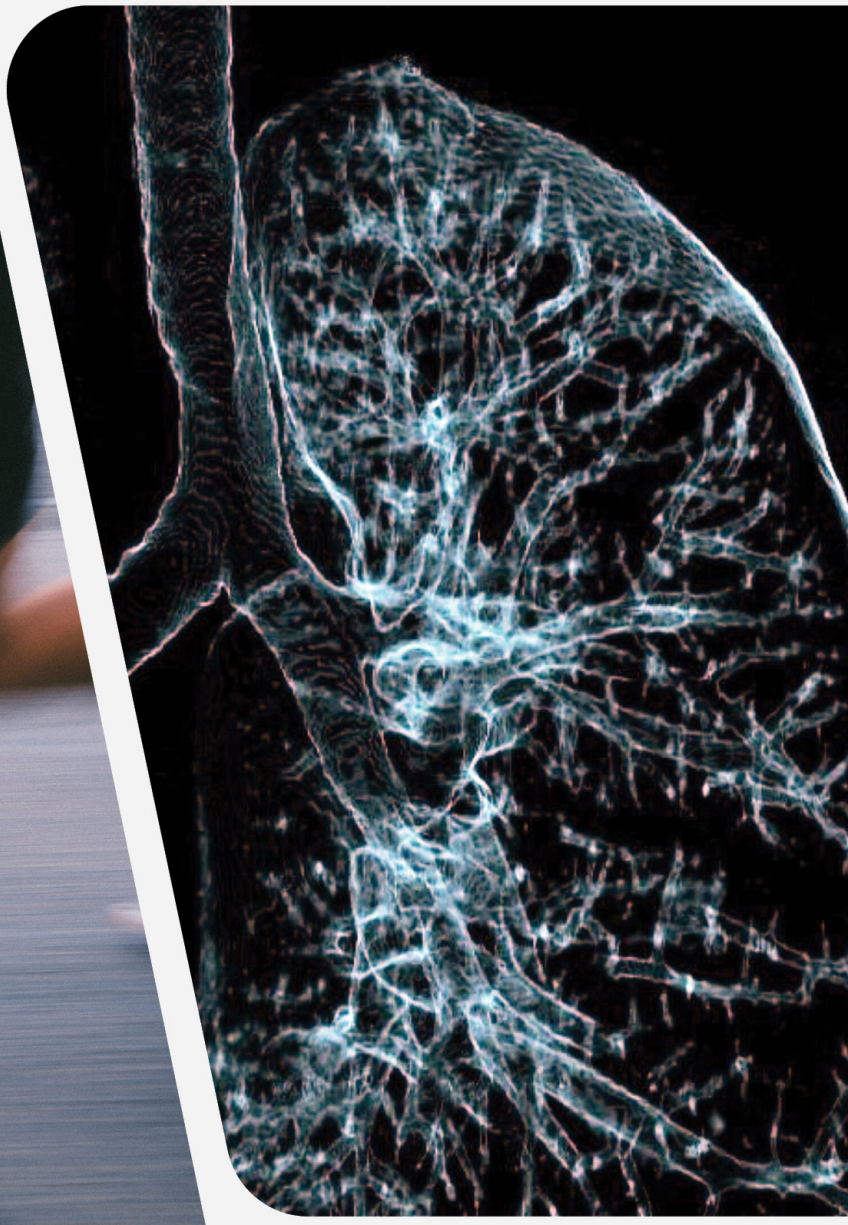
"la Caixa" Foundation

Rules for participation

HealthCare Research Call

Call for Proposals 2027





A world to discover

Contents

Contents 1
0. Definitions 2
1. Preamble 4
2. Timeline 4
3. General framework of the Call 5
4. Funding 8
5. Application criteria 10
6. Application submission 14
7. Evaluation criteria 16
8. Eligibility process 18
9. Evaluation process 18
10. Selected Projects 19
11. Considerations for Project implementation 20
12. Dissemination rules 22
13. Grant management and other obligations of the Host Organization and the Project Leader (PL) 24
14. Confidentiality. Privacy and data protection policy 27
15. Additional comments 28

0. Definitions

In this call for proposals, the following terms have the meaning that is defined below:

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

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

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

Host Organization: the Research Performing Organization (RPO) based in Spain or Portugal that acts as a coordinating organization of the Project.

Intervention: activity aimed at improving the health and quality of life of the human population, involving an organized set of healthcare professionals, facilities, and technical resources.

