Research Platforms 2026

Towards a Sustainable Energy Transition in Urban Areas

Programme Rules

Deadline for submission of the project outline: June 23, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Deadline for submitting the full proposal: October 24, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Electronic submission

Contact:

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Introductory note

This document is intended for research teams wishing to submit a project within the framework of the Research Platform (RPF) 2026 program. It describes the objectives of the programme, its context and outlines this year's theme. You will also find a description of the eligible entities, the procedure for submitting and evaluating an application and the subsidies to which you are eligible. The objective is to give a general idea of what is expected of project leaders.
Two application forms[1] are available in addition to this document:

- The expression of interest form, to be submitted before the end of June 2025
- The full project form, to be submitted before the end of October 2025, upon receiving an invitation to submit from Innoviris.

If you have any questions that remain unanswered after reading this document, we invite you to contact Gaëtan Danneels (gdanneels@innoviris.brussels).

[1] Only available in FR and NL

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1. Background and Purpose of the RPF Program

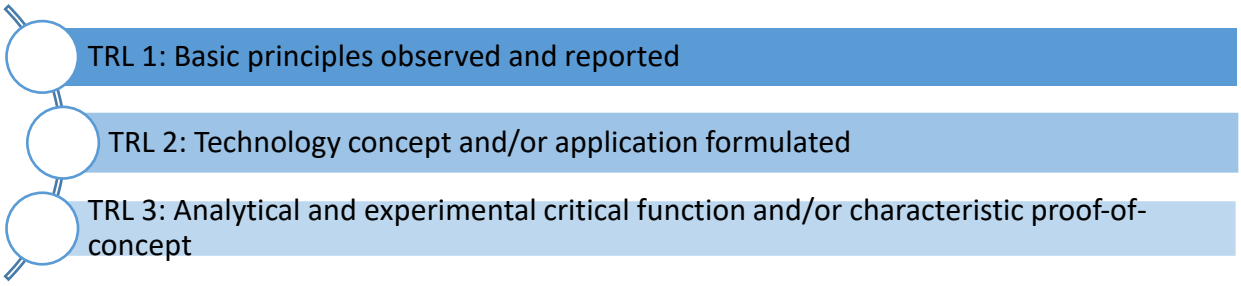
Innoviris is a public interest organisation whose mission is to promote and support innovation through the funding of research and development projects carried out by companies, the non-profit sector and research bodies located in Brussels.

Among the various tools deployed by Innoviris to stimulate innovation, the *Research Platform* (RPF) programme aims to support **convergence research projects**[2], led by transdisciplinary consortia[3] made up **of research organisations**[4].

The research to be carried out under this programme meets the definitions of *oriented fundamental research* and *applied research*, developed in the Frascati 20151 manual, namely:
"Oriented basic research is carried out with the expectation that it will produce a broad base of knowledge likely to form the basis of the solution to recognised or expected current or future problems or possibilities."

"Applied research involves considering the available knowledge and its extension in order to solve actual problems. The results of applied research are intended primarily to be valid for possible applications to products, operations, methods or systems."

For example, in the context of this call for projects, research proposals can take as a reference the spectrum of *Technology Readiness* Levels (TRLs)[5] from 1 to 3.



The programme aims to carry out disruptive research in order to **anticipate major socio-technical developments and/or needs in strategic areas** for the Region. The final objective is to enhance the

[2] *An approach to knowledge production and action that involves diverse teams working together in novel ways—transcending disciplinary and organizational boundaries—to address vexing social, economic, environmental, and technical challenges in an effort to reduce disaster losses and promote collective well-being.* (Peek et al., 2020)
[3] Transdisciplinarity (TD) is defined as the integration of academic researchers from different disciplines with non-academic participants, in a process of co-creation of new knowledge and theories with a view to achieving a common goal (OECD, 2020).
[4] Satisfying the definition in point 16 ff of the Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation C(2022) 7388 (universities, colleges, De Groote centres,...) and having at least one place of business in the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region
[5] NASA - "NASA Procedural Requirements 7123.1B: NASA Systems Engineering Processes and Requirements" - https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/somd/space-communications-navigation-program/technology-readiness-levels/

results in the medium term, in particular through the transfer of knowledge, methodologies or technologies to Brussels companies, organisations and institutions.

The choice of themes selected in the context of the Research Platform calls for projects is based on the Regional Innovation Plan (RIP). The plan identifies six strategic areas of innovation representing opportunities for innovation for greater prosperity, resilience, sustainability and well-being in Brussels. The RPF 2026 call is directly linked to the DIS "Climate: resilient buildings and infrastructure" and "Efficient and sustainable urban flows for an inclusive management of urban space" and more transversally with the DIS "Optimal use of resources", "Social innovation, public innovation and social inclusion" and "Advanced digital technologies and services".

