Co-funded by the European Union

Joint Transnational Call for Proposals (2026) for

Access to Care *(THCS Grant* 101095654)

Call Text

Important Deadlines

Submission of Pre-Proposal: 2 February 2026 at 14:00 (CET)
Submission of Full-Proposals: 30 June 2026 at 14:00 (CEST)

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

or contact the THCS Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)
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1 History of changes

This is the initial 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]. The rapidly changing demographic make-up of society, along with the occurrence of health emergencies, are urging health and care systems to develop harmonised 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, 32 funding organisations have agreed to launch the Joint Transnational Call 2026 (JTC 2026) 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 European regions, countries and funding organisations

The following participating funding partner organisations (FPOs) are jointly launching the JTC 2026. The JTC 2026 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
Czech Republic	Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic[2]	MZ CR
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
Greece	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation	GSRI
Iceland	Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands	Rannís
Ireland	Health Research Board	HRB
Israel	Ministry of Health	CSO-MOH

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

[2] At a national level the call is administered by Czech Health Research Council (AZVCR).

Italy	Agenzia Regionale per la Salute ed il Sociale	AReSS
Italy	Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research, Lombardy Region	FRRB
Italy	Ministero della Salute	IT-MoH
Italy	Regione Toscana	RT
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science	LCS
Lithuania	Lietuvos Mokslo Taryba	LMT
Malta	Xjenza Malta (formerly MCST)	Xjenza Malta
The Netherlands	Zorgonderzoek Nederland	ZonMw / NWO / NWO-SIA
Norway	Research Council of Norway	RCN
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju	NCBR
Portugal	Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro	CCDRC
Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT
Romania	Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation	UEFISCDI
Slovakia	Centrum vedecko technickych informacii Slovenskej republiky	CVTI SR
Spain	Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía	CSCJA
Spain	Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla	IDIVAL
Spain	Instituto de Salud Carlos III	ISCIII
Sweden	Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd	Forte
Switzerland	Schweizerische Agentur für Innovationsförderung	Innosuisse
Switzerland	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds	SNSF
United Kingdom	Department of Health	NIHR

4 Timeline of the call

Time	Activity
27 October 2025	Pre-announcement of the call
21 November 2025	Launch of the call
10 December 2025, 14:00-16:00 CET	JTC 2026 Information Webinar
2 February 2026, 14:00 CET	Deadline for submission of pre-proposals
14-16 April 2026	Peer review panel meeting
From 11 May 2026	Invitation to submit full-proposals
30 June 2026, 14:00 CEST	Deadline for submission of full-proposals
September 2026	Rebuttal stage
16-18 September 2026	Peer review panel meeting
September/October 2026	Ethical evaluation of the selected proposals
Late October 2026	Final funding recommendation announced to applicants
Beginning of 2027	Expected scientific start of funded projects

5 Rationale of the call

European health and care systems are under significant pressure from several factors. Long-term population shifts are increasing the demand for health and care services. Climate change is

worsening health crises and spreading of diseases, while also increasing extreme weather events that strain health and care infrastructures. Moreover, a growing distrust in science and institutions is challenging public health efforts and creating resistance to the use of health and care services. Fiscal and geopolitical instability further amplifies these issues, as economic and security uncertainties affect the sustainable financing of health and care services. These challenges call for a comprehensive transformation of health and care systems to ensure preparedness to potential health crises, resilience, equity, and efficiency in meeting everyone's needs. Within a rapidly changing health landscape, governments, researchers, healthcare providers and society at large must tackle new challenges while building on past successes. This transformation must not only address future demands but also contribute to addressing existing inequalities and improving equitable access to and use of health and care services for all individuals.

A contributing factor to health disparities is inequality in access to and utilisation of health and care services. Variations in health and care access, quality, and outcomes persist across different EU member states and associated countries where ensuring equitable access to care for vulnerable groups is a priority. Access[3], the degree of fit between characteristics and expectations of users and the services/providers, enables people in need of health and care services to obtain appropriate and timely care, in the right place, from the relevant provider, subject to context.

Geographic disparities, for example, mean that individuals living in rural or remote areas often face significant barriers to accessing quality health care, including longer travel times, fewer available specialists, and limited health and care facilities. Language and cultural barriers present another challenge, particularly for migrants, who may struggle to communicate their needs effectively or to understand the health information provided to them. Similarly, as health and care services undergo a process of digitisation, the varying levels of digital literacy, as well as lack of infrastructure (such as access to internet) and devices, between population groups may constitute a new driver of inequality in access to health and care.

Furthermore, the cost of health care can be prohibitive for many[4], preventing individuals from seeking timely and appropriate medical attention. These financial barriers vary significantly depending on the service and payment models in use between countries and regions in Europe, but also between different health and care services within each country or region.

Addressing these and other factors is essential for reducing inequities and ensuring that all individuals have equitable access to health and care services.

The unequal distribution of health care resources can lead to both over-utilization and under-utilization and misuse of medical services. The OECD has estimated that “up to one-fifth of health spending could be channelled towards better use”[5]. Underutilisation may reduce early detection of health issues, precluding early interventions that can both improve health outcomes and reduce demands on health and care providers. Overutilisation may take the form of unnecessary consultations in the first instance, as well as increased rates of false positive tests driving further

[3] Access to health and care services encompass several distinct yet integrated dimensions: accessibility, availability, acceptability, affordability, and adequacy (or accommodation).
[4] WHO, 2023, https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/12-12-2023-out-of-pocket-payments-for-primary-health-care-unaffordable-for-millions-in-europe-new-who-report-shows/
[5] Tackling Wasteful Spending on Health, OECD Publishing, 2017

unnecessary follow-up[6]. Additionally, there are some service and payment models currently in use that may incentivise overutilisation of health and care services, while others prevent overutilisation. There is a need to identify the most efficient, yet equitable, service and payment models.

The European Commission's Expert panel on effective ways of investing in health (EXPH) has recommended a reallocation from low to high value care[7]. Value-based care is a transformative approach that prioritizes patient outcomes and the efficient use of resources. This approach shifts the focus from volume-based care and traditional cost-benefit analyses to one that emphasizes value. Within this framework, value is a multi-faceted concept that comprises value to the individual (personal value), equitable distribution of health and care resources (allocative value), quality of health outcomes (technical value), and contribution to overall social participation and connectedness (societal value). Crucially, value-based care is about optimising the use of limited resources. Therefore, value-based care is a relevant framework for understanding and addressing the drivers of inequality in access to and utilisation of health and care services.

6 Aim of the call

The aim of the call is to fund research and innovation projects that, within an ecosystem approach[8], contribute to ensuring equitable access to and utilisation of health and care services. Through the funded research and innovation projects, policy and decision makers should gain the knowledge and tools necessary to implement the reallocation of resources as the health and care system undergoes a transition to meet new and ongoing challenges.

Proposals should be explicitly positioned in relation to the existing evidence base to ensure research is addressing a clear evidence gap. Projects funded under this call will build on existing evidence to deliver innovative solutions that enable key stakeholders to reduce inequalities in access to and utilisation of health and care services. Projects will address how to improve access to all levels of health and care through financial models, models for delivering health and care services and setting up of interdisciplinary integrated care programmes.

Proposals should develop measures that compensate for disparities in access to health and care due to one or more of socio-economic status, geographic location, racial, cultural, or gender identity, literacy and language barriers, as well as limitations in infrastructure and workforce capacity, as these differences contribute to unequal health outcomes and widen existing inequalities. Proposals should devise strategies to meet pre-identified gaps in access to health and care, combining interdisciplinary care, sustainability and innovation. Identification of best practice examples of existing policies particularly successful in addressing inequalities in access to health and care as described in this call, and the running of *de novo* case studies applying the proposed approaches in particular countries or regions, are strongly encouraged. Proposals may also involve implementation research on measures that address inequalities in access to health and care services. By developing,

[6] Report by the Expert Group on
Health Systems Performance Assessment, 2025, https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/1adc2134-5753-4ffb-a6d5-ab8d224874c6_en?filename=hspa_low-value-care_report_en.pdf

[7] European Commission: Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, *Defining value in 'value-based healthcare' – Opinion by the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (EXPH)*, Publications Office, 2019, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2875/148325

[8] See Guidance for Applicants p. 5 for details on the ecosystem approach.

demonstrating and piloting targeted, actionable interventions, proposals should contribute to bridging the gap in access, ensuring all individuals have access to essential health services.

Proposals may leverage existing evidence and proposed solutions to underserved areas ("medical deserts") to demonstrate or pilot how these solutions can be implemented, scaled up and shared. The proposals should ensure proper geographical distribution of health and care services, including long-term care, across different regions in each country, including adequate coverage for remote and rural areas. Proposals may also integrate digitally enabled care pathways[9] into health and care service models in ways which increase inclusion and make geographical disparities in health and care services less impactful. Proposals should address both individual and structural barriers.