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

Participant Organization: any organization participating in the proposal with or without budget. This definition includes, among others, the Host Organization and the Partner Organizations.

Partner: any natural person that is a member of the Project who leads the scientific activities in the Partner Organization.

Partner Organization: any Participant Organization (RPO or not) that performs activities in the Project and has budget allocated.

Prevention: refers to Interventions in primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary prevention which aim to minimize the burden of diseases and associated risk factors. This includes, in general terms, actions that avoid the manifestation of a disease; that promote the early detection of a disease; that slow down or stop the progression of the disease; that improve the quality of life and rehabilitation of those living with disease; and that protect patients from overmedicalization.

Project Leader (PL): the scientific representative of the Host Organization, responsible for presenting the proposal to the Call and coordinating overall execution of the Project.

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

Promotion: refers to Interventions that empower individuals to gain greater control over and understanding of their health, with the aim of achieving overall well-being.

Proposal Category: each of the three categories detailed in section 3.3 of this Rules for Participation.

Research Consortium (RC): a group of organizations that perform activities in the Project and have budget allocated. Research Consortiums shall be composed by a minimum of two and a maximum of five Partner Organizations (including the Host Organization).

Research Performing Organization (RPO): any non-profit organization whose statutory objectives include research and which carries out research as its own regular and continuous activity (e.g. research centers, 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 multidisciplinary committees that will evaluate the pre-selected proposals in each Proposal Category in the peer review process.

Team Members: all the members of the different types of Participant Organizations that carry out specific activities of the Project.

1. Preamble

Health extends beyond the mere absence of disease; it represents an integrated state of wellbeing, encompassing physical, social, and mental dimensions. Consequently, people's health is influenced by a complex interplay of biological, social and environmental determinants, as well as factors related to the accessibility and quality of health systems.

This broader perspective highlights the importance of addressing health considering multiple factors and across different stages. In this sense, while treatment plays a key role in managing disease, it is also crucial to invest efforts at earlier stages. **Health interventions aimed at preventing the onset of disease and promoting health** can significantly contribute to safeguarding population health before the onset of illness.

To pave the way towards a preventive and health-promoting model of healthcare, it is essential to generate robust scientific evidence on how health interventions are **designed and delivered** to individuals and communities, and to **evaluate** their effectiveness and implications in people's lives. This objective can be more effectively accomplished through the collaboration across the various sectors and stakeholders involved in healthcare systems, from primary care providers to specialized care professionals or health systems administrators.

The "la Caixa" Banking Foundation (hereinafter, "la Caixa" Foundation) is firmly committed to supporting solid health research and promoting equitable social progress. To move forward in these objectives, the "la Caixa" Foundation launches an open call to support research projects that aim to deepen our understanding of healthcare Interventions in health Promotion and disease prevention in Spain and Portugal. The ultimate objective of the Call is to improve people's health and wellbeing at all stages of life.

2. Timeline

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

Opening of the online system for Applications	Deadline for Applications	Proposal pre-selection	On-line assessment by Selection Committees	Resolution announcement	Execution of Selected Projects
January 4, 2027, at 14:00:00h	February 11, 2027 at 14:00:00h	From March to May 2027	June 8 and 9 2027	July 2027	From September - December 2027 to September - December 2030 (depending on the category of project).

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

3. General framework of the Call

3.1

The primary aim of this Call is to fund research that advances the design and evaluation of healthcare Interventions in health Promotion and disease prevention.

Proposals should:

» take an applied approach to real-world health issues;

» employ rigorous, validated methodologies aligned with the nature and scale of the proposed intervention and evaluation;

» integrate, when relevant, perspectives from multiple research disciplines and professionals such as nurses, clinicians, methodologists, statisticians, psychologists, dietitians, physiotherapists, health system researchers and administrators, social workers, public health professionals, etc.

» show a clear pathway to scalability.

The "la Caixa" Foundation seeks to support research projects with strong potential for social impact. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following: mental health; women's health; child and adolescent health; nutrition and healthy lifestyles; healthy ageing; and management of chronic conditions.

3.2

Proposals eligible for this Call must be led by: **(i) non-profit Research Performing Organizations based in Spain or Portugal; or (ii) non-profit foreign Research Performing Organizations 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 shall be allocated to and used by entities and staff located in Spain or Portugal; and (b) the Agreement shall be also signed by the permanent establishment or permanent representation of the foreign Research Performing Organizations that is in Spain or Portugal.

