THCS LEARNING WEEK

SAVE THE DATE
28 September – 2 October 2026

Transforming Health & Social Care:
Meaning, Models and Measurement

Health and social care systems across Europe are under increasing pressure to deliver more integrated, sustainable and person-centred care. Yet while transformation is a common ambition, important questions remain about what meaningful transformation looks like, how it can be achieved and how its impact can be measured.

From 28 September to 2 October 2026, the THCS Partnership will bring together policymakers, system leaders, researchers, practitioners and innovators to explore these questions through shared learning, real-world experiences and practical examples from across Europe.

The Learning Week will showcase the work of THCS and THCS-funded projects alongside contributions from other European Partnerships and initiatives, creating opportunities for discussion, reflection and exchange on the future of health and social care transformation.

Bringing together these different initiatives we will explore in a shared conversation what it takes to move health innovation from project to embedded, sustainably financed practice and how we create sustainable and innovative approaches to move promising health interventions across that gap.

Join us to explore what transformation means,
how it happens and how we know it is making a difference

Co-funded by the European Union

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What Transformation Means for Health and Social Care: Capturing Different Perspectives

Monday, 28 September - 13:00–14:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#transformation #partnerships #synergies #systemlevelchange #impact

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

The concept of transformation is increasingly central to European research and innovation, yet its interpretation varies across policy areas, sectors, and initiatives. While many European Partnerships aim to deliver transformative change, they often define, approach, and measure transformation in different ways depending on their objectives, stakeholders, and expected impacts.

This interactive session will bring together representatives from European Partnerships beyond THCS to share how they understand and apply the concept of transformation within their own programmes. Through a series of short presentations and a moderated discussion, speakers will explore what transformation means in their respective contexts, the type of system changes they seek to achieve, and the approaches they use to support and assess meaningful change.

The session will encourage participants to compare perspectives across Partnerships, identify common principles and challenges, and reflect on how a shared understanding of transformation can strengthen collaboration and maximise the impact of European research and innovation investments.

What you will gain

- An understanding of how different European Partnerships define and interpret transformation.
- Insights into diverse approaches to achieving system-level change across sectors.
- A better appreciation of the similarities and differences in transformation journeys across European initiatives.
- Opportunities to exchange ideas and identify potential areas for cross-Partnership collaboration and mutual learning.

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Meet the speakers

Philip Piatkiewicz

Philip Piatkiewicz is the Secretary General of the AI, Data and Robotics Association (ADRA), where he stands at the forefront of Europe's digital transformation. ADRA is the private-side of the European Partnership on AI, Data and Robotics—a cornerstone of Horizon Europe's Cluster 4. This partnership orchestrates a high impact technology ecosystem designed to mobilise €2.6 billion in investment. A seasoned expert in European affairs and innovation policy, Philip specializes in bridging the gap between complex research and industrial deployment. His mission is to secure Europe's technological sovereignty by fostering the development of "Made in Europe" AI that is safe, trustworthy, and explainable. With a career rooted in regional economic development and large-scale project management, he has a proven track record of positioning organizations to lead in a competitive global landscape.

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Popp

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Popp (Photonics 21) studied chemistry at the Universities of Erlangen and Würzburg and received his PhD in chemistry before conducting postdoctoral research at Yale University. Since 2002, he has held the Chair of Physical Chemistry at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and since 2006 has additionally served as Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology. His research focuses on biophotonics, Raman spectroscopy, multimodal optical imaging, and AI-driven biomedical diagnostics with strong emphasis on clinical translation. He is internationally recognized as a leading expert in optical health technologies and translational photonics. Jürgen Popp has authored more than 1,170 peer-reviewed publications (h-index 92) and is the inventor of 21 patents. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Biophotonics and the Journal of Raman Spectroscopy and has delivered more than 200 invited lectures worldwide, including over 60 keynote and plenary talks. He won several awards among others the Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award, the SPIE Biophotonics Innovation Award, and the Ellis R. Lippincott Award.

