

Prospective Research
Regulation and topic of the call 2022

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1. PROGRAMME

AIM OF THE PROGRAMME

Through the *Prospective Research* programme, the Brussels-Capital Region is hoping to fund research projects from a dual perspective: to provide a solid regional prospective vision; to build solutions to the specific challenges it will face in the years to come. The solutions proposed by the funded projects must take into account Brussels' urban complexity as well as the Region's environmental, social and economic transition objectives.

The programme targets researchers in human science as much as researchers in exact or applied science. The projects must pay sufficient attention to the development (focusing on politics and/or society) of research.

BENEFICIARIES

Prospective Research is aimed at researchers from Research institutions, having at least one operational headquarters in the Brussels-Capital Region. Article 15 ee¹ of the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2014/C 198/01) defines research bodies as follows: *an entity (such as a university or research institute, technology transfer agency, innovation intermediary, or a physical or virtual scientific cooperation body, irrespective of its legal status (public or private) or way of financing, whose main activities are fundamental or industrial research or experimental research, completely independently, and which is responsible for the broad distribution of its results through education, publication or transfer of knowledge.*" The research partners that can use Innoviris for this call are research institutions that fit this definition and having at least one operational headquarters in the Brussels-Capital Region.

If the applicant is not a University, University college or Collective research centre, its classification as a research Institute must be certified by means of the appropriate "research body classification form" (available on the Innoviris website in the Prospective Research tool box). This form must only be submitted to Innoviris once per calendar year. Applicants and/or beneficiaries must inform Innoviris of any change to this status. Innoviris also reserves the right to examine the status of any applicant (University, University college, collective research centre or other research body) during the admissibility phase if there are any doubts regarding its classification as a research body. This may take place by supplying the applicant with a "research body classification form", which must be completed in full and returned to Innoviris.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECTS

The projects must be carried out by a team of multidisciplinary researchers, coming from one or more research groups working together on a research project, in which each partner is studying one aspect of the issue. For each project, a promotor-coordinator must be identified. This person is responsible for the project's scientific and administrative management. One or more co-promotors may be appointed for a project, in addition to the promotor-coordinator. The supervisor of the research unit listed first is considered the coordinator by default and is responsible for the supervision of the researchers. The resources allocated to the project must be appropriate for the programme and its objectives.

^{1 1} <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2014:198:FULL&from=EN>

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The personal data collected by Innoviris, the data controller, by means of which this form is for the purpose of processing your application for funding (which involves in particular analysis and evaluation by Innoviris and an external jury). Their processing is based on the processing necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject and for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. No data is shared with third parties without the prior consent of the data subject or unless a legal obligation obliges Innoviris to do so. Innoviris makes every effort to ensure the confidentiality and security of the data processed. The retention time shall be that which is necessary to achieve the purposes of the processing concerned. If you have any questions or wish to exercise your rights under Articles 15 to 22 of the DPMP, please contact dpo@innoviris.brussels or consult our "privacy" web page.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS

Innoviris is responsible for the scientific and administrative coordination of the *Prospective Research* programme. This document contains all the information researchers need to submit a project for the *Prospective Research 2020* call for projects. Applications for this call must be submitted at the latest by **Friday, December 10th 2021 at 12 pm (noon)** via an electronic version preferably with qualified signature² to funding-request@innoviris.brussels (copied to epottier@innoviris.brussels). If qualified signature is not possible, with scanned signature.

Applications must be prepared using a form available on the Innoviris website in the Prospective Research Tool box, and must comply with the directives set out in this regulation. Your application will not be considered for evaluation if it does not comply with the regulation.

PROCESS OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Prospective Research is a themed call for projects. This means that the proposals put forward may only be submitted in response to a concrete call for proposals on defined themes.

The call for projects is composed of one phase. Following an (admissibility) analysis by Innoviris advisers the admissible proposals will be assessed by an external jury of multidisciplinary ad hoc experts consisting of academic experts, experts in prospective research and representatives of Innoviris.

