

Health Research Call

Rules of participation

2027



*A world
to discover*

SARS-CoV-2 emerging from the surface of cells cultured in the lab. RML.

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0. Definitions

In this Call for proposals, the following terms have the meanings defined below:

Agreement: the collaboration agreement to be signed in English by the "la Caixa" Foundation, the Host Organisation and the Project Leader, if the proposal is awarded.

Application or proposal: the proposal of a Project submitted within the framework of this Call.

Call: this open Call for proposals, which aims to allocate funds to support basic, clinical and translational biomedical research Projects.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): not-for-profit, non-research performing civil society organisations that carry out activities of the Project.

Host Organisation: the Research Performing Organisation based in Spain or Portugal that acts as a coordinating organisation of the Project.

Organisation: any Research Performing Organisation or Civil Society Organisation that carries out activities of the Project.

Organisation Manager: the person appointed by the Host Organisation as its representative to upload and manage its accreditation and legal documentation, and to accept the submission and award of proposals on its behalf on the "la Caixa" Foundation calls [online system](#).

Principal Investigator (PI): the researcher of the Research Performing Organisation responsible for execution of the activities of the Project that are carried out in the organisation to which he or she belongs. Each Research Performing Organisation can designate only one PI per proposal. In the case of the Host Organisation, the Project Leader is the PI.

Project Leader (PL): Principal Investigator of the Host Organisation, responsible for presenting the proposal to the Call and coordinating the overall execution of the Project.

Projects: research Projects that are selected as grant recipients under this Call.

Research Consortium (RC): a group of Research Performing Organisations that collaborate in a Project, composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of five Research Performing Organisations (including the Host Organisation).

Research Performing Organisation (RPO): any non-profit organisation whose statutory objectives include research and which carries out research as its own regular and continuous activity (e.g. research centres, universities, hospitals, etc.), and that performs activities under the Project. For the avoidance of doubt, an organisation shall not qualify as an RPO where its statutes provide solely for the promotion, fostering or support of research, without the organisation itself carrying out research activities.

Selection Committee: one of the five multidisciplinary committees that will evaluate the pre-selected proposals in each Thematic Area under the peer review process.

Team Members: all the members of the Research Performing Organisations or Civil Society Organisations that carry out specific activities of the Project. Members of other organisations not included in the proposal cannot be considered Team Members.

Thematic Area: each of the five categories detailed in section 3.3 of this Call.

1. Preamble

The "la Caixa" Banking Foundation (hereinafter, "la Caixa" Foundation) firmly believes that scientific progress and excellence in research are fundamental to the advancement of our society and to finding solutions to the greatest challenges that humanity faces. These societal challenges require cutting-edge and groundbreaking research Projects, in which relevance and excellence come together to advance the frontiers of science and generate a positive social impact.

One of the priorities of the "la Caixa" Foundation is to consolidate support for biomedical research on the most serious illnesses. The strategy of the "la Caixa" Foundation in biomedical research is to support groundbreaking Projects in order to increase the competitiveness of research in Spain and Portugal with respect to European and international benchmarks of scientific excellence, thereby enhancing the scope of its scientific and medical impact beyond its borders. The "la Caixa" Foundation promotes Projects with both a basic research and a clinical and translational perspective. The "la Caixa" Foundation also supports the transfer of knowledge and technology to society, endorses the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation and believes that international collaborations of excellence strengthen health research.

In this regard, the "la Caixa" Foundation launches an open Call to select biomedical research Projects that aim to address some of the main health challenges currently faced by our society.

2. Timeline

The dates and timeline included in these Rules for Participation are expressed in Central European Time (CET).

Opening of the online system for Applications	Deadline for Applications	Proposal pre-selection	On-site assessment by Selection Committees	Resolution announcement	Execution of Selected Projects
17 September, 2026, at 14:00:00 h	18 November, 2026, at 14:00:00 h	From January to May 2027	13 and 14 May, 2027	June 2027	From September-December 2027 to September-December 2030

Any of these dates may be subject to change for organisational reasons.

3. General framework of the Call

3.1.

The fundamental aim of this Call is to foster groundbreaking and relevant research Projects that lead to the advancement of knowledge and offer solutions related to some of the most significant health problems of our century. The "la Caixa" Foundation seeks research Projects of scientific excellence in their field, with great potential value and a high social impact. The "la Caixa" Foundation encourages Applicants to present Projects with an innovative focus that transcend the boundaries between different areas of research, aimed at new and emerging research fields and/or including unconventional approaches to health problems.

3.2.

Proposals eligible for this Call must be led by: **(i) non-profit Research Performing Organisations based in Spain or Portugal; or (ii) non-profit foreign Research Performing Organisations whose research activities are carried out through a permanent establishment or permanent representation based in Spain or Portugal.**

For the sake of clarity, in the event a grant is awarded to an entity as described in (ii) above: (a) the grant must be allocated and used by research laboratories, entities and staff located in Spain or Portugal; and (b) the Agreement must be signed by the permanent establishment or permanent representation of the foreign Research Performing Organisation that is in Spain or Portugal.

3.3.

The selected Thematic Area determines the Selection Committee in which the proposal will be evaluated.

Proposals must be submitted in one of the following five **Thematic Areas**:

- » **Neuroscience**
- » **Infectious diseases**
- » **Oncology**
- » **Cardiovascular and associated metabolic diseases:** proposals in cardiovascular diseases and metabolic diseases associated with cardiovascular risks or alterations
- » **Enabling technologies:** proposals focused on the creation and development of innovative health-facilitating, assistive and rehabilitation technologies from the following fields:
 - micro- and nano-electronics;
 - computational science, big data and Artificial Intelligence;
 - photonics;
 - nanotechnology and biotechnology;
 - advanced materials or advanced manufacturing.

Proposals related to enabling technologies should be focused on addressing topics related to any of the other four previously mentioned Thematic Areas.



Furthermore, proposals that are not focused on the creation and development of enabling technologies and techniques, but that are solely focused on a biomedical research problem supported by the use of established enabling technologies, will not be considered to be part of the Enabling Technologies Thematic Area. In this event, the Applicants must re-allocate and submit the proposal to one of the other four corresponding Thematic Areas.

Any proposal that is **not properly allocated** to the Enabling Technologies Thematic Area may be **discarded** by "la Caixa" Foundation at any stage of the selection process.

3.4.

The Projects will have a **duration of up to three (3) years**. A single non-cost extension of up to twelve (12) months may be granted, provided that a request is submitted at least three (3) months before the end of the Project's term.

Any official leave of absence (e.g. medical, parental, or other types of employment leave, including unpaid leaves of absence or career breaks – e.g. "*excedencias*"-) affecting the PL, PIs or other key personnel must be formally notified to the "la Caixa" Foundation. Such request must include: (i) a justification for the extension, (ii) a work plan for the proposed extension period, and (iii) a statement confirming the sufficiency of the remaining funds. Where such leave of absence may significantly affect the execution of the Project, the notification shall include the measures adopted to mitigate its impact and ensure the continuity of the Project activities. Host Organisation and/or all parties to the Consortium (where applicable) shall confirm that the continuity of the Project will not be adversely affected.

