



**Towards the  
EU Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems  
(THCS)**

# About the EU Partnerships under Horizon Europe



# New approach to European partnerships: overview

New generation of objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships in support of agreed EU policy objectives

## Key features

- Simple architecture and toolbox
- Common set of criteria
- Coherent life-cycle approach
- Strategic orientation

### Co-programmed

Based on Memoranda of Understanding / contractual arrangements; implemented independently by the partners and by Horizon Europe

### Co-funded

Based on a joint programme agreed by partners; commitment of partners for financial and in-kind contributions & financial contribution by Horizon Europe

### Institutionalised

Based on long-term dimension and need for high integration; partnerships based on Articles 185 / 187 of TFEU and the EIT-Regulation supported by Horizon Europe



# Overview of 49 candidate European Partnerships

## HORIZON EUROPE PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

CLUSTER 1: Health	CLUSTER 4: Digital, Industry & Space	CLUSTER 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility	CLUSTER 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Agriculture, ...
Innovative Health Initiative	Key Digital Technologies	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe
Global Health Partnership	Smart Networks & Services	Clean Aviation	Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth
Transformation of health systems	High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy
Chemicals risk assessment	European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Water4All
ERA for Health	AI-Data-Robotics	Connected and Automated Mobility (CCAM)	Animal Health & Welfare*
Rare diseases*	Photonics	Batteries	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions*
One-Health Anti Microbial Resistance*	Made in Europe	Zero-emission waterborne transport	Agriculture of Data*
Personalised Medicine*	Clean steel – low-carbon steelmaking	Zero-emission road transport	Safe & Sustainable Food System*
Pandemic Preparedness* <i>Co-funded or co-programmed</i>	Processes4Planet	Built4People	
	Global competitive space systems**	Clean Energy Transition	
		Driving Urban Transitions	

- Institutionalised Partnerships (Art 185/7)
- Institutionalised Partnerships / EIT KICs
- Co-Programmed
- Co-Funded

\* Calls with opening dates in 2023-24

\*\* Calls with opening dates not before 2022

## PILLAR III - Innovative Europe

EIT (KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITIES)	SUPPORT TO INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS
InnoEnergy	Innovative SMEs
Climate	
Digital	
Food	
Health	
Raw Materials	
Manufacturing	
Urban Mobility	
Cultural and Creative Industries	

## CROSS-PILLARS II & III

European Open Science Cloud

# Destinations WP Cluster Health

**Destinations 1:** Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society

**Destination 2:** Living and working in a health-promoting environment

**Destination 3:** Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden

**Destination 4:** Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care

**Destination 5:** Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society

**Destination 6:** Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry

Expected Impact	Intervention areas covered	European Partnerships (co-programmed and co-funded)
<b>1. Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society (...)</b>	1.2.1. Health throughout the Life Course 1.2.2. Environmental and Social Health Determinants	Fostering a European Research Area for Health Research (ERA4HEALTH)
<b>2. Living and working in a health-promoting environment (...)</b>	1.2.2. Environmental and Social Health Determinants 1.2.1. Health throughout the Life Course	Partnership on Risk Assessment of Chemicals
<b>3. Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden (...)</b>	1.2.3. Non-Communicable and Rare Diseases 1.2.4. Infectious Diseases, including poverty-related and neglected diseases	EU-Africa Global Health partnership Rare Diseases One Health AMR Fostering a ERA for Health
<b>4. Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care (...)</b>	1.2.6. Health Care Systems	Transformation of Health Care Systems EIT KIC Health
<b>5. Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society (...)</b>	1.2.5. Tools, Technologies and Digital Solutions for Health and Care, including personalized medicine	Personalized Medicine
<b>6. Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry (...)</b>	1.2.5. Tools, Technologies and Digital Solutions for Health and Care, including personalized medicine 1.2.6. Health Care Systems	Health Innovation Partnership (Innovative Health Initiative)

# Disclaimer

The Partnership is still under development so the information shared is subjected to change.

