

# **The Malta Council for Science and Technology**

## **is seeking suitable experts to participate in the scientific evaluation within the Horizon Europe transnational Partnership in Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS).**

# **Call for Expression of Interest for Experts to evaluate THCS transnational research project proposals.**

## **Candidates must have expertise in:**

* Secondary, tertiary and/or quaternary prevention
* Health technology research
* Implementation research
* Knowledge on transformation of e.g., health and care systems
* Business knowledge in health and care
* Health & Care organisations
* Patient involvement
* Community care initiatives

**DEADLINE: 28th March 2024, 17:00 CET**

## **1.0 General**

This call is to seek suitable experts to participate as evaluators in the scientific evaluation process of the THCS Partnership transnational research project proposals.

MCST is one of the 64 national and regional RTDI programme owners and managers from 26 countries that are part of this transnational initiative. Each partner involved in the THCS Joint Call has been asked to nominate a minimum of three experts to form the Peer Review Panel (PRP). For this call, applications are welcome broadly regardless of nationality and/or country of residence, however experts based in Malta will be given priority in the list of nominations. **The THCS Joint Call Secretariat will then select the evaluators from the list of nominated evaluators submitted by the Funding Partners.**

The chosen evaluators will then be assigned to scientifically evaluate a number of project proposals, in accordance with their area of expertise. **The selection of evaluators from the pool of experts is at THCS partnership’s Secretariat’s sole discretion.** Each project proposal will be scientifically evaluated by three (3) independent evaluators according to the relevance of their expertise to the proposal.

This call is open to experts who will not participate in any of the THCS Partnership project proposals and having expertise in THCS Joint Call as per the above points.

## **2.0 About the THCS Partnership**

The [THCS Partnership](https://www.thcspartnership.eu/)’s overarching aim is to maintain and improve people’s health by supporting the transformation of the health and care systems to achieve high-quality, fairly accessible, sustainable, efficient, resilient and inclusive health and care systems for all. This will implicate a coordination and optimization of research and innovation efforts in Europe and partner countries.

The common vision of the THCS Partnership is already manifested in its [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)](https://www.thcspartnership.eu/thcs/strateig-overview/strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda.kl), which identifies the following specific objectives (SO) to be achieved by 2030:

* **SO1.** Intensifying cooperation for better evidence-based policies, investments and sustainability of the health and care systems
* **SO2.** Strengthening and enlarging the research and innovation community in the field of health and care systems across Europe and beyond, mobilizing broad interest of multidisciplinary research and innovation on health and care systems.
* **SO3.** Improving ability of participating countries and regions to implement innovation in health and care systems (organisational, service and policy and technological innovations).
* **SO4.** Enabling the health and care systems of participating countries and regions to improve and to support people’s health mainly through digitalisation and other tools, and increased access to new and improved solutions, developed in an ethically and ecologically friendly manner.
* **SO5.** Strengthening and enlarging the health and care practice community.

The 2nd THCS Joint Call is entitled “**Innovate to Prevent: Personalised Prevention in Health and Care Services”**.Further information can be found on the THCS website: <https://www.thcspartnership.eu/funding/announcement-of-the-joint-transnational-call-for-proposals-healthcare-of-the-future-.kl>

## **3.0 Service Requirements**

The THCS Partnership Joint Call 2024 is being implemented as a one-stage procedure, therefore the preliminary timeline for the evaluation procedure is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1st June 2024 – 31st of July 2024 | Proposal Review Phase |
| 9 – 11 September 2024  | PRP online meeting |

A Peer Review Guidelines containing instructions and guidance will be distributed to the evaluators prior to the start of the evaluation process. Moreover, experts will require to attend an online 1.5h instruction meeting. Experts can expect about ± 15 full proposals for online review.

### **3.1 Evaluation of Proposals**

There will be one (1) evaluation procedure for the projects that passed the THCS Partnership and national administrative eligibility criteria, and each proposal will be evaluated scientifically by at least three (3) independent experts.

