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Innosuisse – Swiss Innovation Agency

Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)

The rapidly changing demographic make-up of society, coupled with the arrival of new health emergencies, is 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 health and care 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, foundations or other 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 thematic expertise.

Swiss partners can lead projects and take the role as a consortium leader. A THCS consortium must consist of independent legal entities from minimum three participating countries, whereof at least two members should be from two different 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 as well as the access to the submission platform are available on the THCS Website under [Funding Opportunities 2026](#). Please study the international as well as national call documentations and eligibility criteria carefully.

The application process of the Partnership consists of a two-step submission and evaluation procedure with a *pre-proposal* and a *full-proposal* stage. In both phases, one joint proposal document shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational project. The proposals must be written in English.

The project coordinator must submit the pre-proposal to the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) via the THCS Partnership Online Submission System by **2nd February 2026, 14:00 CET**. Pre-proposals which are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will be considered ineligible.

The decision on which applicants are selected to submit a full-proposal will be communicated to applicants from **11th May 2026**.

Please note that joint full-proposals will only be accepted from applicants explicitly invited by the THCS Joint Call Secretariat to submit full-proposals. Proposals without a preceding pre-proposal and a following invitation to the full-proposal stage will not be eligible. The deadline for the submission of a full-proposal is **30th June 2026** at 14:00 CEST.

Any fundamental changes between the pre- and full-proposal stage, concerning the composition of the consortium, project objectives or requested budget are subject to approval and must be communicated to the THCS Joint Call Secretariat and to the regional/national funding organisations.

Funding recommendations will be announced in late **October 2026** 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, healthcare 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 ³ , 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

¹ Implementation partners: organisations that later produce, sell or apply the results of the projects in practice.

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

³ [SME Definition](#) by the EU commission

5 Own contribution

Implementation partners must contribute 50%-75% to their project costs.

SMEs, Start-ups, for-profit and non-profit and end-user organisations, counting less than 250 full-time-equivalents must document their capacity to finance own contributions by providing the document "Financial Information Template" available for download on the Innosuisse call website, the profit/loss and balance sheets 2023/2024 and other relevant information to Innosuisse. The documents must provide evidence that own contributions for the project are secured at the date of submission. Large companies and other implementation partners counting more than 250 full-time-equivalents are not obliged to submit their audited financial documents.

All implementation partners requesting more than CHF 1 Mio. funding must submit documents for an additional due diligence directly to Innosuisse. The relevant documents must be requested by e-mail (eu-partnerships@innosuisse.ch).

Start-ups, which cannot document two years of operation must also request and submit the documents for due diligence as mentioned above. The obligation to document the financial capacity to finance their own contribution for the project remains the same as for other implementation partners counting less than 250 full-time-equivalents.

Financial documents must be submitted to Innosuisse at the latest before the deadline for the submission of the pre-proposal on 2nd of February 2026. The documents must be submitted by [IncaMail](#), which is a federally recognised, secure and mutually functioning delivery platform. There is no charge for receiving digital registered mail. A certain number of registered items of mail can be send each month free of charge. For more information, please consult the [Innosuisse website](#). Applications lacking financial documents of Swiss partners as explained above may be rated incomplete and excluded from evaluation.

6 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 German⁴). 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.

6.1 Salaries

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

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

⁴ FIPBV <https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2021/72/de>.

The gross hourly rates correspond to an annual full-time equivalent of 2'100 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.

6.2 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:

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

6.3 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.

6.4 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 200.- per night. All expenses must be specified and documented in detail.

6.5 Subcontracting

Subcontracting is eligible for funding, if it is duly justified, not between project partners 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.

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

7 Payments

Innosuisse contributions will be paid according to following schedule: The first payment after the signature of the contracts (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.

8 Contact

Please read the provided information on the [THCS Partnership](#) and [Call 2026](#) website carefully.

For more information please contact:

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9 Support

As a Swiss SME, you can get support for your THCS project from an [Innosuisse innovation mentor](#) to help you develop your application and get your project off the ground.

As a Swiss research institution, you may request support for your THCS project from your respective grant office.