# Agenda

- About the Partnership
- Planned implementation of the Partnership
- First Annual Work Plan of the Partnership  
(preliminary information)
- Preliminary assessment of countries' participation  
to the Partnership
- Next steps

# About the THCS Partnership

# Overarching challenges faced by health and care systems

- Demographic changes, including the growing burden of chronic conditions, mental health problems and related social problems.
- Rapid growth of science and technology - implications on how health and care systems can improve delivery and services
  - ✓ Personalised medicine represents an exciting opportunity to improve the future of individualised healthcare for all people
  - ✓ The important subject of prevention and the related challenges and benefits
  - ✓ The digitalization of the health and care services, the utilization of health data, electronic medical devices, etc...
- Environmental and financial boundaries and increasing level of regulation and scrutiny
  - ✓ Economic challenges of the health care systems
  - ✓ Fiscal (and other) constraints that the healthcare sector will face in the coming decades
  - ✓ Limited human resources and their low digital skills and resistance to new technologies
- Societal issues such as population' health and digital literacy, their wishes and needs, technology acceptance or public outreach.

# Fundamentals of the Partnership

- The value of the THCS Partnership lies in bringing together a broad range of research results and actors to work towards a common vision and translating it into coordinated implementation of activities, evidence based policies and concrete hands-on impacts.
- The Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems via its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda should focus on filling the knowledge gaps on key priorities and understanding how to implement future or already existing evidence, taking into account different contextual factors, in order to shape the policies we need.



## **Common vision**

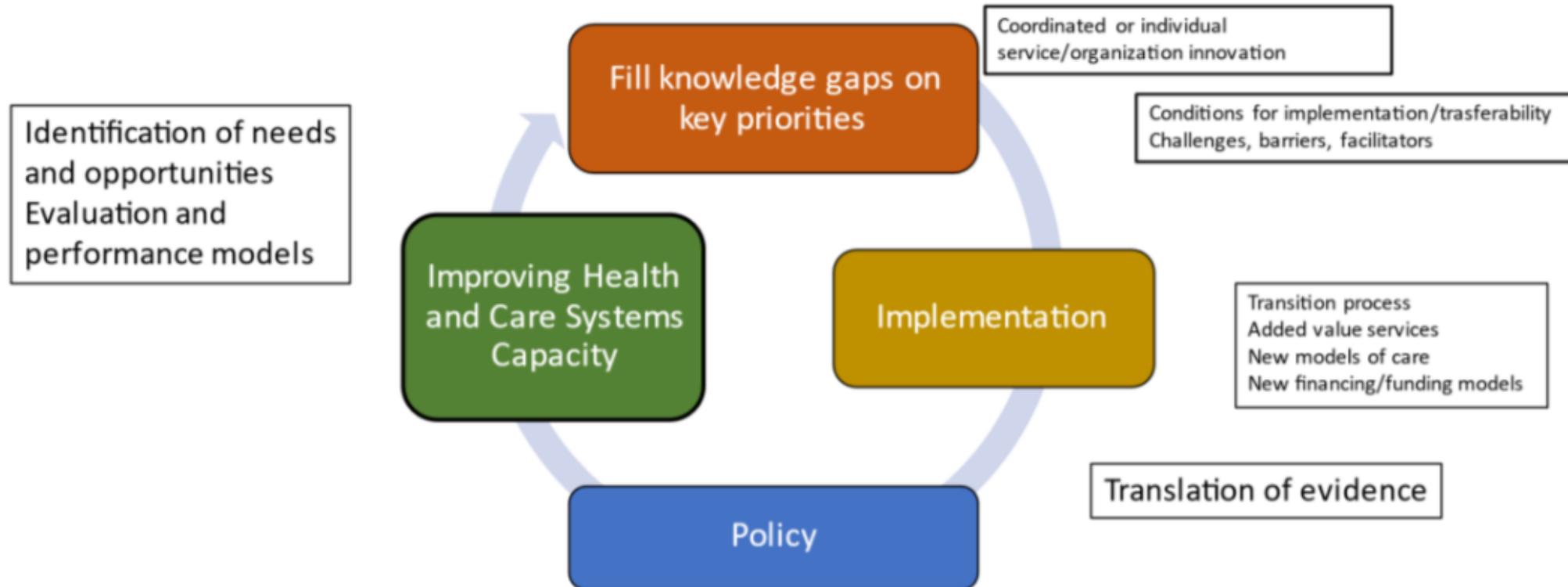
To maintain and improve health in Europe and participating countries by supporting improvement in and transformation of the health and care systems fairly accessible, sustainable, efficient, safe and patient-centred promoting resilient healthcare

