Transforming Health & Care Systems Partnership

Joint Transnational Call 2026

THCS

TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

Xjenza Malta's Info Session

12 December 2025 @ 11:00 CET

Internationalisation Unit

Christy Baldacchino
Senior Executive

Kaylen Borg
Executive

Before We Begin

- This session will be recorded. Both the presentation and the recording will be made available on the XM website.
- A dedicated Q&A segment will follow the presentation.
- During the presentation, we kindly ask that you submit any questions via the chat function.
- To minimize background noise, please keep your microphone muted unless you are invited to speak.

Technical Units

Space Unit

Policy and Strategy Unit

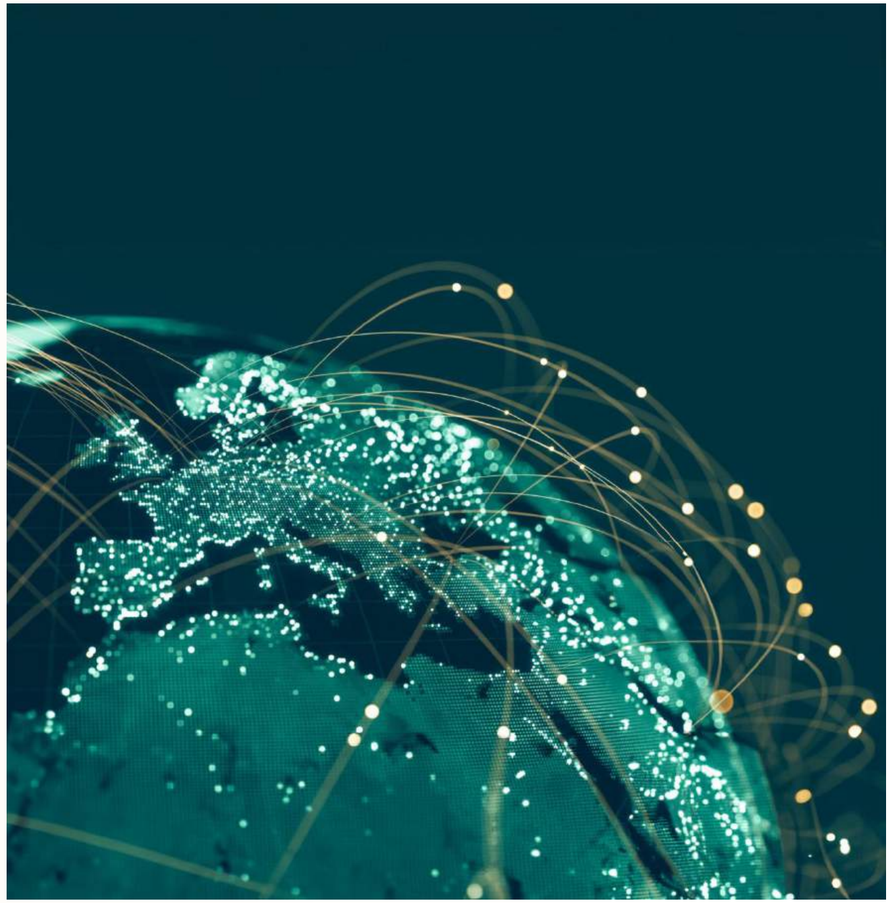
Framework Programme Unit

Internationalisation Unit

R&I Unit

The Internationalisation Unit

- Follow international trends in Research, Development and Innovation through its representation in international and regional science diplomacy forums
- Strengthen international R&I collaboration amongst local and foreign researchers and stakeholders
- Implements regional and international funding programmes, using national funds, aimed at the local R&I stakeholder community



Internationalisation Funding Portfolio

THCS
TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

JPI OCEANS

Cet Partnership

PRIMA
PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

spire
SEED GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDING

XJENZA MALTA

TÜBİTAK

OHAMR

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

M-ERA.NET

ACCESS2PARTNERSHIPS
A2P

SINO MALTA
BILATERAL FUND

Horizon Europe Partnerships

European Partnerships

Part of Horizon Europe
(2021-2027)