If the leave of absence exceeds six (6) consecutive months, the Host Organisation and/or other RPO, as applicable, shall notify the relevant Grant Manager by email and provide a certificate or other appropriate supporting documentation confirming the existence and duration of the leave of absence. Such documentation shall not contain any confidential information, sensitive personal data, medical information, medical diagnoses, or any other information that could identify an individual's health status.

During any leave of absence exceeding six (6) consecutive months, the Host Organisation and/or other RPO, as applicable, shall provide the relevant Grant Manager with a status update by email every three (3) months, until the individual returns to work or the leave of absence otherwise ends.

The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to approve or reject any request. No extension shall take effect unless expressly approved in writing by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

The Projects may be carried out as Individual Projects or Research Consortium Projects, as explained below:

- » **Individual Projects** are carried out by a sole Research Performing Organisation (RPO) i.e. the Host Organisation.
- » **Research Consortium Projects** are carried out by a Research Consortium (composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of five RPOs, including the Host Organisation).

3.5.

The Projects will be **coordinated by the Host Organisation**. Additionally, both Individual and Research Consortium Projects may also include **Civil Society Organisations** as described in section 0. A maximum of three Civil Society Organisations per proposal are permitted.

3.6.

The Call aims to support **basic, clinical and translational research projects**. However, we understand the definition of the type of research is not a simple matter and can be controversial. As such, in order to improve the evaluation (matching between proposals and experts), please take into account the following definitions:

- » **Basic research** provides knowledge to understand nature and its laws. Although it may be performed without practical purposes in mind, this knowledge provides the essential means to answer a large number of important practical problems.
- » **Clinical research** is research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which the research team (or colleagues) directly interacts with human subjects. It includes clinical trials, epidemiological and behavioural studies, outcomes research and health services research. In vitro studies that use human tissues not linked to a living individual are excluded from this definition.
- » **Translational research** fosters the bidirectional integration of basic and clinical research, with the long-term aim of improving public health. It accelerates the movement between basic and clinical research leading to:
 - A robust scientific understanding of human health and disease
 - New or improved understanding or standards of care, better patient outcomes, the implementation of best practices and improved community health.

This information will only be used to better classify the proposals for the evaluation.

3.7.

The fact that the proposals are submitted as Individual or Research Consortium Projects and classified as Basic, Clinical or Translational **will not, in any case, be a selection criterion** during the evaluation process.

3.8.

The PL and, by extension, the Host Organisation are responsible to the "la Caixa" Foundation for the content and outcome of the Project, including any documentation and information related to it, without prejudice to the methods used for its development (e.g. Artificial Intelligence tools). In this sense, the PL and Host Organisation guarantee: (i) compliance with all applicable regulations; (ii) non-infringement of third-party rights; and (iii) application of best ethical practices. Likewise, and within the framework of this Call, the PL and the Host Organisation exempt "la Caixa" Foundation from any liability before third parties arising from any failure to comply with the foregoing.

4. Funding

4.1.

A total budget of up to **€22,000,000*** is available to support all selected Projects. (this budget does not include the additional contributions related to the collaborations described in item 4.2 below). The intention of "la Caixa" Foundation is to distribute this amount as equitably as possible amongst the different Thematic Areas. Nevertheless, the final distribution of the budget will always depend on the quality and specific characteristics of the proposals submitted to this Call.

** This amount is subject to final approval by the "la Caixa" Foundation.*

4.2. Collaborations with other entities

4.2.1. Collaboration with Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

The "la Caixa" Foundation and the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) collaborate through the Iniciativa Ibérica de Investigação e Inovação Biomédica (i4B) within the framework of the Call. Under this initiative, the FCT may co-fund additional Projects amongst the best ranked proposals, within the preselected proposals, which are coordinated by a Portuguese organisation.

These Projects will follow the same monitoring process as any other Project selected under the Call and detailed in the Agreement.

4.2.2. Collaboration with Francisco Luzón Foundation

The Francisco Luzón Foundation may co-fund one Project on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). This Project will be selected during the Selection Committee phase. If no ALS proposal is pre-selected, both Foundations may consider co-funding the best ranked non-pre-selected ALS proposal. In this case, the ALS proposal (submitted either as an Individual Project or as a Research Consortium Project) will be awarded a grant of up to €500,000, and the budget of said ALS proposal may need to be re-adjusted.

This Project will follow the same monitoring process as any other Project selected in the Call and detailed in the Agreement. In the event that no ALS proposal is chosen, then this grant may be declared void.

4.2.3. Collaboration with Breakthrough T1D

Breakthrough T1D may co-fund one Project related to Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). In order to be eligible under this agreement, the proposal **must** be related to any of the following **specific areas aligned with Breakthrough T1D's research strategy** (more details on the online platform and at [Type 1 Diabetes Research Strategy - BreakthroughT1D](#)):

- » **Cell Therapies:** research that advances new technologies from basic discovery towards translational studies and clinical studies to validate effective therapies and accelerate the development of a cell-based product capable of restoring glucose control and achieving long-term insulin independence without the need for chronic broad immunosuppression therapy.
- » **Disease Modifying Therapies:** Projects to accelerate the development of therapeutic products that can slow, halt or reverse the course of T1D at any age or stage of disease.
- » **Screening:** Projects to expand general population screening for adoption by health care systems.

- » **Improving Lives:** Projects to improve the lives of people living with T1D by accelerating the development of advanced drugs, devices, behavioural health interventions, and/or combinations of the above to improve short-term and long-term health outcomes and quality of life.

Areas that are specifically excluded include, but are not limited to:

- » Diabetic food
- » Diabetic neuropathy
- » Skin complications

This Project will be selected during the Selection Committee phase. If no T1D proposal is pre-selected, both Foundations may consider co-funding the best-ranked non-pre-selected T1D proposal. In this case, the T1D proposal (submitted either as an Individual Project or as a Research Consortium Project) will be awarded a grant of up to €500,000, and the Project budget may need to be re-adjusted. This Project will follow the same monitoring process as any other Project selected in the Call and detailed in the Agreement. In the event that no T1D proposal is chosen, this grant may be declared void.

Breakthrough T1D may also independently fund the best-ranked non-pre-selected T1D proposal (if it is not selected to be co-funded under this Call). In this case, the T1D proposal chosen by Breakthrough T1D will be subject to Breakthrough T1D's standard terms and conditions, and the "la Caixa" Foundation: (i) will have no relationship with Breakthrough T1D or the members of the T1D proposal chosen by Breakthrough T1D; and (ii) will have no liability whatsoever in respect of said relationship.

If a proposal is not aligned with this collaboration (i.e. Breakthrough T1D) but is still related to one of the Thematic Areas of the Call, it will only be considered within the framework of the Health Research Call.

4.3.

If a proposal self-classified as focused on ALS or T1D does not fulfil the criteria of the above-mentioned initiatives, it will not be considered for selection under said initiatives.

4.4.

The maximum amount that may be requested per Project is detailed below:

- » **Individual Projects** can request a grant of up to **€500,000**
- » **Research Consortium Projects** can request a grant of up to **€1,000,000**

4.5.

The correct allocation of the **budget, according to the activities** to be developed in the Project, **will be an evaluation criterion** during the selection process.

4.6.

The **grant will be awarded to the Host Organisation**, which will be **responsible for distributing the budget** to the other Organisations (if applicable), as detailed in the proposal submitted to this Call.



