



TRANSFORMING HEALTH
AND CARE SYSTEMS

THCS Annual Conference 2024

29 and 30 November 2024
Bruxelles

The Transforming Health & Care Systems (THCS) Partnership convened its **second Annual Conference on November 28 and 29 in Brussels at the Committee of the Region**. The two-day event brought together experts and stakeholders from across Europe to discuss groundbreaking initiatives in health system transformation, offering participants a unique platform to explore innovative projects, cross-sector collaboration, and strategies to overcome shared challenges.

Structured into **four sessions**, the event delved into key themes: **integrating evidence into policy making, fostering transformative ecosystems, showcasing the impactful projects funded under the Joint Transnational Call (JTC) 2023, and strengthening collaboration across EU-funded health partnerships**.

The conference emphasized the importance of balancing localized efforts with broader EU-wide objectives. It **highlighted actionable strategies for systemic transformation, showcasing examples of effective regional innovation, cross-border cooperation, and interdisciplinary research**. Participants discussed how partnerships, funding models, and stakeholder engagement can collectively address complex challenges, from workforce shortages to health inequalities.

The event concluded with a **forward-looking discussion on the role of EU partnerships in shaping the future of healthcare**, with a focus on building synergies, **fostering collaboration**, and ensuring that innovative solutions translate into real-world impact.

Hereafter, you will find a report of the event, including the key messages that emerged during the conference, organized by session.



I SESSION – Understanding transformation of health and care systems: how to translate theory into practice

How can academic research drive health system transformation? Which is the role of Institutions? Why is patient engagement essential in health system transformation? How do practitioners address health and environmental interconnections? These and other questions drove the discussion in this engaging high-profile session. Each perspective offered a unique contribution, putting in evidence that **collaboration is the key to create a holistic approach to achieving sustainable and equitable health improvements.**

The **academic perspective** underscores the critical role of evidence-based policymaking. By leveraging structured frameworks and a vast network of European experts, academics aim to bridge the gap between research and policy. Their work includes analyzing health systems, developing transformation strategies, and addressing systemic challenges through innovative ideas. **Institutions** should support reforming primary care and integrating digital health solutions that should include readiness assessments and funding mechanisms to foster person-centered care. **Patients and caregivers** bring in valuable insights to the health system, informed by their lived experiences. The session stressed the need for tools to measure patient participation and emphasized empowering patient organizations with sustainable funding to enhance their influence in decision-making. Innovations from **practitioners** showcased projects that explore the health benefits of natural environments like green and blue spaces. These initiatives rely on evidence-based approaches and geospatial tools, but also highlight the need to address inequities in access to these health-enhancing environments.

1st SESSION
14:15-15:45
MODERATOR: G. FORTUNA

UNDERSTANDING TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH & CARE SYSTEMS : HOW TO TRANSLATE THEORY INTO PRACTICE?

360° UNDERSTANDING

INTRO
CHIARA CICCARELLI

- IN 23 - 7 years
- 64 PRACTICES
- + 300,000,000
- 47 NATIONALITIES
- 7,300,000

CALLS
TO BE WITH FUTURE

GOVERNANCE
(Transparency)

TRANSFORMATION AMBITIONS

MINI RESULTS
SPRINGING APPROACH

AMASSADOR NETWORK
THCS AND EBSC PARTNER

ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE
DIMITRA PANTELI

- COMMON DISCUSSION
- OF PRACTICES
- 35 teams + 600 partners

GOVERNANCE
I often missed the "what should I aim to move forward"

ACADEMIC
POLICY BRIEF SERIES

INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
LOURDANOS GATZOULOS

- CHALLENGES
- KNOWLEDGE CONVERTING THE PLAN INTO AN ACTIVITY
- RESOURCES NEEDED FINANCIAL & STAFF
- A SUPPORT TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICES
- Technical support program
- RECOVERY OF RESILIENCE INITIATIVES
- ANNUAL PLAN

PATIENT AND CARER PERSPECTIVE
ANCA TOMA

- ORGANISATIONAL REPRESENTING PATIENTS (80 MEMBERS)
- LET'S TAKE CARE OF IMPROVING THE USERS OF H & C SYSTEMS
- CHALLENGES
- TRAINING
- EMPOWERING
- EFFICIENCY
- ON PREVENT INVESTMENT
- A STRONG PATIENTS VOICE TO IMPROVE BETTER HEALTH AND EQUITY

