

# ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases Call for proposals

# Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) Infectious Disease Emergences 2025

# **Submission guidelines**

#### Context of the call for proposals:

ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases (ANRS EID) wishes to pursue its commitment to and support of collaborative research projects that bring together teams in France and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and is launching a new LMIC Infectious Disease Emergences call for proposals that targets research into emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

## **General conditions**

#### Scope

Only research projects related to **emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases** are eligible, whether the research is basic, translational or clinical, or concerns the public health or human and social sciences fields. In line with the agency's priorities concerning emerging and re-emerging pathogens, this call for proposals prioritises studies on viral haemorrhagic fevers, respiratory viruses and arboviral infections.

This call for proposals will make it possible to fund research projects, which may or may not include requests for research grants associated with the project (PhD or postdoc). Please note that applications for research grants associated with a project are no longer submitted on a separate form. The budget required to recruit the beneficiary must comply with the employer's salary scales. The research grant will be included in the budget via the personnel request made as part of the project. The participation of the beneficiary, as well as the specific project that he or she will carry out, must be presented and justified in a dedicated section of the detailed scientific description of the project.

This call for proposals targets more specifically, but not exclusively, large-scale multidisciplinary projects that involve several countries and support the structuring of research in the countries concerned. As a general rule, it is desirable, wherever possible, to be part of international processes (existing consortia or new collaborations). The projects must justify having taken into account the national or regional specificities of the countries in which the research will take place.

The participation of patient organisations in research projects is strongly encouraged where this is possible.

Through the International Network, ANRS EID coordinates a network of research institutions and research and health authorities in Africa, South-East Asia, Brazil and France, brought together through partnerships known as Partner sites and PRISMEs, whose list of countries and contacts can be found in Appendix 1. The primary mission

of these partnerships is to bring together French players and International Network countries, as well as the resources needed to address Global Health challenges through research. Researchers submitting a project to this call for proposals are strongly encouraged to contact ANRS EID partners beforehand in order to not just promote information sharing and develop networking at national or international level, but also to provide or obtain support for the design, implementation and management of projects and team training.

#### **Eligibility criteria**

To be eligible, projects must be conducted collaboratively between a French team and a team from an LMIC. The project must also demonstrate the scientific relevance of the established collaboration and its impact for the two countries concerned. The list of LMICs as defined by the World Bank classification is available here: <a href="https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups">https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups</a>.

The projects must involve a French team (Team A) and a team from an LMIC (Team B) to which their two respective project co-leaders will belong. Projects that do not respect this rule will be deemed ineligible. Other teams, whether French or foreign, may be associated with the aforementioned two project teams as partners (Teams C, D, E, etc.).

**NEW for 2025: Individual research grants not associated with a project** (PhD or postdoc) **are ineligible for the 2025 edition** of the LMIC Infectious Disease Emergences call for proposals. They will be the subject of a dedicated call under the Start programme to support the career development of young researchers at ANRS EID, which will be opened at a later date.

Initiation contracts are not eligible for this call for proposals.

Please note, regarding the LMIC Infectious Disease Emergences 2025 call for proposals: Due to the current geopolitical context, the feasibility of funding teams based in countries where cooperation with France is currently suspended will be discussed with ANRS EID senior management. Funding decisions will be made in accordance with ministerial directives during the selection process of the call for proposals.

#### Limited number of resubmissions

The number of resubmissions for a given project is limited to two. Projects having reached this limit will no longer be eligible. A project that has already been submitted three times (one initial submission and two resubmissions) and not selected for funding by ANRS EID may only be presented as a new project in the event of major changes to the research hypothesis, scientific objectives and/or envisaged technical approach. Otherwise, the project will be considered as a resubmission – thus ineligible – and will not be evaluated. For resubmitted projects or those newly submitted but based on projects previously evaluated by the committee, please add an argument that will enable the committee to understand the new elements and the evolution of the project in the light of the committee members' suggestions

#### **Duration of the projects**

Under this call for proposals, the maximum project duration is 36 months.

#### **Budget**

No minimum threshold or budget cap is defined for any project.

#### **Schedule**

Opening: 06 October 2025 to 15 December 2025

Notification of results: June 2026

#### Funding from other agencies or foundations

In addition to ANRS EID, other public and private organisations fund research and organise their own calls for proposals, such as the French National Research Agency (ANR), the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), Sidaction and the Foundation for Medical Research (FRM).