3.3

The selected Proposal Category determines the selection committee in which the proposal will be evaluated.

Proposals must be submitted in one of the following three Proposal Categories:

» **Pilot studies:** research proposals consisting of small-scale preliminary studies on health Interventions, aimed at evaluating the feasibility and appropriateness of a larger-scale Intervention.

» **Retrospective evaluations:** research proposals that evaluate the effectiveness and impact of existing health Interventions using appropriate and validated non-experimental retrospective methods.

» **New Interventions:** research proposals that develop and evaluate new health Interventions using appropriate and validated experimental and quasi experimental methods.

All proposals, regardless of category, should have a clear and explicit focus on disease prevention or health Promotion. The Interventions designed and/or evaluated in the proposals must be carried out in Spain or Portugal and must directly target peoples' health.

The following proposals **will not be** considered eligible under this Call:

- Interventions in which the primary objective is not health-related—where health outcomes are assessed as a secondary effect of an Intervention with a different primary focus.
- Retrospective evaluations that do not directly assess the effectiveness, outcomes or impact of an existing health intervention are not eligible.
- Secondary analyses of biological samples, biomarkers, mechanistic parameters or previously collected data that do not evaluate the intervention itself will not be considered eligible. Evaluations of public health interventions, such as screening programmes, are eligible.
- Observational studies or any proposals that do not involve an Intervention and/or its evaluation.
- Proposals focused on the development of or validation of medical devices or pharmacological products and treatments, including clinical trials in phases 1, 2 and 3. Phase 4 studies will be eligible, except those aimed at drug repurposing.
- Public awareness or behavioral change campaigns. Only public health policies or structured population level interventions that deliver direct clinical benefits or measurable health outcomes, such as screening programs, will be considered eligible. Educational or pedagogical activities that do not directly deliver healthcare services or measurable health outcomes are not eligible.
- Proposals focused on preclinical studies, as the proposal must center on a human intervention (see the definition of Intervention in the glossary).

Furthermore, any Proposal that is not properly assigned to the appropriate Proposal Category or does not comply with the general framework described in this section, may be discarded by "la Caixa" Foundation, at any stage of the selection process.

3.4

The Projects shall have a **duration of up to 2 years, in the case of pilot studies and retrospective evaluations, and up to 3 years, in the case of new Interventions.** New A single non-cost extension of up to twelve (12) months may be granted only for proposals in the "New Interventions" Proposal Category, 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 Single or Research Consortium Projects, as defined in section 0.

» **Single Projects** are carried out by a sole Research Performing Organization (RPO) i.e. the Host Institution.

» **Research Consortium Projects** are carried out by a Research Consortium.

For the sake of clarity, the fact that the proposal is submitted as a Single Project or as a Research Consortium Project **will not, in any case, be a selection criterion** during the evaluation process.

3.5

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

3.6.

The PL and, by extension, the Host Organization are responsible before 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 Organization 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 Organization 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 €3,300,000* is available to support all selected Projects (this budget does not include the additional contributions related to the collaboration described in item 4.2 below). The intention of "la Caixa" Foundation is to distribute this amount amongst the different Proposal Categories, as shown below:

- **Pilot studies**: a total budget of up to €600,000.
- **Retrospective evaluations**: a total budget of up to €600,000.
- **New interventions**: a total budget of up to €2,100,000.

The final distribution will always depend on the quality and specific characteristics of the proposals submitted to this Call. If applicable, the budget could be redistributed among Project Categories based on the selection committee's recommendation.

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

4.2

The amount of the grants that can be requested per Project is detailed below:

- **Pilot studies** can request **a grant for up to €80,000** to be executed in a maximum period of **2 years**.
- **Retrospective evaluations** can request **a grant for up to €150,000** to be executed in a maximum of **2 years**.
- **New interventions** can request **a grant for up to €300,000** to be executed in a maximum of **3 years**.

4.3

The **grant will be awarded to the Host Organization**, which will be **responsible for distributing the budget** to the other Partner Organizations, as detailed in the proposal submitted to this Call.

4.4

The grant **will be distributed** in three installments. Each payment will be made within sixty (60) days from receipt of the corresponding payment request which shall be submitted by the Host Organization in accordance with the following schedule:

- a first payment for a maximum of 40% of the grant following signing of the Agreement;
- a second payment of up to 40% of the total grant after submission of the status report, provided that at least 80% of the first payment has been spent and subject to the approval of "la Caixa" Foundation; and
- a third payment corresponding to the remainder of the grant, after validation of the end of grant report.