PRACTITIONERS PERSPECTIVE
ALEXIS STIMBER (EHMA)

- GREEN SPACES + 20% REDUCTION
- BLUE SPACES + 10% REDUCTION
- SPENDING TIME IN BLUE & GREEN SPACES IMPROVE CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
- PROJECT OBJECTIVES BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT EVIDENCE BASED

Health Care

Take-Home Messages:

- **Evidence-based frameworks must guide health system reforms**

Such frameworks enable health systems to address complex challenges in a systematic and adaptive manner. To ensure the maximum impact they can provide a structured path from problem identification to strategic planning and regulatory implementation.

- **Sustainable funding is essential**

EU and national policies play a critical role in fostering transformation also with relevant financial and human resources, but it is necessary to improve strategic coordination and funding.

- **Patient experiences and input are vital for designing responsive health and care systems**

Participants noted that patient organizations, often underfunded and reliant on private sources, require sustainable public funding to ensure their voices are heard. Tools such as barometers to measure patient involvement can identify barriers and best practices, creating a roadmap for greater inclusion.

- **Scalable innovations should address systemic inequalities to ensure inclusive health outcomes**

Innovation in health systems, particularly in projects exploring the impact of environmental factors on health, was presented as a scalable solution. However, equitable access remains a challenge, especially for underserved populations. Policymakers must consider accessibility in their designs to prevent widening health inequalities.

II SESSION - Unlocking Health & Care systems transformation: the role of regional and local authorities in boosting health ecosystems

What defines a transformative health ecosystem? How relevant is the regional dimension? Panelists highlighted the **importance of engagement, transparency, and inclusivity**. Regional initiatives must align with national and EU goals to create long-term impacts.

The discussion also explored cross-border collaboration as a driver of systemic improvements. Projects such as integrated care models and coordinated initiatives between regions demonstrate the value of shared governance and investment. Yet, challenges persist in harmonizing efforts across different legal and administrative systems.

Innovative funding models tied to measurable outcomes were presented as a key strategy to ensure accountability and scalability. By linking resources to results, regions can prioritize impactful initiatives and optimize investments.

2ND SESSION
16:00-17:30
MODERATOR: MADDALENA ILLARIO

UNLOCKING HEALTH & CARE SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION:
the ROLE OF REGIONAL & LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN BOOSTING HEALTH ECOSYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION
- JOANNA LANE
- MADDALENA ILLARIO

TRANSFER OF GOOD PRACTICES = MULTIPLIER OF IMPACT!
TRANSFORMATIVE ECOSYSTEM have in common:
- ENGAGEMENT
- DYNAMIC & FLEXIBLE
- TRANSPARENT, EQUAL OPEN

OPEN QUESTIONS
KPI ADEQUATE?
ENOUGH SUPPORT GOOD PRACTICES SIMPLIFICATION

ENTER PANDEMIC PERIOD
2 CHALLENGES:
- WELL-BEING economy
- SMART CAPACITY INVESTMENT
"HEALTH is not a cost but investment"

LEVERAGES
IMPROVE MEASURE ENGAGEMENT
Look at THCS FUNDED PROJECTS SERVICE/MARKET READINESS & MATURITY LEVELS (4 tools)

EXPERIENCE REGIONAL FUNDING AGENCIES INVOLVED THCS

REGINA SAUTIO ARCE - BASQUE COUNTRY
IN SPAIN HCS IS REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & BASQUE NHS
23% of population is > 68 years
RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAM
BIOEF => CONTINUOUS HEALTH SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
2 Key STRATEGIES -> IMPROVE HCS COMPETITIVENESS SMART

BASQUE HEALTH R&D
7 partners
Funding: 63% Public region, 13% Private, 14% Public State
JTC 2023 PARTICIPATION AS RESEARCH FUNDING ORGANISATION IN THCS

EXPECTATIONS:
profit from synergies sharing good practises Promote partnerships with Basque HCS.

VALERIA CENACCHI DG REGIO
INTERREG - territorial cooperation since 1990 - laboratory of new policy
86 programs EUR 10 Billion

INTERNAL BORDERS MATTER
1/3 of EU pop live on border regions

INVESTMENTS
- DIGITAL, e-gov
- INCLUSION, COMMUNICATION
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- EQUIPMENT
1 BILLION IN GOVERNANCE

PRICE BASED APPROACH
PATIENT CENTERED EX. TRIUMA - ASM G.