EC + national & private
partners join forces

Addressing pressing EU challenges

Climate Health

Energy Innovation

Implementing Joint Transnational Calls

PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

CLUSTER 1: Health

- Innovative Health Initiative
- Global Health Partnership
- Transformation of health systems
- Chemicals risk assessment
- ERA for Health
- Rare diseases
- One-Health Anti Microbial Resistance
- Personalised Medicine
- Pandemic Preparedness
- Brain Health*

CLUSTER 2: Culture, Creativity, Inclusive Societies

- Resilient Cultural Heritage*
- Social Transformations and Resilience*

CLUSTER 4: Digital, Industry & Space

- Chips (formerly KDT)
- Smart Networks & Services
- High Performance Computing
- European Metrology (Art. 185)
- AI-Data-Robotics
- Photonics
- Made in Europe
- Clean steel – low-carbon steelmaking
- Processes4Planet
- Global competitive space systems
- Innovative Materials for EU*
- Virtual Worlds*
- Textiles of the Future*
- Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition*

CLUSTER 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility

- Clean Hydrogen
- Clean Aviation
- Single European Sky ATM Research 3
- Europe's Rail
- Connected and Automated Mobility
- Batt4EU
- Zero-emission waterborne transport
- Zero-emission road transport
- Built4People
- Solar Photovoltaics*
- Clean Energy Transition
- Driving Urban Transitions

CLUSTER 6: Food, Bio-economy, Agriculture, Env…

- Circular Bio-based Europe
- R&I in the Mediterranean Area (Art. 185)
- Biodiversa+
- Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy
- Water4All *
- Animal Health & Welfare
- Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions
- Agriculture of Data
- Safe and Sustainable Food System
- Forests and Forestry for sustainable Future*

- Institutionalised partnerships (Art 185/7)
- EIT KICs
- Co-programmed
- Co-funded

* *Under preparation*

PILLAR III - Innovative Europe

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

- Innovative SMEs *

EIT

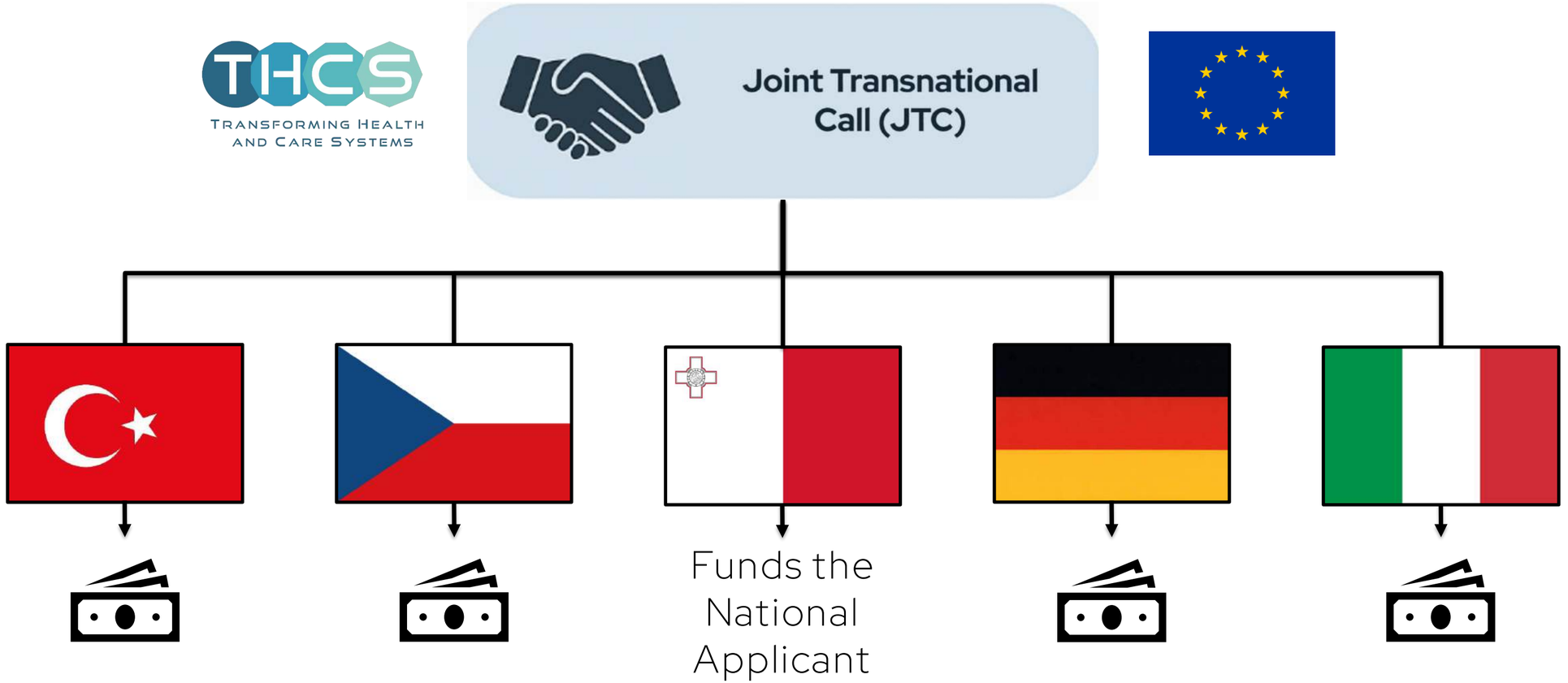
- InnoEnergy
- Climate
- Digital
- Food
- Health
- Raw Materials
- Manufacturing
- Urban Mobility
- Cultural and Creative Industries
- Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystem*