4.7.

The grant **will be disbursed in three instalments throughout** the duration of each Project, based on the budget submitted and the Agreement. Each payment will be made within 60 days of receipt of the corresponding payment request which will be submitted by the Host Organisation in accordance with the following schedule: (i) a first payment of up to 40% of the total grant, after signing of the Agreement; (ii) a second payment of up to 40% of the total grant after submission of the interim status, provided that at least 80% of the first payment has been duly executed to the satisfaction of the "la Caixa" Foundation; and (iii) a third payment corresponding to the remainder of the grant, after validation of the final report.

4.8.

When **preparing the budget**, the following **criteria and requirements** must be taken into account:

- a) Projects that request a grant of more than €500,000 must include in their budget the cost of an **external audit** to be carried out by the Host Organisation at the end of the Project, as stated in section 12.1 of these Rules for Participation.
- b) Both **Research Performing Organisations** and **Civil Society Organisations** must carry out **activities of the Project** to be part of the **Research Consortium Projects**. All Research Performing Organisations must have an allocated budget. Having an allocated budget is not mandatory for Civil Society Organisations, however, their participation in the proposal must be justified.
- c) For-profit entities (including companies) cannot be partners of **Research Consortium Projects**. These entities can **only receive Project funds if they are subcontracted** by a Research Performing Organisation.
- d) The **sum of the budgets** of all the Research Performing Organisations and the Civil Society Organisations that are **not located in Spain or Portugal cannot exceed 30%** of the total Project budget.

4.9.

The grant will cover costs related to the Project provided they are **adequately justified, technically adapted to the needs of the Project and always in accordance with the policies of the Organisation**. The budget submitted in the proposal may include expenses in the following categories:

a) Direct costs:

- » Personnel
- » Travel
- » Equipment
- » Consumables
- » Publications
- » Dissemination and social engagement activities
- » Other direct costs

b) Indirect costs (overheads): a maximum of **10% per Organisation** of the direct costs of the grant budget: $\text{Indirect costs}_{\text{max}} = 0.1 \times \text{Direct Costs}$

c) Subcontracting:

- » Subcontracting audits
- » Others subcontracting

5. Application criteria

5.1.

The **Host Organisation** must be a **Research Performing Organisation** (in accordance with the definition set forth in sections 0 and 3.2). For Research Consortium Projects or Individual Projects including CSOs, the Host Organisation will act as the coordinating organisation. Organisations are defined by a unique identification number (NIF in Spanish organisations or VAT number/NIPC in Portuguese organisations) for all purposes (e.g. submission of proposals, constitution of Research Consortia, etc.).

For the sake of clarity, entities based in a country other than Spain or Portugal, together with their permanent establishment or permanent representation in Spain or Portugal (as provided in section 3.2) will be considered as a single entity for the purposes of this Call. Therefore, they will not be able to form a consortium among themselves.

5.2.

Both Individual and Research Consortium Projects must include a Project Leader (PL). In the case of Research Consortium Projects, the Application must also include one Principal Investigator (PI) for each of the Research Performing Organisations (RPO) of the Research Consortium. Only one PI per RPO is allowed.

5.3.

People who act as PL and PI must be of legal age and may be of any nationality.

5.4.

The PL **must have a minimum of seven years of experience in postdoctoral research**. Therefore, they must have completed their doctoral degree (PhD) at least seven years before the closing date of the Call (taking as a reference the date shown on the doctoral degree).

5.5.

Within the same Call, **each PL may only submit a single proposal as a PL**; however, they may collaborate on other proposals as PI of a RPO of the Research Consortium or as a Team Member.

5.6.

The **PLs of Projects awarded a grant** from the Health Research Call will **not be permitted to submit a new proposal as PL in the three subsequent editions of the Call**.

5.7.

The **PL and PIs** of a Proposal that obtained a **score of less than 5.50** in the remote evaluation phase of the previous edition of the Call (CaixaResearch Health Call 2026) are not permitted to submit proposals as PLs to this edition of the Call (2027).

The **PL and PIs** of a proposal submitted in this Call who obtained a **score of less than 6.00** in the remote evaluation phase will not be able to submit proposals as PLs to the next edition of the Call (2028).

5.8.

The **PL must be linked**, either by statute, work contract or other type of collaboration, within the framework of this Project, to the **Host Organisation** when applying for the grant. The PL may also be legally linked to private foundations or non-profit organisations through which the research activities of the Host Organisation are carried out or managed, in accordance with the current legislation. The link between the PL and the Host Organisation (and the private foundations or non-profit organisations through which the research activities of the Host Organisation are carried out or managed, if applicable), must remain in force for the duration of the Project.

5.9.

The Project Leader requires the agreement of the Host Organisation to be able to submit the proposal. This will be confirmed through an online acceptance by the Organisation Manager of the Host Organisation via the [online system](#). In the case of Research Consortiums or Individual Projects with CSOs, all partners must give their acceptance through the above-mentioned online system before the proposal can be submitted. **All required acceptances must be completed before the deadline for Applications.**

The Organisation Manager will have access to information about the proposals, including the evaluation reports, and will be responsible for providing and validating the information corresponding to the Host Organisation.

The Host Organisation must be **willing to support the PL, the Team Members and the Research Consortium** (if applicable), throughout the Project's term and **provide the appropriate scientific and administrative environment** to carry out the Project.

5.10.

The Host Organisation **will represent** all the Organisations of the Project before the "la Caixa" Foundation. The natural person coordinating the overall execution of the Project will be the PL.

5.11.

The PL and the **Host Organisation are responsible for guaranteeing the implementation of the Project in accordance with the initial conditions** stated in the Application and the Agreement.

5.12.

There is no limit to the number of Projects that a Host Organisation can submit or for which it may receive grants under the Health Research Call as a Host Organisation or as a member of a Research Consortium.

5.13.

It is mandatory for all Team Members to be professionally linked, either as service providers or through other professional collaborations, to any of the Research Performing Organisations or Civil Society Organisations of the proposal.

5.14.

The proposal must be **related to the objectives and Thematic Areas** of the grant.

5.15.

The following compliance requirements apply, among others, to all legal and natural persons required to carry out the Project as specified below:

1. All the Organisations and Team Members of the Project must follow the highest **ethical principles and highest standards of integrity in research and scientific best practices**, as described in the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity \(ALLEA\)](#), as well as the highest **ethical principles recognised under Spanish, Portuguese, European and/or international regulations in relation to respect for human dignity and experimentation** (including, but not limited to, the *International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans* published by the Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences – CIOMS, the *World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects*, and the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights*, among others) free will, data protection, animal welfare and preservation of the environment.
2. The Host Organisation its administrators, managers and employees must not have any conflict of interest with the trustees and employees of the "la Caixa" Foundation that could undermine the principle of equality and competition among Applicants, applicable to these Rules for Participation.
3. The PL, PI's, Team Members (or any other natural person related to the Project) as well as the Organisations must comply with the condition of not being sanctioned, by means of a firm resolution, of an academic, labour, administrative or judicial nature for the commission of the following serious irregularities including, but not limited to: lack of professional ethics, corruption (in any of its forms), money laundering, financing of terrorism, smuggling, mistreatment of animals, genetic manipulation or, where appropriate, for any other irregularity that may entail administrative (for severe legal infractions) or criminal liability for legal persons, whether in accordance with Spanish, European Union and/or international legislation.
4. Any PL, PI and/or Team Member who has been subject to disciplinary sanctions by the entities to which they are or have been linked for any scientific misconduct — including, but not limited to harassment, bullying, and/or abuse - within three (3) years prior to this Call are not eligible to apply.

