

International Research Project (IRP) *Projet de Recherche Internationale (PRI)*

2021 call for proposals

Closing date for applications

13 September 2021 at 05:00 p.m. (Paris Time)

1. Context and objectives of the programme

Context

In the framework of its strategic plan for 2021-2025, Inserm wishes to give strong impetus to its international relations by mobilising tools suited to the conditions and requirements of the collaboration of its research teams with their foreign partners.

International Research Projects (**IRPs**) or Projets de Recherche Internationaux (**PRI**) are consolidating tools used to meet the needs of researchers through a call for projects that is thematically open. The ultimate goal is to consolidate a partnership established between an Inserm team and a foreign team (or, depending on scientific relevance, several foreign teams).

As such, the selected projects must contribute to reinforcing the European or international visibility of the scientific cooperation initiated and create the conditions for the development of larger scale research projects, for example through existing European and international funding programmes.

Objectifs

The IRPs aim to support an **existing or emerging promising partnership** by giving to scientific projects of excellence and strong impact potential, between two or more countries, the means to establish their collaboration over the long term. The creation of an IRP must demonstrate **complementarity between the teams and reciprocal added value for the partners involved**.

For projects having already received the International Associated Laboratory (IAL) label ('renewal'), they will need to demonstrate the added-value made by a new complementary project that maintains the continuity of the already funded project.

Geographic targeting :

An annual geographical targeting for the PRI calls has been put in place to facilitate the selection of projects by aiming at the relative harmonization of the scientific levels of the eligible projects. The criterion used for this harmonization is the annual amount invested in research and development as a percentage of annual national GDP.

Duration of the projects and schedule of the call

The duration of these joint research projects between an Inserm research team and one (or more) foreign research team(s) is five (5) years.

Regarding the 2021 call for proposals, it opens in June and closes in September of year (n) for the creation of the IRP in 2022: year (n+1).

The evaluation will take place in the fall of 2021.

The candidates will be informed of the results at the beginning of the year 2022. The projects will start in 2022.

2. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted online on Eva3 Inserm Platform.

<https://eva3-accueil.inserm.fr/sites/eva/appels-a-projets/Pages/default.aspx>

Documents to download, to fill out and to upload on the Eva3 platform :

- The application form;
- A list of relevant scientific outputs of the laboratories (10 max each);
- The document of the recommendation of the Head of the laboratory

Documents to upload directly (no forms imposed)

- The CV of the French coordinator
- The CV of the foreign coordinator;
- A support letter signed by the foreign coordinator indicating, the case being, the resources that may be attributed to the project (including travel funds, human resources, etc.)

Candidates must inform his/her other supervising establishments ("*tutelles*"), and his/her regional office of his/her application.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the applicant contact his or her affiliated thematic institute for the preparation and submission of the application.

3. Examination of proposals

3.1 Eligibility criteria

1- IRP calls in odd-numbered years will exclusively target countries with high research investment¹. In 2021, the target countries or regions are :

Germany

Austria

Belgium

China

Denmark

Finland

Hong Kong

Israel

Japan

the Netherlands

Norway

South Korea

Sweden

Switzerland

Taiwan

The United States

IRP calls in even-numbered years will target countries with a more limited investment in their research

2 – The French coordinator has to be a researcher with a permanent position working in an Inserm laboratory.

3 – The submitted projects must be led by one coordinator from an Inserm research unit (referred to as 'French coordinator') and one (or more) coordinator(s) from the foreign research country (referred to as 'Foreign coordinator');

¹ Le fort investissement en recherche est défini à travers le critère suivant : investissement supérieur à 2% du PIB dans la recherche. A l'inverse, un investissement plus limité est défini comme un investissement inférieur à 2% du PIB.

Source : Dernières données disponibles de la Banque mondiale (issues de l'Institut des statistiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO) :

<https://donnees.banquemondiale.org/indicateur/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS>

4 – The application must contain all requested information (see list in section 2);

3.2 Evaluation criteria

Once the eligibility of the applications validated, they will be evaluated by an independent scientific evaluation committee with the support of experts. The final decision will be made by the Inserm Management Committee, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of Inserm.

Evaluation of proposals will be based on ² :

- 1- Scientific and quality of the team (scientific excellence and/or scientific utility, innovative aspect and/or originality) ;
- 2- The relevance of the international collaboration (complementarity, quality of the existing collaboration, added value) ;
- 3- The expected scientific, economic, and societal impacts of the collaboration ;

In the event of equal scores, a competitive advantage can be given to disruptive and/or interdisciplinary projects.

For more details please refer to the evaluation criteria table [here](#).

4. Funding of selected projects

The selected IRPs will be granted - beyond the resources directly mobilized by the participating laboratories - funding of up to:

- €60,000 for IRPs in Europe;
- €75,000 for IRPs outside of Europe.

The projects will start in 2022. The fixed funding aims to primarily contribute to mobility, organization of meetings and field missions. Depending on needs, it could also be used for equipment or other identified needs. It will be allocated to the Inserm laboratory in annual instalments (of €12K and €15K, respectively) based on the initial project and mid-term assessments-reports established by the project leader and partner. Transfer of funding in year 4 will be conditional upon receipt of the mid-term financial and scientific reports (see below).

Le cas échéant, un co-financement du (ou des) partenaire(s) étranger(s) ou d'une co-tutelle du laboratoire pourra être mentionné.

5. Monitoring of selected projects

The funded IRPs will be monitored by the Department of National and Foreign Affairs and the department of Program Assessment and Follow-up, in order to evaluate the activity of the project and the impact of its funding, the following will be required:

- a short mid-term report (at the middle of year 3);
- a final report at the end of the project.

6. Contact

irp@inserm.fr

² The IRP call for proposals, in line with Inserm's policy on equal opportunities and parity, will follow the ambition and recommendations of the [plan for professional equality](#) between women and men and will pay particular attention to gender balance.