CROSS-PILLARS I AND II

- European Open Science Cloud

European Commission

Joint Transnational Call



National Partners collaborate through a common call, each beneficiary funded by their own national funding agency

Joint Transnational Projects

General Requirements

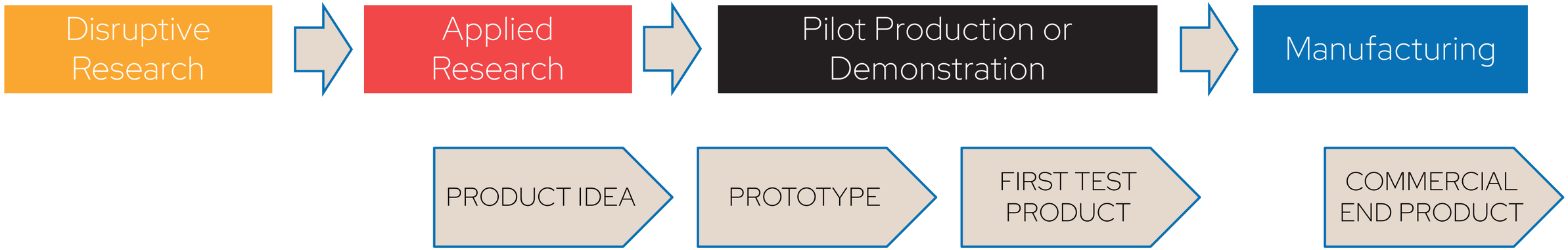
- Minimum 3 partners from at least 3 different countries
- One coordinator
- Self-funded partners allowed
- TRL generally around 1-8

Call Overview

- Consortium Proposal - Call Secretariat
- National Application - Xjenza Malta
- National rules apply to each partner
- Evaluation by the Call Secretariat

Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

TRL 1	TRL 2	TRL 3	TRL 4	TRL 5	TRL 6	TRL 7	TRL 8	TLR 9
Basic principles observed	Technology concept formulated	Experimental proof of concept	Technology validated in lab	Technology validated in relevant environment	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment	System prototype demonstration in relevant environment	System complete and qualified	Actual system proven in operational environment



Joint Transnational Call 2026

THCS

TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

Kaylen Borg
Executive

What is THCS?

€ 305 M planned investments over 7 years

Mission: Support sustainable, efficient, resilient, inclusive, and high-quality people-centred health and care systems through coordinated R&I actions, capacity building, and evidence-driven solutions.

Joint Transnational Call 2026

Call Focus: "Access to Care" – funding R&I projects ensuring equitable access to and utilisation of health and care services across Europe.