Dr. María Cristina Nieto García

Dr. María Cristina Nieto García is Head of the International Research Programmes Unit in the Deputy Director's Office for International Research Programmes and Institutional Relations (SGPIIRI) in the National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII). She is currently coordinator of ERA4Health Partnership and formerly the coordinator of the ERA-Net Co-fund ERA PerMed. Therefore, she is actively involved in the coordination, management and follow-up of different programmes related to European and International transnational collaborative research at SGPIIRI, including different Health European Partnerships. Previously, she obtained her PhD in Pharmacy in the Cancer Research Centre of the University of Salamanca in 2011, followed by a multi-year stint as Pharmaceutical Inspector for the Spanish Government. Afterwards, she worked for the Spanish Ministry of Science in Knowledge Transfer and Science Management activities.

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Sustainable and Innovative Ways of Investing in Health

Monday, 28 September - 15:00–16:00 CET

Co-organised by: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK, THCS WP9 – (Strengthening Ecosystems) and Invest4Health

#transformation #InnovationFinancing #SmartCapacitatingInvestment #OutcomeBasedContracts #SustainableValueDefinitions #MissingMiddle

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

Across Europe, promising initiatives in health promotion, disease prevention and integrated health and care too often struggle to survive the transition from funded project to sustainably embedded practice. This "missing middle" is both a governance and a financing gap: existing budget lines, institutional structures and accountability frameworks are rarely designed to absorb what pilots and testbeds prove works.

The workshop brings different initiatives together to explore how sustainable and innovative investment approaches approach the financing and governance of the transition from pilot to system-level practice, looking specifically at the frameworks, tools and evidence they have each developed.

Join us to participate in a shared dialogue across different initiatives on what it takes for promising initiatives to cross the "missing middle" between funded project and sustainably embedded practice.

Finally, the workshop is meant to be a starting point rather than an endpoint — the goal is to surface concrete opportunities for synergy and follow-up between THCS, Invest4Health, EIT Health, Procure4Health and other European initiatives working on sustainable investment in health.

What you will gain

- A greater understanding of innovative financing instruments (from Smart Capacitating Investment to blended finance and outcome-based contracts).
- The governance and ownership conditions that must precede rather than follow the innovation
- Insights on ensuring citizens and patients hold a genuine stake in how value is defined and reinvested.
- The practical implications of how public procurement and multi-stakeholder business models can help promising interventions and digital health solutions reach system-level scale.

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Meet the speakers

Dr. Gerda Geyer

Dr. Gerda Geyer, has been a programme-manager at FFG the Austrian Research Promotion Agency since 2007. Focussing on societal challenges, end users' involvement, evaluation, and ecosystems. Dr Geyer is the national contact person for the Austrian participation in the European Active and Assisted Living Programme Since Oct. 2022: Dr Geyer has been the President of the AAL International Association. Since Jan. 2023, the Work package Lead "Strengthening Ecosystems" within the cofunded Partnership Transforming Health and Care Systems. In addition, Dr Geyer also occasionally takes a role as an evaluator of RDI proposals at the national and European levels. Between 2016-2018 she was a lecturer at the Postgraduate Center of the University of Vienna

PhD Prof. Joanna Lane

Professor Joanna Lane PhD is a founder and Managing Director of Stichting Health ClusterNET; Chairperson for Familial Hyperlipidemias European Foundation; Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Health & Technology, University of South-Eastern Norway; Co-Chair of the Advisory Board for the European Partnership for Transforming Health and Care Systems. With 40 years of experience working at the interface of policy, research and practice with the NHS until 2001, followed by private consultancy in the UK and Europe until 2007. Now in its third iteration as a non-profit social foundation in Amsterdam. Focussing on EU funded activities - innovative financing for upstream & midstream health interventions, accelerator support for SMEs developing digital health and healthtech solutions. Commissioned to help secure international, EU and national funding for novel less invasive interventions in oncology, CVD and under-researched health domains. Professor Lane has been WHO Technical Advisor since 1993. Publications in Frontiers in Public Health, Atherosclerosis, British Journal of Cancer, BMJ, Health Policy etc.

"Representative from ENoLL – European Network of Living Labs" *(TBC)*

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Spotlight Session: Real-world Transformation – Successes, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned from THCS funded projects

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Tuesday, 29 September - 11:00–12:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#transformationdigitaltechnologies #digitalinteractions #chronicwounds #integratedcare #AI

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

What does transformation of health and social care systems look like in practice? This learning session brings together THCS-funded projects to share real-world experiences, discussing achievements, barriers, and lessons learned that can inspire and inform future health and social care system transformation initiatives. Specifically, this webinar will feature Digital Cactus and ICAREWOUNDS projects.