Proposals may investigate how access interacts with patient usage patterns that may contribute to unequal utilisation of health and care services and propose solutions that contribute to reducing under- and overutilisation of health and care services. Proposals may explore policies to promote appropriate use by improving knowledge of available options, removing barriers to usage, and engaging users and caregivers. This also includes digital patient literacy as it intersects with health and care systems adopting patient-facing digital health technologies. Additionally, attention is needed to gender and cultural inequities in health and care utilisation within the broader social domain.

Proposals under this call may be framed within value-based care, facilitating to a minimum level of access to health and care services that maximise both allocative and societal value, as well as identify areas where such a level is not met

All proposals would benefit from co-creation with stakeholders, in particular people from disadvantaged groups. Proposals are encouraged to include aspects of social sciences in an interdisciplinary approach.

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

7 Expected outcomes and impacts

Research and innovation projects funded under this call are expected to deliver concrete, feasible, actionable and transferable results that contribute to reducing inequalities in access to health and care services and/or help reduce over- and under-utilisation of such services. The outcomes should aim at transforming care pathways and organisational models and support long-term adoption by health systems. Projects are encouraged to develop new service models, practices, or scalable innovations that directly enhance access and equity in care delivery. While digital tools and technological

[9] Digitally enabled care pathways refer to the utilisation of digital tools to improve the efficiency of health and care delivery, in particular to facilitate a seamless care pathway, or to enable modes of health and care delivery otherwise not possible, such as telehealth consultations.

components may support these innovations, the main focus must remain on health service transformation, sustainability, and implementation in real-world health and care systems.

Applicants are expected to actively involve, in an ecosystem approach, relevant stakeholders, such as:

- decision makers, including public health authorities, social care agencies, payers, service providers, and regulatory bodies, to ensure that outputs are aligned with operational needs and capable of being absorbed into existing governance and delivery structures.
- patient and citizen organizations and other related non-governmental organisations.
- enterprise.
- other end users that can give input to enhance adoption and support long-term impact.

Engagement must go beyond consultation to include co-design, validation, and implementation wherever possible.

Proposals should include letters of support, memoranda of understanding, or other formal expressions of interest from stakeholders positioned to scale or institutionalize results.

Projects should address the well-documented challenge of limited spread of good practices beyond initial 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
- Replication toolkits or guidelines
- Engagement with decision makers, stakeholders and end users

The call aims at supporting research and innovation projects that as many as possible of the THCS objectives (operational, specific and global) and therewith contribute to the following expected impacts:

1. **Health Outcomes**: Improvements in health outcomes, such as reduced morbidity and mortality, improved management of chronic conditions, and enhanced mental health and well-being.
2. **System Efficiency and Effectiveness**: Enhancements in the efficiency and effectiveness of health and care systems, including reduced healthcare costs, decreased hospital readmissions, and streamlined care pathways.
3. **Access and Equity**: Increases in the accessibility and equity of health services, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status, geographic location, or cultural background, can access high-quality care.
4. **Policy and Practice Influence**: Influence policy decisions, regulatory frameworks, and clinical practices, leading to evidence-based improvements in health and care systems (e.g., guidelines adopted, procurement models reformed).
5. **People Empowerment and Self-Management**: Promote patient and community engagement and empowerment, enabling individuals to play an active role in their health and care (e.g., self-management tools, new models with the involvement of patient organisations).
6. **Knowledge Generation and Dissemination**: The contribution of the project to the generation of new knowledge, best practices, and innovative solutions, and the effectiveness of

dissemination strategies to share findings with relevant stakeholders (e.g. publications, training curricula, practitioner networks).

7. **Ecosystem Approach**: The facilitation of multidisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations, within and beyond the consortium, that bring together diverse expertise from a variety of fields and sectors, including healthcare, technology, digital health, public health, health economics, implementation, humanities and social sciences, education, industry, non-profits organisations and end-users, to address complex health and care challenges. The embedding of the endeavour into organisational strategies will raise the transformational power of the consortium. Established links to the wider ecosystems, including the policy level, ensure that the project's reach and impact are maximised. See Guidance to Applicants p. 5 for more details on the ecosystems approach.
8. **Sustainability and Environmental Impact**: 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.

8 Exclusion criteria

Proposals will be rejected if they:

1) Do not take into consideration an ecosystem-wide approach[10]
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 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.

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

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 and represents one evaluation sub-criterion in *"2. Impact: a. Credibility of the pathways towards impacts, b. the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project and d. Suitability and effectiveness of dissemination and exploitation strategies to influence policy decisions, regulatory frameworks, and health care delivery, leading to evidence-based improvements in health and care systems".*

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, clinical and public health sector (e.g. hospitals, community care, wellbeing and social care services), professional medical associations (e.g. General Practitioners associations), private sectors (e.g. SMEs, industry as well as 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, beside the medical fields targeted, to achieve the objectives as well as 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 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 and represents one evaluation sub-criterion in "*1. Excellence: b. Transformative dimension for health and care systems, introducing ambitious and novel approaches, technologies, or methodologies (including multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches) to solve the challenges in reducing the reliance on institutional care in European health and care systems*".

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: "*1. Excellence: b. Transformative dimension for health and care systems, introducing ambitious and novel*

approaches, technologies, or methodologies (including multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches) to solve the challenges to reducing the reliance on institutional care in European health and care systems.; *2. Impact: d. Suitability and effectiveness of dissemination and exploitation strategies to influence policy decisions, regulatory frameworks, and health care delivery, leading to evidence-based improvements in health and care systems; 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation: c. Appropriate multidisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations that bring together diverse expertise to implement approaches."*

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 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 novel, innovative, and ambitious ideas with a high application potential for the end-users and/or with a high implementation potential 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 course of the project running time. Active engagement of such end-users and stakeholders is highly encouraged.** The proposal should describe how these discussions could be approached and how they might impact the overall implementation of the project. These discussions 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 and represents one evaluation sub-criterion "1. Excellence: f. Appropriate engagement of and consideration of perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders/end-users, including patients, healthcare providers, policymakers, regulatory authorities, insurance providers".

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[11]).

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.

9.1.4 Inclusion of sex, gender analysis[12] 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 perse (gender dimension). This applies especially when patients are involved in the proposal. 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 and represents one evaluation sub-criterion in "1. Excellence, e. Appropriate consideration to societal responsibility and ethical issues such as gender dimensions, socioeconomic disparities, underrepresented and vulnerable populations and/or environmental factors."

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

- The consortium must include at least three (3) eligible partners from three different countries whose funding organisations participate in the call. At least two (2) members of the consortium should be legal entities from two different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries. Each of these partners must be eligible and request funding from the respective funding organisation. All three legal entities must be independent of each other.
- Maximum number of partners eligible for funding is nine (9).
- Maximum two (2) eligible partners from the same country.
- The project coordinator must be eligible for funding by a regional/national funding organisation participating in the call.

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

[12] 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

- 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.

Widening measure[13] (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 underrepresented regions/countries and the corresponding 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.

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;
- **Clinical/public health sector:** research teams working at hospitals, policlinics, medical practices, public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations;
- **Companies:** private companies of all sizes;

[13] **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

- **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 and represents one evaluation sub-criterion 3b. *Appropriate interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations that bring together diverse expertise to implement approaches.*

Each project partner has to be represented by one 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 submit up to two proposals as mere partner including one as coordinator (i.e. the coordinator of a proposal can only be partner in another 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 one 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. 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[14] (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 national applicable (EU/EEA (European Economic Area) 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://proposals.etag.ee/thcs/2026) no later than **2 February 2026 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 **11 May 2026**. 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://proposals.etag.ee/thcs/2026) no later than **30 June 2026 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.

[14] Call Steering Committee: comprises a single representative from each country's/region's funding organisation.

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 **10 December 14:00-16:00 CET**. Interested applicants are encouraged to register for the webinar at the following link: https://www.zonmw.nl/en/calendar/thcs-jtc-2026-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 stage. Proposals for both sub-topics will be evaluated in the same PRPs and compete for the same funding. 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 pre-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 reducing inequalities in access to and utilisation of health and care services.
    b. Transformative dimension for health and care systems, introducing ambitious and novel approaches, technologies, or methodologies (including multidisciplinary and intersectoral approaches) to solve the challenges to reducing the inequality in access to and utilisation of health and care systems.

c. Soundness of the proposed concepts, methodology, organisational and business models, solutions, services.
d. Transnational added value to be expected from the collaboration from a scientific perspective[15]
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 of and consideration of perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders/end-users, including patients, healthcare providers, policymakers, regulatory authorities, 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. improve health outcomes, such as reduced morbidity and mortality, improved care management of e.g. chronic conditions, mental health, well-being etc.
        ii. enhance efficiency and effectiveness of health and care systems, including reduced healthcare costs, decreased hospital readmissions, and streamlined care pathways.
        iii. involvement of stakeholders in an ecosystem approach.
        iv. 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.
        v. promote people empowerment and self-management, enabling individuals to play an active role in their health and care.
    d. Scalability[16] and significance[17] of implementing the project's objectives within existing health and care systems and/or in different settings.