Call Objective: Build evidence-based solutions enabling policymakers and decision-makers to:

- Implement resource reallocation strategies
- Reduce inequalities in access and utilisation
- Navigate health system transition and emerging challenges

Project Scope: Proposals addressing:

- Financial models for sustainable service delivery
- Innovative health and care service delivery models
- Interdisciplinary integrated care programmes

Participating Countries

19 Member States:
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands

5 Associated Countries: *Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom*

General Call Specifications

2-Stage process: Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal submission

Project Duration: Up to 36 months

Malta-based entities are eligible for up to €500,000 per project

Consortium Requirements:

- Minimum 3 independent legal entities from 3 different participating countries
- Maximum 2 funded partners from the same country
- Maximum 2 collaborators (self-funded partners) per consortium (3 if including operational stakeholders)

General Call Specifications

- Each project consortium must have a Coordinator to oversee the project, with other members serving as Partners.
- The Consortium Coordinator must submit the proposals via the THCS EPSS online tool.
- Each Principal investigator can submit up to two proposals as mere partner including one as coordinator.
- All Consortium Partners need a Participant Identification Code (PIC).

Ensure to meet call specifications while also respecting the relevant National Rules for Participation.

National Requirements

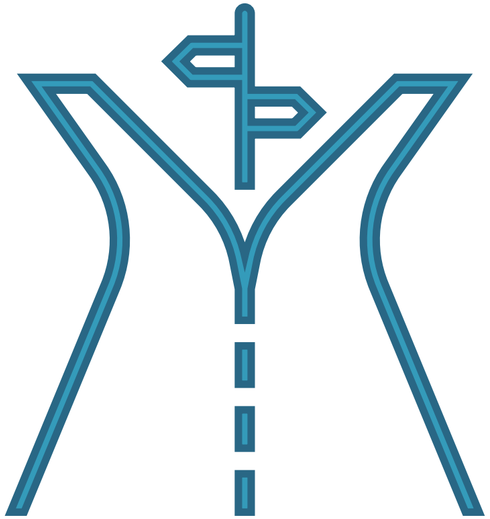
Eligible Entities

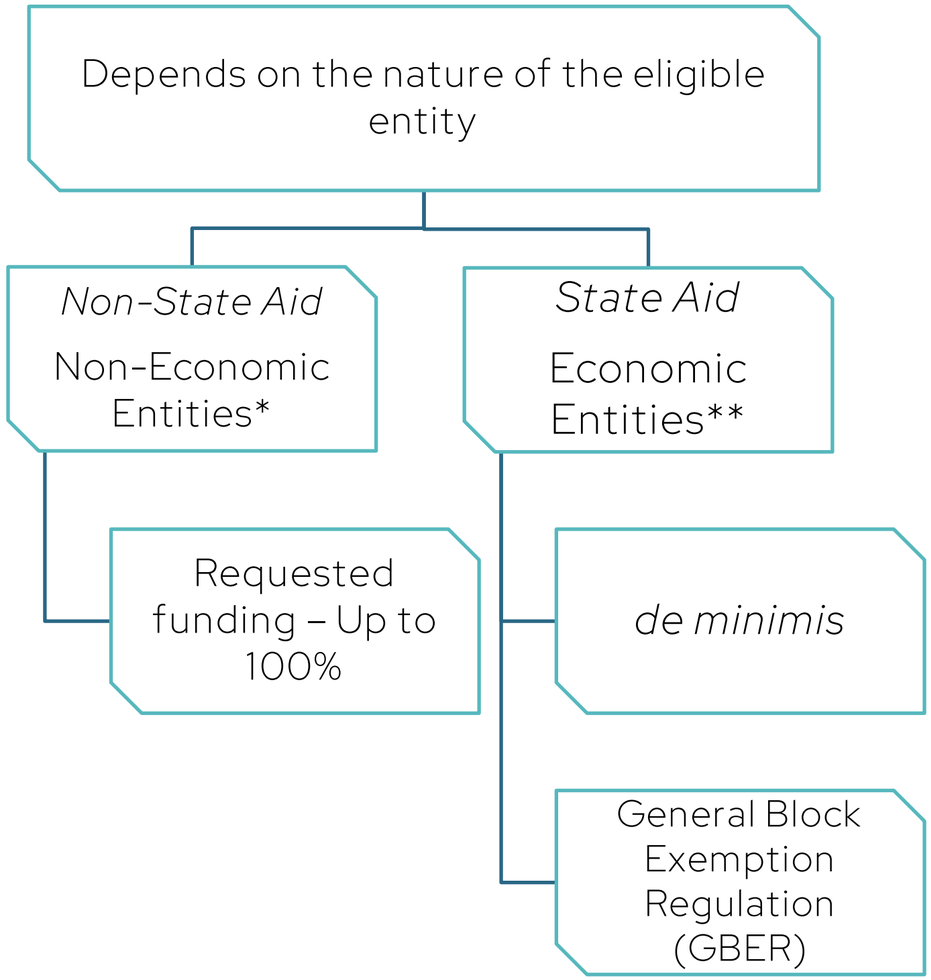
Eligible Entities must be registered in Malta and must have an operating base in Malta