Digital Cactus is a THCS funded project which aims to generate evidence on how digital technologies can support the transformation of health and care services while maintaining a strong focus on person-centred care. The project addresses the growing challenge of caring for people with chronic conditions and multimorbidity by exploring how blended care models—combining face-to-face care with digital interactions such as teleconsultations, secure messaging, and remote monitoring—can improve healthcare delivery.

ICAREWOUNDS is THCS funded project that aims to transform the management of chronic wounds by developing and validating an integrated care model supported by digital health technologies and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI). The project addresses one of the major challenges facing healthcare systems, where chronic wounds are associated with high clinical complexity, prolonged healing times, significant costs, and considerable variation in care across different healthcare settings.

What you will gain

- Better understand the realities of implementing health and social care innovations.
- Recognise the critical success factors for achieving sustainable system transformation, transferability and scalability.
- Apply lessons learned from THCS-funded projects to your own work.
- Strengthen your knowledge of implementation, transferability, and scaling of innovative solutions.
- Connect with a European community committed to improving health and care systems.

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Meet the speakers

Meghan Bradway

Meghan Bradway is a researcher at the Norwegian Centre for E-Health Research, in Tromsø. An expert in mHealth and chronic illness self-management, with extensive experience in participatory and action research methods. In addition to exploring the implications of inequity and the digital divide, her work in Digital Cactus examines how patient-generated data from mHealth technologies impacts patient-healthcare provider collaboration. In the Digital Cactus project, she conducts a literature review and contributes to planning and analysis of patient and physician interviews, examining how digital health technologies affect the patient-physician relationship.

Sandamini (Sasha) Wanigasooriya

Sandamini (Sasha) Wanigasooriya is a researcher at University College Dublin whose work centres on digital health innovation and implementation. With research experience across biotechnology, translational drug repositioning, and AI-enabled healthcare projects, her interests lie in bridging the gap between research and practice to enable effective digital transformation and patient-centred care. In the ICAREWOUNDS project, she contributes to supporting pilot study implementation, stakeholder engagement, digital readiness assessments, and supporting the adoption of AI-driven healthcare solutions.

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Spotlight Session: Real-world Transformation – Successes, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned from THCS funded projects

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Tuesday, 29 September - 13:00–14:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#transformation #Rehabilitation #StrokeCare
#co-design#performance#assessment

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

What does transformation of health and social care systems look like in practice? This learning session brings together THCS-funded projects to share real-world experiences, discussing achievements, barriers, and lessons learned that can inspire and inform future health & social care system transformation initiatives. Specifically, this webinar will feature ROOMMATE, AAPHES and PEER-HOMECare THCS funded projects.

PEER-HOMECare is developing an innovative, person-centred approach to home-based stroke rehabilitation. By combining the principles of enriched environments, pedagogical methods, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the project aims to create supportive home settings that encourage motor, cognitive, and social recovery, helping stroke survivors regain independence and improve their quality of life. The project also seeks to develop a transferable rehabilitation framework that can support more sustainable and equitable home care across Europe.

ROOMMATE aims to develop, implement and test a sustainable rehabilitation ecosystem, to innovate stroke rehabilitation pathways. The project takes an interdisciplinary, human-centred approach. Planning to integrate multiple technologies (e.g., sensors, robots, VR, multimedia platform) co-designed with users and validated through pilot studies and living labs.

AAPEHS is a THCS-funded project that explores how adolescents and adults perceive the performance of their health systems in Latvia, the Netherlands, Scotland, and Switzerland. Using the People's Voice Survey, the project collects comparable data on people's experiences of care, trust in the health system, quality of services, and access to care, with a particular focus on underserved groups. By bringing the perspectives of citizens into health system performance assessment, AAPEHS aims to generate evidence that supports more people-centred, equitable, and responsive health policies and contributes to the transformation of health and care systems across Europe

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What you will gain

- Better understand the realities of implementing health and social care innovations.
- Recognise the critical success factors for achieving sustainable system transformation, transferability and scalability.
- Apply lessons learned from THCS-funded projects to your own work.
- Strengthen your knowledge of implementation, transferability, and scaling of innovative solutions.
- Connect with a European community committed to improving health and care systems.