# Approach

- Embrace the whole knowledge and innovation cycle from fundamental research to implementation, applied research, innovation and innovation actions.
- Foster implementation, inform policy and practice.
- Develop methods to support the learning process between systems
  - ✓ No one-size-fits-all solutions or strategies available
- Enhanced collaboration between key actors at the R&I and health and care levels, but also at national, regional and local scales.

# Approach (cont.)

- A Research and Innovation Pipeline will be used as a framework supporting the vision, objectives and actions implemented by the Partnership.
- The Pipeline will be driven by key priorities and measurable performance indicators.



# Objectives of the Partnership

## General objective

To ensure the transition towards more sustainable, resilient, innovative and high quality people-centred health and care systems.

The Partnership will address the following objectives:

- Supporting multidisciplinary R&I to fill knowledge gaps, produce evidence and develop guidance and tools in priority areas for the transformation of health and care systems,
- Supporting the interdisciplinary development of service, policy and organisational innovations for health and care systems,
- Strengthening the R&I community in the field of health and care systems,
- Improving the capability of health and care actors to take up innovative solutions,
- Gathering stakeholders to develop the ecosystems needed for a swift uptake of innovations by health and care systems

# Expected outcomes of the Partnership

- Researchers across European countries and regions are engaged in **enhanced collaborative research** on transforming health and care systems;
- Health and care authorities, policymakers and other stakeholders use the research results to **develop evidence-based strategies and policies** on transforming health care systems and learn from good practices of European countries and regions;
- Health and care providers and professionals **implement innovative ways** of delivering care and maintaining population health;

## Expected outcomes of the Partnership (cont.)

- Health and care authorities, policymakers and other stakeholders plan and carry out **efficient investments** in health and care systems at national/regional level to use innovative solutions and care models;
- An increased number of innovators and stronger local/regional ecosystems of stakeholders are in place and facilitate **uptake of successful innovations** for health and care;
- Citizens and health and care professionals have **increased digital and health literacy**;
- Countries **cooperate better and use context-specific knowledge and evidence** to make their health and care systems more resilient with respect to upcoming needs and crises.