Once the PL, PI and/or Team Member becomes eligible for the Call, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to require the Organisation the implementation of the actions set forth in 11.2.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to review cases of **serious** misconduct (see point 5.15.3 above) and to impose such restrictions on sanctioned individuals as it considers appropriate.

The Organization must immediately notify to "la Caixa" Foundation the imposition of any such sanctions that may arise during the execution of the awarded project.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements established in this section may be grounds for revocation of the grant, and the "la Caixa" Foundation may reclaim the amounts disbursed for the development of the Project.

In addition to the above, the implementation of a regulatory compliance system by Host Organisations with more than 50 employees will be positively valued by the "la Caixa" Foundation, although it will not be a mandatory requirement for application.

5.16.

Projects whose results are **subject to rights** of any nature **held by for-profit organisations** prior to the submission of the proposal (including, without limitation, assignments, licences, first-refusal rights, distribution agreements, etc.) **are not eligible**.

For the sake of clarity, Projects whose results are subject to industrial or intellectual property rights (e.g., patented or patent-pending results) may be eligible, provided that such rights **are not owned by a for-profit organisation**.

The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any proposal, or to withdraw, suspend or require reimbursement of the grant, if it becomes aware, at any stage, of a breach of the provisions set out in this clause.

5.17.

Any other condition or instruction indicated in any of the clauses of these Rules for Participation (including, but not limited to, the *Definitions* and *Application submission* sections), or in the [online system](#), will be considered a criterion of eligibility, as full compliance with them is mandatory for all participants.

5.18.

Any incomplete, mistaken or ambiguous information will be deemed a breach of the eligibility requirements and may lead to the non-admission of the proposal, at the "la Caixa" Foundation's sole discretion.

6. Application submission

6.1.

The Application **must be submitted electronically** through the ["la Caixa" Foundation's online system](#).

6.2.

The proposals must be completed with all the information requested in the online system and/or the Rules for Participation and submitted before the closing date of the Call (see clause 6.7). Incomplete proposals will be declared ineligible to participate in this Call.

6.3.

The whole process of submission and selection of Applications, including the interview, **will be carried out in English**. All information must be submitted in English.

6.4.

The following AI-powered tools are available for the Applicant's use in the [online system](#):

- » **Chatbot:** A chatbot feature will be accessible within the Application form to support Applicants and organisation managers by providing answers to frequently asked questions related to the Call.
 - » **Writing Assistant:** An AI-powered writing assistant tool will be available to Applicants to help them improve the writing and language of their proposal within certain sections of the Application form. This tool will not generate new content but will assist in refining existing text.
- The use of these AI-powered tools is entirely optional and at the Applicant's discretion.

6.5.

Proposals will be evaluated in the Selection Committee of the **Thematic Area** (described in point 3.3) selected in the Application.

6.6.

The following **information will also need to be provided for the best assignment of the evaluators** to each proposal:

- » **Basic/Clinical/Translational nature of the proposal** (up to two options may be selected).
- » **Keywords:** a minimum of one and a maximum of three main keywords for the best description of the proposal. A minimum of three and a maximum of five other important keywords will complete the description.

6.7.

The proposal must include all the information requested in the [online system](#), including but not limited to the following aspects:

- » **General data and proposal information:** classification of the Host Organisation, classification of the Application, acronym, title, scientific abstract and lay summary.
- » **Scientific excellence and impact:** state of the art; preliminary data; Project aims and objectives; expected results; methodology and scientific approach; work plan; Gantt chart; budget; study limitations and contingency plan; scientific and social relevance; ethical, social, legal and environmental Project implications; dissemination, social engagement and knowledge transfer. Graphics and additional figures to support the proposal description may be uploaded as a PDF file of maximum three pages in this section.

At the end of this section, you can add a maximum of 30 references related to the scientific excellence and impact of the proposal.

» **Project Team:**

- **Project Leader:** relevance and research experience in relation to the proposal.
- **Research Consortium (if applicable):** description of the contribution of each member of the Research Consortium.
- **Principal Investigators (in the case of Research Consortiums):** relevance and research experience in relation to the proposal.
- **Research team:** brief description of the relevance, experience and contributions of the Team Members of the Host Organisation and each Research Performing Organisation (where applicable).
- **Civil Society Organisations:** brief description of the role and relevance of the CSOs involved in the Project, if any.
- **Publications:** at the end of the Project Team section, you must add a minimum of one and maximum of five publications by the PL and each PI, appropriately related to the information in the Project Team section.
- **Budget:** detail and justification of the Project's budget. For Research Consortiums, details of the budget distribution among partners must also be included (this also applies to Individual Projects including CSOs with allocated budget).

6.8.

The [online system](#) will be open for **Applications** from **17 September 2026 at 14:00:00h Central European Time (CET)** until **18 November 2026 at 14:00:00h, CET**. Instructions and/or information requested in the online system will prevail over any templates available outside the system. All instructions in the online system must be followed strictly; non-compliance with any such instructions may be deemed a breach of these Rules for Participation.

6.9.

All users of the [online system](#) must strictly comply with its terms of use.

Among other aspects, all information introduced in the system must be truthful and accurate.

The identification of the different organisational and personal roles within an Application, as well as the accuracy of the information associated with each party and role, will serve as the basis for the Agreement in the event the Project is awarded. **Changes to this information may not be accepted, so participants are strongly encouraged to verify and confirm every organisational role and the associated information before submitting the Application.**

Each user can **only register once** in the online system with their email and ID number. The main responsibilities of the users during the Application are listed below:

- » The Project Leader (PL): is the only person with permission to complete and submit the Application and is also a signatory to the Agreement, together with the Host Organisation, if the Application is awarded a grant.
- » The Organisation Manager (OM): must complete and validate the information of the Host Organisation and accept the submission of the Application on behalf of the Host Organisation in the online system.
- » The Principal Investigator (PI) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): have access to view the Application of which they are members through the invitation from the PL. They must accept or decline their participation in the proposal (with the knowledge of their organisation) in order for the PL to be able to submit.

6.10.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Applications must be submitted through the [online system](#) (no other channel is allowed).

No proposal will be accepted after the submission deadline of 18 November 2026, at 14:00:00 h CET (automatic closure).

A validation button is available during the Application process to check that the data provided is correct and complete. This action does not save or submit the proposal. It is strongly recommended to use this validation throughout the process and well in advance of the deadline to avoid last-minute problems with your submission.

6.11.

Any application submission that does not comply with the requirements set forth in this section 6 (e.g. incomplete, incoherent information, Application in a language other than English, etc.) may be discarded.

7. Evaluation criteria

7.1.

