving animals or animal tissue. ● Descriptive studies without a pathway to impact ● Health care workforce research is out of scope for UK components of research The following areas are of particular interest; however, other related areas may be proposed with appropriate justification: ● Impact of different policy levers including pay, training, on productivity and labour supply in adult social care ● Pathways between occupations and from economic inactivity to sustained social care employment ● Engagement and support of internationally recruited workers in social care contexts ● Lessons learned comparing recruitment and retention in social care compared to other settings such as health and education

	– and within social care, different settings of residential, homecare, supported living and other settings ● Productivity impacts of skills and training interventions and use of new technologies in social care
Eligible costs	Costs for research and recruitment in the UK aligned to the most relevant NIHR domestic programme for this call and which meets NIHR finance requirements. In brief this this means including only eligible UK investigational costs (staff time, study procedures, site services, participant expenses, and justified subcontracting), excluding NHS Support Costs, Treatment Costs and Excess Treatment Costs, and ensuring all costs are proportionate, deliverable and represent value for money. Research costs are the costs of the research and development (R&D) itself that end when the research ends. They relate to activities that are being undertaken to answer the research questions. Refer to the most relevant NIHR domestic programme e.g. HSDR or RPSC for more advice. See NIHR finance guidance for applicants :https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants#tab-375156. UK organisations are funded by NIHR for their **UK-incurred costs only**, and these are treated under **NIHR domestic funding rules**. UK HEIs are funded at **80% FEC**, which may include indirect and estate costs in line with standard FEC methodology. UK NHS organisations are funded at **100% of eligible direct costs only**. UK partners are not considered "international applicants" solely because the consortium is led or sponsored by a non-UK organisation. International costing rules (i.e. 100% direct costs only, no overheads) apply only where a UK applicant is requesting funding for activity undertaken **outside the UK**. See more under direct and indirect funding rates. Further information about costs can be found in the following publication Attributing the costs of health and social care research (AcoRD) N.B. NHS support costs and excess treatment costs are not

	supported through the NIHR research award funding. These are the responsibility of the NHS and should be funded through normal commissioning arrangements. Costs may include Research training, mobility and academic career development for early career researchers which is a key priority for NIHR in supporting the next generation of research leaders. All financial costs associated with making the study inclusive (e.g., translators, accessible technology, community engagement, or transport) must be specified and explicitly costed.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	NIHR will request applications for UK based research components to be submitted through the NIHR awards management system **only after receipt of a positive funding recommendation from the secretariat.** NIHR will then require a copy of the application and full budget details for assessment as part of the pre-contracting processes. All applicants are required to register on the NIHR Awards Management system and provide an ORCID. Anonymous EDI data collection will be requested on submission of your application. This information will be requested once a funding recommendation has been provided by the THCS partnership call.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Every project seeking UK support must submit to DHSC/NIHR by email at least 7 days before the pre proposal submission deadline. Include the application number, title and UK lead partners name with a short summary which clearly articulates the proposed work and how findings will be relevant to social care workforce and practice in at least one of the constituent nations of the UK. This should be no more than 1 page. There may be a requirement to provide letters of support from regional/ national organisations but this will need to be confirmed.
Further guidance	If you have queries on the alignment of your project with our programmes please contact internationalapplications@nihr.ac.uk Awards should start on 1st of the Month (approximately 6 months

	after outcome notification) No-cost extensions may be requested and considered on a case by case basis where well justified. Every UK funded research output must include a full NIHR acknowledgment statement and NIHR disclaimer in addition to THCS Partnership requirements “This project received funding from the NIHR [name of NIHR programme (NIHR unique award identifier)] under the frame of Transforming Health and Care Systems, THCS, (GA N° 101095654 of the EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care."

Contact Persons

Country	Funding org.	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
UK	NIHR	Sarah Puddicombe Tansy Evans Emma Munro	sarah.puddicombe@nihr.ac.uk tansy.evans@nihr.ac.uk emma.munro@nihr.ac.uk Cc internationalapplications@nihr.ac.uk	+44 2380560568

Annex II. Indicative funding commitments in THCS JTC 2027

Country	FPO	Indicative funding
Austria	FFG	€ 1,000,000
Belgium	FNRS	€ 300,000
Canada	CIHR	CAD 1,500,000
Czech Republic	MZCR	€ 500,000
Denmark	IFD	€ 1,600,000
Estonia	ETAG	€ 300,000
Finland	AKA	€ 1,000,000
France	ANR	€ 1,250,000
France	FR MoH	€ 1,500,000
Ireland	HRB	€ 1,060,000
Israel	CSO-MOH	€ 320,000
Italy	AReSS	€ 60,000
Italy	FRRB	Pending
Italy	IT-MoH	Pending
Italy	ProMIS	€ 650,000
Italy	RER	€ 300,000
Italy	RT	€ 400,000
Latvia	LCS	€ 600,000
Lithuania	LMT	€ 300,000
Malta	XM	€ 500,000
The Netherlands	ZonMW/NWO/NWO-SIA	€ 2,000,000
Norway	RCN	€ 1,850,000
Poland	NCBR	€ 2,000,000
Portugal	FCT	Pending
Romania	UEFISCDI	€ 1,000,000
Slovakia	CVTI SR	€ 350,000
Spain	BIOEF	€ 350,000
Spain	ISCIII	€ 1,000,000
Spain	CPSEJA	€ 500,000
Sweden	Forte	SEK 15,000,000
Switzerland	SNSF	CHF 2,000,000
Switzerland	Innosuisse	€ 2,700,000
United Kingdom	NIHR	£ 2,000,000
Total		***€ 30,450,000**

*Approximate due to currency conversions.