

## 2022 call for Proof-of-Concept projects by PSL Valorisation & Qlife

[PSL Valorisation](#) and the [Institut Convergences 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 (who may be partner of an independent team), in all disciplines and fields of application. Projects involving partnerships with non-PSL research teams are eligible, but only PSL teams can be funded through this call.

The selected projects must have a strong potential economic and/or societal impact; they may aim at creating a start-up, or any other form of transfer to the socio-economic world.

In accordance with PSL's policy of supporting the development of research and expertise in the humanities and social sciences, the arts and design, one funding contract will be granted to a project involving at least one of these themes. The involvement will be assessed by the Selection Committee in light of the project's purposes, the research teams and the knowledge and expertise involved.

The call for proposals will be jointly funded by PSL Valorisation and the Institut Convergences Qlife; it will draw on the funding from Fonds National de Valorisation (PIA) allocated to PSL. Up to ten projects will be selected for funding, including: three projects in the field of quantitative biology, supported by Qlife, aiming at the creation of start-ups (or at partnerships with existing start-ups); one project involving at least one of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, design, arts; other projects that may be in any field and any mode of technology transfer (start-up, licensing...).

Projects within the scope of the [Institut Carnot IPGG Microfluidique](#) that will be funded as part of this call may receive additional funding from the Carnot Institute (after the Carnot's Steering committee assessed their funding needs and approved them).

Information meetings about the call, intended for all PSL researchers and development officers, will be held in March and April 2022 (see schedule below). The meetings will include a description of the call followed by a question-and-answer session, feedback from a previous call winner, and the possibility of individual sessions during which project leaders can ask specific questions and obtain informal feedback on their application project.

These information meetings will be held by videoconference and will take place on the following dates:

- March 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- March 23 at 4:00 p.m.
- April 4 at 2:30 p.m.

To attend a meeting, please register on this weblink: [https://framaforms.org/aap- pre-maturation-2022-1642428446](https://framaforms.org/aap-pre-maturation-2022-1642428446)

You will receive a weblink 24 hours before the meeting; you will be granted access to a Microsoft Teams room (which you can open with your browser if you don't have the Team app).

### **Eligibility requirements** *(See below for specific information on the different project categories)*

- Eligible projects must involve at least one PSL research team, and be approved by the director of the unit involved (that of the project leader).

- The maximum duration of the projects is 18 months, except for justified and documented exceptions.
- The funding requested must be no more than 100 k€ (including all management or hosting costs of the team(s) concerned). The funding may be increased to 120 k€ for applications that demonstrate particular needs (for example, in terms of equipment, services, etc.). These needs will be justified in the application package and assessed by the Selection Committee.

## Eligible purposes and expenditures

The funding is meant for technical or market proofs of concept, or legal studies (intellectual property, regulations). It may cover staff costs, equipment (whatever the depreciation period), operating costs (including travel and consumables), and external contracting, corresponding to technical services 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.).

In Qlife-funded projects, expenditures must be primarily for the project's human resources.

## Selection process

The selection process will be supervised by PSL Valorisation, in coordination with the Qlife Steering Committee and governing bodies from Institut Carnot IPGG. The process will be approved by the Approval Committee, established to manage the FNV funding allocated to PSL Valorisation.

The Selection Committee will include independent experts, as well as a member of the Qlife steering committee. Each project will be subject to independent assessments by two specialists in the field concerned; their reports will be forwarded to the Selection Committee. The members of the Selection Committee as well as the experts will sign a confidentiality agreement.

The following criteria will be taken into account:

- Scientific and technological quality (if applicable) e.g., *results already yielded, publications, scientific environment;*
- Innovative character and added value compared to the state of the art e.g., *description of the state of the art and technologies, comparison of the solution with possible alternatives;*
- Socio-economic impact, transfer potential, identified markets, e.g., *innovation and transfer methods; preliminary vision of applications, users and markets; process envisioned to define a business model, contacts with users and market approach;*
- Technical and economic feasibility (resources, calendar, environment, partnerships), e.g., *key steps, milestones, deliverables; resource and schedule adequacy; risk management.*

## Transfer of results, revenues generated

In the event that intellectual property assets already exist when the prematurity project is funded (although it is not a prerequisite), the management and transfer of the intellectual property resulting from the project will be entrusted (for the sake of continuity) to the structure in charge of the previous IP, unless there is a specific agreement between the parties involved.

In accordance with PSL's policy of generating revenues through its commercialization activities that can be reinvested in new projects, and with the rules associated with financing from the Fonds National de Valorisation, the revenues generated by the projects will be allocated as a priority to the balance of the amount invested by PSL, with the exception of the researchers' profit-sharing (this rule does not apply to projects financed by Qlife)

## Timeline

- **February 10, 2022:** Release of the call for proposals.
- **March 2022:** information meetings **by videoconference**, for all researchers and technology transfer officers within PSL
- March 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- March 23 at 4:00 p.m.
- April 4 at 2:30 p.m.
- **April 22, 2022:** Deadline for sending a non-confidential abstract and a list of three experts to evaluate the submitted project.
- **Mai 9, 2022 : Deadline for submission of applications** - closure of the call for proposals.
- **May-June 2022 :** Project evaluations.
- **July 2022 :** Communication of results

## Application packages

Applications must be submitted by email to [psl.valo@psl.eu](mailto:psl.valo@psl.eu); it should include two attachments in **Word** and **PDF** format, using the template provided, which is available from the technology transfer services of the schools and organizations, or from PSL Valorisation.

Applicant project leaders are invited to contact one of the departments in charge of tech transfer for their unit, and to mention on their application the name of the contact person for their project.

**Please feel free to contact the tech transfer department of your school or PSL Valorisation for any information.**

## Specific information

### Qlife – Quantitative biology:

The funding provided by the Institut Convergence Qlife is intended 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 selected projects will aim to develop knowledge and technologies which provide a better understanding of the functioning of living organisms at all levels (molecule, cell, organism, populations), such as analysis and imaging techniques, data science and scientific computing. The projects should aim at creating start-ups or partnerships with existing start-ups.

Applications for Qlife funding should come from research teams within the PSL scope, preferably in partnership with an identified company, either created or in the process of being created. The projects will aim at:

- Strengthening interactions between the sector of public research and the business sector;
- The appropriation by the business sector of solutions stemming from public research;
- Developing start-up projects in collaboration with one or more teams within PSL. The funding allocated to projects must mainly cover staff expenses.

### Projects in the Humanities and social sciences, arts or design:

One funding opportunity is aimed at projects involving at least one of the following fields: humanities

and social sciences, arts or design. This involvement will be assessed by the Selection Committee considering the project's objectives, the research teams, the knowledge and expertise involved, the project's environment and the prospective partnerships. The projects may aim at any mode of transfer to the socio-economic sector (creation of a company or a non-profit organization, patent or software licenses, partnerships with companies or public structures).