The evaluation criteria that apply to this Call are the following:

7.1.1. Scientific excellence and impact (Weight: 75%):

7.1.1.1. Project Quality (Weight 30%)

- » Potential of the proposal to go beyond the state of the art and generate groundbreaking, novel and highly relevant results.
- » Soundness of the hypothesis, support of the preliminary results and coherence of the objectives.

7.1.1.2. Scientific approach and work plan (Weight: 20%)

- » Feasibility and rigour of the methodology and the work plan in accordance with the objectives.

- » Proper justification of the timescales, resources and budget necessary to carry out the proposal.
- » Definition of the limitations of the study and contingency plan.

7.1.1.3. Impact (Weight: 25%)

- » Scientific impact and social relevance: the extent to which the results of the Project can make a positive, relevant and innovative contribution to the scientific field and/or society.
- » Responsible research: detailed analysis of the ethical, legal, social and environmental implications of execution of the Project and/or the potential implementation of its results in society.
- » Dissemination and transfer: suitable description of the mechanisms, actions and activities of dissemination, communication, public engagement, valorisation and transfer of the Project results.

7.1.2. Project Leader and Team (Weight: 25%):

Individual proposals: 25% PL, Team and CSO, if applicable.

Research Consortium proposals: 12.5% PL, Team and CSO, if applicable / 12.5% PIs and Teams.

The following criteria will be assessed in both Individual and Research Consortium Projects:

- » Professional trajectory and research potential of the PL.
- » Adequacy of the role and capacity of the research Team Members to support the Project execution.
- » Suitability and contributions of the Civil Society Organisations in the proposal.

In addition, regarding Research Consortium Projects, the following criteria will be assessed:

- » Professional trajectory and research potential of the PIs of each Research Performing Organisation in the Research Consortium.
- » Adequacy of the role and capacity of the Team Members of the Research Performing Organisations in the Research Consortium.

Evaluation criteria are the same for both remote pre-selection and face-to-face Selection Committees. Nevertheless, remote reviewers will score each section (four scores from 1 to 8) while reviewers in the face-to-face Selection Committees will score by block (two scores from 1 to 5).

8. Eligibility process

8.1.

The eligibility process will consist of the following phases:

- » **Format eligibility:** All Applications received will be reviewed to ensure fulfilment of the application criteria published in the Rules for Participation of this Call.
- » **Content eligibility:** Those Applications that fulfil the format eligibility will be checked to ensure they are ready to undergo the evaluation procedure. For further details, see the *Eligibility and evaluation guidelines*.

8.2.

Content eligibility involves the identification of Applications that are **unlikely to be selected** for funding based on their **assessment against the programme criteria** (see section 7). To support this process, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) model analyses the content provided in the application text fields and assesses each Application by applying the programme criteria (please note that data other than research data, such as personal data, are not considered in the assessment).

The AI system classifies proposals according to the completeness of the evaluation criteria. Proposals receiving the **lowest classification may be declared content-ineligible** (for more details see the Eligibility and Evaluation Guidelines) and, therefore, may not proceed to the full evaluation process. This reflects the assessment that such Applications are highly unlikely to reach a funding position when compared against the overall applicant pool. Being identified as content-ineligible reflects the assessment that the Application is highly unlikely to reach a funding position when compared against the overall applicant pool. This does not imply any formal deficiency, lack of quality, or non-compliance with the format eligibility requirements, but rather its relative position within a highly competitive selection process based on its assessed scientific content and potential competitiveness.

The content eligibility process is subject to **human oversight** and periodic auditing to ensure its correct functioning. For each assessment, the AI model provides a justification and confidence indicators, which are used to support the human oversight process, including the identification of Applications for additional human review. The AI model supports this process but does not make funding decisions.

If an Application is positioned in the lowest part of the ranking, the Project Leader will be informed. At this point, the Applicant will have 48 hours to explicitly withdraw the proposal in the online system, should they wish to do so. Applications that are not withdrawn may be subject to an additional review by human experts, who may either validate or reject the AI-generated recommendation. Upon completion of this process, Project Leaders will be notified of the final outcome of their proposals, including whether they will advance to the remote evaluation stage or be excluded during the content eligibility assessment.

As indicated, no personal data will be considered in the assessment. Furthermore, if personal data is included by Applicants within the text fields, it may be processed incidentally as a residual consequence of the analysis, but never as part of the main processing activity or for AI training purposes. In any event, personal data included within text fields will have no impact on the content eligibility process.

8.3.

For proposals dismissed during the content eligibility process, a report including the corresponding feedback will be provided. This feedback will be based on the AI ranking justification and, where applicable, the outcome of the human validation process.

Furthermore, **no redress or appeal procedure will be admitted.**

8.4.

The PL and PIs of the proposals that have been dismissed through the **content eligibility** process will not be able to participate, as PLs, in the next edition of the Call.

9. Evaluation process

9.1.

The evaluation process will consist of the following phases:

- » **Remote pre-selection:** All Applications that pass the eligibility phase will enter the peer review pre-selection process conducted by three or four international experts with extensive experience in the Thematic Area of the Application. The evaluation criteria (see section 7) will be applied to each Project. The Applications that obtain the best scores in each Thematic Area of the Call will pass to the next phase. The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify the Applicants by email if they have been shortlisted.
- » **Face-to-face assessment by Selection Committees:** There will be five Selection Committees, one for each Thematic Area of this Call. Each Selection Committee will be composed of around eight to twelve internationally renowned experts with extensive experience in the Thematic Area of the Application, as well as in evaluation and selection processes.

If the Application is pre-selected, the Applicants will be called for a face-to-face interview before the corresponding Selection Committee.

The interviews will be held in Barcelona. All the interviews will take place in person and will be conducted in English. They cannot be carried out by phone or using other audiovisual and/or telecommunication media.

The presentation of the proposal will be carried out by the PL. If needed, the PL may be accompanied by up to two Team Members or PIs that they deem necessary. If attendance at the interview entails travel or accommodation expenses, Applicants may receive **compensation**. The reimbursement policy will be sent to these Applicants for clarity.

At the end of this phase, each Selection Committee will rank the pre-selected proposals based on the evaluation criteria of this Call (see section 7). **The scientific evaluation of the proposals is not subject to appeal.**

The best ranked Projects will be selected based on the budget allocated for each Thematic Area. Budget surpluses from each Thematic Area will be used to fund Projects that enter the reserve list. The reserve list is made up of the next two non-selected Projects from each Thematic Area that are located immediately after the selected Projects according to the ranking.

9.2.

Under no circumstances may the Applicant contact the evaluators involved in the selection process to obtain information on any aspect related to the Call. If this happens, the Applicant may be excluded from the Call or any other future calls of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

9.3.

In the event that a proposal is dismissed at any stage of the evaluation process, **no redress or appeal procedure will be admitted**. The evaluation/selection process will not be subject to redress, nor will the technical and scientific assessment of the evaluators be called into question. The evaluation and selection processes themselves guarantee the independence and objectivity of the evaluation.

10. Selected Projects

10.1.

The Executive Committee of the "la Caixa" Foundation will collect the proposals selected by the Selection Committees and will approve and announce the final list of awarded Projects.

10.2.

The outcome of the decision will be published on the website of the "la Caixa" Foundation and Applicants will be notified in advance using the email address provided by the PL in the [online system](#). Publication of the decision may include identification of the Host Organisation, other RPOs and CSOs involved (if any), the name and professional bio of the Project Leader and Team Members and information on the Project (including, without limitation, the lay summary, etc.). The status of the proposal will also be updated on the online system.

