

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)
PROJET DE RECHERCHE INTERNATIONALE (PRI)
2026 Call for proposals**

**Closing date for applications
Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 05:00 p.m. (Paris Time)**

1. Context and objectives of the programme

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.

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 and geographically open**. The ultimate goal is to consolidate a partnership established between an Inserm laboratory in France 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 conditions for the development of larger scale research projects, for example through existing European and international funding programmes.

Objectifs

The aim of IRPs is to support promising and innovative partnerships by providing scientific projects of excellence with high potential for impact with the resources needed to establish a sustainable collaboration. The creation of an IRP must demonstrate complementarity between teams as well as mutual added value for the partners involved.

Duration of the projects and schedule of the call

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

Regarding the 2026 call for proposals, it opens on 10 July and closes on 30 September 2026 (year (n)) for the creation of the IRP in 2027 (year (n+1)).

The evaluation will take place in autumn 2026.

The candidates will be informed of the results in the first quarter of 2027 with projects due to start immediately.

2. Application procedure

Applications must be submitted online on Eva3 Inserm Platform.

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

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 format 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 their other supervising establishments ("*tutelles*"), their affiliated thematic institute and their regional office of their application.

3. Examination of proposals

3.1 Eligibility criteria

1. The French coordinator must be a researcher with a permanent position working in an Inserm laboratory (research unit) in France. *If at the time of the application a career change is known, the applicant must guarantee the continuation of the project and make mention of it in the appendix of the file.*
2. The submitted projects must be led by one coordinator from an Inserm research unit and one (or more) coordinator(s) from the foreign research country;
3. The application must contain all requested information (see list in section 2).

NB. Only one application per person per year is permitted. Furthermore, it is not possible to submit an application for both the IRP call and the First Step call.

3.2 Evaluation criteria

Once the eligibility of the applications is validated, an independent scientific evaluation committee will evaluate them with the support of experts. The final validation/decision will be made by the executive management.

Evaluation of proposals will be based on¹:

1. Scientific potential and quality of the project (scientific excellence and/or scientific utility, innovative aspect and/or originality) and quality of the team;
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 case of equality, a competitive advantage could be given to disruptive and/or interdisciplinary projects. Special attention will be paid to projects with low-income or middle-income countries (LMICs)².

¹ 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.

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>

For more details, please refer to the evaluation criteria table.

4. Funding of selected projects

The selected IRPs will be granted a funding of:

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

The projects will start in 2027. The fixed funding mainly aims to contribute to mobility, organization of meetings and field missions. Depending on the 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 the mid-term assessment 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).

Please note that it is not possible to carry funds over from one year to the next.

If applicable, co-financing by the foreign partner(s) or a tutelle of the laboratory may be mentioned.

5. Monitoring of selected projects

The funded IRPs will be monitored by the Department of National and Foreign Affairs and the thematic institutes, 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): 2-3 pages.
- a mid-term meeting with the DPRE and the thematic institutes
- a final report at the end of the project: 5 pages max.