Call for transnational proposals 2024

Innovate to Prevent: Personalised Prevention in Health and Care Services

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE

SECOND JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL

DEADLINES

Submission deadline for obligatory "Intent to apply": 16 April 2024, 14:00 CEST

Central submission deadline for proposals: 14 May 2024, 14:00 CEST

Electronic proposal submission

For further information, visit our website:

https://www.thcspartnership.eu

or contact the

THCS Joint Call Secretariat:

thcs@zonmw.nl

THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP ON TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS (THCS)

The health and care systems of Europe are under a lot of strain and need to transform to be able to respond to people's future needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted even further the need to rethink and redesign health and care services. The Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) initiative has been established as a European partnership under Horizon Europe, co-funded by the European Commission. The aim of THCS is to coordinate and optimize research and innovation efforts in Europe and its partner countries supporting health and care systems transformation.

AIM OF THE CALL

This call aims to support the implementation of innovative person-centred health and care models addressing prevention strategies, with the key help of existing IT and digital technologies and services. The ultimate goal is to improve health and care system dimensions such as quality, efficiency, equity, and sustainability. Improving the quality of preventive services will lead to improving the quality of life of citizens and patients, as well as reducing the burden and costs for the entirety of health and care services.

Proposals should leverage the diversity in how disease prevention services are delivered in Europe and provide applicable innovations across different countries and health and care settings. This entails mutual learning opportunities, considering that although the increasing challenges faced by health and care systems are common in the EU and beyond, innovative models in prevention could be organised differently, and have different approaches to integrating IT and digital technologies. Proposals should consider contextual barriers and facilitators that are linked to different roles, tasks, education, and skills of healthcare professionals, the involvement of citizens, patients and caregivers and the contribution of other key stakeholders. Potential proposals should also address the challenges in adopting IT tools and digital technologies in health and care ecosystems, particularly the contingent needs to overcome legal, financial, cultural, technological, educational, and adaptive barriers.

The call aims to address the transformative process that helps integrate preventive strategies in innovative organisational models directly impacting the health and care systems. For this reason, actions on primary prevention will not be in the scope of this call.

Exclusions

Proposals will be rejected if they:

- Predominantly concern development of new technological solutions, without a focus on integration of the solutions, organisational models or implementation in the health and care systems.
- Have a predominantly clinical, pre-clinical/bio-medical component or
- Are purely epidemiological studies mapping the extent of and causal factors behind illnesses, without a focus on solutions, models or implementation in the health and care systems.
- Solely concern social/welfare services and do not address issues in the health and care services.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Duration of projects

The minimum project duration is 12 months.

The maximum project duration is 36 months.

Type of action

This call mandates collaborative, transnational research, innovation, and assessment actions. It is compulsory to engage in one or more of the following types of action: applied research, implementation research, piloting, and/or testing. All projects must demonstrate proof of concept(s), validation of concepts, models, or solutions, and showcase demonstrations of solutions in relevant health and care ecosystems. Translation to other settings of already adopted solutions is also within scope of this call.

Type of project partners

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

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

Composition of a consortium

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

- Minimum of three (3) eligible and a maximum of nine (9) eligible partners (excluding collaborators; see below) from at least three (3) EU Member States or Associated Countries whose funding organisations participate in the call,
- No more than three (3) consortium partners can be from the same country, from at least 2 different funders of the respective country (applies to only one country per consortium),
- The project coordinator must be eligible for funding by a regional/national funding organisation participating in the call,
- Up to two (2) self-funded partners ("collaborators"; i.e. partners that do not request funds in this JTC provided from one of the participating funding organisations) are permitted per consortium.
- Exception: To facilitate the integration of patient organisations and enterprises in consortia, they can be added to a consortium as additional partners beyond the

maximum. Patient organisations and enterprises can be added as additional partner(s) either on own funds or by applying for funding, if eligible, from the respective funding organisations.

Submission of "Intent to Apply"

To ensure eligibility to the Joint Call 2024 and to advance the evaluation process, the project coordinator of each project consortium must submit a brief "Intent to apply" through the online submission portal by 16 April 2024, 14:00 CET. Proposals without a preceding "Intent to apply" will not be eligible and will not be evaluated.

CALL TIMELINE

February 20, 2024	Publication of the call
March, 2024	JTC2024 Information day for applicants
April 16, 2024	Deadline for submission of Intent to Apply
May 14, 2024	Deadline for submission of proposals
August 26, 2024	Deadline for coordinators to send their rebuttal letters
October 2024	Final funding recommendation announced to applicants
End of 2024/early 2025	Expected scientific start of funded projects

Only proposals with a preceding Intent to apply (ItA), submitted in the online portal before April 16, 2024 (14:00 CET), will be able to submit full proposals with deadline May 14, 2024 (14:00 CET). Both the ItA and the full proposal must be submitted via the online submission system. The call is organised in a one-stage procedure. One ItA and one full proposal document shall be prepared by the Project Partners of the project consortium and must be submitted by the Project Coordinator through the THCS Partnership Online Submission System. Proposals must be written in English. Please note that the national/regional funding organizations may require additional documentation from applicants according to national/regional regulations. It is the responsibility of each project partner to ensure that all the necessary documents are submitted on time to the appropriate recipient.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES/REGIONS AND RESPECTIVE FUNDING AGENCIES

Partner Country	Funding Organisation	Acromym
Austria	Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft	FFG
Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	FNRS
Denmark	Innovationsfonden	IFD
Estonia	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur	ETAG
France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	ANR
France	Ministère de la Santé et de la Prévention	Fr MoH
Iceland	Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands	Rannís

Ireland	Health Research Board	HRB
Israel	Ministry of Health	CSO-MOH
Italy	Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale	AReSS
Italy	Ministero della Salute	IT MOH
Italy	Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca	MUR
Latvia	Latvijas Zinātnes padome	LZP
Lithuania	Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba	LMT
Malta	Malta Council for Science and Technology	MCST
Netherlands	Zorgonderzoek Nederland	ZonMw
Norway	Norges Forskningsråd	RCN
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju	NCBR
Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT
Portugal	Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro	CCDRC
Scotland/UK	Digital Health and Care Directorate, Scottish Government	SG
Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI
Spain	Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla	IDIVAL
Spain	Instituto de Salud Carlos III	ISCIII
Spain	Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía	CSCJA
Sweden	Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd	Forte
Sweden	Verket for Innovationssystem	Vinnova
Switzerland	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds	SNSF
Switzerland	Schweizerischen Agentur für Innovationsförderung	Innosuisse

MORE INFORMATION

If you want to know more on this second THCS call, please do attend the information day for applicants in March (date to be confirmed).

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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