10.3.

At the end of every evaluation phase, eligible Applicants will receive a report on the evaluation of their proposal.

10.4.

In the event that a selected Project waives the grant, it will be offered to Applicants in the reserve list in the corresponding order (see 9.1).

10.5.

The Projects must follow the internal rules of their Organisation regarding the requirements of their ethics committees. Approval of the corresponding ethics committees must be obtained before starting the Project and must be submitted for review by **an external ethics committee** coordinated by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

11. Considerations for Project implementation

11.1.

The "la Caixa" Foundation follows the **principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)**. These principles take into account gender equality in research and innovation (R&I), as well as other inclusion issues, open access to scientific results, ethics and research integrity and the engagement of social stakeholders in the design and implementation of R&I.

The selected Projects must comply with the principles of RRI, the "la Caixa" Foundation's [Research Integrity Policy](#), the research results management and open access policy of the "la Caixa" Foundation and any other policies applicable to research projects receiving support from the "la Caixa" Foundation, as published on its website ([Responsibility principles - CaixaResearch](#)).

All results derived from the Project must be made available following the parameters described therein, except when justified circumstances exist. Awarded Projects must submit an **output management plan (OMP)** within six months of the start of the Project; an OMP describes the management of the outputs collected, processed and/or generated by the Project.

If human genotype and/or phenotype outputs are generated in the framework of the Project, the Organisation is obliged to deposit them as a priority in the European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA) <https://ega-archive.org/> repository.

11.2.

The Organisations and Team Members of the Project must follow the highest ethical principles and standards of integrity in research and scientific best practices as described in section 5.15, throughout the implementation of the Project.

Cases of **scientific misconduct** that may arise throughout the execution of the awarded Project (even if prior to the grant award) or following its completion must be communicated immediately by the Organisation to the "la Caixa" Foundation. In the event that the Organisation is subject to the application of transparency and/or if the information regarding the improper scientific conduct is protected by such regulation, the Organisation undertakes to obtain the consent of the persons involved in said case (e.g. Project Leader, Project Team Members, among others) in order to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation. The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to cancel or reclaim the grant depending on the nature and impact of the incident in question, or in the event that the Organisation does not or cannot provide the information required by the "la Caixa" Foundation regarding the case of improper scientific conduct.

If a PL, PI and/or Team Member who is eligible to apply for the Call (see 5.15.4) has been sanctioned for scientific misconducts, the Foundation may:

- » Require the Organisation to monitor the sanctioned person regarding his/her management of the Team Members, especially the pre-doctoral researchers who participate in the Project, and his/her participation in the Project.
- » Require the Organization to provide training in good research practices, to those who have been sanctioned.

11.3.

The "la Caixa" Foundation will be entitled, but not obliged, to offer post-award support and initiatives such as mentoring, consultancy or training in fields relevant to research including, without limitation, innovation, clinical assessment, dissemination of results, output management and networking.

The "la Caixa" Foundation may communicate to suppliers involved in any such post-award initiatives any relevant information about the Organisation and/or the Project and/or the Project team. The "la Caixa" Foundation may also receive feedback about the Project from such suppliers during and at the end of the initiatives.

Participation in any such initiatives is highly encouraged, and may entail contact with other Project Teams and/or with the above-mentioned suppliers.

11.4.

The Organisation(s) may obtain additional sources of financing for the development of the Project and/or for matters related to or involving the Project, provided that such sources do not lead to over-financing of the Project.

In this sense, the Organisation(s) may obtain financing for the Project and/or for matters related to or involving the Project through patronage or sponsorship agreements. Any agreements the Organisation(s) may enter into with third parties must be consistent with and respect the Agreement and the Rules for Participation.

Additionally, the funds may also be obtained, at the sole discretion of the Organisation(s), through financing mechanisms applicable to R+D+i projects that allow the channelling of private investment to the research field (hereinafter, "Tax Equity Mechanisms"), such as "agrupaciones de interés económico", to which the Organisation(s) may license the rights to the Project, provided that:

1. the Tax Equity Mechanisms are created in accordance with and in compliance with applicable regulations (e.g. Law 12/1991, of 29 April, on Economic Interest Groupings or any other regulation that replaces or complements it) and follow the accepted practice set forth by the State Tax Administration Agency – AEAT (Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria);
2. the creation of the Tax Equity Mechanism does not imply that the Organisation(s) disassociate themselves from the development of the Project and its results and, therefore, they remain responsible and liable for its execution and retain control over the rights to exploit the results. In the event that the rights to the Project are licensed due to the creation of the Tax Equity Mechanism, the Organisation(s) undertakes to recover all rights to the results derived from the Project upon its completion;
3. the agreements the Organisation(s) may enter with third parties in relation to the creation of the Tax Equity Mechanism must be consistent with and respect the Agreement and the Rules for Participation. In this sense, the Organisation(s) undertakes to protect, in the agreement they sign with third parties involved in the creation of these Tax Equity Mechanisms, the commitments agreed in the Agreement, the Rules for Participation, and in particular the rights of information, audit and dissemination reserved by the "la Caixa" Foundation. Likewise, the Organisation(s) must have the capacity to supervise the third parties involved in the Tax Equity Mechanism and undertakes, prior to the creation of the Tax Equity Mechanism, **to analyse the suitability and full compliance with the principles and criteria established in the Code of Ethics and Business Principles of the "la Caixa" Foundation of all natural and legal persons (directly or indirectly) interested in participating as partners or participants in the Tax Equity Mechanism.**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Organisation(s) must first notify the "la Caixa" Foundation of its desire to collaborate with the corresponding third parties. In no event will such notification be construed as an act of approval/authorisation with respect to the Organisation(s)' decision(s) to implement a Tax Equity Mechanism to obtain additional sources of funding. Nevertheless, the "la Caixa" Foundation will be entitled to oppose the implementation of the Tax Equity Mechanism if it deems there are justified reasons to do so.

In any case, the Organisation(s) will remain the sole beneficiary of the grant awarded by the "la Caixa" Foundation and, therefore, the Organisation(s) will continue to be responsible for the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken under the Agreement and in the Rules for Participation.

The Organisation(s) will fully indemnify the "la Caixa" Foundation against any liability that may arise from the creation or activity related to the Tax Equity Mechanism.

12. Grant management and other obligations of the Host Organisation and the Project Leader (PL)

12.1.

The Host Organisation will manage and administer the amounts that the "la Caixa" Foundation allocates for the Project and will be responsible for distributing the budget to the other Organisations, where applicable. To this end, the "la Caixa" Foundation:

(a) Will request Host Organisations that coordinate Projects with a budget greater than €500,000 to provide an external audit report (agreed-upon-procedures report) on their justifying account detailing the expenses incurred during the Project and the procedures applied by the auditor to validate their correct allocation according to the approved budget. All of the above will justify the costs of the activities of the Project carried out by the Host Organisation as well as by any other Organisation of the Project receiving funds in accordance with the budget. With respect to the part of the audit concerning the expenses of such Organisations, this audit may be commissioned from the external auditor of the Host Organisation or from another auditor with experience in the field.