Meet the speakers

Dr. James R. Rudd

Dr. James R. Rudd is a Professor at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, with expertise in movement learning, pedagogy, teaching didactics, and complex rehabilitation interventions. He coordinates the PEER-HOMEcare project, which develops enriched home-based rehabilitation for stroke survivors across Norway, Sweden, and Latvia. The team's research in PEER-HOMEcare translates evidence from animal-paradigm enriched environments, neuroscience, movement learning, pedagogy, and clinical stroke rehabilitation into a practical, person-centred approach to support recovery, participation, and sustainable care in the home after stroke.

Prof. Francesca Cecchi

Professor Francesca Cecchi, Project Coordinator ROOMMATE is Professor of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Florence. Coordinator of the Neuromotor Rehabilitation Unit, Don Carlo Gnocchi Foundation and Scientific director of the laboratory.

Grant Aitken

Dr. Grant Aitken is a Public Health Intelligence Adviser who works in the Public Health Sciences team within Public Health Scotland. His role is to lead in the provision of specialist evidence-informed public health intelligence and to communicate this to a wide range of audiences to assist in planning and policy making to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Scotland. He has an undergraduate degree in Mathematics & Statistics from the University of Strathclyde and a PhD from the University of Southampton with a thesis titled 'Chronic Kidney Disease in England: Explorations in social epidemiology and small area estimation.' After working as a postdoctoral researcher for the University of Southampton for a year he joined the Information Services Division within Public Health Scotland in 2015 and worked as a Senior Information Analyst until he was promoted to his current role in 2020. He has 15 years' worth of experience working on a variety of portfolios within Public Health and his current area of interest is Early Years and Young People. He is currently focussed on the establishment and analysis of the People's Voice Survey to better understand population views on health system performance in Scotland, particularly for underrepresented groups.

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Anna Duchenko

Anna Duchenko, MPH, MMS, is a PhD researcher in epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and the University of Basel. Her research focuses on access to healthcare, unmet health needs, and health system responsiveness, with a particular interest in migrant and forcibly displaced populations. Before starting her PhD, she worked in Ukraine as part of a team supporting the implementation of the national healthcare reform, contributing to evidence generation and health system strengthening. Her current research examines barriers to mental healthcare among socially vulnerable and newly arrived migrants in Switzerland, as well as their experiences of and interactions with the Swiss healthcare system. She collaborates with clinical, public health, and social service partners to generate evidence that can inform more accessible, responsive, and equitable healthcare.

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Empowering Change: THCS Knowledge Hub

Tuesday, 29 September 2026 - 15:00–16:00 CET
Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK
#knowledge #hub #capacitybuilding #transformation #empowerment

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

The THCS Knowledge Hub is a collaborative platform designed to strengthen capacity-building, knowledge exchange and the uptake of evidence to support the transformation of health and social care systems across Europe. This session will take participants behind the scenes of the Knowledge Hub, exploring the co-design process that shaped its development, the principles guiding its evolution, and the functionalities that enable users to access resources, collaborate with peers and engage in learning activities. Speakers will demonstrate how the Hub supports researchers, policy makers, practitioners, funders and other stakeholders by bringing together practical tools, good practices, project results and capacity-building opportunities in one place.
The session will also showcase how members of the THCS community are using the Knowledge Hub in practice, highlighting real examples of collaboration, knowledge sharing and application of resources such as the Transferability & Implementation Framework and other learning tools. Participants will gain insights into user experiences, lessons learned and future developments, while discovering how they can actively contribute to and benefit from the growing THCS community.

What you will gain

- Discover how the THCS Knowledge Hub was co-designed to meet the needs of the health and social care transformation community.
- Learn how to navigate the Hub and make the most of its key functionalities, resources and collaborative features.
- Explore practical tools available through the Hub, including the Transferability & Implementation Framework, to support the implementation and scaling of innovative practices.
- Gain insights into how researchers, policy makers, practitioners and funded projects are using the Hub to exchange knowledge, build capacity and foster collaboration.
- Hear real user experiences, success stories and lessons learned from the THCS community.
- Leave with practical ideas and resources that you can immediately use to support evidence-informed health and social care transformation in your organisation or region.