POLICY BUILDING -> EXPERTISE PROVIDED B-SOLUTION

LRA'S THCS' WPG REPORT

INTERACTIVE PANEL
- Valeria CENACCHI
- Gerda GEYER
- Yelva REISMERT

THCS
TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS

THCS Annual Conference - November 28th

Co-funded by the European Union

Take-Home Messages:

- **Transformative Ecosystems drive innovation**

Health ecosystems thrive on flexibility, transparency, and inclusivity, making them powerful tools for innovation. They balance local engagement with measurable outcomes, fostering collaboration across sectors. Projects like THCS exemplify how these ecosystems can be integrated into health systems, creating sustainable and impactful solutions. For ecosystems to succeed, they must integrate micro (local), meso (organizational), and macro (policy) levels. Citizen engagement, shared goals, and ongoing monitoring are crucial to proving their value and driving large-scale change. Ecosystems need adaptability and collaboration to overcome funding and policy hurdles.

- **Regional Agencies are crucial for systemic change**

Regions like the Basque Country demonstrate how localized strategies can address global health challenges, such as aging populations and personalized medicine. Regional agencies leverage public and competitive funding to innovate, share best practices, and collaborate with European programs, enhancing health systems across borders. EU initiatives like Interreg reveal the challenges and opportunities of fostering health equity in diverse regions. By supporting integrated care models, addressing legal and cultural barriers, and promoting capacity building, these efforts advance patient-centered solutions and improve access to services.

- **Networks Enhance Regional EU Collaboration**

Regional networks, such as ERRIN, are pivotal in connecting local authorities to European funding and research opportunities. By fostering dialogue and providing development support, they help members address pressing health priorities, ensuring that regions can fully participate in transformative health initiatives.

III SESSION - Presentation of THCS' JTC 2023 Funded Projects

The third session highlighted the **transformative potential of projects funded under the Joint Transnational Call (JTC) 2023**: four initiatives exemplify how research and innovation can address systemic health challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration. The projects span a range of topics, addressing critical gaps in transitional care, neonatal health, chronic wound management, and digital solutions for chronic diseases. A recurring theme is the importance of leveraging technology, such as AI and IoT, to improve care quality, enhance patient engagement, and optimize resource allocation.

Equally significant is the emphasis on stakeholder collaboration, with each project drawing on multidisciplinary teams and engaging end-users to ensure solutions are practical, adaptable, and impactful. The integration of robust communication strategies demonstrates a shared commitment to transparency and dissemination, ensuring that scientific evidence reaches policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the public.

These initiatives exemplify THCS's mission to foster a more efficient, patient-centered, and resilient healthcare ecosystem, paving the way for future innovations.

3rd SESSION

9:30-11:00
MODERATOR: ANNALISA CARTABIA

PRESENTATION OF THCS' JTC 2023 FUNDED PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION
THCS JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL AOA: How it works?
DENICE MOITHUKSHUNG

OVERVIEW
MODUS OPERANDI
FUNDING PILLAR DIVIDED INTO 3

CALL PLANNING & PREPARATION → SUBMISSION → EVALUATION

AFTER THE CALL → FUNDING DECISION

VIDEO

28 PROJECTS
IN 20 COUNTRIES
150 ORGANISATIONS
36 FUNDING ORG.

TRANS CARE IONUT ANGHEL (ROMANIA)

= TRANSITION FROM HOSPITAL TO HOME FOR FOLLOW UP (motherly after digital solutions covid)

ISSUES & NEEDS

- ICT based solutions are fragmented
- LACK OF COMMUNICATION
- LACK OF HOLISTIC APPROACH, ...