The report must be submitted upon completion of the Project's term and its cost will be duly included and allocated within the Project's budget, as indicated in clause 4.6 of this Call. An additional period of three months following the Project's completion will be granted for the collection of all necessary information and the submission of the corresponding report. The "la Caixa" Foundation will only accept a single, final consolidated audit report covering all participating institutions within the Project. Under no circumstances will individual audit reports from the different institutions involved be accepted.

(b) May request Host Organisations of a Project with a budget equal to or less than €500,000 to provide an audit report and/or statement, as well as any additional information, documentation and/or clarification that the "la Caixa" Foundation may deem pertinent to allow its auditors and/or advisors to evaluate the correct allocation of the grants awarded. The cost of this audit report and/or statement will be paid by the "la Caixa" Foundation, subject to prior approval of the corresponding budget, unless it detects irregularities, in which case the Host Organisation will bear the cost.

The request mentioned in paragraph (b) above may take place at any time and may also apply to Projects with budgets over €500,000 in addition to the audit report indicated in paragraph (a) above.

12.2.

Two follow-up meetings may take place during the Project: a mid-term follow-up (18 months after beginning execution of the Project) and a final meeting (at the end of the Project). The "la Caixa" Foundation may ask the PL to provide a scientific-technical summary as well as any other information that the "la Caixa" Foundation deems necessary, or they must authorise the

Host Organisation to provide it before each of the meetings. In connection with the mid-term follow-up meeting, the Host Organisation must also provide evidence that at least 80% of the first payment has been duly executed.

12.3.

At the request of the "la Caixa" Foundation, the selected Applicants must certify, with original or certified documents, the files and information included in the Application. Likewise, the "la Caixa" Foundation may request the original certificates of any data mentioned in the Application.

12.4.

All Applicants (including, but not limited to, awarded Applicants) guarantee that the Projects comply with and will continue to comply with the applicable regulations and that the Projects (including, but not limited to, their proposal and eventual execution) do not infringe, nor will infringe, any rights of third parties, including, but not limited to, intellectual/industrial property rights and/or prior commitments or agreements. In this regard, all the Applicants will hold the "la Caixa" Foundation harmless from and against any damages resulting from a breach of this guarantee.

12.5.

The awarded Projects must be carried out as described in the proposal submitted to the Call.

Any modifications must be requested, duly justified and expressly accepted by the "la Caixa" Foundation through the online system.

Substantial modifications (e.g. any modifications that may have a legal impact not acceptable to the "la Caixa" Foundation, that may be contrary to the Rules for Participation and/or jeopardise the evaluation process, among others) may not be allowed. Guidance regarding project changes, together with other operational information relevant to project implementation and management, will be provided during the kick-off meeting and subsequently made available to Project Leaders through the documentation shared following the meeting.

The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to cancel or reclaim the grant, depending on the nature and impact of the modification at issue.

Furthermore, costs that are not directly incurred and borne by the Host Organisation and/or RPO shall not be considered eligible. In particular, personnel costs financed, paid or reimbursed by third parties and not directly borne by the Host Organisation and/or RPO may not be charged to the grant.

12.6.

All awarded Projects will be regulated in an Agreement to be signed in English between the Host Organisation and the "la Caixa" Foundation no later than 15 November of the current year. Signing of the Agreement is a mandatory requirement to receive the grant and will provide the



start date of the Project, which will be, in any case, between 1 September and 31 December of the year of the resolution of the winners of the Call.

The "la Caixa" Foundation will only accept the standard model Agreement available in the online system, and substantial amendments will not be accepted.

In no case may a PL have two Projects financed simultaneously by the "la Caixa" Foundation in which they are listed as a "PL". Therefore, the agreement related to Projects financed by the "la Caixa" Foundation in previous editions of the call must have been terminated before the Agreement related to Projects financed under this Call is signed.

For entities subject to the tax regime for not-for-profit organisations and tax incentives for patronage, the Agreement constitutes a business collaboration agreement in activities of general interest under article 25 of Law 49/2002, of 23 December.

12.7.

Projects awarded a grant must submit the following supporting documentation **before signing the Agreement**:

- » Retain and make available to the "la Caixa" Foundation all documents required to comply with regulations on the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism including:
 - Legal documents proving that the legal representative is entitled to act on behalf of the Organisation, together with a copy of their ID, passport, residence permit or other valid identity document from the country of origin, including a photograph.
 - A copy of the deeds evidencing the name, legal form, address and legal purpose of the Organisation.
 - A deed or certificate, executed by the legal representative of the Organisation, identifying the beneficial owner(s), including the full name, National Identity Card Number (DNI) and, optionally, the positions of the persons who directly or indirectly hold more than 25% of the voting rights of the Organisation. If no person holds more than 25% of the voting rights, the certificate executed by the legal representative of the Organisation must list the full name, National Identity Card Number (DNI) and, optionally, the position of all the members of the Executive Board (for associations), members of the Board of Trustees (for foundations) and directors or members of the Organisation's governing body.

In the case of CSOs with an allocated budget and RPOs belonging to Research Consortia, information detailing the members of the governing bodies will also be required. The Organisation Manager of the Host Organisation will be responsible for uploading all the above-mentioned documentation/information into the system, including that of the partners.

Additional information and/or documentation may be requested, particularly for those Organisations located in high-risk countries, as defined by the European Commission, or equivalent lists.

For this purpose, organisations shall provide all information and documentation reasonably requested by the "la Caixa" Foundation. Where the laws of the organisation's country of establishment or incorporation prevent the disclosure of any required information, the organisation must duly demonstrate such legal restriction and provide the relevant supporting evidence. In such cases, the organisation shall cooperate with the "la Caixa" Foundation and

provide an alternative mechanism or documentation that enables the completion of the legally required verifications.

Checks against the international lists of sanctioned persons will be performed on the basis of international economic and financial sanctions imposed by the United Nations, the European Union, Spain, HM Treasury and/or the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). Organisations based in countries or territories subject to sanctions, including, but not limited to, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan, cannot participate in proposals.

Signing of the Agreement and award of the grant are subject to successful verification of compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing regulations, including clearance from the above-mentioned sanctions checks, of (but not limited to) all Host Organisations and partners. This requirement is mandatory for receiving the grant and applies throughout the full term of the Agreement.

» A certificate from the Spanish Tax Agency or the equivalent Portuguese authority confirming that the Host Organisation has fulfilled its tax obligations and, for Portuguese Organisations, that it is resident for tax purposes in Portugal.

A certificate from the Spanish Social Security or the equivalent Portuguese authority confirming that the Host Organisation has fulfilled its obligations under current labour regulations.

Please note that all documentation described in this section 12.7 must be provided in English. Where this is not possible, we may accept documents in Spanish, Catalan or Portuguese, but no other languages will be accepted.

13. Dissemination rules

13.1.

The Organisations are obliged to explicitly acknowledge that their activity has received support from the "la Caixa" Foundation. This means that in all dissemination and communication of the Project, the "la Caixa" Foundation must be stated as the funding organisation of the Project.

This acknowledgement must appear, where possible and unless the "la Caixa" Foundation requests otherwise, in all communications, disclosures and activities, as well as on all equipment, infrastructure and main results funded by the grant. These communication and disclosure materials must be submitted to the "la Caixa" Foundation for prior review and approval.