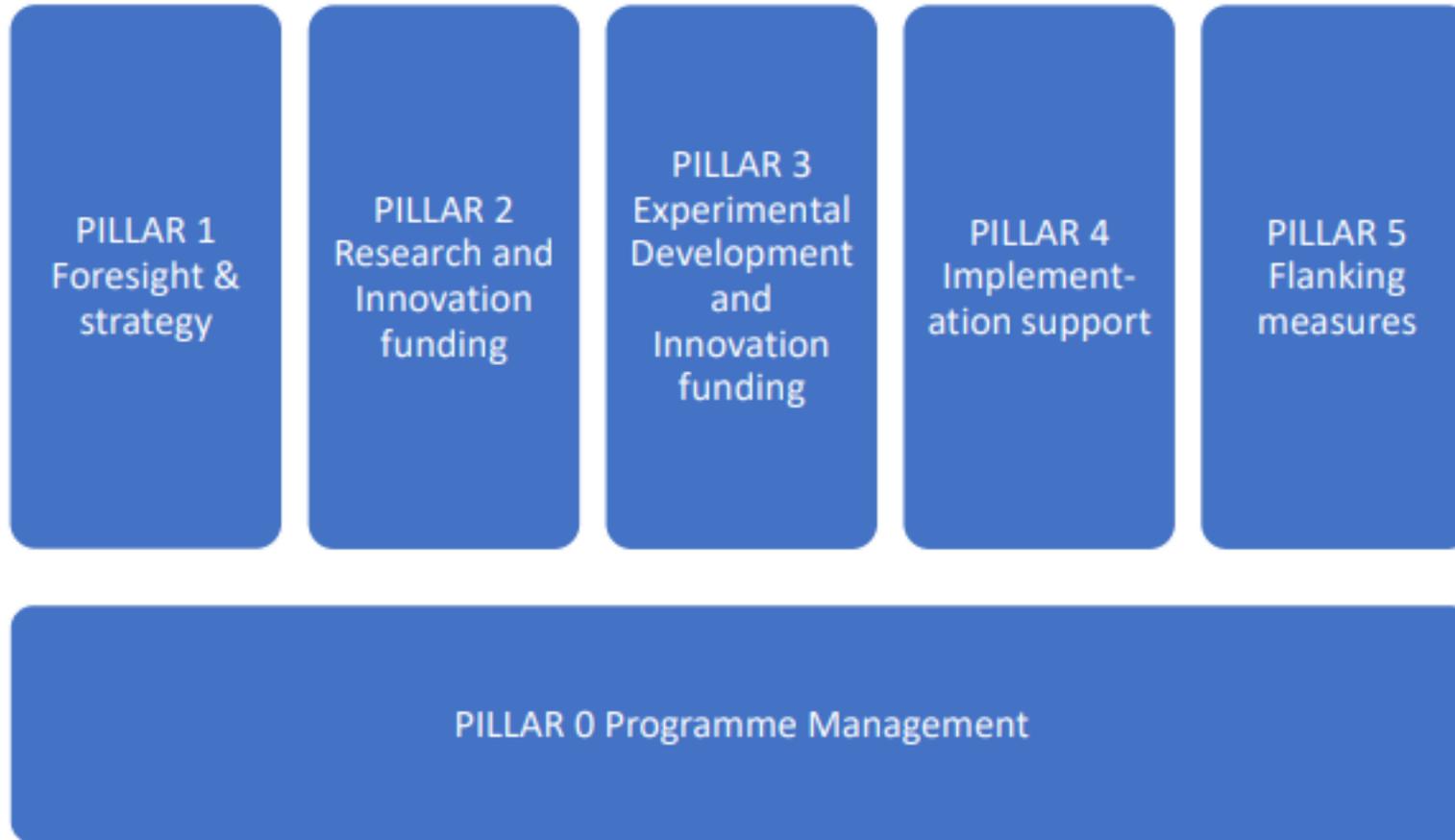
# Research & Innovation priority topics

1. Overarching priority: From disease-oriented and patient-centred care to ***Person- and Population-Centred Care***
2. This requires
  - a. integration ***across all healthcare sectors***
  - b. Integration ***across traditional boundaries*** (social care, occupational health, prevention)
3. Implications for the development of services
  - a. ***Long-term Care*** needs to be developed to meet future needs
  - b. ***Hospitals*** have to develop new roles, tasks, and organisational structures;
  - c. Integrated services require strong ***primary care***
  - d. ***Mental health care*** needs to be reinforced
4. The following areas are instrumental:
  - a. Adequate ***human resources***, skill mix, roles and tasks of healthcare professionals
  - b. Adequate ***information and communication technology*** embedded in people-centred services
  - c. ***Quality*** improvement and better ways of measuring it
  - d. Achieving better ***financing*** and good ***governance***.

# Planned implementation of the THCS Partnership

# Pillars and WPs Overview

## PILLAR OVERVIEW



### **Pillar 0 Programme**

**Management** will include:

- Partnership Governance Set Up and maintenance (Advisory Boards, governing boards, ...)
- Development of Annual WorkPlan
- Coordination, management and reporting tasks

# Focus of Pillars 2 & 3

## **Implementation Science**

The study of **methods** to promote the **adoption and integration** of **evidence-based practices, policies, research findings and evidence** into healthcare **policy and practice**.

