

Call for transnational proposals 2023

“HEALTHCARE OF THE FUTURE”

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Latest updated: May 2023

Please note that this document sets out answers to a range of frequently asked questions (FAQ) which potential applicants may have. It may be updated, while the call is open, to elaborate or supplement answers, in response to received queries. However, the FAQ is a supplement to, not substitute for, the details provided in the call specification and associated guidance documents. These are available at the call webpage at: www.thcspartnership.eu.

NEW This document has been updated with questions from the webinars. All webinar questions are labelled QW, differently from the initial questions, which are labelled Q.

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Q1. What is the definition of an SME used for this call?

That depends on the definition used in the national eligibility criteria, please check the call text on the website www.thcspartnership.eu. As an indication, you could use the following criteria of the European Commission.

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	Or Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m	≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m	≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m	≤ € 2 m

Q2. How many calls will the THCS partnership organise?

The THCS partnership aims to announce a call each year. How many calls will be launched by the programme will be decided as the partnership evolves.

Q3. What if your country is not in the THCS partnership? Can they still participate in the call? Can these countries participate with their 'own' funds?

If there is no funder from your country participating, then you can only join a consortium with your own funding. To see if your national/regional funder joins the THCS call, please check the call text on the website www.thcspartnership.eu.

Q4. What is the budget for the 2023 call?

The total budget for call 2023 is around €38 million.

Q5. Is there a minimum and/or maximum amount of funding for each project?

Funding depends on how much your project needs and on the potential budget limit in the eligibility criteria of your national funder. Please check the eligibility criteria in Annex 1 of the [call text](#).

Q6. Where does the funding for this call come from?

The majority of the budget will come from participating funding agencies, and on top of that the European Commission contributes to a maximum of 30%.

Q7. What kind of organisations/companies/charities/patient organisations/etc. can apply?

The type of organisations which can apply for funding depends on the eligibility criteria of your responsible funding agency. Please, check the eligibility criteria in Annex 1 of the [call text](#).

Q8. How do I find partners for a consortium?

The THCS programme offers an online partner search tool. In this tool, you can make a request for partners and read other users announcements. Click [here](#) to enter the tool.

Next to that you could use the [THCS linked page](#) to find potential partners and, of course, you can contact your own network.

Q9. Do all partners already need to be on board when submitting the intent to apply?

A minimum of three partners from three different countries have to be on board when submitting the intent to apply. However, you can add or change partners in the final proposal.

Q10. Is it mandatory for proposals to include one specific type of care?

This call does not have a specific focus on one type of care. It is an open call. For example, project can focus on mental health care, hospital care, or care at home. More information on the scope of the call can be found in the [call text](#).

Q11. If a country has multiple funders: how is it decided which funder you should address for funding?

This depends on the eligibility criteria of the different funders. As long as you are eligible, it is up to you, as partner, to decide at which funding agency you apply for funding. Please, check the eligibility criteria of the different funders in the [call text](#), and contact the involved funding agencies for more information.

Q12. There are two aims described in the call text. Do projects that apply have to cover one or both?

It is up to the consortia to decide which aims fits best to their project goal. They can choose one of the aims. Projects do not have to cover both aims.

Q13. Will applicants receive feedback on the 'intent to apply' form?

There will be no feedback on the content of 'intent to apply' form. In case possible issues with the composition of your consortium are flagged, we will contact you. The 'intent to apply' is used as an indication for the expected applications and to know which type of applications will be send in.

QW1. How many projects are going to be funded?

It is not possible to determine the exact number of funded projects in advance, as this is influenced by two factors. Firstly, the diversity of projects means that financial demands can vary greatly. Secondly, the budget mechanisms of the European Partnership require each Funding Organisation to fund projects carried out in its own region or country meaning the number of funded projects will depend grandly on regional/national financial resources available.

QW2. Submitting a proposal will face not only the challenge to agree on a project idea, but also to ensure that each partner is comfortable with the funding rules of each funding agencies?

That is correct; each partner should comply with the eligibility criteria of the national/regional funding agency.

QW3. Is it 26 or 23 countries involved?

There are 23 countries involved in this call.

QW4. Can applicants come also from countries that are not represented with funding agencies, like Germany?

That is possible, although they do not receive any funding. A consortium can add a maximum of 2 self-funded partners as “Collaborators”.

