

First Step projects Projets "Tremplin International" 2025 Call for proposal

**Closing date for applications
June 23, 2025 at 05:00 p.m. (Paris time)**

1. Context and objectives of the program

Context

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.

The First step projects (*projets Tremplin international*) are exploration tools used to meet the needs of young researchers who wish to explore avenues for collaboration through a call for projects that is open both geographically and thematically. They aim to initiate a collaboration between a young Inserm researcher and a foreign team in order to foster new international cooperations.

Objectives

The First step projects ("*Tremplin international*") are intended to initiate and develop scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between two research laboratories. The creation of a First step project must demonstrate **a potential for complementary expertise**. The call is aimed at young Inserm researchers (up to 5 years after permanent recruitment at Inserm or Atip-Avenir Inserm team leader or junior professorship).

Nb. This call aims to support new collaborations. Projects resulting from previous work between the 2 teams will be evaluated but not considered as a priority - especially if it concerns a long-standing partnership (e.g. post-doc).

The duration of this partnership between an Inserm research team and another foreign research team is one (1) year.

Then this label could lead to considering more in-depth collaborations, for instance by responding to calls for "International Research Projects" ([see IRP fact sheet](#)), with a duration of 5 years, for teams with a history of scientific cooperation.

2. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted online through the Eva3 Inserm Platform.

<https://www.eva3.inserm.fr/login>

The following documents must be downloaded, filled out and uploaded through the Eva3 platform ("*documents à joindre*") :

- The application form;
- A list of relevant scientific outputs of the laboratories (3 max each) – if any;
- The recommendation file from 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 committed to the project (including travel funds, human resources, etc.)

Candidates must inform their supervising institutions ("*tutelles*"), and their regional office of the submission of their application.

3. Examination of proposals

3.1 Eligibility criteria

1. The submitted projects must be led by one coordinator from an Inserm research unit (referred to as 'French coordinator') and one coordinator from the foreign research country (referred to as 'Foreign coordinator');
2. The French coordinator has to work in an Inserm laboratory (up to 5 years after recruitment at Inserm or Atip-Avenir Inserm team leader, or Junior Professorship).
3. The application must contain all the requested information (see list in section 2);

3.2 Evaluation criteria

Once the eligibility of the applications is validated, they will be evaluated by a scientific evaluation committee. The final validation/decision will be made by the executive management.

Evaluation of proposals will be based on ¹ :

- 1- The scientific quality of the project and its potential ;
- 2- The scientific expertise and quality of the teams;
- 3- The feasibility of the project ;
- 4- The complementarity of the teams and the potential for collaboration.

A special attention will be paid to projects with low-income or middle-income countries (LMICs)².

For more details please refer to the evaluation criteria table.

The candidates will be informed of the results at the beginning of the year 2026.

4. Funding of selected projects

Beyond the resources directly mobilized by the participating laboratories, First Step projects will be granted a funding of **10000€ for one year (fixed amount). The funding will not cover human resources expenses.**

The projects will start in 2026 and the fixed sum will be allocated at the start of the project.

5. Monitoring of selected projects

The funded First step projects will be monitored by the Department of National and Foreign Affairs (DPRE) and the Thematic Institutes, in order to evaluate the activity of the project and the impact of its funding. A short final report will be requested (to be sent by DPRE at the beginning of 2027).

¹ The FS 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.

² LMICs list : <https://data.worldbank.org/country/low-and-middle-income>

Source defining the notion of PRFI : <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>