The eligibility of projects submitted to ANRS EID in areas likely to be supported by other funding bodies or agencies will be evaluated by ANRS EID in conjunction with these bodies. Projects funded by other agencies or foundations within the framework of equivalent funding mechanisms and with identical expectations will not be accepted by ANRS EID. Nevertheless, the co-funding of projects is possible.

## How to submit

All applications must be submitted online through **Apogée**, the ANRS EID platform for calls for proposals.

#### New guidelines adopted in 2025:

**Research projects,** with or without applications for research grants associated with the project, must be submitted using the **Flash CFP** form and the 'Project scientific proposal' template, which can be found on the <u>Call</u> for proposals page of the ANRS EID website.

If a research grant is requested as part of a project:

- It <u>must be non-nominative</u>.
- Details of the research grant project must then be provided in section 2.3 of the 'Project scientific proposal' template.
- The budget required to recruit the beneficiary must be included in the project budget, in the section entitled 'Requested project personnel (technician, project manager, etc.)'. If this section does not appear in the 'Personnel' tab of the budget section of your form, please ensure that all the information in the 'Administrative section' tab has been completed before returning to the 'Budget section' tab to edit the budget.

The 2025 edition of the LMIC Infectious Disease Emergences call for proposals no longer allows the submission of nominative research grants not associated with research projects. These applications will be the subject of a separate call, to be launched under the Start programme.

The **Flash CFP** form, to be completed online for a research project, whether or not it associates any research grants, comprises 3 main sections: administrative and scientific information about the project leaders and any associated teams, the scientific presentation of the project itself, and the budget section.

The section of the application entitled 'List of people involved in the project' must be printed out and signed **by hand or by certified electronic signature** by each person involved (one list per project team). Once signed, the list can be scanned and sent by e-mail (aap@anrs.fr), with the original paper version sent within 30 days of closure of the call for proposals. In all cases, the original copy of the list including the certified handwritten or electronic signatures of all those involved must have been sent prior to any funding being provided.

The detailed scientific proposal for the research project must follow a specific framework, details of which can be found in the 'Project scientific proposal' document. This document can be downloaded from the 'Call for proposals' page of the ANRS EID website or from the 'Plans to download' part of the scientific section of your application on Apogée and must be uploaded to Apogée.

The budget section of the application is used to present the project's budget which must be drawn-up on a

full-cost basis, namely by listing and estimating all the costs required to carry out the project: both those for which funding is requested under the call for proposals and those that will be borne by the project's operating organisations (notably permanent researcher and engineering staff involved in the project), or those that are already funded by ANRS EID as part of structural support (e.g. methodology and management centres, existing graduate assistants or scholarship holders expected to contribute to the project). The boxed section at the bottom of the budget table must be completed in order to justify the budget request for each team involved.

Among the costs for which funding is sought from ANRS EID within the framework of the project, it will also be necessary to envisage those relating to sponsorship (insurance, additional hospital costs, etc.), even when a request for sponsorship by ANRS EID is desired.

Overheads and management costs can be deducted from project funding up to a maximum of 8% of the total amount of funded expenditure. The rate chosen (between 0 and 8%) must be clearly specified and this will be applied to the total amount requested from ANRS EID, taking all categories of expenditure together, and added automatically by the system to the amount requested for operating expenditure.

No additional documents will be accepted after the call for proposals has closed.

Applications for a **research grant associated with a project** must be **non-nominative**. An application for a research grant associated with a project must from now on be fully integrated into the project. Details of the part corresponding to the project proposed for the beneficiary must be provided **in the project template** provided for this purpose (entitled 'Project scientific proposal'). The cost of the grant must be **included in the general budget of the team concerned**, in the tab concerning personnel and in the section entitled 'Requested project personnel (technician, project manager, etc.)' (see New submission guidelines for 2025).

Please note: Before he or she takes up the position, the name of the selected candidate must be notified to ANRS EID, which will confirm the administrative conditions for their eligibility.

# **Project selection**

The evaluation committee set up by ANRS EID is responsible for the scientific evaluation and ranking of research projects. If necessary, the committee may rely on additional evaluations carried out by external experts prior to the evaluation meeting.

All applications submitted to the call for proposals are subject to two phases of examination:

- **Scientific**, including the scientific expert appraisal of the application by one or more scientific experts, carried out under the responsibility of ANRS EID. Several criteria will be considered, including: the intrinsic scientific quality of the project, the relevance of the collaboration within the framework of the project, its feasibility, its originality, its scientific impact, the applicants' scientific publications and presentations.
- Administrative and financial.