QW5. The focus of the first call is mainly on supporting implementation of earlier interventions/ knowledge? Filling the knowledge gap is mentioned, but the outcomes seem more or less practical ones.

That is not necessarily the case. The call stimulates transformation; this is why we would like to see collaboration between the different settings.

QW6. Is it the case that only projects that examine the link between hospitals, primary and community care will be funded? Proposals focused on hospitals only will not be funded?

The main aim of the call is to relieve pressure on healthcare facilities, particularly on hospitals. This could be done indeed by a better care continuity but also by improving inpatient and outpatient care, by integrated care within the hospital, more people-centred care or digital and technological solutions.

QW7. What is the maximum number of partners per countries?

3 is the maximum number of partners per country.

QW8. Switzerland, the UK, and the US were also mentioned as non-EU countries participating in the call. Will these countries be introduced in future THCS calls?

Funders from Switzerland and Scotland (UK) are joining this call. There are no funders from the USA, but they can decide to join in one of the calls in the future.

QW9. Should projects’ intention be to explore/implement solutions in different countries than those participating in the call, or they all should work to develop a solution for a problem of a specific country/context?

Projects should propose solutions that could be scaled-up or adapt in different healthcare settings.

QW10. How do you register in the partner tool?

Password must contain one capital letter, one number and one special character. If you use 2 of each, it collapses. For the moment, we suggest you to use "!" as a special character in your password, avoiding @ or _ as special characters. We are working to solve this issue. If you still have problems with creating your account in partner search tool, please contact us at partfinder@ncbr.gov.pl.

QW11. Is the assessment central or each agency assesses its’ projects? What will happen if some partners of the consortium are eligible, and others not?

There will be a general eligibility check and a national one. If a project is ineligible for a specific funder, it will be deemed ineligible, and it will not be assessed by the Peer-Review Panel.

However, the assessment of the proposals is central, managed by the THCS Call Secretariat and performed by international reviewers (Peer-Review Panel).

QW12. Can countries out of Schengen apply to this call?

The full list of the participating countries is here:

<https://www.thcspartnership.eu/funding/announcement-of-the-joint-transnational-call-for-proposals-healthcare-of-the-future-kl>.

QW13. Shall I indicate only one of the aims? Can the proposal address both aims?

You must choose online one of the aims.

QW14. Are any prototyping and validation testbeds connected to this activity? It would be helpful for the approbation of solutions and services.

As long as a project is not solely concerned with the development of new technological solutions this could be possible. Be aware that proposals are rejected if they are solely concerned with developing new technological solutions without a focus on integration of the solutions, models or implementation in the health and care systems.

QW15. Is this call more focused on out of hospital projects and continuity of care or can we apply for projects targeting in-hospital quality improvement?

Both of them are in the scope of this call.

QW16. Would nursing homes and related workforce issues in relation to long-term care fall within the remit, provided that the focus of the proposal is on the related healthcare and care integration aspects?

This could be in the scope of this call.

QW17. Is the development of 3D printing personalized medicines covered by this call?

Proposals will be rejected if they solely concern development of new technological solutions, without a focus on integration of the solutions, models or implementation in the health and care systems.

QW18. Are there any requirements to when the product, developed as part of the project, can be commercialized (during or after the project)?

The feasibility of the project will be assessed. Additionally, proposals will be rejected if they solely concern development of a new product, without a focus on integration of the solutions, models or implementation in the health and care systems

QW19. If a proposal addresses transformation within the hospital system – e.g. in surgery practice, and did not address directly collaboration between settings would it be fundable?

The proposal would be in the scope of the call.

QW20. Is there an official draft document for the Intent to Apply?

The Intent to Apply is on the website with a THCS guidance for applicants.

QW21. The submission of the proposal is made by an institution or by an individual?

The project coordinator, who is part of an institution, will submit the proposal through the electronic system.

QW22. What are the eligible vs ineligible costs?

Each funding organisation has its own rules and therefore specific provisions on eligible costs.

QW23. Is there a way to facilitate the connection to other partners in order to find potential partners sharing interests?

You can use the <https://partfinder.ncbr.gov.pl/> tool.

QW24. Can SMEs/products be funded through this call?

Eligibility of SMEs depends on the Funding Organisation. Please consult regional/national eligibility criteria in the Call Text or contact your regional/national representative.

Please be aware that proposals will be rejected if they solely concern development of a new product, without a focus on integration of the solutions, models or implementation in the health and care systems.

