

PSL Valorisation and the Institut de Convergence Qlife join forces to support up to 10 innovative projects with high socio-economic potential. This call is open to any project involving at least one PSL research team, in all disciplines and fields of application. Projects involving partnerships with research teams outside PSL are eligible, but only PSL teams may be funded.

Selected projects must have a high potential for economic and / or societal impact. They may aim at the creation of a start-up or any other form of technology or knowledge transfer to the socio-economic world.

In accordance with PSL's policy of supporting the promotion of research and expertise in the fields of humanities and social sciences, arts and design, one of these projects (at least) will be dedicated to the valorisation of research and expertise in these fields. The relation to the said fields will be assessed by the Selection Committee in view of the objectives of the projects, taking into account the research groups and of expertise involved.

The call for projects will be cofunded by PSL Valorisation and the Institut de Convergence Qlife, it will mobilize support from the Fonds National de Valorisation (SGPI - ANR), enabling the financing of up to ten projects, including three projects in the field of quantitative biology, supported by Qlife, aiming at the creation of startups or at partnerships with existing startups, and one project involving at least one of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, arts and design. The other funded projects may concern any discipline and involve any mode of technology or knowledge transfer.

Several information meetings on the call, intended for all researchers and technology transfer officers within PSL, will take place in March and April 2020 (see schedule below). These meetings will include a presentation of the call and an informal workshop during which candidates may discuss all aspects of the call and obtain informal feedback on their applications.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, we had to reorganize the information meetings planned in order to present the PSL/Qlife POC/pre-maturation call for projects 2020 (Thursday 19 March at EPHE; Tuesday 24 March at Paris Observatory; Tuesday 31 March at Institut Curie; Friday 03 April at ESPCI).

As physical meetings are not possible in the short term, we are setting up information meetings by videoconference on the following dates:

Tuesday 31 March at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday 08 April at 10:30 a.m.

To take part in these virtual meetings, please register by using the following link : <https://framaforms.org/inscription-a-une-reunion-dinformations-de-lappel-a-projets-prematuration-de-psl-valorisation-et-de>

Thus, we will be able to send to you a link to the Microsoft Teams meeting room created for this purpose (accessible through your web browser, even without the Teams application) 24 hours before the meeting.

Conditions of eligibility

(See specific information below regarding the different project categories)

- Eligible projects must involve at least one PSL research group and be validated by the director of the unit of the applicant (PI).

- The maximal project duration is 18 months, unless duly justified.
- The highest requested funding is 100k€ (including any overhead or management costs charged by the institution managing the funds). This limit may be increased to 120 k€ for projects with special needs (for example in terms of equipment, services, etc.). These needs must be justified in the application and will be assessed by the Selection Committee.

Objectives and eligible expenses

The allocated funding must be used to prepare and / or facilitate the transfer of knowledge, results or inventions from the research groups involved, in order to foster economic and / or societal impact. It may be used to carry out technical or market proofs of concept, or legal studies (intellectual property, regulations). The funding may also cover staff costs, equipment (whatever the depreciation period), operating costs (including travel and consumables), and external contracting, corresponding to technical achievements by one or more providers (public or private), expenses for marketing studies, specialized coaching (business, legal, etc.), training, or intellectual property costs (patentability study, freedom to operate, etc.).

Selection process

The evaluation process will be supervised by PSL Valorisation, in coordination with the Qlife Steering Committee. It will be approved by the Oversight Committee (“Comité d’Engagement”) set up in relation the FNV funding allocated to PSL Valorisation.

The Selection Committee will comprise independent experts, as well as a member of the Qlife Steering Committee. Each application will be evaluated by 2 independent specialists in the relevant field, whose reports will be forwarded to the Selection Committee. The members of the Selection Committee and the evaluators will sign a statement of confidentiality.

The following evaluation criteria will be taken into account:

- Scientific and technological quality (if applicable)
Existing results, publications, scientific environment
- Innovative character and added value wrt the state of the art
State of the art description, comparison of the solution with possible alternatives
- Socio-economic impact, feasibility of the technology transfer, identified markets
Innovation and transfer approach; preliminary vision of applications, users and markets; foreseen process for the definition of a business model, for contacts with users and for market identification
- Technical and economic feasibility (resources, calendar, environment, partnerships)
Key steps, milestones, deliverables; adequacy of resources and timeline; risk management

Technology transfer and revenue allocation

For the sake of continuity in the development of the projects, the management and the valorization of the intellectual property resulting from the projects will be entrusted, if the case arises, to the structure in charge of the pre-existing intellectual property, unless there is a specific agreement between the stakeholders to do otherwise.

In accordance with PSL's policy for generating income from its valorisation activities that can be reinvested in new projects, and with the official decision awarding FNV funding to PSL Valorisation, the income generated by the funded project will be allocated in priority to replenishing the amount invested by PSL; this rule does not apply to projects funded by Qlife, and will not concern the fraction of the income allocated to inventors (“intéressement”).

Provisional calendar

- **February 27, 2020:** Publication of the call for projects.
- **March-April 2020:** Information meetings **by videoconference** on the call, intended for all researchers and tech transfer staff within PSL.
Tuesday 31 March at 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday 08 April at 10:30 a.m.
- **April 21, 2020:** Deadline for sending a non-confidential summary and a list of three experts for project evaluation.
- **05 May 2020:** Deadline for submitting applications.
- **May-June 2020:** Evaluation of projects.
- **July 2020:** Announcement of the results.

Applications

Applications must be submitted by email to psl.valo@psl.eu, by sending two files (in Word and PDF formats), using the provided template, available from any technology transfer officers of PSL (establishments and organizations), or from the PSL Valorisation team.

Applicants should contact one of the technology transfer officers of their department and should indicate the name of this person in their application.

Please contact the technology transfer service of your establishment or PSL Valorisation for further information.

Specific information

Qlife – Quantitative biology:

Funding provided by the Institut de Convergence Qlife is reserved for the field of quantitative biology, concerning for example the dynamic architecture of the nucleus, the organization of cell membranes, intercellular communication, developmental biology, new quantitative therapeutic approaches, etc. More generally, the projects selected will aim to develop knowledge and technologies allowing a higher understanding of the functioning of living systems at all levels (molecule, cell, organism, populations), such as for example imaging techniques, data science and scientific calculation. Projects should be oriented towards the creation of startups or towards partnerships with existing startups. Applications expected for Qlife funding may come from research groups of PSL, preferably in partnership with an identified company, created or in the process of being created. The projects will aim to:

- Reinforce interactions between academic research and private companies.
- The appropriation by the business world of solutions resulting from public research.
- The development of startups in collaboration with one or more PSL research teams.

Humanities and social sciences, arts and design projects:

One funding ticket is reserved for projects involving at least one of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, arts and design. This involvement will be assessed by the Selection Committee in view of the project objectives, of the research teams, of knowledge and expertise brought into play, and of the project environment and partnerships envisaged.

