

General Call for Projects 2024

The FIRAH General Call for Projects is broad-based complementing the other Calls for Projects on specific topics launched in 2024.

This year, the general call for projects highlights the 3 following subjects:

- **Disability and specific temporalities;**
- **Disability and mobility;**
- **Disability and access to justice.**

However, please note that these 3 subjects are not obligatory and FIRAH is also interested in receiving applied research projects outside of these.

Table of contents

- 1. What applied research on disability encompasses 2
- 2. The six selection criteria applied in the Call for Projects 3
- 3 - Features of the 2023 Call for Projects 7
- 4 - Additional information 10
 - A. Organization that can apply to the Call projects 10
 - B. Geographical scope 10
 - C. Call for projects’ limits 11
 - D. Grants and duration 11
 - E. Selection process and follow-up 11
 - F. Calendar of the submission and selection process 12
 - G. Submission process 12
 - H. Complementary resources 12

1. What applied research on disability encompasses

Applied research complies with the **rules that apply to all forms of scientific research with regard to ethics, methodology, rigour, and evaluation**. The goal of applied research is to provide solutions to the difficulties encountered daily by **persons with disabilities¹ and their families**. Applied research must be construed as concrete collaboration, throughout the research process, between the persons with disabilities, their families, carers, professionals and researchers.

As in all other fields of research, findings should be disseminated through all possible channels to the research communities, particularly through open databases or scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Knowledge generated by research projects must be disseminated to the field stakeholders (persons with disabilities, their families, carers and professionals). It is essential to share information with non-scientific audiences for the purpose of ensuring that research findings are truly applied and improve the daily lives of the disabled persons and their families. Information must be presented using language and materials that are adapted to the targeted audiences.

The “field stakeholder” refers to persons with disabilities and their relatives, organisations representing them, human rights defence organisations (to encourage them to include disabled persons in their activities); service providers and other organisations working with disabled persons or who need to take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities, (e.g. architects, teachers, business firms, industry...), policymakers at the local, national and international levels.

The implementation support tools are findings and knowledge from applied research will be developed into products, services and content that meet the expectations and needs of persons with disabilities. Through proper adaptation they should help the field stakeholders improve their practices. These implementation support tools must include training and application tools, adapted written texts, videos, etc.

Find out the methodological guide for developing implementation support tools: [Sharing research results to field stakeholders](#)

¹ The term “persons with disabilities”, is used in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

2. The six selection criteria applied in the Call for Projects

The six criteria that will be used to evaluate and select applied research project proposals are described below.

Everyone submitting a proposal should read them carefully and present projects that correspond to them. The criteria should serve to structure the letter of intent and the complete application.

The current document will assist you when completing the Letter of Intent Application Form (available to download on the FIRAH website).

Criterion no. 1 – Overall objective of the project

The overall objective of the research project should be to contribute to obtaining greater access to human rights for persons with disabilities, in compliance with the principles of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:²

- **Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices**, and independence of persons;
- **Non-discrimination**;
- **Full and effective participation and inclusion in society**;
- **Respect for difference** and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- **Equality of opportunity**;
- **Accessibility**;
- **Equality between men and women**; and
- **Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities** and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

These principles will be used as the first frame to assess research project proposals.

Criterion no. 2 – Originality and innovative nature of the project and its link with problems encountered by persons living with disabilities and their families

It will be necessary to specify a first inventory of the researches already done in the field of your research and to highlight the originality of your project. Another inventory will be presented with items already done in relation with the content of your implementation support tools (see criterion 5) that your research proposes to carry out.

² More information on the UN convention : <https://www.firah.org/convention-on-rights-of-people-with-disabilities.html>

Special attention will also be given to the taking into account of new approaches, evolutions in concepts and terminology related to disabilities.

If relevant, project proposals may include ways of transitioning from traditional ways of working to innovative and inclusive methods and should clearly highlight issues affecting resistance to change.

The originality of the research must also be demonstrated in the methods used to measure quality of life, quality of social participation, levels of satisfaction, self-determination and empowerment of the people involved.

