



# Priority Research Program and Equipment Precision psychiatry

## 2026 Call for applications Innovative Partnerships – early development

Application deadline :  
**15th of September 2026**

Contact :  
[aap@pepr-propsy.fr](mailto:aap@pepr-propsy.fr)

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**  
Call opens on

**June 19th 2026**

# Preamble

Psychiatric disorders affect a significant portion of the population and pose a major challenge to healthcare systems. Their management still relies heavily on diagnostic and therapeutic approaches that struggle to account for the heterogeneity of disorders and patient trajectories. The development of precision psychiatry, integrating advances in neuroscience, genomics, artificial intelligence, and biomedicine, is crucial for improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

In this context, the Priority Research Program and Equipment (PEPR) PROPSY, funded by France 2030, aims to accelerate innovation in psychiatry and establish a French biomedical sector dedicated to mental health. In particular, this program supports the training of young researchers focused on precision psychiatry.

Under this call for proposals, the PEPR PROPSY program plans to support 5 to 10 projects or initiatives with high innovation potential in precision psychiatry, falling into three complementary categories: early-stage projects, educational innovations, and fourth-year PhD fellowships with potential for commercialization or technology transfer.

## **Closure of the call for applications**

Submission materials must be submitted electronically no later than:

**20th of July 2026 at 11:59pm (Paris time) for 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD fellowships**

**15th of September 2026 at 11:59 (Paris time) for type 1 and 2 projects**

It is essential to carefully read this entire document and the instructions available on the submission website :

<https://appels.programmesstrategiques.inserm.fr>

## **Contacts**

**Grants administrator PEPR PROPSY : Eugénie Favelier**

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## 1) Context and Objectives of the Call for Projects

The **PROPSY Priority Research Program and Equipment (PEPR)** is a national program launched in 2022 and funded as part of the **France 2030** plan. It is led by **Inserm** and the **CNRS** with support from the **FondaMental Foundation**. It aims to transform the management of five disabling disorders: bipolar disorders, treatment-resistant depression, schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorder, and first-episode psychosis. These disorders represent a major public health challenge due to their high prevalence, psychosocial impact, and economic cost. They are among the leading causes of disability and reduce life expectancy by 15 to 20 years due to somatic comorbidities and suicide risks.

Strategic Objectives of the PEPR PROPSY:

- **Refine the characterization** of psychiatric disorders to identify homogeneous subgroups.
- **Identify new biomarkers (cognitive, blood-based, brain imaging, electrophysiological, digital, etc.) for stratification and/or prediction**, as well as new therapeutic targets.
- **Develop innovative therapeutic strategies** for homogeneous patient subgroups identified by objective biomarkers
- **Establish a biomedical pathway** in mental health, fostering collaboration between public research, the pharmaceutical industry, and stakeholders in medical and digital innovation
- **Strengthen training and enhance the appeal of careers** related to psychiatry and mental health research.
- **Follow and measure the economic and societal impact of innovations developed within the domain of precision psychiatry**

The PEPR PROPSY program is based on an interdisciplinary approach that combines clinical assessment, genomics, **immunology, brain imaging, computational neuroscience, and artificial intelligence**. It integrates existing databases and establishes large-scale, multimodal cohorts—notably **French Minds**—to enrich existing diagnostic classification, search for prognostic and stratification biomarkers in order to identify homogeneous subforms and optimize patient care.

In line with this approach, this call for proposals will fund between **5 and 10 pre-maturity projects** that align with the priorities of the PEPR PROPSY. The objective of this call is to support and facilitate the development of emerging projects at TRL 2 to TRL 3 that demonstrate strong potential for innovation—whether technological or in terms of application—while also optimizing the continuum of funding and support between research and its commercialization. This call for proposals may also fund projects or initiatives that fall outside the traditional scope of commercialization or the TRL scale. Following this call, another call for proposals managed by the ANR will

fund maturation projects at higher TRL levels (above 3) to ensure the continuity of projects funded under this call or the PEPR PROPSY program.

## 2) Research topics of the Call and expected projects

This call for early-stage projects aims to fund or co-fund innovative projects with the potential for differentiation and commercialization, as well as economic and societal impact, while aligning with the priority areas of the [PEPR PROPSY](#). Submitted projects must be based on results, achievements, or pre-existing elements that are sufficiently documented to justify an early stage of development.