The evaluation committee will also be attentive to criteria such as good control of the project's environmental impact, equality of the sexes, inclusion of young researchers in research projects and the consistency of the requested budget with the scale of the project.

The final decision whether or not to allocate funding is made by ANRS EID based on all the elements gathered during these two phases and how they align with the agency's scientific priorities.

## **Funding**

#### **Funding timelines**

Funding is made available within the six months following the publication of the results of the call for proposals, provided that the administrative, ethics and regulatory steps subsequent to project acceptance have been completed within the required deadlines.

#### Types of funding

For projects conducted in partnership between multiple teams, ANRS EID funds each research project team separately.

**Funding of the projects (with or without an associated research grant):** Funding is provided to the body to which the scientific leader of each project team reports. It is therefore this body ('the managing body') that will be responsible for managing the funding and must justify its use at the end of the project. The funding is split between equipment, operational costs and personnel. However, the budgets of the selected projects may be modified by ANRS EID, notably to ensure a balance between these different types of expenditure.

For **multi-year** research projects, the funding is paid in instalments, each covering a maximum of 12 months of project activity. The procedures for submitting interim scientific and/or financial reports between each instalment are defined below, as well as in the documents awarding the funding concerned.

In all cases, payment of subsequent instalments will remain subject to ANRS EID's budget availability for the financial years concerned, and to its assessment of project progress.

Please note that funding for a PhD contract is limited to a period of three years.

After the final scientific and financial reports have been drawn up, and in accordance with public regulations, any funds that remain unused at the end of the project, or which have been used for a purpose or in a way that does not comply with the conditions of their allocation, must be repaid to ANRS EID by the managing body.

# Regulatory and ethics procedures

All research projects in low- and middle-income countries are subject to local ethics regulations.

ANRS EID is committed to ensuring that research involving human subjects, research involving animals and research subject to additional regulatory requirements is conducted in accordance with the highest internationally recognised ethical standards.

The successful applicants to this call are required to obtain the approval of the appropriate institutional review board or ethics committee for any research involving human subjects, animal subjects, or samples, and to provide ANRS EID with a copy of this approval prior to starting the research.

In addition to complying with the ethics approval, all such research must be conducted in accordance with the generally accepted principles of Good Clinical Practice, including, but not limited to, the requirement for prior informed consent of human subjects and must be conducted in accordance with all national and international regulations and guidelines applicable to research involving human subjects, data privacy management, research involving animals, the use or release of genetically modified organisms, the use for research purposes of recombinant DNA, and/or the use of any organism, substance or material considered to present a biological risk, including compliance with all standards applicable to the transport of samples, both locally and internationally, where applicable.

In the case of studies on a pathogenic microorganism, the findings obtained must be evaluated for their potential dual nature (favouring malicious actions) by competent authorities prior to publication.

Leaders of **projects associated with existing ANRS EID research** (clinical trials, cohort or pathophysiological studies) must contact the scientific advisory board of said research prior to compiling their applications in order to obtain its approval. A letter from the scientific advisory board must be attached to the application. The leaders of these projects are also asked to provide a brief recap of the existing ANRS EID research (objectives, study population, etc.) to which the project relates and to describe its progress (status of inclusions, follow-ups, etc.).

# **Environmental impact**

Research teams are invited to include in their project an evaluation of its **environmental impact**, in particular an estimate of the carbon footprint of travel and other activities that will be required to carry it out, as well as the justification for these activities and/or the means proposed to limit their impact on the environment.

The principles and tools required for this evaluation can be consulted at <a href="https://labos1point5.org">https://labos1point5.org</a> and <a href="https://labos1point5.org">www.basecarbone.fr</a>.

# **Promotion of open science**

As these are projects funded by French State grants, publications will have to comply with the provisions encouraging open science set out in Article 30 of Law no. 2016-1321 of 7 October 2016 for a Digital Republic (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/article\_jo/JORFARTI000033202841).

As part of ANRS EID's contribution to the promotion and implementation of open science, and in conjunction with the French National Plan for Open Science (PNSO) and the international Plan S, the project teams and associated teams undertake to guarantee immediate free access to peer-reviewed scientific publications and to adopt a FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) approach to research data in line with the principle of 'as open as possible and as closed as necessary'.

As such, all scientific publications deriving from projects funded under this call for proposals will be made freely accessible under the Creative Commons CC-BY or equivalent licence, using one of the following three channels:

- publication in a natively open access journal,
- publication in a subscription journal that is part of a transformative agreement or in a transformative journal,
- publication in a subscription-based journal.