*(Bauer MS, Damschroder L, Hagedorn H, Smith J, Kilbourne AM. An introduction to implementation science for the non-specialist. BMC Psychol. 2015;3(1):32. doi: 10.1186/s40359-015-0089-9. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)] [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)])*

## **Implementation research**

The scientific study of the use of strategies to adopt and integrate evidence-based health interventions into clinical and community settings to improve individual outcomes and benefit population health.

*(National Institutes of Health. Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01 Clinical Trial Optional). <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-274.html>. Published 2019.)*

## Focus of Pillars 2 & 3 (cont.)

### **Implementation strategies**

The approaches used to get the interventions such as vaccinations implemented and sustained, representing the decisions and work done to move evidence into general practice

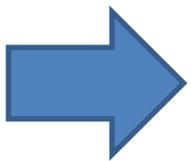
*(Proctor EK, Powell BJ, McMillen JC. Implementation strategies: recommendations for specifying and reporting. Implement Sci. 2013;8(1):139. doi: 10.1186/1748-5908-8-139. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)] [[CrossRef](#)] [[Google Scholar](#)])*

## Focus of Pillars 2 & 3 (cont.)

### **Experimental development**

Experimental development is systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experience, that is directed to producing new materials, products and devices; to installing new processes, systems and services; or to improving substantially those already produced or installed.

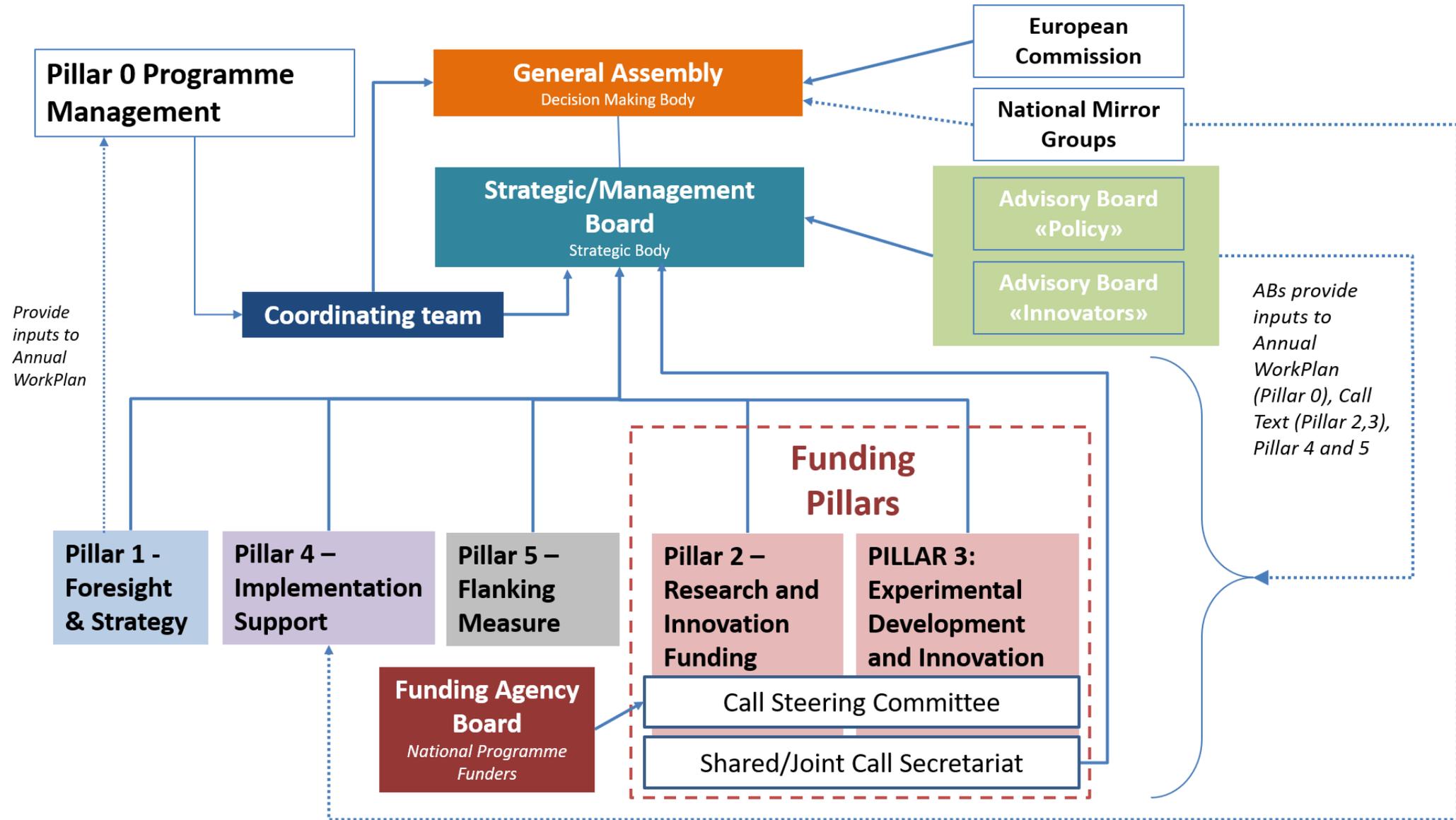
*(OECD: "Frascati Manual 2002: The measurement of scientific and technological activities - Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys on Research and Experimental Development", OECD, Paris, 2002)*