The project's particular context and any elements in the context that generate change will also be seen as sources of innovation.

Research project leader and organisations involved in the project must demonstrate their ability to meet their goals by citing previous research outcomes and by describing their knowledge of current problems encountered by persons living with disabilities and their families.

Criterion no. 3 – Presentation of research project leader and organisations involved in the project and their respective roles in the project

Priority will be given to participatory research projects that are able to demonstrate an organised and cohesive structure with strong links between field stakeholders (with special attention to persons with disabilities and their relatives, disability people organisations and professionals) and researchers³.

The involvement of field organisations must be demonstrated through their intentions as well as their role in the planning, coordination and evaluation of the research project and in the dissemination of its findings.

Persons with disabilities, their families, and organisations that represent them must be seen as the 'subject' of the research and not only as the 'object' of the research. Priority will be given to projects that address problems identified by persons with disabilities and their families. Proof of this participatory approach must be provided by the description of their role in the different phases of the research.

The proposal must specify the **names of the participating researchers, their areas of expertise, their respective role in the project, their previous involvement in relevant and funded research projects and any articles they have published that may be of importance to the proposal.**

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, which must be explained in the application file, the team of researchers must be comprised of at least one scientist working in an institutional or academic setting whose official responsibilities include a research.

³ Find more information on the methodology for a collaborative research :
<https://www.firah.org/methodology-for-a-collaborative-research.html>

Criterion no. 4 – Methodology and expected outcomes

The research hypothesis or question should be clearly stated.

Clear and coherent scientific methodology is required. Expected results will be clearly announced. The methodology of data collection as well as those concerning data analysis will be presented.

The expected results will not be limited to description or ascertainment but will also provide concrete, operational recommendations, solutions and tools for driving change.

Criterion no. 5 – Tools produced to disseminate and capitalise on knowledge generated by the research project (and methods for transferring these tools)

Special attention must be given to the means used to facilitate the transfer of the knowledge generated by research, quantitatively and qualitatively⁴.

To be useful to academic and scientific circles, project outcomes must be described in articles published in open databases or in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at scientific gatherings.

In addition to scientific articles, **the evaluation committee will pay a special attention to the production of other implementation support tools⁵ to be used by the stakeholders in the field.** The term “implementation support tools”⁶ encompasses training tools, videos, practical written materials, computer applications, or any other means required by the target audience to appropriate the knowledge. To reach as large an audience as possible, those documents must be made available online, free of charge. These documents will have to be translated into French and English to ensure the widest possible dissemination.

All these documents should respect the digital accessibility standard of the level AA of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 version⁷. For other technology, please refer to the good practices.

Project leader must explain **how field stakeholders will contribute to the creation of the research-derived material they will use.**

Networks and other mechanisms that could have a lasting multiplier effect in circulating and optimising the outcomes must be identified for each target audience.

Criterion no. 6 – Objectives, activities and resources must be coherently matched

⁴ Learn more about the methodology for valuing research results
<https://www.firah.org/methodology-for-valuing-research-results.html>

⁵ Find out the implementation support tools created through the researches supported by FIRAH :
<https://www.firah.org/en/outcomes-publications-of-the-finalised-researches.html>

⁶ The project leaders are advised to consult the professionals in communication or education to assist with the drafting and dissemination of implementation support tools. This form of advice will be very useful when it comes to making the information contained in these support tools available and comprehensible.

⁷ <https://www.firah.org/en/recommendations-for-accessibility.html>

Coherence will be required in the following areas:

- A adequacy of the project in terms of resources (human and material), completion time and funding requested.
- Job descriptions for everyone working on the project and the amount of time allocated to the project.
- The rationale for how financial resources are allocated to research activities, dissemination and practical applications, which includes the creation of implementation support tools for stakeholders in the field and English and French translations.

3 - Features of the 2024 Call for Projects

In this general Call for Projects 2024, the FIRAH wishes to emphasize the 3 following themes, not listed in order of priority.

Please note that the FIRAH may also select high-quality projects on other themes, if such projects meet the 6 selection criteria of this call for Projects.