The existence of co-funding must be indicated in the project proposal and will be viewed favorably during evaluation.

Projects may fall under one or more of the following project categories:

### A. Type 1: development of innovative solutions for precision psychiatry

The objective is to fund or co-fund early-stage projects in the field of precision psychiatry aimed at developing:

- Diagnostic strategies (prognostic stratification or prediction) or the development of an endpoint for clinical trials,
- and/or therapeutic strategies or products (medical devices, drugs) intended for homogeneous patient subgroups and/or targeted at etiological mechanisms
- Targeted digital solutions or digital therapies
- Innovative solutions to improve the care pathway and organization of care

Projects may propose real-world trials. Co-creation of the project with users and healthcare professionals is encouraged. In particular, an analysis of acceptability by the various stakeholders and of usage patterns is encouraged in order to mitigate the risks associated with innovation prior to market transfer.

The proposed budget is a maximum of **160 000€ per project** (including administrative costs). Between 1 and 3 projects addressing this theme may be funded. The maximum project duration is **18 months**.

### B. Type 2: educational innovations in precision psychiatry

The objective is to fund or co-fund innovative educational initiatives in the field of precision psychiatry. These projects should aim to support the development and testing of new educational approaches designed to better train healthcare professionals—particularly those in primary care—as well as researchers, public policymakers, and students on the challenges and issues of precision psychiatry, the

application of emerging knowledge, and the development of mental health literacy. Proposals may focus on the design of innovative educational tools that promote interdisciplinarity, experiential learning, and the integration of recent scientific advances.

The budget allocated for this project type is a maximum of **60 000€ per project** (including administrative costs). Between 1 and 3 projects addressing this theme may be funded. The maximum project duration is **18 months**.

### **C. Type 3: fourth-year PhD fellowship**

As part of this call for proposals, funding or co-funding is available for the fourth year of doctoral studies with strong innovative potential in precision psychiatry. The aim is to support PhD students whose work demonstrates significant scientific and translational potential and requires an extension to be fully realized. Applications must demonstrate the relevance of this additional year in light of the project's progress, results already obtained, and prospects for completion, commercialization, or technology transfer (publications, innovations, clinical applications).

The budget allocated is a maximum of **50 000€ per project** (including administrative costs). Between 1 and 4 projects addressing this theme may be funded. The maximum duration of projects is **12 months**.

**Applications for fourth-year PhD fellowships must be submitted no later than July 20, 2026. The call will remain open for the other project types, but any application received after July 20, 2026 for a fourth-year PhD fellowship will not be eligible.**

## **3) Eligibility and selection criteria**

### **3.1. Eligibility**

The **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- This call for proposals is open to all doctoral and postdoctoral students supervised by a tenured faculty member, as well as researchers, faculty members, clinicians, and research teams based in France.
- Only French academic partners will be eligible for funding under this call for proposals.
- Submitted projects must be based on results, achievements, or pre-existing elements that are sufficiently documented to justify an early stage of development. Depending on the project type, these may include experimental results, preliminary data, a technology, know-how, a methodology, a prototype, educational content, a documented user need, or thesis work that is already well underway. The call is not intended to fund exploratory projects without a prior foundation, but rather to support the consolidation, risk mitigation,

experimentation, or commercialization of results or initiatives that are already underway.

- The call aims to foster the development of research project outcomes intended for transfer to businesses, the socio-economic sector, and/or society. Industrial partners—whether startups or large corporations, both French and international—may contribute using their own resources. It is understood that the results have not yet been transferred to any potential industrial partner (no pre-existing license).
- Projects must be innovative, demonstrating potential for differentiation and commercialization, as well as an impact in terms of economic and societal development.
- The results of the research must demonstrate that the research has been successfully completed, that the technology, know-how, or methodology is clearly described, and that the proposed project is aimed at technology transfer or commercialization.
- Any funding already obtained in connection with the topics covered by the project submitted under this call must be explicitly declared and described in order to demonstrate the complementarity of the funding and to avoid any double funding.

## 3.2. Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on their innovation potential, initial results achieved (TRL 2), alignment with the scientific priorities of the PEPR PROPSY program, and the relevance of the proposed development plan (leading to TRL 3).