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Meet the speakers

Dr Andrea Pavlickova

Dr Andrea Pavlickova is the International Engagement Manager Public Services Delivery Scotland, UK. She is responsible for international engagement activities and the management of EU funded projects, focusing on the deployment and scaling-up of digital healthcare and integrated care solutions and transformation of health and social care systems. She is also actively engaged in a number of European and international networks to promote and enhance Scotland's reputation in digital agenda and innovation in healthcare. Her work involves knowledge exchange activities, implementation of Memoranda of Understanding and exchange of good practices at national, European and international levels to stimulate the scaling-up of innovative solutions in health and care delivery.

Dr Iris van der Heide

Dr Iris van der Heide, Senior Researcher, Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research - Nivel. With Masters in Communication Studies (Utrecht University) and a PhD in Public Health (VU University Amsterdam). Her PhD research focused on health literacy. As Senior Researcher in Patient-Centered Care at Nivel, she leads and contributes to research centred on the experiences, needs, and perspectives of patients and citizens. As Work Package Lead within the ongoing European Oncology Quality of Life project (EUonQoL), she contributes to patient-centred cancer care and Patient and Public Involvement (PPI). In addition, she provides scientific support to the European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS), Furthermore, Iris represents Nivel within the Health Systems and Policy Monitoring network of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

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Spotlight Session: Real-world Transformation – Successes, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned from THCS funded projects

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Wednesday, 30 September - 11:00–12:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#transformation #realworldexperiece #innovation #transferabilty #scalability

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

What does transformation of health and social care systems look like in practice? This learning session brings together 3 THCS-funded projects, namely MDRinAIS, TOGETHER and EMA-FRAILTY, to share real-world experiences, discussing achievements, barriers, and lessons learned that can inspire and inform future health and social care system transformation initiatives.

MDRinAIS aims to improve the in-hospital stroke care pathway for acute ischemic stroke (AIS) patients eligible for mechanical thrombectomy (MT), by minimizing door-to-reperfusion times. Its primary objectives are to shorten the interval between hospital arrival and the initiation of reperfusion therapy and evaluate the efficacy and safety of the streamlined workflow. The proposed approach involves bypassing the emergency department and transferring eligible AIS patients directly to the Interventional Neuroradiology Unit, while using a telemedicine system for real-time information sharing among the stroke team.

TOGETHER aims at transforming hypertension care by strengthening collaboration between community pharmacists and primary care physicians. It promotes early detection, improves patient understanding of cardiovascular risk through vascular age, and supports better treatment adherence through integrated, team-based care. By demonstrating how primary care collaboration improves prevention and chronic disease management, TOGETHER provides evidence for coordinated, person-centred, and sustainable health and care systems.

EMA_FRAILTY is aiming to improve early detection and management of frailty in older adults using smart sensors and Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA). By continuously monitoring subtle changes in health, behaviour, and daily activities at home, the project seeks to identify early signs of frailty and enable timely, personalised interventions that help older people maintain independence and quality of life.

What you will gain

- Better understand the realities of implementing health and social care innovations.
- Recognise the critical success factors for achieving sustainable system transformation, transferability and scalability.
- Strengthen your knowledge of implementation, transferability, and scaling of innovative solutions.
- Connect with a European community committed to improving health and care systems.

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Meet the speakers

Prof. Dr. Enrique Rodilla Sala

Prof. Dr. Enrique Rodilla Sala (TOGETHER THCS-Funded project), Head of the Hypertension and Vascular Risk Unit, Sagunto Hospital, Valencia; Assistant Professor, Cardenal Herrera University

Prof. Francisco Florez-Revuelta

Francisco Florez-Revuelta (coordinator of EMA_FRAILTY) is Professor at the Department of Computer Technology, University of Alicante (Spain), and a member of the University Institute for Computer Research (IUII). He is the leader of the Research Group on Ambient Intelligence for Active and Healthy Ageing (AmI4AHA). His main research work is focused on technologies for active and assisted living: intelligent environments, computer vision, home automation, and assistive technologies. Recently, he was the coordinator of visuAAL - Privacy-Aware and Acceptable Video-Based Technologies and Services for Active and Assisted Living, a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network, and the Chair of the GoodBrother COST Action - International Network on Privacy-Aware Audio- and Video-Based Applications for Active and Assisted Living.