1. DISABILITY AND SPECIFIC TEMPORALITIES:

Every experience is embedded in a unique temporality that challenges our typological inclinations and normative approaches. The experience of disability is equally situated in a singular temporality, where individuals with disabilities may require adjusted timelines and specific periods at various stages of their life journeys.

Administrative benchmarks and age thresholds often prove to be out of sync with the reality of their needs, conflicting with the individual rhythms of people with disabilities. This misalignment can lead to disruptions in life trajectories and support, adversely affecting individuals' dynamics of life. Therefore, it becomes imperative to acknowledge and personalize the life phases of people with disabilities in accordance with the temporalities their needs demand and/or those they define themselves.

In this priority topic, the aim is to explore different aspects of the temporality inherent in disability and practices adapted to consider this temporality, including:

- The temporality of the development of concrete functional potentials, such as the use of technical or technological aids (with their organizational consequences) or communication (oral or alternative).
- The temporality of post-acquired disability rehabilitation.
- The temporality of learning, educational, and/or school pathways.
- The temporality of professional life and its evolutions.
- The temporality of daily life, decisions regarding life paths, especially during transitional phases of life.
- The temporality specific to self-determination.
- The ethics of respecting individual temporality within a collective.
- The temporality of family, social, and affective life.
- The evolution of medico-social offerings and administrative processes to adapt to individuals' temporalities related to their lifestyle choices.

2. DISABILITY AND MOBILITY:

Mobility conditions the full social participation of all individuals. Despite recent developments improving remote access, the ability to move to school, workplaces, healthcare facilities, shops,

cultural, sports, and leisure spaces remains a necessity for engaging in associated activities and fostering a sense of community. The act of moving itself is a vector of socialization, which may be lacking for those who cannot move.

In this priority topic, the objective is to study the conditions for access to mobility for people with disabilities across all modes of transportation. This includes individual modes such as walking with or without technical aids, bicycles, tricycles, wheelchairs, or other three-wheeled scooters, personal cars, as well as collective modes like public transportation (bus, car, subway, train, plane, boat...) or services like taxis, shared cars, carpooling, co-travel, etc. This encompasses the accessibility of vehicles, information, and communication before and during travel, as well as intermodality and accessibility of road infrastructure.

Research in this area could investigate:

- How technological advancements can specifically meet the needs of people with disabilities, enhancing their mobility?
- Interventions to make travel environments more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Key challenges faced in the daily mobility of people with disabilities.
- How improving mobility contributes to increased autonomy in the daily lives of people with disabilities.
- Specific mobility challenges for young people with disabilities during their transition to adulthood, especially regarding access to education, employment, and social life.
- The impact of current public policies on the mobility of people with disabilities and adjustments to make these policies more effective in meeting their needs.
- Specific expectations of people with disabilities regarding public transportation and how these expectations can be integrated into the design processes to make these services more accessible and welcoming.

3. DISABILITY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE:

Access to justice is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed to all citizens. However, people with disabilities often face significant obstacles that hinder their effective participation in the legal system.

To address these challenges and promote accessible justice, the focus will be on studying ways to improve access to justice for people with disabilities. Two essential dimensions will be explored in particular:

- Procedural accommodations and the participation of people with disabilities:
 - Identify specific obstacles faced by people with disabilities at all stages of the legal process, when asserting their rights, challenging decisions, or facing legal proceedings.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of current procedural adaptation mechanisms to facilitate the participation of people with disabilities.

- Propose recommendations and innovative solutions to improve the accessibility of legal remedies and procedures, taking into account the needs of different audiences with disabilities.
- Training of justice personnel and awareness:
 - Examine existing gaps in the training of professionals (in justice, police, prison) regarding the needs of people with disabilities.
 - Develop training programs for professionals (in justice, police, prison) to enhance their skills in handling cases involving people with disabilities.
 - Assess the impact of raising awareness among professionals (in justice, police, prison) on creating a more inclusive and rights-respecting environment for people with disabilities.