[15] Transnational added value is the value resulting from the transnational research project, which is additional to the value that would have resulted from research 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 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, generating insights on the way.
[16] **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.
[17] **Significance** refers to the importance, or value, of those benefits. For example, number of additional healthy life years.

At stage 2 only (i.e. only for full-proposals), the following sub-criterion 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 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 implement approaches.

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 gender balance among PIs within the consortium will be considered.
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 can 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. This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the call. It is not a scientific re-evaluation. The redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts/evaluators. The appeal must demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment, misuse of powers, or a conflict of interests. Appeals that do not meet the above conditions, or do not deal with the evaluation of a specific proposal or express mere disagreement with the result or the reasoning of the evaluation might be judged as not suitable for redress.

Applicants shall submit their appeal to the JCS via email (thcs@zonmw.nl) up to fourteen (14) calendar days following the dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the JCS at the end of each stage (first or second stage). The proposal outcome email containing the results of the evaluation will give information on the appeals procedure, which is described below.

13 Appeals procedure

For an appeal to be admissible the following conditions must be met:

- The appeal must be submitted by the coordinator of the proposal to which the appeal relates;
- Only one appeal per proposal will be considered;
- The appeal must be submitted via email within a fourteen (14) calendar days deadline. The appeal must contain the following minimum information:
    - The name of the call for proposals;
    - The proposal acronym;
    - The title of the proposal;
    - A description of the alleged breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures.

Upon receipt of an appeal, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by the JCS within seven (7) calendar days. The acknowledgement shall report the redress process and the anticipated date by which a decision on the appeal will be communicated to the appellant.

All appeals received by the fourteen (14) calendar days deadline will be processed together, and the decision will be communicated to the appellant by the JCS within six (6) weeks from the deadline for submitting the appeals. The redress procedure within THCS is not an automatic scientific re-evaluation, and the judgement of appropriately qualified experts is not called into question.

14 Responsibilities, Reporting requirements and Dissemination

14.1.1 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 2026 or early 2027 (may be subject to national/regional regulations, see Annex. I for details).

14.1.2 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.

14.1.3 Data Management Plan

THCS expects proposals to develop data management plans (DMPs)[18] according to international state-of-the-art standards for data security (following the FAIR principles[19], the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[20] and in accordance with Ethical principles[21] 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 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.

14.1.4 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.

[18] 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

[19] 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

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

[21] 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

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.

14.1.5 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)[22], 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 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.

14.1.6 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.

14.1.7 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;

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

- Managing the funding organisations relationship with them;
- Analysing and evaluating 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., Web of Science) or other national/open datasets.

Annex. I Regional/National Contact Details

Country	FPO	Contact person(s)	Email	Telephone
Austria	FFG	Gerda Geyer	gerda.geyer@ffg.at	+43(0)577554205
Belgium	FNRS	Joël Groeneveld	international@frs-fnrs.be	+32 2 504 9270
Belgium	FNRS	Maxime Bonsir	international@frs-fnrs.be	+32 2 504 9236
Czech Republic	MZ CR (AZV CR)	Rachel Hengalova	rachel.hengalova@azvcr.cz	+420778880697
Czech Republic	MZ CR	Olga Laaksonen	olga.laaksonen@mzd.gov.cz	+420604786141
Denmark	IFD	Katrine Boeriis	Katrine.boeriis@innofond.dk Internationale@innofond.dk	+45 6190 5092
Estonia	ETAG	Margit Suuroja	Margit.Suuroja@etag.ee	+372 731 7360
France	ANR	Michael Joulie	THCS@anr.fr	+33 (0) 1 80 48 83 57
France	ANR	Maria Tsilioni	THCS@anr.fr	+33 (0) 1 73 54 83 04
France	FR MOH	Melanie Fisher	melanie.fisher@sante.gouv.fr	
France	FR MOH	Cécile Fragny	cecile.fragny@sante.gouv.fr	
France	FR MOH	Generic mailbox	thcs@sante.gouv.fr	
Greece	GSRI	Foteini Karagkouni	f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr	+30 213 1300132
Iceland	Rannis	Helga Snævarr Kristjánsdóttir	helga.s.kristjansdottir@rannis.is	+3545155815
Iceland	Rannis	Ægir Þór Þórsson	Aegir.t.thorsson@rannis.is	+3545155819
Ireland	HRB	Siobhán Hackett	HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie	+353 1 234 5235
Israel	CSO-MOH	Dr. Irit Allon	irit.allon@moh.health.gov.il	+972 (0)2 5082167
Israel	CSO-MOH	Netta Koren	netta.koren@moh.health.gov.il	+972 (0) 545889393
Italy	AReSS	Francesco Fera Agata Di Candia	management@aress.regione.puglia.it a.dicandia@aress.regione.puglia.it	Office : +39 080 5403222 Mob.: +39 347 1588361
Italy	FRRB	Giulia Maria Rossignolo	giuliamaria.rossignolo@frrb.it	+39 02 6765 0159
Italy	IT MoH	Grazia Papagni	g.papagni@sanita.it int-dgric@sanita.it	0039 06 59942829
Italy	Regione Toscana	Donatella Tanini Teresa Vieri	thcs@regione.toscana.it thcs@regione.toscana.it	+39 055 4383256 +39 055 4383289
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Lithuania	LMT	Živilė Ruželė	zivile.ruzele@lmt.lt	(+370) 676 14383

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Poland	NCBR	Magdalena Krzystyniak	thcs@ncbr.gov.pl	+48 571 226 675
Portugal	CCDRC	Sophie Patrício Dora Cabete	ccdrc.projects@ccdrc.pt	239 400 100
Portugal	FCT	Pedro Miguel Ferreira; Marta Norton	thcs@fct.pt	[+351] 213 924 445; [+351] 213 911 565
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Switzerland	SNSF	Priyanka Parmar Cornelia Sommer	thcs@snf.ch	
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	The following legal entities are eligible for funding:
	• Companies of any legal form[23], including
	  • Local authorities[24] and autonomous bodies,
	  • Non-profit making organisations such as NPOs[25]/ ”Daseinsvorsorger”/ user organisations
	• Institutions of research and knowledge dissemination
	  • Universities and universities of applied sciences
	  • Non-university research institutions
	  • Technology transfer institutions, innovation agents and other research-oriented organisations such as associations with a relevant purpose
	• Other legal entities
	
	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-commercial institutions (non-commercial activities)	80 %	60 %

[23] Principally not partnerships under civil law (GesbR)
[24] Activities of local authorities falling within their statutory mandate are not eligible for funding
[25] Non-profit making organisations do not distribute profits to their owners, members or other natural persons or legal entities in accordance with their legal status or articles of association.

Organisations excluded from funding	It is not possible to provide funding to undertakings in difficulty[26].
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

[26] 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_Call4

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 note that personnel costs (Article III.18) have an annual average cap of 80,000 EUR for this call. • For "overhead" costs: Operating expenses: up to 1% within the granted budget. This percentage should be included in the requested operating budget. Personnel: up to 2% outside of the granted budget. This percentage will be paid upon reimbursement of expenses to institutions by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

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.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	https://www.frs-fnrs.be/fr/calendrier-des-appels

1.3 Czech Republic – AZVCR/MZ CR

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym): Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic (MZ CR) **Email address: rachel.hengalova@azvcr.cz, olga.laaksonen@mzd.gov.cz**	
Funding commitment	500 000 EUR
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	**The maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner is 250,000 EUR.** The requested budget from pre-proposal stage to full proposal stage can be slightly modified. This change must be approved by MZCR/AZVCR and also communicated to the JCS. Final budget must not exceed the maximum allocated amount per project.
Eligible institutions	**Research Organisations, Enterprises**. All eligibility rules and criteria can be found on the Czech Health Research website (Výzva 2026 – AZV ČR). It is **recommended** to contact the responsible person at the Czech Health Research Council (prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria). **Conditions for PO funding** – Patient 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 **statutes**.
Organisations excluded from funding	N/A
Additional eligibility criteria	N/A
Eligible costs	Eligibility of all costs, types and their caps can be found on the Czech Health Research website (Výzva 2026 – AZV ČR). It is **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	NO
Submission of additional information at regional/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 of a Research Organisation (if relevant)** 3. **Sworn Statement of a consortium composition (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 (Výzva 2026 – 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 is available on the website of the Czech Health Research Council AZV ČR (Výzva 2026 – 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 IICS, 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/ the Czech Health Research Council.
Further guidance	Výzva 2026 – AZV ČR