Gianluigi Riva

Gianluigi Riva is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow specialising in Data Protection, Innovation Law, and Ethics of new technologies, with a focus on the intersection of Technology Law and Neuroscience. He is the Principal Investigator working on the EMA_Frailty Project, which uses smart sensors and Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) to spot subtle daily changes in health and activity. The project is driven by the need to address critical healthcare challenges faced by the ageing population, particularly the condition known as frailty.

Alexander Nikolov

Alexander Nikolov is a Research Manager & Project Coordinator at SYNYO GmbH. He holds a master degree in Business Informatics and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Alexander gained experience in product and IT project management and has in-depth knowledge in product management and experience in the design of new services and tools. At SYNYO he is responsible for the coordination of ongoing national and international innovation projects, project related analysis, dissemination and networking activities.

Martin Vitiello

Martin Vitiello is a father, physician and clinical researcher with a background in biomedical sciences and an MSc in Anthropology, Environment and Development. He joined the Neuroradiology Unit of Siena University Hospital as project manager and researcher for MDRinAIS project, funded within the THCS programme to improve stroke care pathways across Europe. His interdisciplinary background bridges clinical data, health systems analysis, and cross-border collaboration.

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Spotlight Session: Real-world Transformation – Successes, Pitfalls and Lessons Learned from THCS funded projects

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Wednesday, 30 September - 13:00–14:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#transformation #carepathways #rehabilitation #co-design #sustainability

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

What does transformation of health and social care systems look like in practice? This learning session brings together THCS-funded projects to share real-world experiences, discussing achievements, barriers, and lessons learned that can inspire and inform future health and social care system transformation initiatives. Specifically, this webinar will feature the experience of LIUC University, Italy within two THCS-funded projects, COMPASS (2024) and MI-RICORDO (2023), which share a common focus on the transformation of rehabilitation pathways. The session will position rehabilitation as a strategic lever for advancing integrated, patient-centred and sustainable care systems, with particular attention to policy-relevant insights and scalability across different contexts.

The webinar will illustrate how co-design and co-creation processes involving multiple stakeholders have supported the redesign of cardiac rehabilitation pathways. In parallel, it will present the application of a multidimensional evaluation framework (MAST) to assess the clinical, economic, organisational, environmental and social impact of a digital therapeutic (DTx) for neurocognitive impairments, within a transcultural adaptation process involving healthcare professionals from Italy, France and Portugal.

What you will gain

- Better understand the realities of implementing health and social care innovations.
- Recognise the critical success factors for achieving sustainable system transformation, transferability and scalability.
- Apply lessons learned from THCS-funded projects to your own work.
- Strengthen your knowledge of implementation, transferability, and scaling of innovative solutions.
- Connect with a European community committed to improving health and care systems.

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Meet the speakers

Emanuela Foglia

Emanuela Foglia, PhD, is Researcher of Industrial Engineering and Management at Università Carlo Cattaneo – LIUC and Director of the Healthcare Datascience Lab (HD LAB). Her research focuses on Health Technology Assessment (HTA), healthcare management, digital health, healthcare sustainability, process optimization, and data science applied to healthcare systems. She has extensive experience in coordinating national and international research projects funded by European partnerships, ministries, regional institutions, and healthcare organizations, with expertise in telemedicine, artificial intelligence, rehabilitation pathways, and healthcare innovation. She serves as Director of executive education programs in HTA and healthcare management and collaborates with AGENAS as HTA expert and trainer. Author of more than 80 scientific publications indexed in Scopus, she is Editorial Board Member of BMC Health Services Research and has received several national and international awards for her contributions to healthcare innovation, digital health, and healthcare management research.

Elisabetta Garagiola

Elisabetta Garagiola is Research Fellow in Industrial Engineering and Management at Università Carlo Cattaneo – LIUC and Coordinator of the Healthcare Datascience Lab (HD LAB) – Emergencies, Technologies and Beyond. Her research focuses on healthcare management, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), process innovation, performance management, and data-driven decision making in healthcare and social care organizations. Her expertise includes process mapping, activity-based costing, benchmarking, business process reengineering, lean management, and the optimization of care pathways through the analysis of real-world data and close collaboration with healthcare professionals. She has been involved in several European, regional and institutional research projects focused on digital health, rehabilitation pathways, healthcare innovation, and multidimensional technology assessment. Her research activities contribute to the development of evidence-based models supporting decision-making processes within healthcare organizations. Since 2025, she has been a member of the PERFORMA Observatory on Healthcare and Social Care Organizational Performance at LIUC Business School. Alongside her research activities, she is actively involved in teaching and executive education in healthcare management and process improvement. She is also the author of more than 43 scientific publications indexed in Scopus.