- Limited Liability Company
- Partnerships
- Non-profit making Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Professional Bodies
- Cooperatives
- Public entities
- Research & Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations

All Malta-based applicants must comply with the National Rules for Participation.

Funding Modalities





* Public Entities and Public Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU

** Undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU.

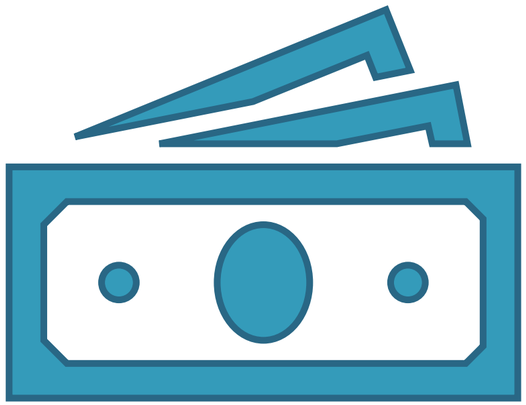
Aid Intensities

Economic entity	*de minimis**	GBER
Requested funding	Up to 75%	Up to 70%
Own contribution	Remainder % (not in-kind)	Remainder % (not in-kind)

*Capping of € 300,000 over 3 years

Aid Intensity	Undertaking Size		Extra funding for projects prioritizing Effective Collaboration & Wide Dissemination
25%	Small	+ 20%	+ 20%
	Medium	+ 10%	
	Large	+ 0%	

Eligible Costs

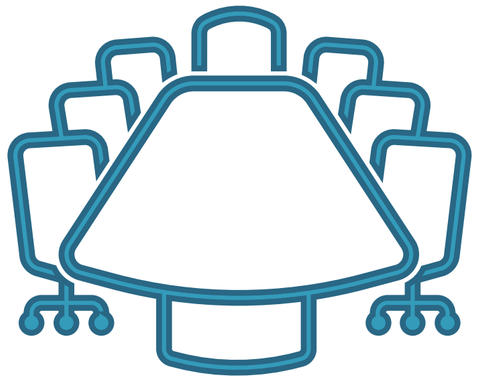


- Personnel costs
- Specialised Equipment & Consumables
- Subcontracting
- Costs of IP and Knowledge Transfer activities
- Travel & Subsistence
- Overheads and Other Operating Expenses

Personnel Costs

Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Project Management – up to 10% of total project value *(should be allocated to and described within research tasks)*
- Students – EUR 6,000-8,000 p.a.
- Maximum of 1720 hours p.a.
- Hourly rates specified in national rules



€z = (basic salary + allowances) / yearly workable hours of the employee.