The proposal evaluations by the selected experts are planned to be split into two stages:

1. The experts will individually evaluate the assigned proposals according to the evaluation criteria and through the THCS Partnership Application and Evaluation portal. A summary report for each proposal would need to be submitted to the Call Secretariat.
2. The experts will meet in the PRP meeting and come to consensus on the rank of the projects in the independent experts panels’ ranking list(s).

The evaluation will solely be based on the evaluation criteria specific to the Joint Call as set by THCS Partnership Joint Call Secretariat. The evaluation meetings will be overseen by an independent observer.

## **4.0 Remuneration**

Financial remuneration will be provided to the evaluators by the THCS Joint Call Secretariat and **NOT** by the Malta Council for Science and Technology. An expert will only receive compensation when they join the mandatory PRP meeting (€110 per ½ day of attendance) and **only if at least eight written reviews have been performed**.

## **5.0 Evaluator Requirements**

Experts must, at minimum, hold a first degree and a post graduate qualification in a specific area of expertise, which is in line with the strategic objectives of the THCS partnership and the Joint Call. They must show proof of at least five years of professional experience (or at least 2 years if in possession of a Ph.D.) in their area of expertise.

Expert nominations will be compiled by the THCS Joint Call Secretariat. The nomination shall include the full name of the nominated expert, contact details, current employment, nationality, fields of expertise, and CV. The THCS Joint Call Secretariat may also ask for additional information that is considered necessary.

## **6.0 Conflicts of Interest (COI)**

It is imperative that the nominated experts are by no means affiliated with any active project proposal and/or the THCS Partnership. All evaluators are required to declare their independence to the projects and the THCS Partnership to avoid any conflict of interest. They must certify to adhere to the confidentiality conditions of the evaluation process and a form must be signed and submitted prior to the start of the individual evaluation.

A COI exists if a candidate:

* is involved in the preparation of any of the THCS Partnership project proposals
* stands to benefit directly / indirectly if the proposal is positively evaluated
* has a family / personal relationship with any person that is part of a consortium that has submitted a research project proposals

In the case that during the evaluation process the expert encounters a real or perceived COI situation, the expert is expected to inform the THCS Joint Call Secretariat immediately and await further instructions before proceeding with any further work.

## **7.0 Instructions and Application**

Interested candidates are to submit the following documentation:

* Filled in Annex 1: Submission Form
* A detailed *Curriculum Vitae*

The requested documentation shall be sent electronically to eusubmissions.mcst@gov.mt, with “THCS Partnership Call for Experts” as a subject heading. Applications should be received by not later than day, **28th March 2024, 17:00 CET**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the experts to ensure that they are provided with a written confirmation of receipt of their application.

Interested parties may also contact the THCS Joint Call Secretariat on THCS@zonmw.nl or the Maltese national contact points for the THCS Partnership on [annalisa.cartabia@gov.mt](https://villabighi365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/george_b_bugeja_mcst-services_com/Documents/annalisa.cartabia%40gov.mt) / christy.baldacchino.2@gov.mt for additional information.

*Data Protection Clause: The information collected through this Call shall be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta* *and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). The contents remain confidential and solely intended for the use of this Call’s purpose and will not be disclosed or copied without your consent. Submitted information will be retained for a period of ten (10) years from the date that the THCS Partnership ends.*

## **Annex 1: Submission Form**

*Kindly fill in the following form with the requested information, sign and submit together with a detailed CV.*

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| --- | --- |
| Full Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Gender | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Affiliation/Organisation *(e.g., university, research institute, hospital)* | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Country | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email Address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Phone (*incl. Country Code*) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Main Field of Expertise  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Availability between the 1st of June and 31st of July 2024 (*please confirm availability in any 2-3 weeks within this period*) | Yes [ ] No [ ] Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Availability for the PRP meeting (9-11th September 2024) | Yes [ ] No [ ] Click or tap here to enter text. |

[ ]  I consent that the above documents provided are shared with THCS Joint Call Secretariat for the selection of evaluators for the THCS Partnership Joint Call.

[ ]  I consent that the THCS Joint Call Secretariat discloses information in the public domain in relation to the evaluators throughout the review process including name, surname and area of specialization.

[ ]  I confirm that a detailed CV has been attached to the form.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature |  |
| Date |  |