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How can Successful Primary Healthcare Practices be Transferred and Adapted across Different European Health Systems? Lessons from JA-CIRCE

Thursday, 1 October 2026 - 11:00–12:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#primarycare #transferability #innovation #scaleup #localreadiness

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Description of the session

In this session, experts from the **Joint Action on the transfer of best praCtices In pRimary CarE (JA-CIRCE)** will share practical experiences of transferring and implementing evidence-based primary healthcare practices across multiple European countries. Participants will gain insights into the structured methodologies used to assess local readiness, engage stakeholders, develop implementation plans, and adapt proven practices to diverse national and regional contexts. The session will also explore the key enablers of successful implementation, common challenges encountered during the transfer process, and strategies for ensuring long-term sustainability.

Drawing on real-world examples from JA-CIRCE, this session will demonstrate how collaborative learning, implementation planning, and cross-country cooperation can accelerate primary healthcare transformation and support the wider adoption of innovative, person-centred models of care across Europe.

What you will gain:

- Learn practical strategies for transferring and adapting successful primary healthcare practices to different national and regional health system contexts.
- Understand the key enablers and barriers to implementing proven innovations, drawing on the real-world experience of the JA-CIRCE initiative.
- Gain insights into structured implementation approaches, including how to assess local readiness, engage stakeholders, and tailor best practices while preserving their core components.
- Explore real examples from across Europe demonstrating how primary healthcare innovations have been successfully adapted to meet local needs and support sustainable system transformation.
- Take away practical lessons and recommendations that can help accelerate the adoption, implementation, and scaling of innovative primary healthcare models in your own organisation or region.

Co-funded by the European Union

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Meet the speakers

Ana Mª Carriazo

Dr. Carriazo (Seville 1962) is currently Senior Advisor at the Regional Ministry of Healthcare, Presidency and Emergencies of Andalusia (since 2008), in charge of international relationships in the field of health, particularly with European Union and its institutions. She is the contact person for different European and International networks: Active and Healthy Living Reference Sites Collaborative Network -RSCN- (since 2017, member of the Executive Board), EIT Health Spain, EuroHealthNet and the Regions for Health Network of WHO-Europe. Active participant in EU projects, currently CIRCE-JA coordination, JADECARE, ADVANTAGE JA, CHRODIS+ among others. Before, she worked at the Andalusian Health Service for more than 19 years.

She got her Degree in Medicine (1986) and her PhD in Public Health (1997) at the University of Seville, and epidemiology training at University of Michigan (1986-87). She also holds a Degree in Statistics of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2001). She is specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health (2003).

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Population Health Management as a Driver of Primary Care Transformation

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Thursday, 1 October 2026 - 13:00–14:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#primarycare #populationmanagement #transformation #primarycarenetworks #evaluation

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

Join us for this session to learn more about the Italian primary care system and take a deeper dive into the primary care system, which covers 6 million people in the Lazio Region in Italy. The speaker, Dott Paolo Parente, will be sharing the experience and lessons learned from the ongoing implementation of primary health care reforms and territorial healthcare development within the Regional Health and Social Health Integration Directorate of the Lazio Region. The session will focus on the changes which are underway in the region and will include insights from initiatives to transform services across the whole system. Including current epidemiological and demographic status, population health management, building systems to improve the use of data for risk stratification and understanding the new and changing needs of the population.

What you will gain

- Gain a practical understanding of how population health management can support the transformation of primary care.
- Explore strategies for shifting from reactive, disease-focused care to proactive, person-centred and preventive approaches.
- Learn from real-world examples demonstrating how data-driven population health approaches improve care coordination and health outcomes.
- Discover enabling factors, common challenges and lessons learned when implementing population health management in different health system contexts.
- Exchange experiences with experts and peers working to strengthen integrated, sustainable and equitable primary care.

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Meet the speakers

Dr. Paolo Parente

Dr. Paolo Parente, MD, PhD, MSc is the Director of the Office for Primary Health Care and Intermediate Care of the Lazio Regional Health System, Rome.

