



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Directorate C – Public Health

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Directorate E – People

Agenda point: The co-funded Partnership “Transforming Health and Care Systems”

Purpose and objectives

This meeting represents a good occasion to have another round of discussions with Member States on the opportunities offered by the potential co-funded European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS). It will inform Member States on the actual status of the partnerships landscape to be supported under the Horizon Europe and will update them on several key milestones. The meeting will reiterate the benefits of coherence and complementarity of evidence-based health system policies on the one hand, and policy-informed health systems research on the other hand. The objective is to mobilise support and joint actions from interested Research and Health Ministries.

Key issues and background

Health systems face challenges and are confronted with a rising demand for care in a context of budgetary constraints. These bring the need to innovate and reform, in order to safeguard and improve their resilience, accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the pre-existing urgency of rethinking and redesigning health and care systems and has revealed their weaknesses in terms of effectiveness, resilience, preparedness and response. The key problem drivers are the following:

- (i) *Demographic changes* – increasing pressure on health and care systems from ageing population with multiple long-term chronic diseases and complex medical conditions.
- (ii) *Poor uptake of innovations* – novel technologies and approaches face barriers in implementation and scale-up before reaching patients and health and care systems.
- (iii) *Climate changes, environmental factors and globalization* – pressure on health and care systems because of natural disasters, emerging and new infectious diseases, migration/deficit of health and care professionals.
- (iv) *Changes in political and social landscape* – given the budgetary constraints and constant rising of public expenditures on health and care in Member States, health and care systems should improve their effectiveness and efficiency to increase overall sustainability. Additional pressure is created by the necessity to tackle health inequalities and to ensure provision of quality services to vulnerable populations, including migrants.

A holistic and innovative approach is vital to address all the above-mentioned challenges. In EU, health and care services are provided through a wide range of different systems run at the national and regional levels. Therefore, technological and

organisational innovations need to be adapted and tailored to the specificities and context of each system. Furthermore, it takes time and effort to collect evidence and a unified methodology to ensure transferability of results.

The THCS Partnership proposes a solution by developing, testing and delivering better knowledge and best practices to guide all relevant stakeholders across Europe. The Partnership will be organised around the following specific objectives to be achieved by 2030:

1. To provide multidisciplinary research and innovation actions in priority areas of common interest to fill knowledge gaps, produce evidence and develop guidance on how to transform health and care systems.
2. To provide applied research/development and innovation actions in priority areas of common interest to develop new solutions for health and care to support and maintain people's health.
3. To strengthen the research and innovation community in the field of health and care systems across Europe.
4. To improve the ability of relevant health and care actors to take up innovative solutions, including organisational, service and policy innovations.
5. To establish a platform for connection and coordination of relevant stakeholders to develop the ecosystems allowing for a swift scaling up and transfer of successful innovations to different health and care systems.

The THCS Partnership will strengthen collaboration between policy makers, citizens, professionals and researchers in and between different countries and regions. It will also support the collaboration between their local/regional health and care ecosystems. Such cooperation should help accelerate innovation and implementation of innovative solutions while combining and leveraging available funding for research and innovation. It will ensure that results of research can disseminate more rapidly within and across European countries and therefore be introduced in policy and practice. A schematic intervention logic is presented in Annex 1.

Further details may be found in the draft proposal document developed by the Drafting Group¹ in collaboration with the Commission services² – https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/european-partnership-health-and-care-systems-transformation_en

Issues/specific questions for the SGPP and Shadow PC to consider at the meeting

Based on this information/presentation and your country priorities:

- 1) Would the potential co-funded European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems contribute to addressing your national and/or regional priorities in health and care?
- 2) If so, would you be interested to engage in this Partnership? (please, specify the Partnership's objectives that you consider relevant for your country).
- 3) How could Member States take up and absorb European Partnership's results in health systems and policies?

¹ BE, ES, FR, IT, LV, NL, NO, AT, PL, CH, SE, FI

² DGs RTD, SANTE, CNECT, ECFIN.

Annex 1. THCS Intervention logic