1.4 Denmark – IFD

Denmark - IFD **Innovation Fund Denmark** **internationale@innofond.dk**	
Funding commitment	1.000.000 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Both a maximum funding amount and maximum funding rates apply. The maximum funding amount is 300.000 € per partner and (if there is more than one Danish partner) 500.000€ per project. The minimum funding amount is 50,000 € per partner. Additionally, maximum funding rates apply according to IFD's Guidelines.
Eligible institutions	All Danish organisations directly involved in activities in the projects are eligible as applicants to IFD.
Organisations excluded from funding	
Additional eligibility criteria	
Eligible costs	• Salaries; • Equipment (equipment, materials, etc.); • Other project-related costs (events, transportation, travel, audit costs, etc.), • External services (consultancy costs, subcontracting or services); Overhead (for the applicable rate please refer to the IFD's Guidelines)
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Applicants to IFD are not required to submit documentation to IFD beforehand. After the central application deadline, IFD will invite the Danish applicants to upload mandatory documentation to e-grant. The invitation is sent up to 2–4 weeks after the application deadline. Please contact IFD, if you do not receive this invitation from the national e-grant system. All organisations must then submit to e-grant the same proposal including budgets as submitted to THCS. Non-public organisations will also be requested to upload a "No undertaking in difficulty declaration" and a "Financial and legal declaration". In addition, SME's will be required to upload an "SME declaration". If requesting de minimis funding, then a "de minimis aid compliance form" is required. All templates are available at IFD's website.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Guidelines for International Collaborations (https://innovationsfonden.dk/da/p/internationale-samarbejder#accordion7920)

1.5 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. All project-related costs of Estonian sub-project must be incurred no later than 31.08.2029, i.e. the Estonian partner's activities must be completed by that time.
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. If the project is funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources, travel costs are eligible only for travels abroad; - 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 (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, postage costs, etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project. 3. **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**. 4. **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 submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, 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/2022/07/Vastavusnouded-RV-uhiskonkurssidel_aprill-2025.pdf

1.6 France – ANR

Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) **Email address thcs@anr.fr**	
Funding commitment	1 250 000 € **The maximum funding duration is 24 months.**
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 Please see with the French Ministry of Health. • Companies in difficulty (see the Règlement financier | ANR)
Additional eligibility criteria	• Submission of the proposal at the national level: Yes, 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 from countries subject to sanctions applicable to the research field by the European Union authorities are excluded from this call for ANR. ANR will declare Partners requesting its support ineligible if they apply with Partners established in these countries. At the date of publication, these exclusions concern Partners from the following countries and territories: Russia, Belarus, Ukrainian territories out of control of the Ukrainian government. This list might evolve and application measures be taken accordingly.
Eligible costs	Eligible costs and rates of funding depend on the type of partners. Among others, eligible costs may include the following: personnel costs; equipment costs; consumables and animal costs; travel and subsistence costs; sub-contracting costs. For public research organisations, only personnel costs of fixed-term contracts are eligible (except for an EPIC in partnership with an enterprise). 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 is a public research organisation (or other organisation funded at "marginal" costs) or up to 68% of the total personnel costs and up to 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 SIM e-grant system. For more details, please refer to the dedicated THCS 2026 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's SIM e-grant system. **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 2026 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. Funding regulations: Règlement financier | ANR (at "actual costs" version) 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.

1.7 France – Fr MoH

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **Email address**	
Funding commitment	2.000.000 M€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	A minimum funding of 10.000 € A maximum amount of 500.000 € Fr MoH will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects that have been funded through other calls.
Eligible institutions	The French Ministry of Health (Fr MoH) provides funding to French healthcare institutions as defined by the Public Health Code: • **Healthcare establishments:** Articles L.6111-1 and following, L.6141-1 and following, L.6161-1 and following of the Public Health Code (CSP). • **Health cooperation groups (GCS):** Articles L.6133-1 to L.6133-8 of the CSP. • **Health centres:** Article L.6323-1 of the CSP; • **Medical homes:** Article L.6323-3 of the CSP. Each partner must consist of a **physical project leader** and a **healthcare institution**, which is responsible for managing the funding. The physical leader must be **contractually affiliated** with a healthcare institution and must obtain its **explicit approval** to participate in the project. For example, private health professionals may act as project leaders if they have a formal agreement with a French healthcare institution.
Organisations excluded from funding	Any other institution or natural or legal person not listed in the previous section.
Additional eligibility criteria	Funds are reserved for the exclusive use of French healthcare institutions involved in the project. A partial transfer of these funds to other French structures, organizations, or natural or legal persons operating in France may be authorized, provided that they are not eligible for funding from another financing body within the partnership. The healthcare institution must also demonstrate that it does not possess the necessary expertise. In such cases, public procurement rules, including calls for tenders, apply.
Eligible costs	Investment expenses that give rise to depreciation are not eligible. Management costs are eligible up to 10% of personnel expenses. All funding rules and eligible costs are detailed in the budget template provided by the French Ministry of Health (Fr MoH). Applicants are invited to refer to this document.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	A **pre-proposal** and a **full proposal** must be submitted **electronically** via 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 **DGOS (French Ministry of Health)** in parallel with the pre-proposal submission, via the **Démarches Simplifiées** platform: • A **signed submission certificate** (to be valid, the document must include at least three of the required signatures) • A **budget grid** These documents will be available for download on the website of the French Ministry of Health: https://sante.gouv.fr/systeme-de-sante/innovation-et-recherche/l-innovation-et-la-recherche-clinique/article/partenariat-europeen-transforming-health-and-care-systems-thcs The link to the **Démarches Simplifiées** platform for submitting the documents will be available as soon as the application submission phase opens.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	A report on expenses is submitted to FR MOH each year by the funded institutions. 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	Funds delegation will be performed through budgetary circulars of the Fr MoH. Funds will be allowed regarding project progression.

1.8 Greece – GSRI

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym)

GENIKI GRAMMATEIA EREVNAS KAI KAINOTOMIAS/General Secretariat for Research & Innovation (GSRI)

Email address

- **f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr**
- General Secretariat for Research and Innovation

Funding commitment	1 million Euro
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Upper limit of the total public funding will be 200.000 € per project (including indirect costs). This amount can be increased to 250.000 € per project, if the Greek partner assumes the European project coordination.
Eligible institutions	GSRI potentially supports all private and public legal entities legally operating in Greece (not natural persons) namely: a) Research and knowledge-dissemination organizations (e.g. Higher-education Institutions or Research Centers/Institutes) b) Undertakings (a private and/or public sector unit, regardless of its legal status or size, engaged in economic activity) c) Other entities that will be considered as Research and knowledge-dissemination organizations, if respective requirements are met, or undertakings
Organisations excluded from funding	A. GSRI does not support individuals and individual enterprises. B. The following categories of undertakings are also not eligible: • An "undertaking in difficulty" (according to art.2 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, as amended by Reg.(EU) 2021/1237 & Reg.(EU) 2023/1315). • An undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market.
Additional eligibility criteria	A. Large enterprises are eligible for funding only if they cooperate with an SME. B. With regard to clinical organizations in particular, in order to be eligible, they have to carry out research as one of their main objectives, according to the law or their statutes. C. Aid intensity Public research Institutes and Universities: the aid intensity can reach 100% for performing non-economic activities in accordance with point

19, article 2.1.1 of the «Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation» (2014/C 198/01).
Maximum aid intensity for undertakings is calculated according to paragraphs 5,6,7 of article 25 of Reg. (EU) 651/2014, as amended by Reg.(EU) 2021/1237 & Reg.(EU) 2023/1315 (table 1): (a) 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research; (b) 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development. The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased up to a maximum aid intensity of 80% of the eligible costs as follows:
(a) by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises;
(b) by 15 percentage points if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
(i) the project involves effective collaboration:
— between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or
— between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results;
(ii) the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

		Basic research	**Industrial/ Applied Research**	**Experimental development/ innovation**
Large Enterprises			50-65%	25-40%
Medium Enterprises			60-75%	35-50%
Small Enterprises			70-80%	45-60%
Universities, public research organisations		100%		
Public authorities with R&D activities		100%		
Associations without economic activities, NGOs	**Large**		50-65%	25-40%
	Medium		60-75%	35-50%
	Small		70-80%	45-60%

Table 1: Funding rates-maximum funding percentages

Eligible costs	In compliance with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 [in particular according to article 25 (c) and 25 (d)] declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021, the eligible costs of research and development projects shall be allocated to a specific category of research and development and shall be the following: (a) personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project. (b) costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible. (c) costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project. (d) additional general costs and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies, travel expenses, organization of meetings, dissemination/publicity costs, audit costs, incurred directly as a result of the project implementation. (e) indirect costs = flat rate of 25% of direct costs (except subcontracting costs). Indirect costs are eligible for all legal entities and include costs that do not incur directly as a result of the project implementation (e.g. administrative and management costs, utility costs)
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	With regard to the evaluation of the projects, at national level, only eligibility check is conducted and not a full peer review at pre-proposal and full proposal stages. We rely on the evaluation made by the independent reviewers and the Peer Review Panel (PRP). A national procedure will follow for the approved for funding at the transnational level proposals only. For more information, please contact the NCP.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Same as above
Further guidance	

1.9 Iceland – Rannís

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) The Icelandic Centre for Research (Rannis) **Email address** helga.s.kristjansdottir@rannis.is	
Funding commitment	300.000 Euros
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	300.000 Euros (max 45.000.000 ISK)
Eligible institutions	Universities and research institutions (non-profit entities)
Organisations excluded from funding	All for-profit entities
Additional eligibility criteria	According to the Handbook of the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF) 2026
Eligible costs	Eligible cost includes salaries, operating expenses, travel cost, purchase of equipment, publication costs and overhead in accordance with the rules of the Icelandic Research Fund
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	A copy of the application and confirmation of receipt of the application from the relevant fund must be submitted to Sóknarstyrkir at Rannís
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	No

Further guidance	Handbook of the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF) 2026 The budget applied for shall be stated in Euro. Conversion from Euro to Icelandic kroner is based on the official exchange rate per application date for pre-proposals, January 2026.