Specialist in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, PhD in Health Systems and Public Health from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. He is an Adjunct Professor of Public Health at the School of Medicine and Surgery of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and teaches Community Medicine in the Medicine and Surgery program at the Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome. Formerly a Medical Executive at the Local Health Authority Rome 1, in January 2015 he was appointed by Italian MoH to oversee the implementation and development of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) program. He subsequently participated in GHSA missions in Peru, Portugal, and Ukraine.

He coordinated the activities of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Leadership, Governance and Health Policy in Europe and was a consultant to the World Health Organization from 2017 to 2019 for the Migration and Health Programme at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen.

He is currently Vice President of SIMM – the Italian Society for Leadership and Management in Medicine – and Coordinator of the National Working Group on Primary Health Care for SItI – the Italian Society of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine.

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Digital Transformation in Action: Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Digital Health Tools in the EU

Friday, 2 October 2026 - 11:00–12:00 CET

Organiser: THCS WP10 Leaders, Scottish Government, UK

#assessment #digital #evaluation #healthtechnology #transformation

→ **Register here** ←

Description of the session

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is playing an increasingly central role in the evaluation and adoption of innovative digital health tools, in line with the evolving EU regulatory framework (Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 on HTA) and the growing need for assessment methodologies able to keep pace with technological innovation. THCS is organising a workshop to explore this topic, bringing together EU-funded projects working on complementary approaches.

The workshop sets out to bring EDIHTA and ASSESS-DHT together with THCS to compare notes on how they each approach the HTA of digital health tools, looking specifically at the methodologies, tools, and guidance the two projects have developed. Beyond simply showcasing this work, the session aims to open a shared conversation about how the role of HTA itself is evolving as it's asked to keep pace with digital health innovation — with a particular focus on making sure that evolution stays grounded in evidence, supports interoperability across systems, is secure and keeps patients at the centre. The discussion will also dig into the practical side of this: what role real-world data can play in strengthening the evidence base for digital tools, and how developers and public agencies might work together more effectively to collect and share access to that data and turn it into meaningful HTA analysis. Finally, the workshop is meant to be a starting point rather than an endpoint — the goal is to surface concrete opportunities for synergy and follow-up between THCS, EDIHTA, ASSESS-DHT, and other European initiatives working in this space.

What you will gain

- An understanding of how traditional HTA methodologies have evolved and how elements developed by EDiHTA and ASSESS-DHT could feed into a shared or complementary approach at EU level.
- The benefits of structuring our approach to collaboration, specifically:
    - How key stakeholders (technology developers and public agencies/HTA bodies) can support data collection and analysis.
    - Which other actors need to contribute to this reshaped collaboration.
    - What data governance models (e.g. data-sharing agreements, regulatory sandboxes, testing environments) could facilitate this collaboration.

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  - What incentives could motivate developers to integrate HTA requirements from the early design stage of a product.
- Scaling up and disseminating approaches:
  - What common tools or guidance could support Member States with more limited HTA capacity in assessing digital technologies.
- How can patient outcomes and priorities remain central throughout the technical evaluation process for digital technologies?

Meet the speakers

Dipak Kalra

Professor Dipak Kalra is President of The European Institute for Innovation through Health Data (www.i-hd.eu), a Professor of Health Informatics and a former London general practitioner. He plays a leading international role in Electronic Health Record R&D, including the reuse of EHRs for research. He has led the development of ISO standards on EHR interoperability, personal health records and data protection. He participates in multiple European Commission funded projects including support for the accelerated uptake of digital health innovations, scaling up the quality, interoperability and the reuse of health data for research including inputs to the European Health Data Space, the collection and use of health outcomes towards more value-based care, the development of an AI-powered federated learning platform in lung cancer and initiatives to improve a patient's understanding of their medication to improve confidence and adherence.

Emmanouil Tsiasiotis

Emmanouil Tsiasiotis is a research associate at the Graduate School of Health Economics and Management (ALTEMS), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. He is a civil engineer with a master's degree in public health from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Specialized in health policy, HTA, and digital innovation, he is project manager of the European project EDiHTA, aimed at establishing a shared framework for the assessment of digital health technologies. He is involved in international projects, including the PHSSR (Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience), promoting structural reinforcement of health systems. He also leads the Clinical Trials Management Laboratory, coordinating research activities, publication of reports, and analyses on the clinical trials system in Italy.

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