Role in Project	Hourly rates in 2027	Hourly rates in 2028	Hourly rates in 2029	Limits per project
Management or equivalent	Up to €63.82/hour	Up to €67.01/hour	Up to €70.36/hour	Max 2 per project
Senior Researcher[2] or equivalent	Up to €44.98/hour	Up to €47.23/hour	Up to €49.59/hour	Max 2 per project
Researcher[3] or equivalent	Up to € 32.22/hour	Up to € 33.83/hour	Up to € 35.52/hour	No limits
Operational, technician, research support assistant or equivalent	Up to €17.67/hour	Up to €18.55/hour	Up to €19.48/hour	No limits

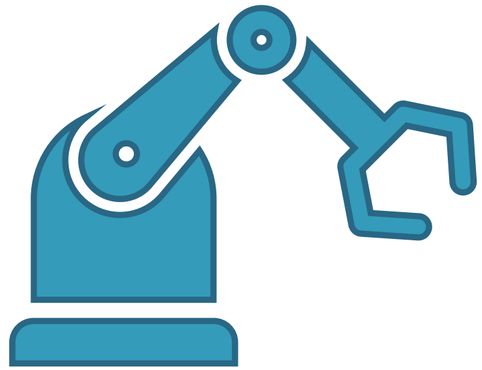
Table 1 Eligible Hourly Rates

The rates stated in the table above are for the years 2027-2029. For subsequent years a 5% increase per year is allowed.

Equipment and Consumables

Non-economic /de minimis

- Cost to purchase/lease specialised equipment
- Cost of research consumables should not exceed 30% of the project value



GBER

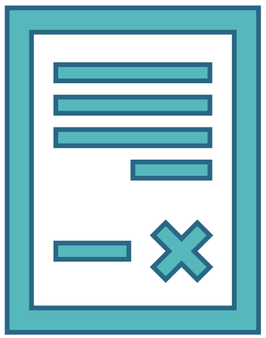
- The costs of specialised equipment is only eligible if the lifetime of the equipment is equal to the lifetime of the project.
- Depreciation costs of specialised equipment for the extent and period used for the project. To be verified by a certified public accountant
- Cost of research consumables should not exceed 30% of the project value

Subcontracting

Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Allowed up to 25% of the project value
- Must follow fair procurement procedures

To be discussed with the Call Manager at application stage



IP and Knowledge Transfer Activities

Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Costs of knowledge transfer activities and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions.

To be discussed with the Call Manager at the application stage

Travel and Subsistence

Non-economic /de minimis

- Economy flights, and public transport (most economic solutions) and per diems for up to 14 days in a row.
- For the attendance of consortium meetings, up to two persons will be eligible to attend the meeting.
- For the attendance of international conferences, up to two persons will be eligible to attend per six months.

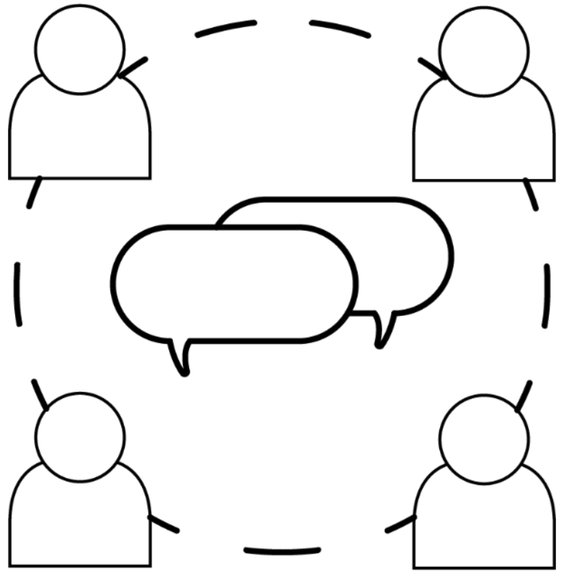
GBER

- Travel costs are not eligible.

Overheads and Other Operating Expenses

Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Are costs that are incurred directly as a result of the project.
- These will be covered at 20% of direct eligible costs claimed.



Ineligible Costs

- Expenses related to loans, interests etc.
- Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms
- Re-purchase of the same equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms
- Purchase and/or leasing of equipment and services from partners or their subsidiaries
- Standard office equipment
- Personnel hours for travelling
- Any other costs that are not listed as eligible costs in the National Rules

Application Process

Application Process: Pre-proposal Stage

1. Submit the National Application Form and relevant annexes *via* email to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt by 2nd February 2026 23:59 CET.

2. The Project Coordinator submits the Pre-Proposal to the Partnership (jointly with the other partners) via the THCS EPSS submission tool.