OBJECTIVES, END-USERS & TARGETS

- 3 partners
- All internet of things Romania, Italy, Norway

INFOGRAPHIC: TRANS CARE TECHNOLOGICAL VIEW

EMISSIONED IMPACTS

- NEW PATIENT-CENTERED & DIGITALIZED TRANSITIONAL CARE MODEL

≠ DEVICES BUT FRAGMENTED USE SINGLE USE DEVICE

SPMC

HOW TO CREATE AWARENESS → POLICY MAKERS

3 PHASES: Pilot results, Celebrations

IDJAVANCE@HOME CHRISTIAN HUEZEBOS

AVOID CHRONIC BRAIN DAMAGE

DETECTION: visually (tearful moments), smartphone, color test missing

PARENT organization missing

→ Need to empower parents

Involve key stakeholders

Publish results in OPEN ACCESS journals

ICAREWOUNDS SHAILA CALVO ALMEIDA

TECHPREPARERS (AI)
CONICAL PARTNERS
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PARTNER
LEGAL & ETHICAL PARTNER

44-C, CM SWITCHING FROM CHRONIC WOUNDS = 5% OF TOTAL HC BUDGET
HEALING TIME: 4 months to 1 year

SOLUTION = INTEGRATED CARE MODEL
E-HEALTH PLATFORM

3 PILOT SITES: SPAIN, POLAND, IRELAND



DIGITAL-CACTUS VIET-THI TRAN

40% ADULTS HAVE CHRONIC CONDITIONS
CARE IS UNCOORDINATED
ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY
REAL-TIME ANALYSIS

WHICH TOOLS FOR WHICH PATIENTS
50% PATIENTS COORDINATE
MACHINE LEARNING CONSULTATION

CACUS TOOL TO HELP HC SPS TO HELP PRIORITIZE DIGITAL

"care that fits"
INVOLVE OMA-USERS
MULTIDISCIPLINARY

COMMUNICATE ALSO WITH TUTORIALS HOW TO USE THE TOOL



TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS



European Commission of the Regions

THCS Annual Conference - November 29th

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS:
loti confetti .be w

Take-Home Messages:

- **Innovative technologies transform care delivery**

The projects showcased at the THCS Annual Conference demonstrate how advanced technologies such as AI, IoT, and digital platforms can address critical gaps in healthcare delivery. By enabling personalized interventions, remote monitoring, and enhanced decision-making, these innovations are transforming care models to improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs. **TransCare Project** is an example of how AI-driven digital assistance and IoT technologies can provide non-invasive remote patient monitoring (RPM) tailored to individual needs. This innovative approach addresses a critical gap in healthcare by preventing fragmentation and ensuring personalized interventions. Their scalability across diverse systems underscores the adaptability of technological solutions to meet varied regional needs.

- **Patient-Centered models are key to sustainable healthcare**

The emphasis on patient-centered care across all projects highlights the shift toward models that prioritize the individual's needs and experiences. From transitional care for older adults to home-based monitoring of neonatal jaundice with the **IDjaundice@home** Project, these initiatives empower patients and families to take an active role in their health. **Digital-CACTUS** reimagines chronic disease management by addressing inefficiencies in the patient journey and integrating tailored digital interventions. The project develops evidence-based tools to identify "pain points" in patient-clinician interactions and optimize self-monitoring and telehealth solutions. **ICAREWOUNDS** addresses a significant challenge in chronic wound (CW) care, integrating AI-powered platforms to improve early detection, streamline care coordination, and reduce recovery times. These approaches enhance engagement, satisfaction, and health outcomes, aligning with broader goals of making care more accessible for patients and efficient.

- **Stakeholder engagement drives ecosystem transformation**

Successful implementation of these projects relies on collaboration across diverse stakeholders, including healthcare providers, researchers, patients, and policymakers. By involving multidisciplinary teams in design and execution, the projects ensure that solutions are aligned with real-world challenges and scalable across different healthcare systems.

- **THCS as a catalyst for health system transformation**

The THCS partnership provides a platform for pioneering projects that address pressing challenges in healthcare. Through funding, collaboration, and dissemination support, THCS fosters an environment where transformative ideas can flourish. The projects funded by the 2023 Joint Transnational Call exemplify the program's commitment to driving systemic change, with the potential to set benchmarks for future health and care innovations.

IV SESSION - Shaping the Future: a dialogue on European Partnerships in Health

The final session explored the potential for synergies between EU-funded health partnerships. **Effective collaboration**, participants argued, **requires clear communication, alignment of research agendas, and shared tools for capacity building**. Partnerships must balance their unique goals with the collective aim of transforming health systems.

What practical steps can improve collaboration? Proposals included centralized information portals to streamline access to resources and joint training programs to build capacity. Panelists emphasized the importance of inclusive approaches, involving patients, practitioners, and policymakers, to ensure the relevance and success of innovations.