13.2.

The Project Leader and Principal Investigators will be referred to as members of the "Health Research" Network when mentioned in connection with the Project.

13.3.

The logo of the "la Caixa" Foundation and the reference to its contribution must appear in a way that is easily visible to the public and is sufficiently prominent (taking into account the nature of the activity or the object), and will always be subject to the prior review and approval of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

13.4.

Scientific articles and any other scientific communication published as a result of these research grants must include the following text: *"The Project leading to these results has received funding from the "la Caixa" Foundation under the project code <CODE ASSIGNED TO AWARDED PROJECTS>."* The selected Applicants must notify the "la Caixa" Foundation in advance of the publication of any such article.

13.5.

Should there be results that are protected or protectable and/or registered or registrable as intellectual or industrial property, or in any other form, as a result of the research carried out in the awarded Project within the framework of this Call, the Host Organisations agree to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation.

13.6.

The "la Caixa" Foundation may also promote collaboration regarding the Project, which may include disclosing certain details (current or future) of the Project, where relevant, in international, national and/or regional media and/or by any other means deemed appropriate. For this purpose, the general characteristics of the proposals (including but not limited to, the title of the Project, a brief description, the name of the Host Organisation, and the name and professional bio of the Project Leader and/or other Team Members) may be published, without limitation, through press releases, emails, brochures and websites.

The Host Organisation and the Project Leader will make their best efforts to enhance dissemination of the Project and of the collaboration with the "la Caixa" Foundation, which includes providing information and documentation for the preparation of communication content, as well as being available for interviews and other press events or activities.

13.7.

The obligations that the Organisations must meet for the "la Caixa" Foundation in accordance with clauses 12.6, 13.1 to 13.5 and 14.1 must also be met for Projects: (i) partially funded by FCT under the Iniciativa Ibérica de Investigação e Inovação Biomédica (i4B); (ii) Projects on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) that are partially funded by the Francisco Luzón Foundation; and (iii) Projects on Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) that are partially funded by Breakthrough T1D, as described in paragraph 4.1 of these Rules for Participation.

13.8.

The Host Organisation and the PL will ensure that all Organisations and Team Members, as well as their successors and assignees, apply (to the extent possible) the terms established in these Rules for Participation to their activities and publications.

14. Confidentiality. Privacy and data protection policy

14.1.

The Organisations authorise the "la Caixa" Foundation to access, use and share the information of the proposals, including any and all documents referred to therein, whether submitted at the time of the Application or at a later stage, for the purposes of this Call and to the extent necessary, including, but not limited to, the evaluation, selection and monitoring of the Projects. The Organisations authorise the "la Caixa" Foundation to share and use such information and documentation for these purposes. With regard to the identifying and/or professional information of natural persons linked to the Projects (including the PLs, PIs, other Team Members and representatives), on submission of their proposals the Organisations affirm that they have informed those persons about the information indicated in clause 14.3 below and, where applicable, have obtained the necessary consent of those persons, or have sufficient legal basis for their inclusion in the proposals.

14.2.

The "la Caixa" Foundation fully complies with the legislation in force in the field of personal data protection. All Organisations must also comply with the regulations applicable in this field.

14.3.

The participating individuals will be duly informed, within the framework of their access to the online system, about the processing of their personal data concerning participation in this call, as well as about the exercise of their rights regarding the protection of personal data in accordance with article 12 and following of the European General Data Protection Regulation.

Furthermore, without prejudice of the information to be provided within the framework of the online system, the "la Caixa" Foundation hereby informs participants that the personal data collected within the framework of this Call may be communicated to the entities indicated in paragraph 4.1 if this is necessary for the execution of the Call.

Moreover, the "la Caixa" Foundation will process the personal data of all participants who submit doubts or queries through any email address provided by the "la Caixa" Foundation, the legal basis for such processing being the performance of an agreement. Personal data will be stored as long as contractual relations subsist and even after their termination, for the applicable statutory limitation periods. Once such limitation periods have ended, the personal data will be deleted or anonymised. Additionally, data subjects are hereby informed of the following:



- a) The contact details of the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the "la Caixa" Foundation are:
Email: dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org; Address: Avenida Diagonal 621 – 629, 08028 Barcelona.
- b) Personal data will not be transferred to third parties, except to those whose intervention is necessary for the correct management of the service provision, or where disclosure of personal data is legally mandatory. Furthermore, personal data will not be subject to automated decision-making.
- c) In the event that it is necessary to contract the services of suppliers located outside the European Economic Area, such contracts may only be carried out after complying with all of requirements established by the data protection regulations and applying the guarantees and safeguards necessary to preserve privacy. For more information, data subjects may contact the Data Protection Officer at the aforementioned addresses.
- d) Data subjects have the right to access their personal data, rectify inaccurate data, request its erasure when the data is no longer necessary, oppose or restrict its processing, or request its portability by writing to the Data Protection Officer at the aforementioned addresses.
- e) If data subjects consider that the processing of their personal data violates data protection regulations, they may submit a complaint to the Data Protection Officer or to the Spanish Data Protection Authority.

15. Additional comments

15.1.

The submission of an Application for this Call implies all the Applicants' express acceptance of these Rules for Participation as well as the criteria and decisions that may be made by the "la Caixa" Foundation if questions arise concerning the interpretation of the requirements or the terms and conditions of this document.

15.2.

Submitting a proposal to this Call is compatible with applying to any other calls from the "la Caixa" Foundation, as well as to external funding opportunities, provided that the provisions set forth in 11.4 are not breached.

15.3.

The "la Caixa" Foundation is committed not only to support excellence in scientific research, but also to fostering the translation of research results into solutions that can generate societal benefit and impact.

To this end, **the Host Organisation and PL are encouraged to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation, as early as reasonably possible, of any project results, developments or opportunities that may have potential for protection, licensing, commercialization, company creation, social implementation or any other form of translation or technology transfer.** Such communication is intended solely to enable the "la Caixa" Foundation to become aware of potential translational opportunities and, where appropriate, to explore whether it may provide further support

through any other mechanisms that may be available (e.g. expert advice, training, funding initiatives, among other), in accordance with its internal policies, priorities and programs.

Beneficiaries remain fully free to manage, develop and pursue such opportunities at their discretion and in accordance with their own policies and obligations. This provision does not grant Fundació "la Caixa" any ownership rights, option rights, exclusivity, preferential rights or any other rights over the project results or related opportunities.

For the avoidance of doubt, any information provided pursuant to this provision shall not create any obligation on the "la Caixa" Foundation to provide funding, investment, support or any other form of assistance in relation to the notified opportunity".

15.4.

The detection of non-compliance with these Rules for Participation, regardless of when it occurs or the status of the Application within the grant-awarding process or the execution of an awarded Project, will entitle the "la Caixa" Foundation to reject the Application or cancel the awarded grant.

Should the grantee fail to comply with the obligations mentioned above, or with any other obligation included in these Rules for Participation of the Call, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to act as it deems appropriate, including requesting the return of the amounts already received.

15.5.

Further detailed information and documents regarding this Call for proposals can be found on the [website of the "la Caixa" Foundation](#).