4.5

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

a) In the case of Research Consortium Projects, all **Partner Organizations related to the Project must carry out activities** to be part of the Research Consortium**.** All Research Performing Organizations and Partner Organization must have an allocated budget. Having an allocated budget is not mandatory for Civil Society Organizations, however, their participation in the proposal must be justified.

b) For-profit entities (including companies) cannot be partners in consortiums. This type of entity can **only receive Project funds if they are subcontracted** by a Research Performing Organization.

c) The **sum of the budgets** of all the Partner Organizations performing activities for the Project that are **not located in Spain or Portugal, cannot exceed 30%** of the total Project budget. In any case, the **Interventions must be applied in Spain and/or Portugal**.

d) The total **personnel costs** charged to the grant **may not exceed 60%** of the total Project budget. Within this limit, the maximum amount that may be charged to the grant in respect of the Project Leader and Partners is:

- €30,000 for Pilot Studies and Retrospective Evaluations; and
- €45,000 for New Interventions.

For the avoidance of doubt, these limits apply to the aggregate amount allocated to the Project Leader and all Partners, and not individually to each person.

4.6

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 Partner Organizations**. The proposal budget may include expenses in the following concepts:

a) Direct costs:

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

For the sake of clarity, personnel costs must be adequately justified, proportionate to the activities to be carried out under the Project and consistent with the needs and scope of the proposal in accordance with section 4.5. The grant is intended to support the implementation and evaluation of the Project as a whole and not solely to cover personnel salaries.

b) Indirect costs (overheads): A maximum of **10% per Partner Organization** of the direct costs of the grant budget: Indirect $costs_{max}$ = 0.1 x Direct Costs.

Not applicable to proposals submitted under the proposal category Pilot Studies

c) Subcontracting.

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

5. Application criteria

5.1

The **Host Organization** must be a **Research Performing Organization** (in accordance with the definition set forth in sections 0 and 3.2). For Research Consortiums Projects or Single Projects including CSOs, the Host Organization will act as the coordinating organization. Partner Organizations are defined by a unique identification number (NIF in Spanish organizations or VAT number/ NIPC in Portuguese organizations) for all purposes (e.g. submissions of proposals, constitution of Research Consortiums, etc.).

For the sake of clarity, entities based in a country other than Spain or Portugal, together with their permanent establishment or permanent representation based in Spain or Portugal (as provided in section 3.2), shall 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 Single and Research Consortium Projects must include a Project Leader (PL).

In the case of Research Consortium Projects, the application must also include at least one Partner for each of the Partner Organizations of the Research Consortium.

5.3

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

5.4

The PL **must hold a PhD.** Therefore, they must have finished their doctoral degree (PhD) before the opening date of the Call (taking as a reference the date which appears on the doctoral degree).

5.5

Within the same Call, **each PL can only submit a single Proposal as a PL**; however, they can collaborate on other proposals as Partner of a Partner Organization of the Research Consortium or as a Team Member.

5.6

The **PLs of Projects awarded a grant** under the HealthCare Research Call will **not be allowed to submit a new proposal as PL in the two or three subsequent editions of the Call** (according on the duration of the awarded Project)**.**

5.7

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

The **PL and Partners** of a proposal submitted in this Call who obtained a **score of less than 5.50** 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 or agreement, within the framework of this Project, to the **Host Organization** when applying for the grant. The PL may also be legally linked to private foundations or non-profit organizations through which the research activities of the Host Organization are carried out or managed, in accordance with the current legislation.

5.9

The Project Leader needs the agreement of the Host Organization to be able to submit the proposal. This will be done through online acceptance by the Organization Manager of the Host Organization via the online system. For Research Consortiums or Single Projects with CSOs, all partners must provide their acceptance through the above-mentioned online system to be able to submit the proposal. **All acceptances required must be completed before the submission deadline** (as set forth in point 6.9).

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

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

5.10

The Host Organization **shall represent** all the Participant Organizations 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 Organization are responsible for guaranteeing 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 Organization can submit or for which it may receive grants as a Host Organization or as a member of a Research Consortium.

5.13

It is mandatory for all Project participants to be professionally linked, e.g. as service providers or through other professional collaborations, to the Participants Organizations or the Civil Society Organizations included in the proposal.

5.14

The proposal must be **related to the objectives and Proposal Categories** of the Call.