TOPIC OF THE CALL 2022 “DEALING WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEBT”

The theme of Prospective Research 2022 is anchored in the current Brussels context. With this call we want to question our debts and offer various scenarios for public policies to deal with them. The aim of this call is to help the Brussels-Capital Region to raise its profile and (re)construct an inclusive society in which prosperity, quality of life, social cohesion, justice, education, culture, redistribution, social protection, public services, among other work orientations, are central.

By 'debt' we mean various types of debt, which we choose for or which we have to endure and which, in the long term, offer us a plan of more or less specific actions and ways of dealing with them. Debt

² <https://economie.fgov.be/fr/themes/line/commerce-electronique/signature-electronique-et>

can be of any kind: social, economic, environmental, mental, etc. Financial debt, which increased during Covid-19, refers in the coming decades not only to repayments, but also to expenditures and investments in public services, in the private sector, in urban planning, etc. The environmental debt predicts, over a period of 100 years, climate change, rising sea levels, some degree of salinisation and land abandonment, population migration, etc. The health debt deals with the possible development of various mental or physical disorders, which have been identified among the population especially during the lockdown and whose development depends on whether or not they are followed up. It is also concerning the development of the health system, the introduction of specific care, etc. The development of digital technology, on the other hand, creates a social divide, imposes itself on the way we organise our lives, contributes to the environmental debt, raises questions not only about ethics but also about security, which therefore amounts to a kind of debt. When we talk about the cultural debt, we refer to the forced shutdown of the cultural sector during the lockdown and its consequences for the coming decades. Artists are sometimes forced to make radical reforms that lead to social inequalities: limited access to the creation and the presentation of art, but also limited access for different groups of the population to artistic productions, etc. Social debt emphasizes inequalities in terms of living conditions, of access to the labour market and to education, undermining our models of social solidarity, etc. The construction of infrastructure is also a kind of debt. Over several decades, buildings, roads, bridges, railways and riverbanks are exposed to the wear and tear of time and weather; some not used or overused. Questions on their maintenance – or lack of maintenance - and on their possible slow degeneration arise. All these examples illustrate different forms of indebtedness, but they are not exhaustive.

The recent lockdowns have had an impact on Brussels: production delays on the one hand, but also the postponement by twenty days of the date on which the earth's limits would be exceeded on the other hand. At the same time, they have had a strong influence on the mental health of many Brussels residents, they increased social inequalities within the Region, reshaped the economic structure, sustainably transformed sectors and work situations, and changed lifestyles. Therefore we need prospective research on the links and the balance between multiple debts, which we have chosen for ourselves or which we have to endure; debts of all kinds, with different timelines and their own dynamics.

Proposals submitted for this Prospective Research 2022 call should take into account the following conditions. The subject of the research may be a particular debt system and/or the interactions between different forms of debt, as long as these are suitable for prospective research. After all, debts make it possible to predict more or less the long period of time, they offer us visions of the future. Debts allow us to reflect on a more distant future. Depending on their nature and dynamics, they can reveal vulnerabilities or shortcomings that impede development, they can create a snowball effect and, at the same time, they can create other problems and weaken sectors, areas or populations, suggest new models, influence trends, etc. Not all debts are countable. Some debts are repayable and linked to financial obligations; others are not, or only in a very particular way, such as environmental, educational, social, cultural, mental debts, etc. Debts will confront our children and grandchildren with

the consequences of choices made by previous generations. Debts are either revealed, asserted or deepened during crises (see the example of the recent lockdowns above). Other debts grow in silence and do not show their impact immediately, as in the case with infrastructure debts. Debts make us debtors, and so we have future obligations towards the people of Brussels: we will have to deal with debts in one way or another and/or pay them back.

Thanks to prospective research on a given debt system and on the links between the different types of debt that the inhabitants of Brussels will face, we will gain insights into possible, alternative and contradictory futures which will enable us to make the right choice in terms of public policy, private sector actions or citizens' initiatives.