**The production of new materials, products and devices is out of the THCS Partnership scope (it belongs to other EU Programmes)**

Draft of the Governance structure

# Proposed THCS Partnership Governance Scheme



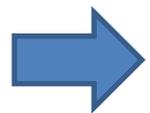
# Point of discussion

- Preliminary version to be discussed: ongoing process based also on the Country participation
- The model will be enriched by:
  - Full description of the Governance Bodies, Composition, Roles/Duties, Voting Rights, Relations with other bodies
  - Full description of Processes/Flows for main items (Annual Workprogrammes, SRIA Updates, Call text definitions, JTC management)
- Key concept:
  - Decentralisation/shared management
  - Ensure to have a body in which all entities involved in the Partnership are represented
  - Ensure to have a body for strategic orientation
  - Ensure not to have conflict of interest
  - Avoid redundancies
- Role of Pillars: keep it also at management level?
- Merge Pillar 2 and 3? Avoid duplication (even in the description) and ensure respect of peculiarities

First Annual Work Plan of the THCS  
Partnership  
(preliminary information)

# Annual Work Plan

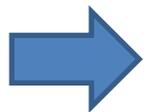
- Define the key objectives addressing the different work strands
- Define the expected impacts
- Define the set of activities – list of tasks and subtasks per each of the work strand/ Pillar
- Develop the Gantt Chart
- Define the deliverables for the first year
- Present Partners, their role in the AWP, resources needed to implement first year action



It must be included in the THCS Partnership proposal as part of it

# First Annual Work Plan

- Establish management and governance structure of the Partnership
- Implement the communication and dissemination tools and strategy
- Establish monitoring processes of activities and achievements
- Define the prioritization model for the THCS actions as part of the annual planning and medium/long-term strategy;
- implement the first joint transnational co-funded call (JTC) for projects
- Define the topics for JTC 2024 in line with the prioritization strategy
- Set up and implement Networking scheme, Training, Twinning grants



First preliminary discussion on 8 november  
Will be discussed on 22 november

# Preliminary assessment of countries' participation to the Partnership

# THCS Partnership: participating Countries

## **20 EU Member States and Associated countries**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Italy (coordinator)
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Slovenia