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; €430,000 including overheads. Coordinators: €405,000 direct costs (with the additional €75,000 for coordination-specific activities); €530,000 including 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). HRB cannot provide funding to Enterprise organisations as partners or collaborators. Organisations providing services for the project can be paid by the Host Institution via sub-contracting costs. Any related procurement activities should adhere to national and EC procurement guidelines.
Additional eligibility criteria	Please refer to the HRB call webpage at https://www.hrb.ie/funding-scheme/thcs-2026/
Eligible costs	Please refer to the HRB call webpage at https://www.hrb.ie/funding-scheme/thcs-2026/
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.

1.11 Israel – CSO-MOH

Chief Scientist office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH) **http://www.health.gov.il/**	
Funding commitment	Up to 300,000 €, 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

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

1.13 Italy – FRRB

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Fondazione Regionale per la Ricerca Biomedica (FRRB) **Email address** giuliamaria.rossignolo@frrb.it; bandi@frrb.it	
Funding commitment	500,000.00€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum € 250,000 per project. MAXIMUM ONE PARTNER FROM LOMBARDY PER PROJECT.
Eligible institutions	**Eligible applicants:** 1. Public or Private Italian IRCCS (Scientific Institutes for Health Research, Hospitalization and Health Care) 2. Public Health Care Providers (ASST) 3. Agenzie di Tutela della Salute (ATS), 4. Azienda Regionale Emergenza Urgenza (AREU), 5. Universities - only in in partnership with one of the organisations above (1,2,3,4) located in Lombardy and requesting funding to FRRB 6. Research Institutes - only in in partnership with one of the organisations above (1,2,3,4) located in Lombardy and requesting funding to FRRB All applicants must be in Lombardy, and their activities should take place in Lombardy.
Organisations excluded from funding	Enterprises and for-profit Organisation are **NOT** eligible. Patient Associations are **NOT** eligible.
Additional eligibility criteria	n.a.
Eligible costs	Direct costs: •Personnel (for public IRCCS and ASST, ATS and AREU, ONLY staff recruited specifically on the project). Personnel costs of PIs who have a permanent contract (contratto a tempo indeterminato) with their own organisation are NOT eligible. •Consumables, animals purchase, maintenance and breeding. •Equipment (on hire or eligible amortization rate). •Travel: max 10% of the total direct costs (overheads and subcontracting costs excluded) •Publications (only open access): max 5% of the total direct costs (overheads and subcontracting costs excluded).

	•Overheads: 20% flat rate calculated on direct costs (Subcontracting costs excluded from this calculation). •Other direct costs: please include here other costs, including those related to patient involvement (insurance, reimbursement, etc.). •Subcontracting: max 20% of the total direct costs (overheads costs excluded) FRRB will require the submission of a financial audit certificate together with the final financial report. This cost, to be included under the "Subcontracting" category will be eligible up to a maximum of € 8.000. Only costs generated over the lifetime of the project will be considered eligible. Rules regarding the Principal Investigator (PI): 1. A Principal Investigator (PI) cannot simultaneously hold more than one FRRB grant. PIs who are currently FRRB grant holders cannot apply to a new JTC unless their project is closed before the deadline of the new JTC pre-proposals. A project is considered closed when the final financial and scientific reports have been sent to FRRB. This rule applies only to PIs, not to team members. 2. Personnel costs of PIs who have a permanent contract with their own organisation are NOT eligible.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Not necessary
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	It is not necessary to send the proposal to FRRB. However, FRRB requires a **Pre-eligibility form** to be filled in, signed and uploaded on FRRB platform. According to internal procedures, Regional Foundation for Biomedical Research (FRRB) will carry out an **eligibility check** to potential applicants prior to the submission of the pre-proposals. The eligibility check will be based on the verification of a dedicated form ("***Pre-eligibility form***") to be uploaded on FRRB platform duly completed and signed by the Principal Investigator and by the Scientific Director/Director of the Department at least 10 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. FRRB will provide feedback on the "*Pre-eligibility form*", **ONLY** in case of major non-eligibility issues. In addition, FRRB provides an excel sheet to help applicants abide by FRRB funding rules. This form is meant to support the PIs in the

	elaboration of the proposal budget, but it does not need to be sent to FRRB. Information and instructions on how to fill the Pre-Eligibility check form will be published on the dedicated FRRB webpage in due time. Following the award, Lombardy beneficiaries will be requested to submit annual scientific and financial reports.
Further guidance	Administrative and financial guidelines will be provided by FRRB in due time

1.14 Italy – IT-MoH

Funding Agency - Italian Ministry of Health (IT MoH) g.papagni@sanita.it int-dgric@sanita.it	
Funding commitment	4.000.000,00 €
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max 400.000 per project. Anticipated number of fundable proposals: 10.
Eligible institutions	Only IRCCS (Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) researchers are eligible to apply.
Organisations excluded from funding	Universities, other research Institutes, companies
Additional eligibility criteria	Simultaneous PI participation in different 2026 JTCs funded by the Ministry of Health is not allowed. No more than two Italian PIs (Principal Investigators) are eligible to apply for the same project. Italian PAOs can be funded as a sub-contractor of an IRCCS if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the EC. The maximum amount eligible for a sub-contract is **≤ 10% of the total budget** (from the IRCCS Budget). Italian PAOs can still participate in Consortia as "Collaborators" with their own funds.
Eligible costs	**Direct Costs:** • Personnel (only temporary contracts or permanent contracts for the amount of hours dedicated to the project, **≤ 60%**); • Consumables/Supplies; • Animals/Model costs; • Equipment (only on leasing or rent); • Travel (**≤ 30%**); • Dissemination activities (**≤ 1%**); • Publication costs: < 2%; open access < 5%; • Patients recruitment costs; • IT Services and Data Bases; • Coordination costs **Indirect Costs:** • Overhead (**≤ 10%**, included in the total); Other indirect costs are not eligible. Transfer of eligible funds abroad is not allowed. **Subcontracts are allowed only upon approval, by presenting via Workflow – code ER, a request together with the National preelegibility**

	form, the latest 20 days before the deadline of the pre-proposal submission.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	In order to expedite the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance to the applicant prior to the submission of the proposals. To this end, **it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return to the IT-MoH a pre-submission eligibility check form through their IRCCS, using WFR System-> ER communication code**, before submitting their proposal to the Joint Call Secretariat. It is strongly recommended that the form, completed and duly signed, is returned at least 10 working days before the proposal submission deadline. Applicants will be sent written notification of their eligibility status. Changes in acronyms and budgets provided in the pre-submission eligibility check are not allowed. The pre-eligibility form can be downloaded here: https://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_0_file.pdf
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Submission of annual scientific and financial reports at the national level will be required according to the rules of the Ministry of Health (Ricerca Finalizzata). Further information on the rules of the Ministry of Health can be requested to the national contact persons.

1.15 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 - 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. It is strongly recommended to contact the Regional focal point at least 30 days before the pre-proposals submission deadline in order to ensure that the project proposal is adequately aligned with the regional acts and plans and to receive adequate support referring to regional eligibility. 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 (mailto: thcs@regione.toscana.it), at least, 10 days before the pre-proposal submission deadline
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	
Further guidance	Financial guidelines: Decreto dirigenziale n. 27322 del 20.12.2023 https://www301.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiD.xml?codprat=2023AD00000030275

1.16 Latvia – LCS

Latvian Council of Science (LCS) **lzp@lzp.gov.lv**	
Funding commitment	300 000 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.

1.17 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	Eligible for funding institutions are Lithuanian research and higher education institutions that are included in the Register of Education and Research institutions, public healthcare institutions, academy of science mentioned in the state Law on Science and Studies, other state public institutions such as National libraries, archives, museums. Eligible beneficiary institution (grant holder) manages the state budget funds allocated to the project following the rules stated in the legal acts, as well as representing the project partners (if applicable 'project partner' means public or private legal entity that, together with the eligible institution, created the conditions for project implementation).
Organisations excluded from funding	Only eligible institutions can directly receive funding, as other institutions can receive funding only through partnership with eligible one
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 JTC2026 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.) Midterm and 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.