TIMETABLE

- **Submission of complete proposals: Friday, December 10th 2021 at 12 pm (noon)**
- **Assessment:** December 2021 – March 2022
- **Decision by the government:** June – July 2022
- **Launch of the projects:** Between 1st of September and 1st of November 2022

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

1. Admissibility analysis

The analysis of the admissibility of the proposal is carried out by Innoviris. The proposal is considered admissible if it meets the following criteria:

- The identified researcher(s) must hold at least a master diploma at the start of the research;
- The promotor(s) is/are (an) established professor(s) or established researcher(s) in a Brussels research Institution or the Institute's research director(s);
- The application was submitted before the expiry of the deadline mentioned on the form;
- The application has been drafted in accordance with the formal requirements (use of the correct form, compliance with the requested number of pages, the form is complete, etc.);
- The applicant(s) must have complied with all the obligations with regard to any previous aid granted by the Region;
- The project must not have started before the submission of the subsidy application; Moreover, if the subsidy is granted by Innoviris, **it will start between 1 September and 1 November 2022.**
- The regional development and policy decision-making strategy must be clearly presented;
- The project must have at least an indirect link with regional competences.
- The project must be in line with the theme of the call 2022 identified by the Region and described below.

Depending on the number of projects submitted, and in accordance with article 18 of the decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region implementing the order of July 27, 2017 for non-economic purposes, Innoviris may carry out an initial evaluation of the proposals based on the

evaluation criteria presented below in point 2 . Only projects that have passed this first evaluation stage can be presented before an expert jury.

2. Evaluation by an external jury of admissible proposals

Proposals considered admissible will be evaluated by an external jury composed of academic experts and prospecting specialists, as well as representatives of Innoviris. The evaluation will be based on the submitted documents (which will be sent to the jury members after signing a confidentiality agreement), based on the following evaluation criteria:

- **The feasibility and scientific quality of the project (30%):**
 - Is the project original and innovative in relation to the state of the art?
 - Are the research field, theoretical context and research issue clearly defined?
 - Are the objectives, research questions, methodology and programme clear?
 - Is the work programme developed in a relevant manner?
 - Does the project demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the reality of the situation in the field?

- **- The prospective approach (30%) :**
 - **The base (10%) :**
 - Is the choice of the time horizon identified?
 - Is the preferred type of prospective approach explained and relevant to the research issue?
 - Is the method for identifying prospective issues explained?
 - Is the choice of the spatial framework well identified: does the proposal contextualize the region with regard to the country, Europe, etc.?
 - **Scenarios (10%) :**
 - Does the project propose research that can produce several alternative and complementary scenarios?
 - Does the project describe well the method of construction of the scenarios?
 - Does the project address different types of futures.
 - Are the blindspots well identified and are they taken into consideration?
 - Does the methodology identify the bifurcations, the necessary breaks, the paths leading to different types of futures ?
 - **Strategic options (10%) :**
 - Does the project present a methodology to define the strategic options relevant for the Brussels Region?

- **The social, economic and/or environmental impact on the Brussels-Capital Region (30%):**
 - Do the expected results have the potential to contribute to the social, economic and/or environmental development of the Region? Are there any results that could be implemented by the Region and the public authorities?
 - Do the results of the project feed the political and citizen debate? Could the results be made accessible to the general public (popularisation)?

- **Quality of the consortium and appropriateness of the resources envisaged (10%):**
 - does/do the researcher(s) have the expertise required to carry out this research? do they have sufficient knowledge of the situation on the ground?

- Is there sufficient cohesion and complementarity between the partners of the project?
- is the requested budget in aligned with the project?

The cohesion and complementarity of all the projects will be taken into account during the evaluation.

If the jury considers it necessary, Innoviris will organize an interview with the research team to complete the evaluation.

SELECTION OF FINAL PROPOSALS

The selection of final proposals is made by the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region on the basis of the results of the jury evaluation and the analysis of Innoviris. As an indication, for the Prospective Research 2021 call, Innoviris received 22 expressions of interest. After the first admissibility analysis, 25 projects were selected. 8 files were declared inadmissible. The remaining 14 projects were assessed by ad hoc multidisciplinary juries. In the end, the jury decided on the selection of 6 projects whose total amount corresponded to an available budget of approximately 2,5 million euros.