5.15

The activities associated with the granted Projects cannot be funded through another grant (from the "la Caixa" Foundation or any other organization).

5.16

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 Participant Organizations 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 *Code of Conduct for the integrity of the research-ALLEA*, as well as the highest **ethical principles recognized under Spanish, Portuguese, European and/or international regulations in relation to respect for human dignity and experimentation** (e.g. including, but not limited to, the *International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans* published by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences – CIOMS, the *World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects, and the Universal Declaration on the Bioethics and Human Rights*, among others) free will, data protection, animal welfare and preservation of the environment.

2. The Host Organization, 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 of the applicants, applicable to these Rules for Participation.

3. The PL, Partners, Team Members (or any other natural person related to the Project) as well as the Participant Organizations must comply with the condition of not being sanctioned, by means of a firm resolution, of an academic, labor, administrative or judicial nature for the commission of the following irregularities including, but not limited to: lack of professional ethics, corruption (in any of its modalities), 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, Partner 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, Partner 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 5.16.3 above) and to impose such restrictions on sanctioned individuals as it considers appropriate.

The Participant 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 Organizations with more than 50 employees will be positively valued by "la Caixa" Foundation, although it will not be a mandatory requirement for application.

5.17

Projects whose results are **subject to rights**, of any nature**, held by for-profit organizations** before the submission of the proposal (including, without limitation, assignments, licenses, 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 results or in the process of patenting) may be eligible, **provided that such rights are not owned or co-owned by for-profit entities**.

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.

In any case, the Host Organisation and the Project Leader shall promptly notify the "la Caixa" Foundation of any arrangement or circumstance arising during the term of the Project that may result in a for-profit organisation acquiring rights over the results of the Project.

5.18

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 the online system will be considered a criterion of eligibility, since full compliance with them is mandatory for all participants.

5.19

Any incomplete, mistaken and/or ambiguous information will also be deemed a breach of the eligibility requirements and may lead to 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 either 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 not eligible 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 organization 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 **Proposal Category** selected in the application.

6.6

The following **information is also needed to ensure the optimal assignment of evaluators** to each proposal:

» **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 application, acronym, title, scientific abstract and lay summary.
- **Proposal description and scientific work plan**: Need or problem to be solved in the context of the state of the art; Project aims and objectives; scientific rationale and methodology; work plan and timeline; Gantt; study limitations and contingency plan; impact of the Project; ethical, social, legal and environmental Project implications; scalability plan; dissemination of the Project results. 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**: expertise, dedication and motivation of the Project Leader to execute the proposal.
  - **Project team**: expertise, dedication, relevance and complementarity of the Project's team and partner profiles (if applicable) in order to achieve the listed objectives of the Project.
  - **Publications:** up to five of the most significant peer-reviewed publications considering all members of the proposal. Any proposals including publication(s) incompletely or incorrectly quoted may be considered non-eligible.
- **Budget**: detail and justification of the Project's budget. For Research Consortiums, details of the budget distribution among Partner Organizations must also be included (this also applies to Single Projects including CSOs with allocated budget).

6.8

The online system will be open for **applications** from **January 4, 2027 at 14:00:00h Central European Time (CET)** until **February 11, 2027 at 14:00:00h, CET**. Instructions and/or information requested in the online system will prevail over any templates available out of 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. In this sense, please be aware that the information entered into the system will be considered accurate and true by the "la Caixa" Foundation, and each individual will be held responsible for the information provided.

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

» Project Leader (PL): is the only person with permission to complete and submit the application. The PL will also be required to sign the Agreement as an acknowledgment and acceptance of its terms and conditions. However, the only party legally bound to the FLC is the Host Organization.
» Organization Manager (OM): must complete and validate the information of the Host Organization and accept the submission of the application on behalf of the Host Organization in the online system.
» Partners and Civil Society Organizations (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 organization) 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, i.e. February 11, 2027, at 14:00:00h 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. We recommend using 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 at any time during the eligibility or evaluation processes.

7. Evaluation criteria

7.1

The evaluation criteria used for the **peer evaluation** phase of this Call are the following:

7.1.1. Need and significance (Weight: 20%):

» Relevance of the need or problem to be solved in the context of the state of the art.
» Potential impact of the proposed intervention or evaluation on the target population and coherence of the scalability plan.

7.1.2. Scientific proposal and methodology (Weight: 60%):

» Soundness of the hypothesis, clarity of the research question and coherence of the objectives.