3. Xjenza Malta will perform an administrative check on the documents provided from your end. If all partners are found eligible by their respective funding agency, the proposal will be evaluated and ranked.

Submission Procedure – Stage 1

Stage 1: Pre-Proposal Submission

- The coordinator creates an account on EPSS Online Submission Tool.
- The coordinator adds partners to the consortium. Partners can input their own data and need to validate their participation.
- Required indicative budget for each partner. Category budgets can be indicative, but the total cannot increase.
- National documentation and annexes as per National Rules.

Documents	Public entities	Public RKDOs	*de minimis*	GBER
Pre-Proposal Stage (1st Stage)				
National Application Form	X	X	X	X
Public entities - Annex	X			
Public RKDOs - Annex		X		
CVs	X	X	X	X
Memorandum & Articles of Association (Or any respective constitutive documents)			X	X

Submission Procedure – Stage 2

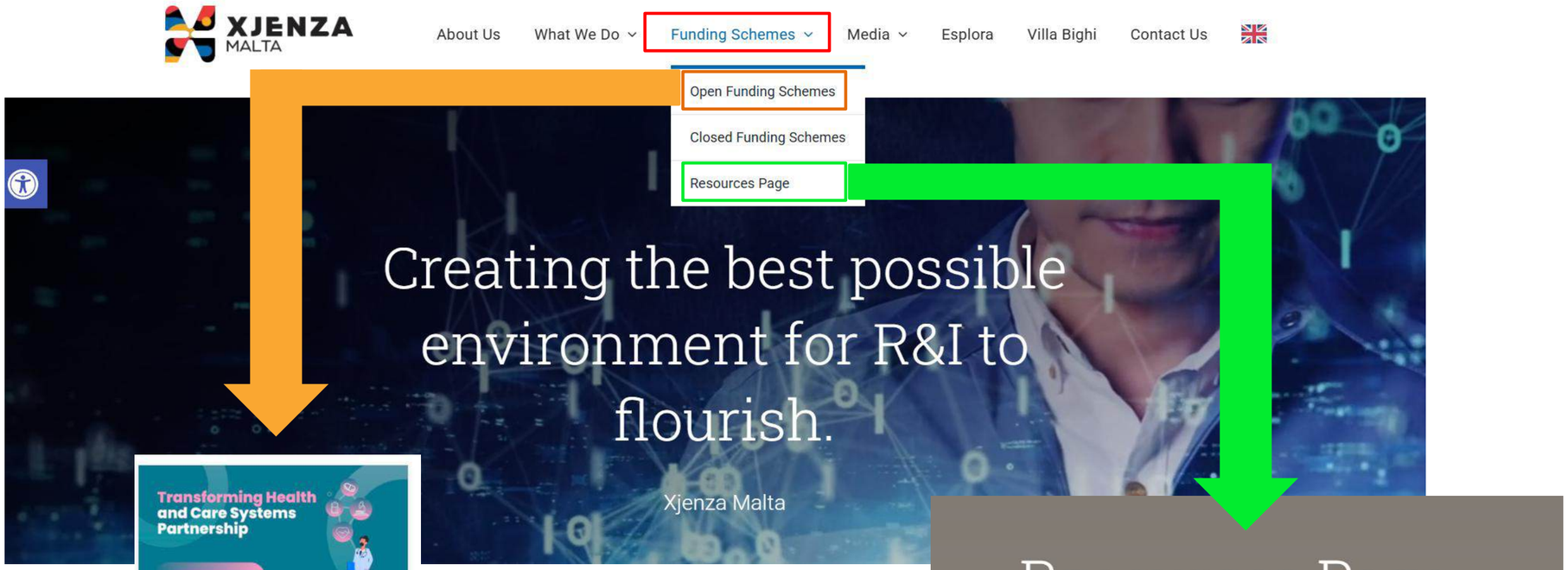
Stage 2: Full Proposal Submission (Upon Invitation)

- The Secretariat will send the full-proposal application template to coordinators of those proposals invited to stage 2.
- Required detailed budget for each partner.
- Coordinator submits the full-proposal on behalf of the partners
- Further national documentation and annexes as per national Rules.