In particular, the committee will evaluate the quality, robustness, and maturity of the existing body of work on which the project is based, as well as the relevance of the proposed phase in light of that body of work. The committee will specifically evaluate the project's ability to transform existing results or elements into a proof of concept, a prototype, a consolidated methodology, a tested educational tool, a transfer strategy, or a deliverable that can be directly utilized by stakeholders in research, care, training, or innovation in precision psychiatry.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the potential for transfer to the socioeconomic and medical sectors and/or society, as well as the overall impact of the innovation in precision psychiatry.

**The existence of co-funding, whether from industry or other sources, must be indicated in the project proposal and will be viewed favorably.**

## 3.3 Selection process

Applications must be submitted in **English** via the online platform: <https://appels.programmesstrategiques.inserm.fr>.

Applicants must present a detailed description of their project using the platform's template and will be evaluated on the project's potential for innovation and technology transfer, scientific excellence, and relevance, provided it falls within one of the three project types mentioned above.

Applicants will be selected by a committee of experts specializing in the project's thematic area.

Projects that receive a positive evaluation but are not selected for funding may receive a letter of recommendation from the jury and may be eligible for support in identifying and submitting the project to new funding opportunities.

### 3.4 Funding terms and project duration

The early-stage projects will run for a duration of:

- A maximum of **18 months** for projects falling under types 1 and 2
- A maximum of **12 months** for type 3 projects (4th year of PhD fellowship)

Each project will receive a budget **ranging from 30 000€ to 160 000€**, including a maximum of 18% for administrative costs:

- A maximum of 160 000€ for projects under type 1
- A maximum of 60 000€ for projects under type 2
- A maximum of 50 000€ for projects in the 4th year of PhD fellowship

Funds may be used to cover personnel, operating, and equipment costs.

### 3.5 Commitments of the Awardees

**Publications** and **Dissemination**  
Research results from funded projects must be published as open access, in accordance with the PEPR PROPSY open science policies, **while taking into account any constraints—particularly time-related ones—related to intellectual property.**

#### **Participation in PEPR PROPSY Activities**

Doctoral candidates are required to participate in seminars, training sessions, and events organized within the framework of the program.

#### **Priority for PROPSY-EDU Actions**

Awardees will receive priority access to the actions established under the PROPSY-EDU program, dedicated to training and career development in precision psychiatry ([PROPSY-EDU](#)).

## Project Monitoring

Awardees and their managing institution must submit an annual report detailing the progress of the work, the results achieved, and the use of the allocated funding.

## 3.6 Open science and protection of research results

Funded projects must adhere to the principles of open science, particularly with regard to access to scientific publications and data management in accordance with the FAIR principles. However, when the work is part of an effort to advance research, develop concepts, demonstrate proof of concept, or commercialize results, this requirement must be balanced with the need to protect results, ensure confidentiality, comply with embargoes, safeguard intellectual property, protect personal data, and, where applicable, maintain industrial or contractual secrecy.

Thus, the results, data, code, methods, prototypes, or know-how resulting from the projects must be made open to the greatest extent possible, but restricted to the extent necessary, so as not to compromise their protection, patentability, future exploitation, the rights of partners, or applicable regulatory obligations. Any scientific communication, open-access archiving, data sharing, or public dissemination must be consistent with the project's commercialization strategy and, where applicable, be subject to prior approval by the relevant bodies responsible for commercialization, intellectual property, and data protection.

Furthermore, all scientific publications resulting from projects funded under the PEPR will be made available in open access under the Creative Commons CC-BY license or an equivalent license, using one of the following three routes:

- Publication in a journal that is natively open access.
- Publication in a subscription-based journal that is part of a transforming agreement or transformative journal.<sup>1</sup>
- Publication in a subscription-based journal. The publisher's version or the accepted manuscript for publication will be deposited in the open archive HAL by the authors under a CC-BY license, in line with the Strategy of Non-Transfer of Rights (SNCD), as specified in the conditions of the funding decision or contract.

## 4) Application procedure

Proposals must be written and submitted in **English**.

No additional documents will be accepted after the closure of the call for applications, the date and time of which are specified on page 3.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of a [transformative](https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/) agreement or [transformative journal](https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/): <https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/>

The submission package must be submitted to the website specified on page 3. The templates for the CV and financial documents are available on the webpage of this call for applications.

The financial appendix must be submitted in an **Excel format**.

**Any application that does not comply with the submission guidelines will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.**

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