For this 2022 call, a budget of 3.000.000 euros has been allocated.

DURATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

The period of development and implementation of the project will cover the whole project, i.e. a maximum of three years.

A mid-term evaluation will be carried out which will determine the continuation of the project (GO/NO GO). The continuation will depend on a positive evaluation of work carried out during the first 18-month phase and on any adjustment of the programme that needs to be made during the additional period. This evaluation will be carried out by an ad hoc expert.

In case of a negative evaluation, the project will be definitively terminated after 18 months.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The financing rate of the Brussels Capital Region is 100% of the total budget.

The subsidy covers the entire project, i.e. three years of research.

The subsidy covers the salary of the researcher(s), instrument and equipment costs, the "other operating costs", subcontracting and overhead costs. For detailed "Eligible Costs", we refer to the document "GENERAL ACCOUNTING DIRECTIVES 2021", available via this link: <https://innoviris.brussels/documents/general-accounting-directives-2021>.

There is no maximum amount with regard to the operating and personnel costs that can be requested for a project. There is a funding ceiling for all the projects in this call. A project's score (based on the above-mentioned criteria), its ranking amongst all the projects and the available budget will determine whether or not the project is funded. The requested budget must correspond to the workload.

3. FOLLOW-UP OF SELECTED PROJECTS

For the selected projects, the promotor-coordinator will ensure that the various stages of the launch and follow-up of the project are respected. This is necessary for the successful progress of the programme. Innoviris will provide the financial and scientific follow-up of the projects based on the documents provided by the coordinator. In this respect, the documents submitted to Innoviris for the project follow-up are very important elements that must be completed correctly. They make it possible to assess the quality of the work carried out and provide a better follow up of the project.

For financial monitoring, the modalities for the introduction of reports will be defined in the agreement.

For the scientific follow-up, the activity reports, reports by the follow-up committees and a final report will be submitted to Innoviris and at the times specified below, which are included in the subsidy agreement.. Templates will be provided to the project teams for this purpose. The consortia should also ensure that projects will be represented at *Prospective Research* events during their cycle (for example, kick-off, policy-science workshop, final event at the Brussels Parliament, etc.).

Once the project is completed, the policy brief must be drafted and contain the main results and recommendations of the project; Innoviris will distribute this to political stakeholders and it may be discussed at the Brussels Parliament. The publication of the research in *Brussels Studies* is strongly encouraged.

After nine months

Innoviris will hold a follow-up committee after the first nine months. This follow-up committee will assess the progress made in the project: a verbal presentation will demonstrate the following elements:

- General project information;
- First research milestones (in relation to the original work programme);
- Possible changes to the program;
- Prospects/applications for the Region.

After 18 months: mid-term evaluation

After 18 months, the continuation of the project is subject to a positive evaluation of work carried out during the first 18-month phase and of any adjustments to the programme that need to be made during the additional period. This evaluation will be carried out by an ad hoc expert.

A written report has to contain the following elements

- a non-confidential summary of the project (maximum 20 lines);
- a report on the activities and results achieved in the last 18 months of the project in comparison with the initial work programme, and a possible update of the programme for the third year of the project;
- a short description of the steps undertaken and the results obtained to valorise the results of the project;
- a short description of the prospects and potential applications for the Region;
- a duly completed application form for renewal.

In case of a negative evaluation, the project will be terminated definitively.

After 27 months:

After 27 months a follow-up committee will be held with Innoviris. This follow-up committee will report on the progress made by the project: an oral presentation has to contain the following information:

- a detailed account of the progress of the project and the results obtained in the last nine months, compared with the initial work programme, and a possible update of the programme for the third year of the project;
- a short description of the steps undertaken and the results obtained to valorise the results of the project;
- a short description of the prospects and potential applications for the Region;
- a closure and valorisation plan for the final period.

At 36 months:

The final research report *and* the *Policy Brief*.

4. FORMS AND INFORMATION

The application form can be found on this link: <https://innoviris.brussels/prospective-research>.

For further information, please contact:

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