QW25. Is there a selection based on the Intent to Apply or the project coordinator will submit a full proposal?

There is no selection. The submission of the Intent to Apply is mandatory and prior to the submission of the full proposal but will not be assessed.

QW26. Can cost related to commercialize the product be funded, e.g. regulatory approval, CRO?

Eligibility costs depends on the Funding Organisation. Please consult regional/national eligibility criteria in the Call Text or contact your regional/national representative.

QW27. What does "countries searched" refer to?

"Countries searched" refers to the countries you are willing to cooperate with.

QW28. Could you shed light on the role of "prevention"? Projects focusing on services for prevention might not involve or target typical "healthcare" actors, but still "relieve the pressure on health and care facilities". Would healthy lifestyle projects be fundable? On the slides it only listed "strengthen the role of prevention and promotion" which is kind of a weak statement.

It could be fit in the transformation of health care systems.

QW29. Is the development of medical devices included in this call?

Yes but proposals will be rejected if they solely concern development of a new product, without a focus on integration of the solutions, models or implementation in the health and care

systems. It depends also on regional/national Funding Organisations. Please contact your regional/national representative.

QW30. Could regulatory consultants and/or PPI representatives be costed?

As far as eligible costs are concerned, we suggest that you consult your funding organisation.

QW31. Scotland alone is an eligible partner or an institution of the whole UK is eligible?

To be eligible for funding applicants must have an establishment in Scotland.

QW32. Could you clarify what it means in the call text as: “4.4 Proposals will be rejected if they: a) Have a predominantly pre-clinical /bio-medical component”.

Projects will be rejected if they focus on the development of pre-clinical/bio-medical component.

Projects must explore how to implement pre-clinical/bio-medical component into healthcare, how it could relieve the pressure on health and care facilities and address one or several healthcare dimensions (quality, safety, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, accessibility, sustainability, economy, ethics and resilience).

QW33. Who will be able to spend the money? The team of the coordinator of the proposal or the institution to which he/she belongs to?

Funding organisations will sign a contract with the institutions they will fund and not on a personal level. Then, every partner can use its annual amount, received by its institution, following the costs declared in the proposal.

QW34. What elements will be considered by the reviewers to score the proposals?

The Peer-Review Panel will assess information provided in the submitted proposal according the criteria mentioned in the Call Text.

QW35. Can an early stage company (start-up) be a partner?

Yes, if this partner is eligible for your funding organization.

QW36. Is it possible for different countries to test their solution in their own country (since healthcare pathways works differently...) and then compare the different solutions tested?

Yes, it is.

QW37. Public hospitals will be 100% funded by the funding bodies in their countries or as public institutions they cannot receive funding from this call?

The funding rules are different for each funding agency. For example, in Poland the hospitals are not eligible for funding, but they can participate as research organizations or enterprises.

QW38. Do partners have to apply via two channels: as a consortium and locally?

Applications must be submitted using the THCS submission tool. Be aware that some of the funders also impose the submission of the proposal through their national electronic platform.

QW39. In some countries there are multiple funding bodies, e.g. in the Netherlands. In this case, should a national consortium choose the most appropriate funding body to apply for, or can an application be split into sub-applications to multiple funding bodies within countries, for a single project?

This depends on the eligibility criteria of the different funders. As long as you are eligible, it is up to you, as partner, to decide at which funding agency you will apply for funding. Please, check the eligibility criteria of the different funders in the call text, and contact the involved funding organisations for more information. Each partner from a specific country should “apply” to a funding organisation. However, it is not necessarily the same regional/national funding organisation for all partners from the same country.

QW40. Are all partners of a consortium required to submit an application?

The proposal will be submitted only by the project coordinator and only once through the THCS electronic system. Some regional/national funding organisations require partners to submit additional information through the regional/national platform of their funding organisation. Please consult the regional/national eligibility criteria in the call text for more information.

QW41. The eligibility clearance from the funding organisation to the applicant has to be obtained prior to the submission of the proposals? How much time before?

The eligibility checks will be carried out after the deadline of the projects’ submission. That is why it is recommend to get in touch with you National Contact Person (NCP) to inform yourself about the eligibility criteria.

QW42. Is there an excel template to help to prepare budget? Or should we prepare a lump-sum?

You will find the “Financial plan” in the “Guidance for applicants” document.