In this priority topic, it would be interesting to propose a comparative dimension and study international best practices to:

- Analyze experiences from other national or international systems regarding procedural accommodations and training to ensure access to justice for people with disabilities.
- Identify best practices and lessons learned that can be adapted to improve access to justice in France for people with disabilities.
- Promote the exchange of experiences among different actors (judicial bodies, non-judicial bodies, etc.) to foster a comprehensive and inclusive approach to access to justice for people with disabilities.

4 - Additional information

A. Organization that can apply to the Call projects

Project leaders can be:

- all research organizations of public or private status,
- as well as associations and other organizations in the public or private sector.

Project leader can come from any country in the world.

A natural person cannot carry the project but can participate in the research.

B. Geographical scope

Project leaders may be from any country in the world.

For non-French project leaders, at least one partnership with French organisation must be established to develop international collaboration.

This organization will be involved in the steering committee and will have to ensure the conditions allowing activities on French territory. This will be depending on the case: a research team or an organization working in the field of disability.

This cooperation will also guarantee that a part of the field of the research will be in France, in order to improve a better understanding the reality in this country.

Finally, this organisation will ensure that final deliverables included all the implementation support tools and a summary of the final report will be realised in French for a better promotion with francophone stakeholders.

Comparative research concerning several countries with a French field research is particularly awaited.

C. Call for projects' limits

The Foundation supports projects worldwide. Its actions and funding are nonetheless centred upon applied research on disability and it does not provide funding for:

- The creation and management of social/medico-social services or institutions.
- Research projects on disease mechanisms (aimed at establishing a prevention, diagnosis or treatment of deficiencies).
- Support for the implementation of the action inside an action research project. However, FIRAH could support the activities of research for an action research.
- Research and development projects or any other research with lucrative purpose.

D. Grants and duration

Research projects may be funded by the FIRAH to a maximum amount of **75 000€** for the entire project, and for a maximum period of **3 years**.

Project leaders who have already received funding may again be eligible only if the previous research project has been finished and all funding has been provided.

E. Selection process and follow-up

Applicants whose letters of intent are selected will be asked to submit a full project application. Recommendations for submitting the application may be sent to the project leader as guidance. How the recommendations are addressed will be a key factor in the final project selection process.

After the selection of the full project proposal, leader of the project will be the privileged contact for the FIRAH and specifically for the following steps:

- Signature of the agreement between the organisation of the project leader and our Foundation;
- At the half of the project: realisation of an intermediate narrative and financial report and a documentary record (<https://www.firah.org/en/literature-reviews.html>)
- At the end of the project: realisation of a final narrative, financial report and all the implementation support tools;
- Development of a joint communication for promoting the results of the research (a dedicated page will be created on FIRAH website : <https://www.firah.org/en/outcomes-publications-of-the-finalised-researches.html>).

F. Calendar of the submission and selection process

Call for Projects will be placed online: 4 January 2024.

Closing date for the submission of Letters of Intent: Midnight (Paris time), 25 March 2024 included.

Announcement to project leaders of pre-selected and unselected Letters of Intent: 28 June 2024.

Closing date for the submission of completed dossiers: Midnight (Paris time), 23 September 2024 included.

Announcement to project leaders of the selected and unselected dossiers: 16 December 2024.

G. Submission process

The FIRAH form must be used to draft the letter of intent and the complete file (full project proposal).

The form can be downloaded from www.firah.org under “Call for Projects” tab.

The forms must be sent before the closing date for the submission by email to the following address;

firah@firah.org

Note that the forms will be considered as submitted only upon receipt of an **acknowledgment of receipt** by email. The acknowledgment assigns a project tracking number to be maintained for future exchanges. In case of non-receipt of the acknowledgment of receipt within 36 hours after the date of sending the form, we invite you to contact us by email (contact@firah.org) or telephone 07 65 80 35 46.

H. Complementary resources

For more information and a clear understanding of the type of projects targeted by this Call for Projects, we advise you to consult [applied research projects funded by the FIRAH](#).

[The Resource Centre database](#) holds applied research from different sources, which may prove useful in the preparation of your project.