» Methodological robustness: choice of trial or evaluation format, sample-size justification and statistical power, bias-control measures, demonstrated access to data or population, etc.

» Workplan and timeline: alignment of tasks with the Project's objectives and a realistic distribution of activities throughout the execution period.

7.1.3. Proposal Feasibility (Weight: 20%):

» Capacity of the team to bring the Project to execution. If applicable, capacity, relevance and commitment of collaborating institutions (Consortium or Partner Organizations).

» Viability of the proposed Intervention/evaluation (including budget; study limitations and contingency plan; ethical, social, legal and environmental Project implications).

The evaluation criteria used for the **Selection Committee's evaluation** phase of this Call are the following ones:

7.1.4. Need and scientific proposal (Weight: 60%):

» Relevance of the need or problem to be solved in the context of the state of the art and potential impact of the proposed Intervention or evaluation on the target population.

» Soundness of the hypothesis, clarity of the research question and coherence of the objectives.

» Methodological robustness: choice of trial or evaluation format, sample-size justification and statistical power, bias-control measures, demonstrated access to data or population, etc.

» Workplan and timeline: alignment of tasks with the Project's objectives and a realistic distribution of activities throughout the execution period.

7.1.5. Proposal Feasibility (Weight: 25%):

» Capacity of the team to bring the Project to execution. If applicable, capacity, relevance and commitment of collaborating institutions (Consortium or Partner Organizations).

» Viability of the proposed Intervention/evaluation (including budget; study limitations and contingency plan; ethical, social, legal and environmental Project implications).

7.1.6. Scalability plan (Weight: 15%):

» Scalability plan: coherence of the scalability plan and feasibility of integrating the expected results into the Spanish and/or Portuguese healthcare systems.

Peer reviewers will score each section using a score range from 1 to 8 while reviewers in the Selection Committees will score a range from 1 to 5.

8. Eligibility process

All applications received will be reviewed to ensure fulfilment of the application criteria published in the Rules for Participation of this Call. This review may be supported by artificial intelligence tools, with the eligibility assessment and final decision validated by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

In the event that an application is dismissed, the "la Caixa" Foundation will send an email notification to the applicant. **No redress or appeal procedure will be admitted.**

The PL and partners of the proposals dismissed by the eligibility process will not be prevented from participating in future editions of the Call as a result thereof.

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 international experts. The evaluation criteria (see Section 7) will be applied to each Project. Proposals will be scored and a ranking for each Proposal category will be obtained. A shortlist of the proposals with the highest scores will be pre-selected in each Proposal category: 18-20 proposals in Pilot studies, 12-15 proposals in Retrospective evaluations, and 18-20 proposals in New interventions. The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify the applicants by email if they have been shortlisted.

If the application is pre-selected, the applicants will be called for an online face-to-face interview for the corresponding Selection Committee.

» **Selection Committees**: Pre-selected applicants will be interviewed by the Selection Committee. Selection Committees will be composed by a mix of academic and non-academic experts, both international and locals with knowledge about the Spanish and Portuguese healthcare systems.

The interviews will be held online and will be conducted in English. The presentation of the proposal will be carried out by the PL. If needed, the PL may be accompanied by up to two members of the Project.

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

The Projects of each category will be ranked and the best-scoring ones will be selected for funding, based on the budget allocated for each Proposal Category. Budget surpluses from each Proposal Category will be used to fund Projects that enter the reserve list, in accordance with their ranking and subject to the availability of sufficient funds. The reserve list is made up of the next two non-selected Projects from each Proposal Category 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

If 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 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 previously notified using the email address provided by the PL in the online system. Publication of the decision may include identification of the Host Organization, and the Participant Organizations (if any), the name and professional bio of the Project Leader and Team Members and information of the Project (including, without limitation, the lay summary, etc.). The status of the proposal will also be updated in 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 organizations regarding the requirements of their ethics committees. Approval of the corresponding ethics committees must be obtained before starting the Project.

11. Considerations for Project implementation

11.1

The "la Caixa" Foundation fosters 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 "la Caixa" Foundation's principles of responsible research and innovation, 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.

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 Organization is invited to deposit them as a priority in the European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA) https://ega-archive.org/ repository.

11.2

The Participant Organizations 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 5.16, throughout the implementation of the Project.

