HRB Frequently Asked Questions
THCS Joint Transnational Call (2027)

Transforming the Health and Care Workforce for Sustainable and Resilient Systems

19 November 2026

HRB Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is specific to applicants based in Ireland and should be read in addition:
HRB guidance: https://www.hrb.ie/funding-scheme/thcs-2027/
Full call information: https://www.thcspartnership.eu/funding/jtc-2027.kl

Eligibility

Q: Will HRB fund all research areas under this call?

A: Yes but note that HRB-funded partners must have a clear research-focused role (i.e., not only focused on project management or similar activities; however, this can include implementation research).

Q: Do Lead Applicants have to be permanent staff members?

A: No, contracted researchers and Adjunct Professors can apply. To be eligible, these applicants must provide a letter from the Host Institution (HI) as follows:

- **Contracted researchers:** letter to endorse their application, confirming they have the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their particular status for the duration of the award. All **contracted researchers** must also have a contract with a HI for the duration of the grant award or assure the HRB that they will be offered a contract for the period of the award if successful and this must be stated in their letter of support
- **Adjunct Professors:** letter to confirm that the applicant has the authority and resources allocated to hold and manage a grant under their Adjunct status for at least the duration of the award.

This should be provided to HRB-JTCs@hrb.ie at time of submission.

Q: Can Early Career Researchers be Lead Applicants?

A: Yes, if they meet the Lead Applicant eligibility criteria.

Q: Can multiple Lead Applicants from Ireland apply?

A: Yes. More than one applicant from Ireland can apply once the consortium eligibility criteria are met. If the two applicants are at separate Institutions, they must apply as separate partners.

Q: Are Host Institutions in Northern Ireland able to participate?

A: HRB will not fund Host Institutions in Northern Ireland in this call. Applicants based in these institutions should instead check their eligibility for funding from NIHR, UK.

Q: What types of organisations can participate?

A: HRB can only fund approved Host Institutions (with the exception of Host Institutions based in Northern Ireland as noted above). Other organisations in Ireland can only be included as collaborators, not being able to receive any HRB funding.

HRB cannot provide funding to Enterprise organisations as partners or collaborators.

Q: May project participants be included in more than one application to this call?

A: Each applicant can submit a maximum of two proposals and can only one be a coordinator on one.

Budget preparation

Q: Does the contribution from HRB include pension costs and overheads?

A: The maximum HRB funding of €430,000, or €530,000 for coordinators, must include pension costs and overheads. **Note that there is a maximum of €330,000 and €405,000 direct costs** (excludes overheads) **respectively**.

Q: What is the overhead rate on an award successfully funded through this scheme?

A: The overhead payment is 25% of Total Direct Modified Costs (TDMC) for desk-based research and 30% for lab-based research. TDMC excludes student fees, equipment, sub-contracting and capital building costs. The rate (25% or 30%) should be selected based on the primary activity of the project and applied at a flat rate across the project. Please see HRB Policy Usage of Research Overheads.

Q: What does the additional funding for coordinators cover?

A: Consortium coordinators may request this funding. It will cover activities specifically incurred due to consortium coordination activity. This will not cover research-related costs (excludes equipment and consumables) but could cover costs such as salaries, travel and administration related to coordination, as well as associated overheads.

These costs should be clearly marked or explained in the budget submitted to HRB so that HRB staff can confirm that the additional funds are being attributed to coordination activities.

Q: Is it possible to transfer funds to a project partner?

A: No, it is not permitted to transfer funds to partners in other countries. In joint transnational calls, project partners are funded by their respective national/regional funding organisations, so each partner should cost accurately and appropriately for activities within their own country and seek this funding from the relevant national funder.

Submission

Q: Is additional documentation required by the HRB at application stage?

A: There are three cases where additional documentation is required:

- New applicants to HRB's Joint Transnational Calls must demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria by completing the Lead Applicant eligibility form by the submission deadline. This does not apply to previous applicants to JTCs.
- Letters of support are required (a) from the Host Institution for researchers in Adjunct or contract positions. For more details, please see the Eligibility section above.
- You must send the final application to your Research Office (RO) who will complete the HI JTC sign-off form and return this along with the application to HRB. The deadline for sign-off is three working days after the submission deadline. We require HI sign off for each project partner that is requesting funding from HRB.
- At full proposal submission participants from institutions in Ireland will be asked to submit supplementary budgetary information to the HRB, which will justify the HRB funds requested. In addition applicants will be requested to clarify the specific deliverables for the partner from Ireland, including their role in the development of a Data Management Plan.

  This will expedite contract negotiations with the HRB and monitoring of the award in the case of successful consortia with applicants from Ireland.

  A template requesting this further information will be provided by the HRB after invitation for submission of full proposals.

Assessment and Decision-making

Q: Since prioritisation will be assessed internationally and multiple funders are involved in each project, how are decisions made?

A: Projects are ranked by the peer review panel and placed in groups. The funders then use the ranking list to make decisions on funding as follows.

- Projects in the highest ranked group are prioritised for funding first and funders cannot move to a lower group until all projects in the group(s) above are funded.
- All relevant funders must have sufficient budget remaining to cover all consortium partners. For this call, there is also some additional gap-filling funding which will help to fund projects where funders have run out of budget. Additionally, funders will seek to find other mechanisms through which to fill gaps and maximise the number of projects funded.

  When funds are depleted, no further projects can be funded, irrespective of whether they have been deemed of sufficient quality to be funded.
- When funds are low and proposals of equal ranking are in competition for any remaining funding, the selection is then made based on additional criteria laid out in the call text for the call. This can include factors such as whether a partner in the consortium is from an

underrepresented country, maximising the number of funders contributing to the call, maximising the number of countries funded etc.

Post-award

Q: Where will intellectual property generated by the project reside?

A: The management of Intellectual Property (IP) is the responsibility of the Host Institution in line with the National IP protocol. If more than one research body is involved, a joint IP agreement should be in place between the relevant institutions. In the absence of a joint agreement, the management of any IP remains the responsibility of the host institution.

Q: Do I have to submit a Data Management Plan to the HRB if I am not the coordinator?

A: As per the HRB policy on Management and Sharing of Research Data, the HRB requests a Data Management Plan (DMP) for all HRB awards. The DMP developed by the consortium can be used, once there is sufficient detail on how the data will be shared/managed etc. for the partner based in Ireland.

Q: What reports are required?

A: In addition to consortium reporting requirements (as stated in the main call text)**,** the HRB will request reports (e.g., annual reports) from Principal Investigators based in Ireland.