The term "synergy" was discussed to identify actionable strategies, such as joint forecasting, shared roadmaps, and coordinated funding calls. While overlaps between partnerships remain a challenge, structured mechanisms for cooperation could optimize outcomes.

4th SESSION
11:30 - 13:00
MODERATOR: JOHAN HANSEN

INTRO KATHRIN KAPFINGER DG RTD

EU PARTNERSHIPS
STRATEGIC CRITICAL MASS
VIBRANT ECOSYSTEMS
New! Approach
HORIZON EUROPE
Key features: Ambitions
Simplify
Common Criteria
€ 25 bn From Horizon
€ 36 bn other partners
BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS
PORTFOLIO EU PARTNERSHIPS (interactions)
COORDINATION - PARTNERSHIP KNOWLEDGE HUB
BICENNIAL MONITORING REPORT
STAKEHOLDER FORUM
SYNERGIES POSSIBLE
FUTURE? 4 building blocks + FURTHER RESOURCES

SHAPING the FUTURE
A DIALOGUE ON EU PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTH

INNOVATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE MAGALI POINOT
IHI OBJECTIVES - UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH IN INNOVATION
- DIGITALISATION
- INTEGRATE FRAGMENTED HEALTH CARE RESEARCH
HOW? CALLS FOR PROPOSALS BRING STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER
INVOLVE MULTIPLE HEALTH CARE STAKEHOLDERS
95% OF IHI PROJECTS ARE CROSS-SECTORAL
IHI PROJECTS - AMBITIOUS
- CROSS SECTORAL
PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW per SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE
SYNERGIES: IHI & EU policies initiatives
HUGE PORTFOLIO IN ONCOLOGY
€ 145 million
= 50/50 Public/Private
≠ OPPORTUNITIES (CALLS) SOON!

ERA4 HEALTH JOEL GROENEVELD
ERA-CVD > EURO NANOMED
ERA-HDHL (History)
WORKING PLAN 2 Phases
37 PARTNERS FROM 24 COUNTRIES
4 CALLS
ACTIVE IN RRI
2 experts in each panel
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ex. EARLY CAREER

ULRICA DOHNHAMMAR EUP OHAMR
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)
BACTERIA KNOW NO BORDERS
10 YEAR PROGRAM WITH ANNUAL CALLS
PRIORITIES: SYSTEMATIC AREAS
INFECTIONS ARE EVERYWHERE
IMPLEMENTATION (high impact)
DATA CAPACITY → RRI FUNDING
HUBS
CONSORTIUM
50 PARTNERS
43 EU MEMBERS
8 HORIZON

GIOVANNI NICOLETTI ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH
JANFP4 HEALTH
SYNERGIES Approach by policy areas
NFPS National Focal Points
SACARDI PROJECT
WEB CONFERENCE
PRIORITY AREAS

THCS TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEMS
powered by European Committee of the Regions
THCS Annual Conference - November 29th
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Take-Home Messages:

- **Collaboration enhances impact**

By aligning goals, sharing best practices, and pooling resources, partnerships can address systemic health challenges more effectively. Examples such as Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) demonstrate how coordinated efforts can accelerate the adoption of health innovations. Regular cross-partnership meetings and webinars can ensure sustained dialogue and continuous learning, enabling partnerships to tackle overlapping priorities while avoiding duplication. Collaboration remains a cornerstone for achieving meaningful and scalable health system transformations.

- **Leveraging complementary strengths**

Each partnership brings unique expertise and perspectives, from ERA4Health's focus on policies to JPIAMR's integrated approach to antimicrobial resistance. Leveraging these complementary strengths can drive innovation and create synergies that benefit the broader health ecosystem. For instance, partnerships with non-health sectors, such as agriculture and clean energy, were identified as opportunities to address interconnected challenges. By capitalizing on these diverse strengths, partnerships can develop holistic solutions that integrate technological, social, and environmental dimensions into health system reforms.

- **Policy alignment is critical for success**

The success of EU health partnerships depends on their alignment with overarching EU health priorities and frameworks. The panel highlighted that ensuring partnerships support strategic goals, such as antimicrobial resistance reduction and digital health innovation, maximizes their relevance and impact. Joint programming efforts, such as those planned under FP10, aim to align research funding and policy implementation more closely. Tools like ERA initiatives and shared platforms were proposed as mechanisms to enhance coherence and facilitate coordinated policy actions across partnerships.