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

If a PL, Partner and/or Team Member who is eligible to apply for the Call (see 5.16.4) has been sanctioned for scientific misconducts, the "la Caixa" 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 obligated, 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 organization and/or the Project and/or the Project's team. The "la Caixa" Foundation may receive feedback about the Project from any such suppliers throughout 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 Partner Organization(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 over-finance the Project.

In this sense, the Organization(s) may obtain financing for the Project and/or for matters related to or involving the Project through patronage or sponsorship agreements. The agreements the Partner Organization(s) may enter 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 Partner Organization(s), through financing mechanisms applicable to R+D+i projects that allow channeling private investment to the research field (hereinafter, "Tax Equity Mechanisms"), such as "agrupaciones de interés económico", to which the Partner Organization(s) may license the rights to the Project, provided that:

i. the Tax Equity Mechanisms are created in accordance and compliance with applicable regulations (e.g. Law 12/1991, of April 29, 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);
ii. the creation of the Tax Equity Mechanism does not imply that the Organization(s) disassociates itself from the development of the Project and its results and, therefore, it remains responsible and liable for its execution, retains 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 Partner Organization(s) undertakes to include in the corresponding license agreement the recovery of all rights to the results derived from the Project upon its completion;
iii. the agreements the Partner Organization(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 Partner Organization(s) undertakes to protect, in the agreement it signs 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 Partner Organization(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 analyze 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 Partner Organization(s) must previously notify ”la Caixa” Foundation of its desire to collaborate with the corresponding third parties. In no event shall the notification to the ”la Caixa” Foundation be construed as an act of approval/authorization with respect to the Partner Organization(s) decision to implement a Tax Equity Mechanism to obtain additional sources of funding.

Nevertheless, the ”la Caixa” Foundation shall be entitled to either (i) oppose to the implementation of the Tax Equity Mechanism in the event it deems there are justified reasons to do so; or (ii) request the revocation of the grant and to reclaim the amounts disbursed for the development of the Project.

In any case, the Host Organization(s) shall remain the sole beneficiary of the grant awarded by the "la Caixa" Foundation and, therefore, the Host Organization(s) shall continue to be responsible for the fulfillment of the obligations undertaken under the Agreement and in the Rules for Participation. The Host Organization(s) shall fully indemnify "la Caixa" Foundation against any liability that may arise from the creation or activity related to the Tax Equity Mechanism.

12. Dissemination rules

12.1

The Participant Organizations are obliged to explicitly acknowledge that their activity has received support from the ”la Caixa” Foundation, meaning that in all dissemination and communication of the Project, the ”la Caixa” Foundation shall be stated as the funding organization of the Project.

This will be done, if possible and unless the ”la Caixa” Foundation asks otherwise, in all communications, disclosures and activities, as well as in 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.

12.2

The Project Leader and Partners will be referred to as members of the HealthCare Research Network when mentioned in connection with the Project.

12.3

The logo of the "la Caixa" Foundation and the reference to the contribution of the "la Caixa" Foundation 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), always subject to the prior review and approval of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

12.4

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.

12.5

Should there be results that are protected or protectable and/or registered or registrable as intellectual/industrial property or any other type or mode as a result of the research carried out in the awarded Project within the framework of this Call, the Host Organizations agree to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation. Under no circumstances shall the "la Caixa" Foundation have any intellectual/industrial property rights over the results of the Project.

12.6

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 suitable. For this purpose, the general characteristics of the applications (including but not limited to the title of the Project, a brief description of it, the Host Organization name, and the name and professional bio of the Project Leader, Partner and/or other Team Members) may be published, without limitation, through press releases, emails, brochures and websites.

The Host Organization 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 developing dissemination materials, as well as availability for interviews and other press events/materials.

12.7

The Host Organization and the PL will ensure that all Participant Organizations 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.

13. Grant management and other obligations of the Host Organization and the Project Leader (PL)

13.1

The Host Organization will manage and administer the amounts that the "la Caixa" Foundation allocates for the grant and will be responsible for distributing the budget to the other Partner Organizations, where applicable. To this end, the "la Caixa" Foundation may request Host Organizations 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 Organization will bear the cost.

13.2

Two follow-up meetings may take place during the Project: a midterm follow-up (half way from the beginning of the 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 he/she must authorize the Host Organization 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.

13.3

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.

13.4

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.

13.5

The awarded Projects will 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.

Nevertheless, any change shall be duly justified in the online system and will require its approval by "la Caixa" Foundation.

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.