1.18 Malta – Xjenza Malta

Xjenza Malta eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt kaylen.borg.1@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).** 2. 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 Christy Baldacchino (christy.baldacchino.2@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/

1.19 The Netherlands – ZonMW/NWO/NWO-SIA

Zorgonderzoek Nederland / The Netherlands organisation for health research and development (ZonMw) **THCS@Zonmw.nl**	
Funding commitment	**€2.750.000** This budget is made available by: • The Dutch Research Council (NWO) • Taskforce for Applied Research SIA (NWO-SIA)* • The Dutch Organisation for knowledge and innovation in health, healthcare and well-being (ZonMw). *€900,000 of the total budget is made available by NWO-SIA and is earmarked for Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences.
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Dutch institutions, eligible for funding as described under 'eligible institutions' can apply for a maximum financial contribution of in total **€325.000** per proposal. In specific cases the maximum financial contribution can be increased with a maximum of **€200.000** but only if all of the conditions below are met: • The consortium exists of two eligible Dutch partners within the same proposal; • Both Dutch partners apply for research personnel costs; • The maximum budget per partner can never be more than €325.000. A 10% co-financing on the total proposal budget is required by the Dutch partner(s).
Eligible institutions	Universities, University Medical Centres (UMCs), Universities of Applied Sciences*, Health Authorities, Research Institutes, SMEs, User Organisations, NGOs, Public Sector, Municipalities. * As recognized under the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW).
Organisations excluded from funding	Large enterprises
Additional eligibility criteria	**End-user involvement:** For proposals with Dutch applicants, involvement of patients 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 by ZonMw if this would or could constitute unlawful state aid. Therefore, the following state aid measure applies to this funding round: Exemption Decision for Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI). For the purposes of this call for grant applications,

	ZonMw will consider proposed project activities as SGEI. This means that there are specific conditions for funding and rules for budgets. Read more here about the specific conditions of the SGEI Exemption Decision. **Note:** For applications at ZonMw a 10% cofinancing (in cash or in kind) on the total project budget is required by the Dutch partner(s). This means that if your funding request is €325.000 you need to co-finance €32.500,- on top of that. Making the total project budget €352.500,-. The cofinancing contribution can be done in cash or in kind. ZonMw will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or part of projects that have been funded through other calls. ZonMw will cross-check all THCS-proposals submitted for funding with national and international calls of ZonMw, NWO and NWO-SIA for potential double funding.
Eligible costs	The following costs are eligible: - Staff costs; - Travel costs; - Material/ equipment and consumer goods; - Dissemination and knowledge exchange costs; - Data management/data steward; - End-user involvement. The budget of Dutch partners must comply with the financial conditions of ZonMw. For more information, please consult the General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants ZonMw or your national contact person.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	**Not at central submission stage.** Only proposals recommended for funding will be invited by ZonMw at a later stage to submit a national application with regards to the national granting process. • Funded projects will be subject to standard ZonMw Grants Conditions. • Make sure to consult the ZonMw Open Access publication and Data management policies.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	No

Further guidance	Awarded projects will need to deliver a Consortium Agreement (CA) and a Data Management Plan (DMP). With regards to the Consortium Agreement ZonMw requests a copy of the CA, signed by all partners, within 6 months after the project start date.

1.20 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	Maximum €300.000 / Norwegian participant. If the participant has coordinator role, max €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 (https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/policy_and_exchange_rates/euro_reference_exchange_rates/html/eurofxref-graph-nok.en.html).
Eligible institutions	Universities, health authorities, research institutes, SME, industry/large enterprises, user organisations, NGOs, public sector, municipalities.
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 the “Definition of ‘undertaking in difficulty’” on our website). "Enkeltpersonforetak", that is Norwegian companies with sole proprietorship can only participate as subcontractor, and have the role as partner (beneficiary) in projects.
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. Undertakings (companies) 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. SME or industry/large enterprise partners are funded with up to 50% of their eligible project costs. See *Conditions for awarding state aid* (https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/state-aid/) for more details.
Eligible costs	See *What to enter in the project budget* (https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/financing/how/budget/). Note that the cost category "Procurement of R&D services" will not be used in this call. Funding to Norwegian SMEs and Industry will be provided according to the State aid rules. See *Conditions for awarding state aid* (https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/state-aid/) for more details.

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Yes, after the evaluation process, if the project is retained for funding,
Further guidance	Please refer to the guidelines for applicants.

1.21 Poland – NCBR

Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju (NCBR) thcs@ncbr.gov.pl	
Funding commitment	2 000 000 EUR
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	• Enterprises[27] - Micro, Small, Medium and Large; • Research organisations[28]; • Groups of entities composed of at least two enterprises, • Groups of entities composed of at least one research organisation and at least one enterprise, • Group of entities composed of at least two research organisations. Entities must be established as a legal person[29] and must conduct its business, R&D or any other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register[30].
Organisations excluded from funding	Other than above

[27] 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");
[28] as defined in Article 2 (83) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014;
[29] Legal person - an entity that is capable of having and amending legal rights and obligations within a certain legal system, such as to enter into contracts, sue, and be sued, excluding natural persons;
[30] if applicable.

Additional eligibility criteria	A condition for the participation of a group of entities as the Applicant in the competition is its formal existence on the date of submission of the pre-proposal, confirmed by its members concluding, at least conditionally, agreement on the creation of a group of entities; Please note that group of entities counts as at least two project partners from Poland (it meets the limit on the number of participants from the same country, please refer to call text for details). Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organisations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation, under the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on criteria and rules on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws 2025, item 783. 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);
Eligible costs	**The eligible costs shall be the following:** **A. <u>For research organisations</u>:** 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. That costs should account 25% of all eligible direct costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs for research organizations, excluding subcontracting (6); It means 7 = (1+2+3+4+5) x 25%. **B. <u>For enterprises</u>**: 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. That costs for enterprises include costs related to consumables, travel and other direct costs. Additional overheads costs should account 20% of eligible direct project costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs; It means 5 = (1+2+3+4) x 20%.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Research organizations
Fundamental/Basic Research	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50 + 5/15/25 (max 75 %)	Up to 50 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 50 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 100%
Experimental development	Up to 25 + 5/15/25 (max 50 %)	Up to 25 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 60 %)	Up to 25 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 70 %)	Up to 100 %

Only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) is not eligible for funding as separate research tasks in the project schedule but can be eligible as part of R&D tasks.

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 for industrial research and experimental development based on the condition of effective cooperation between entrepreneurs or between entrepreneurs and research organisations.

For more details on eligible costs, applicants are advised to check cost eligibility guide (przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów) in the call announcement on NCBR webpage.

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 NAF must be submitted jointly by a consortium (group of entities) comprising Polish entities only.

All entities invited to submit 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	Annual scientific reports are obligatory.
Further guidance	Sample documents are available at: https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/wniosek-krajowy 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.

1.22 Portugal – CCDRC

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) **Email address** Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro Portugal (CCDRC) Email address ccdrc.projects@ccdrc.pt	
Funding commitment	400 000€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	**Maximum 250 000 EUR per Consortium with regional coordination** - Budget must be shared by all regional partners participating in a consortium and requesting funding to CCDRC. --- **Maximum 150 000 EUR per Consortium with regional participation -** Budget must be shared by all regional partners participating in a consortium and requesting funding to CCDRC. If more than one Portuguese applicants from the same international consortium apply for funding from FCT and CCDRC, the total budget to be requested to these two agencies cannot exceed the cumulative sum per consortium of 150 000 EUR (Portuguese Participation) or 250 000 EUR (Portuguese Coordination).
Eligible institutions	Non-entrepreneurial entities from the Research and Innovation System (ENESII), namely: a) Higher education institutions, their institutes and R&D units; b) State laboratories, associated or international laboratories based in the Centro Region; c) Private non-profit institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Technology and Innovation Centres (CTI); d) Other public and private non-profit institutions that carry out or take part in research activities. Enterprises will not be considered eligible in the context of this call. **Note:** Only entities from **NUTS II Centro** can apply to CCDRC's funding. All regional applicants are advised to contact CCDRC's team before applying. To be considered an eligible partner, all applicants must comply with the requirements established in articles **123.º to 133.º, 138.º, 139.º**