Manuscripts accepted for publication must be filed in the HAL open archive by the leaders of the funded projects and/or the associated teams under a CC-BY licence, implementing the Rights Retention Strategy (RRS), in accordance with the terms specified in the specific conditions of the funding decision or contract.

In addition, they undertake to ensure that the full text of these scientific publications (version of record or postprint) is filed in the national HAL open archive, at the latest at the time of publication, and to mention the ANRS EID reference of the research project from which they originated.

ANRS EID encourages the submission of pre-prints to open platforms or open archives, and to favour permanent or unique identifiers (e.g. DOI or HAL Id). ANRS EID recommends giving preference to publication in natively open access journals or books. Publication fees or Article Processing Charges (APC) are eligible for funding, with the exception of those concerning hybrid journals (subscription journals with no current agreement).

Finally, the teams leading the funded projects and the associated teams undertake to provide a first version of a Data Management Plan (DMP) for their project within 6 months of the start of the project. This plan can be entered and updated on the <a href="OPIDoR DMP">OPIDoR DMP</a> portal, giving preference to the 'Science Europe: structured model'. This plan should be updated as necessary, and at least at the end of the project. This obligation to submit a DMP continues

Version 03/10/2025 6

after the expiry of the funding decisions or agreements.

# **Activity reports and publications**

The timetable for activity reports, set out in the relevant funding documents, must be scrupulously respected.

For each **research project funded**, the beneficiary will be required to submit at least the following to ANRS EID, **within the 3 months** that follow the funding settlement date:

- A scientific report on the project.
- A summary of the scientific report (5 pages maximum).
- A financial report detailing the use made of the funds allocated to the project, certified by a representative of the managing body duly authorised in financial matters.
- A list of publications in peer-reviewed journals, providing they are relevant to the subject of the research project.
- In the context of the ANRS EID support strategy for young researchers, and in particular the Start programme, we ask you to pay particular attention to the description of the research activities entrusted to the PhD student(s) or post-doc student(s) that may be funded by ANRS EID as part of your project.

All publications and communication actions resulting from the projects funded under this call for proposals must bear the following acknowledgement: 'This study was supported by a grant from ANRS Maladies Infectieuses Emergentes (programme acronym, programme year, project number: e.g. ANRS LMIC Infectious Disease Emergences 2024 Call for Proposals – R-PR-XXXX)'. In addition, any communication referring to a project funded under the calls for proposals covered by this document must mention the support provided by ANRS EID.

# **Contacts**

Structuring Research Support Department – Calls for Proposals team: <u>aap@anrs.fr</u> In the event of a technical problem with the application: <u>apogee@anrs.fr</u>

# Appendix 1: Contact details of the ANRS EID International Network representatives

PARTNERSHIP	TITLE	Acade	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	EMAIL
Partner site Brazil Partner site Burkina Faso	Mrs	Dr	de Castro	Nathalie	nathalie.de-castro@aphp.fr
	Mrs	Dr	Telford	Erica	erica.telford@expertisefrance.fr
	Mr	Dr	Dahourou	Désiré	ddahourou@yahoo.fr
	Mr	Dr	Kania	Dramane	draka3703@yahoo.fr
	Mr	Prof.	Nagot	Nicolas	nicolas.nagot@umontpellier.fr
Partner site Cambodia	Mr	Dr	Gellie	Victor	victor.gellie@expertisefrance.fr
	Mr	Prof.	Saphonn	Vonthanak	vonthanak@uhs.edu.kh
	Mr	Dr	Spire	Bruno	bruno.spire@inserm.fr
Partner site Cameroon	Mr	Prof.	Delaporte	Eric	eric.delaporte@ird.fr
	Mrs	Dr	Varloteaux	Marie	marie.varloteaux@expertisefrance.fr
	Mrs	Prof.	Zoung-Kanyi Bissek	Anne-Cécile	annezkbissek@yahoo.fr
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	Mr	Dr	Moh	Raoul	raoul.moh@pac-ci.org
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	Mr	Prof.	Touré	Abdoulaye	abdoulaye.toure@cerfig.org
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	Mr	Dr	Taverne	Bernard	bernard.taverne@ird.fr
	Mrs	Prof.	Touré Kane	Coumba	coumba.toure@ussein.edu.sn
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	Mr	Dr	Laureillard	Didier	didier.laureillard@yahoo.fr
	Mrs	Dr	Linh	Thi Thui Doan	thuylinhytcc@gmail.com
	Mrs	Dr	Phan	Thi Thu Huong	huongphanmoh@gmail.com

<sup>\*</sup> Global Health International Research Platform