



Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)

The rapid development and aging of society, coupled with the arrival of new health emergencies, are placing increasing pressure on health and care systems. Countries need to respond to this growing burden and live up to their shared commitment to high-quality healthcare. Is your organisation concerned by these challenges and willing to address them in collaboration with European partners?

Harmonised and coordinated solutions are the way forward. The Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) aims to encourage the transformation and improvement of healthcare systems in Europe and participating countries to make them equitably accessible, sustainable, efficient, resilient and inclusive.

This partnership aims to bring about comprehensive and long-term changes in the complex research and innovation ecosystems in the field of health and care. Stakeholders work together to stimulate these activities. Particular emphasis is placed on the need to encourage implementation, increase information on policy and practice, and provide the necessary inputs to improve the capacity of health and care systems.

1 Participation of Swiss Organisations

This Partnership is aimed at all types of organisations and entities that can contribute to the THCS vision:

- Universities or other higher education institutions,
- Research and knowledge dissemination organisations,
- Non-university public or private research and/or innovation organisations,
- Hospitals or foundations or any healthcare providers,
- End-user organisations
- Commercial companies: start-ups small and medium-size enterprises and large companies.

The Swiss National Science Foundation and Innosuisse act as funding agencies. The Federal Office of Public Health is part of the partnership in the role of a policy observer and contributes expertise through National Mirror Groups.

Swiss partners can lead projects and take the role as a consortium leader. A THCS consortium must consist of at least 3 participating countries, whereas two have to be EU Member States or [Horizon Europe Associated Countries](#). The respective national and/or regional eligibility criteria apply.

2 Submit a proposal

The THCS Partnership manages the application procedure and the evaluation centrally. All relevant information and documents are available on the partnership [website](#) as well as the access to the submission platform. Carefully study the call documentations and the eligibility criteria. Please note that the Partnership uses a one-step approach, with an 'Intend to apply' deadline on the 16th April 2024. Proposals without a preceding 'Intend to apply' will not be eligible and therefore be considered for the evaluation. The deadline for the submission of a

Proposal is 14th May 2024. Funding decisions will be announced in October 2024 by the THCS Partnership.

3 Innosuisse eligibility criteria

Projects submitted under a THCS call must fulfil following national eligibility criteria:

- The Swiss part of the consortium must at least contain one Swiss implementation partner¹. Participation of a Swiss research partner is optional.
- Swiss implementation partners can be end user organizations, health provider, companies or other organizations based in Switzerland. A Swiss company identification number (UID number) is required for each implementation partner.
- Swiss research partners can be higher education research centres according to article 4 letter c RIPA² or non-commercial research centres outside the higher education sector according to article 5 RIPA.
- The share of the total eligible costs of the Swiss implementation partners must be higher than the cost of the Swiss research partner/s.

4 Funding rates

Research partners	100 % of the eligible costs
SMEs, start-ups, for-profit and non-profit and end-user organisations, counting less than 250 full-time-equivalents	50 % of the eligible costs
Large companies and other implementation partners counting more than 250 full-time-equivalents	25 % of the eligible costs

Implementation partners with less than 250 FTE requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. funding, have to submit a due diligence form to Innosuisse before the Full proposal deadline. The form can be downloaded from the [Innosuisse Call Website](#). If Innosuisse already checked the due diligence in the context of another Innosuisse funding instrument, the result will be considered accordingly. If the requested amount is less than CHF 1 Mio. they must submit the latest financial statements (annual accounts) over two years. Start-ups who do not have financial statements available, may submit a Business Plan. Contact for the submission see Chapter 7.

5 Eligible costs

Only costs for the execution of the project plan specified in the application form are eligible. Limits of eligible costs are defined in the present document, according to the Ordinance of 20 January 2021 on the measures for the participation of Switzerland in the Programmes of the European Union in the field of research and innovation (SR 420.126, in German³). Only 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.

5.1 Salaries

For universities pursuant to Article 4 letter c RIPA, the institution's usual salary rates apply. Only effective wage costs will be reimbursed.

¹ Implementation partners: organisations that later produce, sell or apply the results of the projects in practice, see also [SME Definition](#) by the EU commission

² Federal Act on the Promotion of Research and Innovation, [SR 420.1](#)

³ FIPBV <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2021/72/de>.

For companies as well as non-commercial research institutions and institutions outside the higher education sector, effective wage costs are eligible up to the following maximum amounts:

Employee category	Gross hourly rate	Gross annual salary
Project coordinator, deputy project coordinator, experienced researcher	max. CHF 119/h	max. CHF 220'500
Research assistant, scientific collaborator	max. CHF 68/h	max. CHF 126'000
Technician, Programmer	max. CHF 61/h	max. CHF 113'400
Postgraduate, Assistant	max. CHF 46/h	max. CHF 85'100

The gross hourly rates correspond to an annual full-time equivalent of 2100 hours including 13.5% holiday and public holiday compensation. On top of the gross salary rates, the effective social costs are eligible.

Only salaries of personnel with a Swiss employment contract of a partner registered in Switzerland are eligible. Employees working at a foreign subsidiary count as subcontractors.

5.2 Fixed assets

Depreciation of fixed assets necessary for the execution of the project are eligible costs, unless the asset is fully depreciated by third-party funds specifically earmarked for this purpose. The depreciation rates for equipment are determined in accordance with the internal accounting rules. If the asset is not used exclusively for the project, the respective actual share of use in the project may be taken into account. The proportion of use of the asset must be verifiable (e.g. by means of laboratory records) and auditable. The following depreciating calculation applies:

$$\text{fixed asset depreciation cost} = \frac{\text{purchase price}}{\text{lifetime}} * \text{time fixed asset is reserved for project}$$

5.3 Consumables

Consumables which are necessary for the execution of the project and are accounted for in the proposal and description of work, are eligible costs. Details will be negotiated during the elaboration of a national financial plan in the case the project receives a confirmation for funding.

5.4 Travel costs

Innosuisse does not reimburse travel costs within Switzerland. However, international travel costs, necessary for the execution of the project, are eligible. Travel costs for conferences abroad are only eligible for funding, if participation is linked directly to the project and the partner makes an active contribution to the conference (presentation, poster, paper, booth). Expenses for meals abroad are reimbursed at the following flat rates: CHF 15.- for breakfast and CHF 30.- for lunch or dinner. Effective costs for hotels are eligible up to CHF 300.- per night. All expenses must be specified and documented in detail.

5.5 Subcontracting

Subcontracting is eligible for funding, if it is duly justified and complements the project partners own contribution to the project in a suitable way. It should not cover key work packages of the project and already existing project partners cannot be subcontracted.

5.6 Overhead costs

Indirect or overhead costs are applied to all eligible cost categories except subcontracting. Overheads correspond to the Innosuisse rate of 15% except for research institutions with a separate agreement with Innosuisse.

5.7 Non-eligible costs

Costs, which are not essential for the execution of the project are not eligible for funding, for example certification of products (CE labelling), costs for patent application, office supplies, publication costs and participation at conferences, which are not justified in the THCS application.

6 Payments

Innosuisse contributions will be paid according to following schedule: The first payment after the signature of the contracts (Grant and Consortium Agreement as well as national contracts) will cover 50%, the mid-term payment is 30% and the final payment 20% of the total funding contribution.

7 Contact

Please read the provided information on the [THCS Partnership and Call 2024](#) carefully.

For more information you can contact:

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