	(number 1) 141.º, 142.º, 144.º and 145.º of the **Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital.**
Organisations excluded from funding	SME (micro, small, medium enterprises) and large companies **will not be considered eligible in the context of this call.**
Additional eligibility criteria	The activities performed by regional stakeholders, within the projects, must: a) Incorporate at least one activity of experimental development or industrial research, according to the concepts presented in r) and y) of article 3.º of the ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital***; b) Fit the scope of the following types of operations: - Scientific Research and Technological Development (R&D); - Proofs of Concept; according to a) and b) of article 136.º of the ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital.*** **Note:** Only projects scoring **above 9 (nine)** by the international peer review panel will be funded by CCDRC. To all other criteria and conditions not explicit in this annex, please consult ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digita***l (https://data.dre.pt/eli/port/103-a/2023/p/cons/20240808/pt/html)
Eligible costs	Eligible costs must be verified in article 143.º of the ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital*** for the operation tipology "IC&DT" and "Provas de Conceito". The **maximum funding rate** for non-entrepreneurial entities from the Research and Innovation System (ENESII) is **85%.** More details can be found in article 141.º of the ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital.***

Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Must be done after the final decisions for approvals at transnational level. Stakeholders will receive instructions on this in due time.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	When applying to the transnational call, all regional stakeholders must fill in and sign a **Declaration:** - For projects led by non-entrepreneurial entities: https://ris3.ccdrc.pt/index.php/ris3-documentacao/declaracao-de-compromisso-saccct/download The Declaration must be sent within 5 working days after the submission of the pre-proposal to ccdrc.projects@ccdrc.pt.
Further guidance	To all other criteria and conditions not explicit in this annex, please consult ***Regulamento Específico da Área Temática Inovação e Transição Digital*** **https://diariodarepublica.pt/dr/detalhe/portaria/328-b-2023-223573621?_ts=1700139369853**

1.23 Portugal – FCT

Portugal **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)** **thcs@fct.pt**	
Applications requesting funding from FCT under this call will be subject to Regulation on projects funded solely by national funds, published in Regulation No. 999/2016, in its current wording, that is, as amended and republished by Regulation No. 5/2024 of 3 January, and corrected by Rectification Statement No. 366/2024/2, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, No. 100, of 23 May 2024, and by all other applicable national and European Union legislation.	
Funding commitment	FCT budget allocation for this call is 500.000,00€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with a **Portuguese Main Applicant is 250.000,00€**. • The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with a **Portuguese Project Applicant is 150.000,00€**. • If more than one Portuguese applicant participating in the **same international consortium** applies for funding by FCT, the **combined funding** demanded by all the Portuguese applicants **may not exceed the maximum financial threshold for proposals with a Portuguese Coordinator** (250.000,00€) or with a Portuguese **Partner** (150.000,00€). Portuguese Coordinator and/or Partners in the same international consortium will therefore have to share the funding that will be granted by FCT. • For information on funding rates, see no. 2 of article 7 of FCT Regulation.
Eligible institutions	For information on the type of beneficiaries eligible for FCT funding under this call, see article 3 of FCT Regulation.
Organisations excluded from funding	For information on the type of beneficiaries eligible for FCT funding under this call, see article 3 of FCT Regulation
Additional eligibility criteria	• For information on the criteria of beneficiaries' eligibility, see article 5 of FCT Regulation. • For information on the criteria of projects' eligibility, see article 6 of FCT Regulation.
Eligible costs	• In accordance with no. 1 of article 7 of the FCT Regulation, the funding to be granted to proposals requesting funding from FCT under this call is non-reimbursable and is based on **real costs**. As such it must be justified through invoices paid or other accounting documents of similar probationary value, under the terms of no. 5 of article 8 of FCT Regulation.

	• For the purposes of defining the budget, the terms defined in article 8 of FCT Regulation apply to **eligible expenses** and in article 9 to **non-eligible expenses**. • Excluded from the range of eligible expenses are the **salaries and other remuneration supplements** of teachers, researchers and other staff with a previously established indefinite contract with the Public Administration. • Expenditure on **adapting buildings and facilities** is limited to a maximum of 10% of the project's total eligible expenses. • The **project's indirect costs** are based on the application of a flat rate of 25% of the direct eligible costs.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	No
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	**Statement of Commitment**: • Within 10 working days after the deadline for submitting the pre-proposal, a **Statement of Commitment** duly signed by the Researcher in Charge (partner and/or coordinators) and by the legal representative of the Portuguese Proposing Institution must be sent to thcs@fct.pt. • The stamp or white seal of the Portuguese Proposing Institution will not be required on a digitally signed Statement of Commitment. • Portuguese applicants of transnational consortia that do not apply for funding from FCT do not need to submit the Statement of Commitment to FCT.
Further guidance	• FCT and CCDR Centro, as Portuguese funding agencies on this call, reserve the right to evaluate the **possibility of transferring application(s) to the other Portuguese funding agency** if an application is considered non-eligible by the funding agency selected by the candidate institution, but is eligible by the other Portuguese funding agency, which will from then on be responsible for managing the application(s). The transfer of applications will be carried out in accordance with the terms set out in the MoU signed between the parties. • If FCT or CCDR Centro reach the limit of the budget that each of the agencies has set for funding projects under this call before the number of applications recommended for funding by each of these agencies has run out, the applications recommended for funding that lack funding may be transferred to the agency that still has the budget to fund applications. The transfer of applications recommended for funding will be carried out in accordance with the terms set out in the MoU signed between the parties. • The percentage of time dedicated to transnational projects will **not** be added to the percentage of time dedicated to existing national projects.

1.24 Romania – UEFISCDI

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) - 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	

1.25 Slovakia – CVTI SR

Centrum vedecko-technických informácií Slovenskej republiky (CVTI SR) **cvti@cvtisr.sk**	
Funding commitment	800,000 EUR
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	The maximum funding amount per Slovak project partner in international projects is 250 000 EUR. The minimum funding amount is 100 000 EUR per Slovak project partner.
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) • Public administration bodies and organizations established by them, including local and regional government authorities • Non-governmental non-profit organizations • Cluster organizations • Private sector entities (entrepreneurial/business sector)
Organisations excluded from funding	
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.
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.

	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.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	Submission of pre-proposal and full proposal to the THCS JTC 2026 Call Secretariat only.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	After having been informed about the international funding decision, CVTI SR will require also submission of separate application for national funding into the national submission platform. The final formal funding decision is made by CVTI SR and only after the project was recommended for funding by the Partnership.
Further guidance	All Slovak applicants are strongly advised to contact the CVTI SR's contact points before submitting their proposals. 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

1.26 Spain – CSCJA

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia – Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía (CSCJA) **Email address** ep.fps@juntadeandalucia.es	
Funding commitment	500.000€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	125.000€, 250.000€ if coordinator (including 21% indirect costs)
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 de la Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía.
Organisations excluded from funding	Organisations not fulfilling 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 of Health and Consumer Affairs. • Regional applications must be submitted to the General Secretariat of Public Health and R&D&I in Health 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 Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía (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.

1.27 Spain – IDIVAL

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym): Fundación Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla (IDIVAL) **Email address: marialuisa.samano@idival.org; natalia.puente@idival.org**	
Funding commitment	150.000€
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max. 100.000€ participating as partner Max. 150.000€ participating as coordinator
Eligible institutions	Institutional eligibility criteria: The eligible institutions are non-profit research organizations and public bodies in the health care sector of the autonomous community of Cantabria, such as Hospitals, Healthcare centers, the ministry of health or the Cantabria Health Service that performs RDI activities in Cantabria. Eligible applicants: Cantabrian Principal Investigators must have a job relationship with the Public Health System of Cantabria, IDIVAL or with the University of Cantabria as a professor linked to health care activity. The research team will be made up of at least three people and could participate researchers from other national or international institutions. The figure of the Co-principal investigator is contemplated, who does not need to meet the requirements for the principal investigator. Incompatibilities: • Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal under the Joint Call 2025
Organisations excluded from funding	Only will be eligible entities from Cantabria working in the public health sector and legally linked to IDIVAL
Additional eligibility criteria	Proposals must fit within Cantabria's strategic areas defined in the biodynamization plan: https://boc.cantabria.es/boces/verAnuncioAction.do?idAnuBlob=368181
Eligible costs	- Direct costs such as: - Personnel costs for employment contracts hired for the proyect development. - Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. - Travelling costs incurred directly as a result of the research project. - Equipment corresponding to the research project. - Subcontracting special tasks to EU and non-EU countries (i.e. IT services, etc.) is allowed within the limits legally established.

	- Indirect costs (overheads) or clinical assays, proofs of concept, proofs of principle **<u>are not eligible for funding in this call</u>**.
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	NO
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	NO
Further guidance	https://boc.cantabria.es/boces/verAnuncioAction.do?idAnuBlob=368181

1.28 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 2026***) (Pending to be published)
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: • **220.000€** (overheads included), if there is only **one** Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. • **275.000€** (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: • **300.000€** (overheads included), if there is only **one** Spanish Partner in the proposal, acting as a coordinator. • **400.000€** (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 2026 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 **2026** 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 2026 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 2026 **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 (máster), 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. - Contracts for PhD students will be done in the framework of National Subprogramme for Training (scholarships are not eligible). - Personnel costs will NOT be eligible when they correspond to civil servants or the equivalent personnel (as specified in **AES 2026**) 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 2026** 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 2026*** that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. • **Overheads**, according to ***AES 2026*** (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 2026** (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 2026** (probably **September/October 2026).**
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**. 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 mauriciog@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*)" 2026 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. .