13.6

All awarded Projects will be regulated in an Agreement to be signed in English between the Host Organization and the "la Caixa" Foundation. Signing of the Agreement is a mandatory requirement to receive the grant and it shall provide the start date of the Project, which shall be, in any case, between September 1 and December 31 of the year of the resolution of the winners of the Call. The Agreement shall be signed before November 15 of the year of the resolution of the winners of the Call.

In no case may a PL have two Projects financed simultaneously by the "la Caixa" Foundation in which he/she is listed as a "PL". Therefore, the agreement related to Projects financed by the "la Caixa" Foundation in previous editions of the call shall have been terminated before the Agreement related to Projects financed under this Call (2026) is signed.

For entities subject to the tax regime for not-for-profit organizations 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.

13.7

Participant Organizations **receiving budgets** of granted Projects must submit the following complementary documentation **before signing the Agreement**:

- Keep and make available to the "la Caixa" Foundation all documentation required by the "la Caixa" Foundation to comply with the provisions outlined in regulations on preventing money laundering and financing terrorism including:
- Legal documents proving that the legal representative is entitled to act on behalf of the organization, and a copy of his/her ID, passport, residence permit or ID valid in the country of origin and including a photograph.
- Copy of the deeds evidencing the name, legal form, address and legal purpose of the organizations.
- Beneficial owner deed or certificate executed by the legal representative of the organizations 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 organization. If no-one holds more than 25% of the voting rights, the certificate executed by the legal representative of the organization must include 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 organization's governing body must be specified.

The Organization Manager of the Host Organization will be responsible for uploading all the above-mentioned documentation/information in the system, including that of the other Participant Organizations.

Complementary information and/or documentation may be required, especially for those Participant Organizations located in high-risk countries pursuant to the list of high-risk third countries identified by the European Commission at any given time, and/or equivalent lists.

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 ("Sanctions"). Organizations based in countries or territories or whose government is subject to sanctions, including, without limitation, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan, cannot be part of the Proposals.

Signing of the Agreement and award of the grant will be subject to successful verification of the requirements applicable in the field of prevention of money laundering and financing terrorism, including successful verification via the above-mentioned checks against the list of sanctioned persons, of (but not limited to) all Host Organizations and partners. This is mandatory for receiving the grant throughout the whole term of the Agreement.

- Certificate from the Spanish Tax Agency or the equivalent Portuguese authority certifying that the Host Organization fulfills its tax obligations and, for Portuguese Organizations, that it is resident for tax purposes in Portugal.
- Certificate of the Spanish Social Security or the equivalent Portuguese authority certifying that the Host Organization fulfills its obligations in accordance with current labor 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.

14. Confidentiality. Privacy and data protection policy

14.1

The Participant Organizations authorize 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 Participant Organizations authorize 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, Partners, other Team Members and representatives), on submission of their proposals the Participant Organizations 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 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 Participant Organizations must also comply with the regulations applicable in this field.

14.3

The participating individuals will be duly informed, within the framework of its access to the online system, about the processing of their personal data concerning the participation to this Call, as well as the exercise of their rights regarding the protection of personal data in accordance with the provisions of article 13 and following of the European General Data Protection Regulation.

Moreover, the "la Caixa" Foundation will process the personal data of all the Team Members that submit doubts or queries through any mail provided by the "la Caixa" Foundation, being the legal basis of the processing the performance of an agreement. Personal data will be stored as long as the contractual relations subsist and even after its termination during the applicable statutory limitation periods. Once such limitation periods have ended, the personal data will be deleted or anonymized. Moreover, data subjects are hereby informed of the following:

a) The contact details of the data protection officer (DPO) of "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 third parties whose intervention is necessary for the correct management of the service provision, as well as when personal data may be disclosed in those case where it is legally mandatory. Furthermore, personal data will not be subject to automated decisions.
c) In the event that it is necessary to contract the services of suppliers located outside the European Economic Area, those contracts can only be carried out after complying with all of the requirements established by the data protection regulations and applying the guarantees and safeguards necessary to preserve their privacy. For more information, data subjects can contact the data protection officer at the aforementioned addresses.

d) Data subjects have the right to access their personal data, rectify inaccurate data, request it to be erased 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 the data protection regulations, they can submit a complaint to the data protection officer or before 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 on how to interpret the requirements and 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 of these Rules for Participation, regardless of when it occurs and 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 Participant Organizations or Team Members not 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 received amounts already received.

15.5

Further detailed information and documents regarding this Call can be found at the website of the "la Caixa" Foundation.