Documents	Public entities	Public RKDOs	*de minimis*	GBER
Full Proposal Stage (2nd Stage)				
Budget Breakdown Form	X	X	X	X
de minimis Form			X	
Enterprise Size Declaration Form & Undertaking in Difficulty				X
Declarations for Augmented Aid Intensity				X
*Audited financial statements (last 3 years)**			X	X

**start-ups that do not have the above documents available, please provide financial projections for three (3) years signed by an auditor*

Submission Documents – Attachments

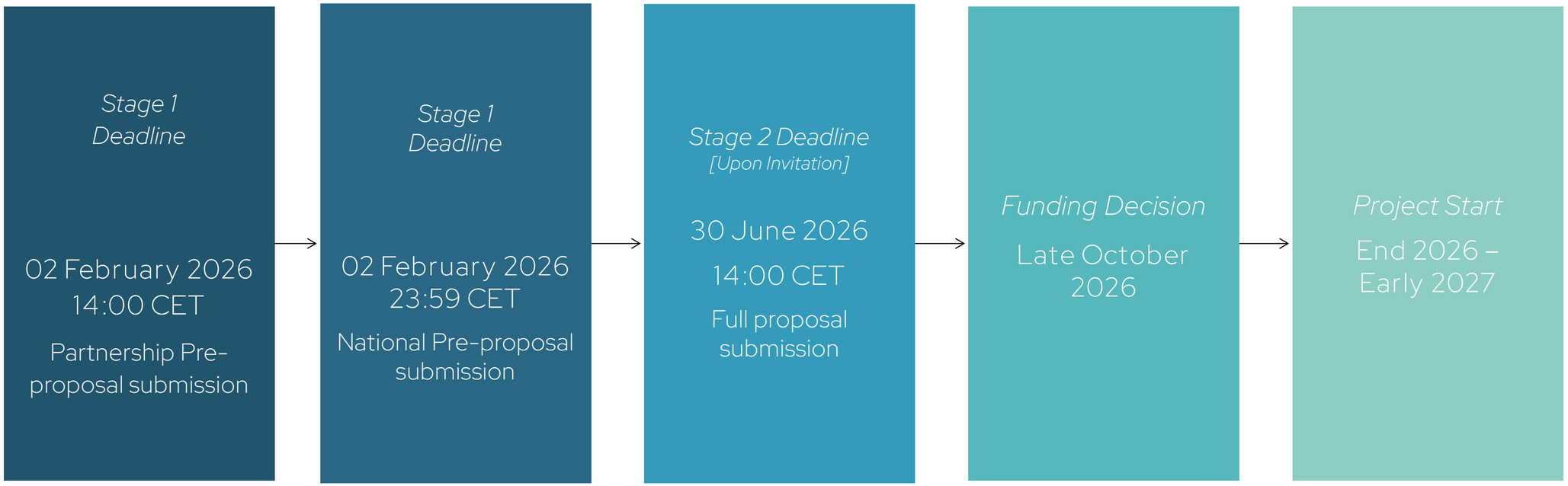


- National Rules for Participation
- National Application Form

Resources Page

- Relevant Annexes can be found here

Call Timeline



Get Connected with Partners

When looking for partners, please check the following resources:

1

THCS partner search tool

2

HE Funding & Tender Portal

3

ERA Learn Partnering Tool

Alternatively, you can also contact us directly for guidance.

Summary

Step	Action	Notes / Guidance
1. Check Calls	Visit the THCS Call website	Look for Call 2026
2. Call Launch	Review the Partnership Call Text	Contains specifications, eligibility criteria, and deadlines
3. Partner Search	Use Partnership matchmaking tool (if available)	Helps you connect with project partners
4. National Rules	Review Xjenza Malta's THCS 2026 National Rules for Participation	Ensure eligibility under national requirements
5. Writing and Submission of Scientific Pre-Proposal	Project Coordinator submits Pre-Proposal to the Partnership (jointly with the other partners)	Deadline: 02/02/2026 14:00 CET
6. National Application	Malta-based applicants Submit National Application Form and relevant annexes to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt	Deadline: 02/02/2026 23:59 CET

Any Questions?

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