1.29 Sweden – Forte

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) 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	Yes, applicants also need to submit their proposals to Forte´s application portal, Prisma.

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)

1.30 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.
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 partners must be higher than the cost of the Swiss research partner/s. Implementation partner with less than 250 FTE must document their capacity to fund their own contribution. Implementation partner requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. in funding must undergo a due diligence process. **For detailed eligibility criteria refer to the THCS Call 2026 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 employment contracts of Swiss project partners 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	-
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	Implementation partners with less than 250 FTE and implementation partner requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. in funding must provide specific additional documents. **Please follow the guidelines for the THCS Call 2026 detailed on the Innosuisse Call Website.**
Further guidance	Calls for projects and applications (innosuisse.ch)

1.31 Switzerland – SNSF

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym): Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) **Email address:** thcs@snf.ch	
Funding commitment	2'119'275 CHF (the precise amount in EUR will be subject to the exchange rate applicable on the date of the final project selection).
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	**Minimum Grant:** SNFS provides a minimum grant of CHF 100’000 per project. **Maximum Grant :** For a 3-year project, SNSF provides a maximum grant of CHF 400’000 per applicant. Note: The term “applicant” refers to any Switzerland-based principal investigator (PI) requesting financial support from SNSF.
Eligible institutions	Applicants must be employed at a research institution within the higher education sector or at a non-commercial research institution outside the higher education sector, as defined in the Research and Innovation Promotion Act (RIPA). Eligible institutions include Accredited Swiss Higher Education Institutions and institutions listed as Research Institutes of National Relevance.
Organisations excluded from funding	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), large enterprises, and user organisations.
Additional eligibility criteria	All applicants requesting financial support from the SNSF must fulfill the eligibility requirements of the **SNSF Project Funding scheme**. The conditions for Project Funding can be found here: • Project Funding Regulations (PDF) • Funding Regulations (PDF) • General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations (PDF) The following points highlight some key eligibility criteria; applicants should consult the links above for the complete and detailed requirements: **Eligibility requirements – applicants** • As an applicant, you must actively spend at least 50 per cent (0.5 FTE) of your time working in research (this includes also teaching

	and management activities) at an eligible research institution in Switzerland. • After obtaining your doctorate (PhD), you have conducted scientific research for at least four years. If you do not have a doctorate, the four-year period normally starts after at least three years of full-time research activity. This also applies to medical doctors without a PhD. As an applicant, you are in a position to be fully responsible for carrying out a research project and managing the staff involved in it. **Eligibility requirements – application** • Each applicant may submit only one project proposal per call. Participation in other THCS consortia projects is allowed only as a self-funded partner. • An applicant may receive up to three concurrent SNSF grants, provided at least one is a Weave/Lead Agency project, an International Co-Investigator Scheme project, or a European consortium project. The grants that count toward this limit are listed here. • Projects with overlapping funding periods are approved only if research goals are different. • **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.
Eligible costs	Applicants can apply for staff salaries and research costs as well as funding for scientific collaboration, networking and communication. **Applicants may not apply for their own salaries**. Important: SNSF Grant recipients may not simultaneously hold a staff position on any SNSF-funded project. You can find out in detail which research costs the SNSF covers here: • Funding Regulations (PDF) (Art. 28). • General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations (PDF) (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	Applications must be submitted at two levels: • **Central submission:** The consortium coordinator submits the pre-proposal and full proposal on behalf of the consortium via the Joint Call Secretariat's (JCS) online system. • **National submission**: Principal Investigators (PIs) who are based in Switzerland and request SNSF funding must also submit a separate administrative application through the SNSF online system (**mySNF**). Submission via **mySNF** is mandatory. This administrative submission is separate from the JCS proposal and does not replace it. **The deadlines for both central (JCS) and national (SNSF) submissions are identical**. In **mySNF**, preproposal forms are created by selecting: *Projects > Partnerships > Transforming Health and Care Systems: Pre-proposal*. Full-proposal forms are created by navigating to: *Projects > Partnerships > Transforming Health and Care Systems: Full Proposal*. Please be aware that the SNSF has introduced a new CV format, and applicants are required to create an account on the SNSF Portal to ensure their CV is formatted according to the specified SNSF standards. In cases where multiple Switzerland-based PIs are part of the same consortium, only one application should be submitted via mySNF. One Switzerland-based PI must act as the 'corresponding applicant,' while the other Switzerland-based PIs should be designated as 'other applicants.' Please note that both the corresponding applicant and co-applicants must be designated as Principal Investigators (PIs) in the consortium application submitted to the JCS to request financial support from the SNSF. International PIs in the consortium applying for funding from agencies other than SNSF cannot be declared as "project partners" in applications submitted via **mySNF**. Instead, they must be designated as 'consortium partners' and must apply for funding from their respective research funding organizations.

Submission of additional information at regional/national level	**Requirements for Release of Funds from the SNSF:** • Applicants must complete the Data Management Plan (DMP) on **mySNF** once the project is approved. The DMP must cover the research data collected, observed, generated, or reused in the Swiss part of the project and must comply with the SNSF policy on open research data. • Applicants must submit a copy of the consortium agreement signed by all project partners on **mySNF**. • Applicants must submit on **mySNF** all requisite regulatory and ethical approvals relevant to the Swiss component of the project, such as authorizations for animal experiments or ethics committee approvals, as applicable. Yearly financial reports must be submitted to the SNSF via **mySNF** The final scientific report submitted to the THCS Joint Call Secretariat must also be provided to the SNSF. No other scientific reports are required. Grants will be managed according to standard SNSF rules described in Project Funding Regulations (PDF)
Further guidance	SNSF Regulations: • Project Funding Regulations (PDF) • Funding Regulations (PDF) • General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations (PDF) If you are applying to the SNSF for the first time, we recommend contacting the SNSF contact person(s) in advance for guidance before submitting your application on **mySNF.**

1.32 United Kingdom – NIHR

Funding Agency Full name (Acronym) Department of Health (NIHR) Email address sarah.puddicombe@nihr.ac.uk cc: internationalapplications@nihr.ac.uk	
Funding commitment	GBP 2 million for 2026 call
Minimum/Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max €2,000,000 for any one project. Although we would anticipate funding 2-5 awards from the total 2 million allocation. Applicants must justify that the budget requested is appropriate and proportionate to the outlined research plans and ensures value for money.
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 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. 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	**Out of scope:** • NIHR does not fund research involving animals or animal tissue.

Eligible costs	Costs for research and recruitment in the UK are included. 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 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. 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. NIHR further supports open access for publications. NIHR will pay reasonable fees required by a publisher to effect publication in line with the criteria of the NIHR Open Access policy see guidance https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-open-access-publications-funding-guidance
Submission of the proposal at regional/national level	NIHR will require applications for UK based research components to be submitted through the NIHR awards management system. This is only required once the proposal submitted to the EU is recommended for funding. NIHR will then require full budget details for assessment as part of the precontracting 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 will be requested once a funding recommendation has been provided by the THCS partnership call.
Submission of additional information at regional/national level	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

Annex II. Indicative funding commitments in THCS JTC 2026

Country	FPO	Indicative funding commitment
Austria	FFG	€1,000,000
Belgium	FNRS	€ 300,000
Czech Republic	MZCR/AZVCR	€ 500,000
Denmark	IFD	€ 1,000,000
Estonia	ETAG	€ 300,000
France	ANR	€ 1,250,000
France	Fr MoH	€ 2,000,000
Greece	GSRI	€ 1,000,000
Iceland	Rannís	€ 300,000
Ireland	HRB	€ 1,060,000
Israel	CSO-MOH	€ 300,000
Italy	AReSS	€ 60,000
Italy	FRRB	€ 500,000
Italy	IT-MoH	€ 4,000,000
Italy	RT	€ 400,000
Latvia	LCS	€ 300,000
Lithuania	LMT	€ 300,000
Malta	Xjenza Malta	€ 500,000
The Netherlands	ZonMw/NWO/NWO-SIA	€ 2,750,000
Norway	RCN	€ 1,850,000
Poland	NCBR	€ 2,000,000
Portugal	CCDRC	€ 400,000
Portugal	FCT	€ 500,000
Romania	UEFISCDI	€ 1,000,000
Slovakia	CVTI SR	€ 800,000
Spain	CSCJA	€ 500,000
Spain	IDIVAL	€ 150,000
Spain	ISCIII	€1,000,000
Sweden	Forte	SEK 15,000,000 (approx. € 1.4 M)
Switzerland	Innosuisse	€ 2,700,000
Switzerland	SNSF	CHF 2,119,275
United Kingdom	NIHR	£ 2,000,000
Total		***€ 34,700,000**

*Approximate due to currency conversions.