## **2 non-EU Countries**

- Israel
- Switzerland

# THCS Partnership: Countries whose participation is pending

## **3 EU Member States and Associated countries**

- Croatia
- Luxembourg
- Romania

## **2 non-EU Countries**

- Canada
- United States

# THCS Partnership: Countries whose participation need to be assessed

## **Countries that requested information on the Partnership**

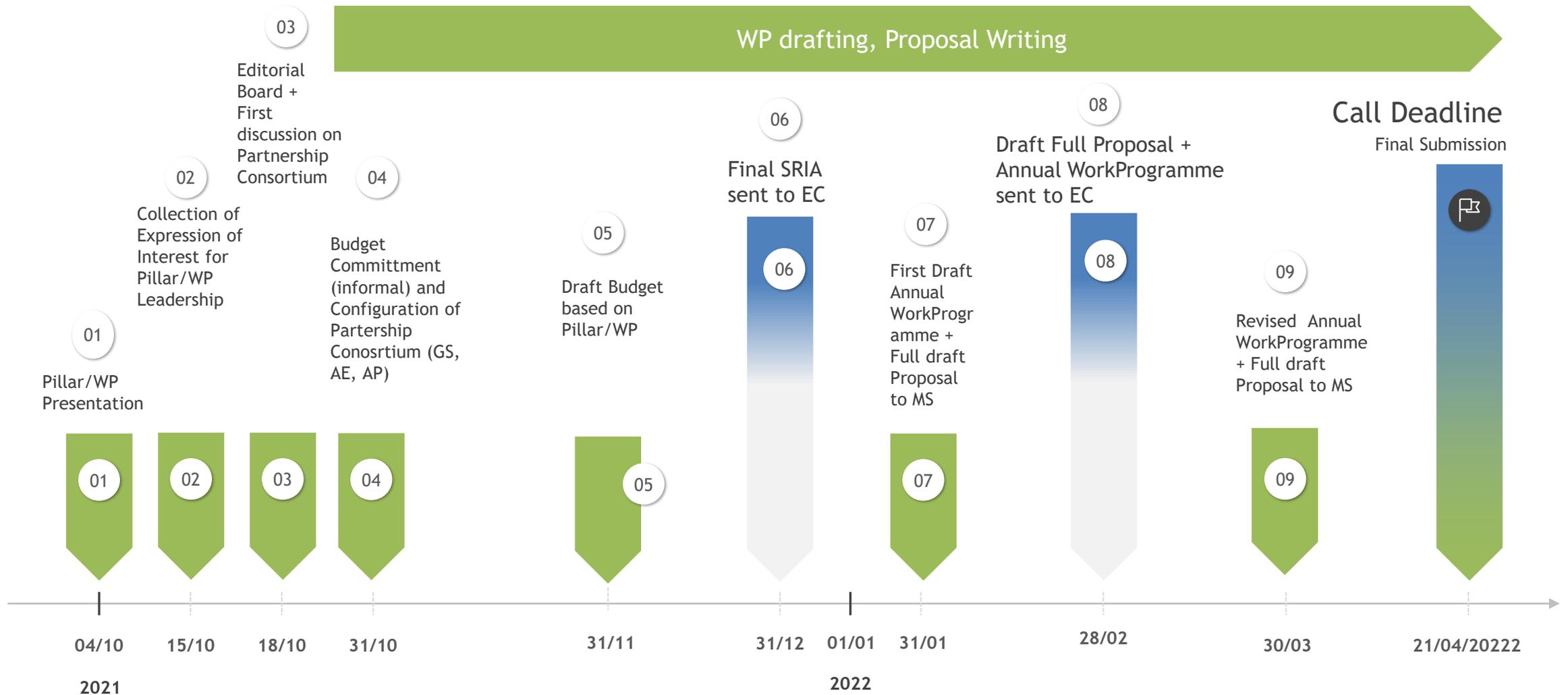
- Germany
- Slovak Republic
- United Kingdom
- Turkey
- Taiwan (Ministry of Science and Technology) – Not associated to Horizon Europe

Next steps

# Next steps towards the THCS Partnership

- The Core Group expects to finalise the SRIA Draft by December 2021 and the SRIA will be adopted by all countries involved in the Partnership.
- Countries are focusing on the development of the Partnership proposal, including the first Annual Work Plan.
- The Italian team is now moving forward to collect formally countries interests and commitments.
- The submission of the proposal is expected in Spring 2022 and the Partnership will start from January 2023.

# Timeline for THSC Partnership submission



Thanks for your attention!

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