# **CROSS-DISCIPLINARY PROJECTS**

## **APPEL A PROJETS**

**Answers to frequently asked questions**

**BUILDING THE PROJECT**

How long will the project last?

There are two possibilities: 4 years or 8 years. A 4-year project should be completed in 4 years. A renewal may be requested for a 4-year period on the basis of a new project. An 8-year project will of course be more ambitious in its objectives, but funding will only be granted for 4 years, and the second 4-year phase will be subject to an assessment of whether the intermediate 4-year objectives have been achieved. The annual amounts can be between €0.2 and €0.8 million, whether the project is for 4 or 8 years.

Can the project be a "portfolio of projects"?

It is important that the project has a coherent objective to which all the stakeholders contribute. The project can be constructed in separate work programmes (work-packages) but they must have a clearly stated common objective. The work programmes must be defined when the project is submitted (they must not be the subject of subsequent Calls for Proposals during the course of the CDP project).

Can the project be a continuation of an existing project?

Yes, a CDP can be based on an existing project, but it must show an evolution, a new approach in relation to what already exists.

What is meant by the differentiating character of a project?

This involves specifying how the project differs from approaches taken by other teams at national or international level. This may involve a particular approach or skill, or the original combination of several skills, or the presence of exceptional equipment.

What are the expected criteria for an interdisciplinary project? How will they be assessed?

An interdisciplinary project combines complementary disciplines to provide a joint answer to a scientific question. A multidisciplinary project involves several disciplines taking part in the project, but with distinct and complementary responses. Both approaches are eligible for a CDP. Depending on the project's ERC panels, the evaluation of projects will involve experts from different panels and they will be specifically questioned on the relevance of the interdisciplinary approach proposed. It should be noted that simply registering a project in several ERC Panels is not sufficient; the interdisciplinary nature of the project must be justified by specific arguments.

How can a project contribute to strengthening Lille's reputation in the field of transitions?

Transitions is the central theme of the University of Lille. All transitions are concerned: ecological, climatic, societal, economic, technological, etc. The project should provide a response to the challenges arising from them.

How many people should be in the consortium responding to the call for proposals? How many research units should be involved?

CDP projects will vary in format to take account of the diversity of expectations and research practices. There is therefore no predefined format. As research units vary greatly in size, it is not possible to define a minimum number of research units for a project.

It should be noted that participation will be declared in terms of both the number of people involved and the percentage of involvement (%FTE). The declaration per person (in the appendix to the submission document) will cover both the project as a whole and each WP.

Can there be partners from outside the University of Lille?

A limited number of external partners (including international partners) may be involved if clearly justified, and they may not be funded. The following are considered to be internal partners: CNRS, INSERM, INRAE, INRIA, CHU de Lille, Institut Pasteur de Lille, Centrale Lille, IMT Nord-Europe.

What degree of precision is expected regarding the involvement of training in responding to the call for proposals?

We recommend that you contact the relevant teaching teams in order to be able to present a credible involvement. The relevant departments must be informed. A letter of recommendation from the relevant departments is recommended. It is not mandatory to participate in a graduate programme; any other course may be involved. The project may aim to build a new thematic graduate programme. It could also involve thematic schools or lecture series for students. Involvement in continuing education will be particularly appreciated.

How precise should the indicators be?

Indicators are quantitative or qualitative estimates of the project's objectives. They may relate to a concept to be established, a characteristic of a material to be achieved for a targeted application, a public policy proposal, etc. There may be bibliometric indicators, but these are not exclusive of other, more qualitative indicators. The important thing is that they exist, that they are stated and that they are credible. It is important that the indicators enable a precise 4-year assessment of the project, even if it is scheduled to last 8 years.

How should the project be governed?

The project must have simple and effective governance. It should include a monitoring committee made up of the project coordinators, the coordinators of the hubs concerned, and representatives of the components and institutions involved. This monitoring committee will meet at least twice during the four years of the project. An external scientific committee (the composition of which will be validated by the hub coordinators) will have to be called upon by the project coordinators.

How precise are the impacts expected to be?

Reasonable and credible impacts must be proposed. Avoid general phrases such as "the project will enable funding to be raised from external AAPs (ANR, EU, etc.)", but propose concrete actions, such as "the project meets the criteria of the Pathfinder AAP because... a consortium will be set up to respond to it".

How precise should the funding levers be?

Ultimately, the project will have to be able to respond to PAAs in order to increase its funding. European projects should be particularly targeted. For example, it is advisable to mention a European call for proposals that corresponds to the project's objectives.

Why is it necessary to specify the role of the young researchers involved in the project?

The project could have a major impact on the start of the careers of researchers and teacher-researchers (C-ECs), and their involvement is therefore welcome. It will not be a matter of mere window-dressing; the young C-ECs must be genuinely involved, and to this end it will be necessary to explain how they will make a specific contribution to the project. Be careful to respect the criterion: they must have been recruited as full members of staff less than 6 years before the date on which they submit their response to the call for proposals (30 September 2023, i.e. they must have been appointed as full members of staff (including the probationary period) after 30 September 2018).

Why do I need to specify keywords?

The keywords will enable the ESF to find the experts for the project. It is therefore important to be precise so that the right skills can be found. In particular, think about specifying complementary keywords that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

THE BUDGET

Does the budget need to be detailed?

The budget must be detailed in broad terms, as the expert appraiser will have to assess whether the budget is appropriate for the project.

Are there any constraints on the breakdown of the budget? Can we ask for equipment?

No, in terms of payroll and operating costs. It is not possible to finance investments of more than €100k, in particular because of the time required for procurement procedures. Total investment must not exceed 15% of the CDP's annual budget.

Is it possible to charge management fees?

There are no management costs to be taken into account. The budget must be entirely dedicated to the project.

Who will manage the project?

This aspect will be managed once the project has been accepted. It is not necessary to specify this in the submission file. The management mandate rules agreed between the establishments will prevail. The institutions concerned will work together to propose the best management method for the project if it is selected.

Is it possible to include the platforms as service providers?

A budget can be set aside for the use of platforms.