To anchor research in the fabric of Brussels, the research projects must be sponsored by a public institution, a non-profit organisation and/or a company based in Brussels.(see section **Fout! Verwijzingsbron niet gevonden.**).

2. Theme 2026

2.1. Background and Framework

Climate change and environmental degradation pose an existential threat to Europe and the rest of the world. To address these challenges, the European Green Deal aims to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring:

- the end of net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050,
- economic growth decoupled from the use of resources,
- that no one is left behind.

Cities play a crucial role in achieving these goals. Indeed, even though - according to figures from the European Commission - they represent only 4% of the EU's surface area, they are home to 75% of European citizens. In addition, cities consume more than 65% of the world's energy and are responsible for more than 70% of global CO2 emissions.
In this context, the European Union has developed various Plans, Strategies and Programmes, which aim to support the energy transition of cities, including:

- the Green Deal Industrial Plan, which aims to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry at net zero emissions and accelerates the transition to climate neutrality;
- the European Research and Innovation Strategy, which supports innovation and research in the EU to boost the green and digital transformations needed to move faster towards a sustainable and prosperous future for people and the planet;
- the "Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities" Mission which aims to support 100 European cities to achieve climate neutrality by 2030, acting as pioneers to inspire other regions.

At the regional level, Brussels' approach to energy transition is based on its Regional Air-Climate-Energy Plan (PACE) which sets specific targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and encourage the adoption of renewable energy, especially in marginalised and economically vulnerable communities. This Plan is complemented by the "Shifting Economy" Economic Transition Strategy, which promotes a prosperous, local, sustainable, resilient economy that meets the needs of residents and entrepreneurs. The strategy also aims to reduce dependence on external resources and fossil fuels while creating quality jobs and respecting workers. Finally, several of the 6 Strategic Innovation Areas (DIS), of the Regional Innovation Plan (RIP) 2021-2027, contribute directly or indirectly to the achievement of the objectives of the CAPC and the Shifting Economy

European and regional frameworks therefore highlight the importance of supporting a sustainable energy transition in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR).

By sustainable energy transition, we mean the process of transforming current energy systems towards more sustainable, equitable and resilient systems. Here are some key elements of this transition:

- Renewable
  Replace fossil energy sources (coal, oil, gas) with renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal) that are inexhaustible and less polluting.
- Energy efficiency
  Improving energy efficiency in all sectors (buildings, transport, industry) to reduce energy consumption while maintaining or improving service and comfort levels.
- Reduction of CO2 emissions
  Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change, by adopting clean technologies and sustainable practices. This includes:
  - **Direct emissions**: Emissions that come directly from human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels.
  - **Indirect emissions**: Emissions resulting from the generation of electricity consumed by end-users and those along the value chain, such as the manufacture and transportation of goods.
- Social equity
  Ensure that the energy transition benefits all segments of society, reducing inequalities and ensuring access to affordable and reliable energy for all.
- Resilience
  Strengthen the resilience of energy systems to disruptions (natural disasters, economic crises, etc.) to ensure a stable and secure energy supply.
- Citizen participation
  Involve citizens and communities in the decision-making and implementation of energy projects, in order to foster social acceptance and the success of initiatives.

2.2. Scope of the call

This call invites transdisciplinary academic consortia to propose convergence research projects, with the aim of supporting a *sustainable energy transition* in the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR).

Peek et al. (2020), define *convergent research* as " *An approach to knowledge production and action that involves diverse teams working together in novel ways—transcending disciplinary and organizational boundaries—to address vexing social, economic, environmental, and technical challenges in an effort to reduce disaster losses and promote collective well-being*."

The projects submitted will have to integrate and cross-reference different angles of analysis – technical, socio-economic, environmental and political – in order to develop innovative solutions that are both realistic and impactful with the aim of supporting a *sustainable energy transition* in the BCR.

The OECD defines transdisciplinarity (TD) as "the integration of academic researchers from different disciplines with non-academic participants, in a process of co-creation of new knowledge and theories with a view to achieving a common goal"

The transdisciplinary approach therefore implies close cooperation with actors in the field (mentors), in order to ensure a match between scientific results and the real needs of the Region in terms of energy transition.

In summary, this call invites transdisciplinary consortia to explore innovative avenues, challenge existing models, and propose bold alternatives to accelerate the energy transition in BCR, through convergent research projects.

In order to make this more tangible, **4 research axes**, as well as **examples[6] of research themes** are listed below.

[6] It is important to emphasize that the examples given in this document are for information purposes only

1. Supporting and optimising local renewable energy production

Objective: To study the optimized local production of renewable energy in densely populated urban areas, addressing challenges related to spatial constraints, aesthetic integration and compatibility with existing urban infrastructure.

Examples of potential themes include:

a. Evaluation of the Integration of Large-Scale Urban Geothermal Energy

- Feasibility and life-cycle analysis to adapt existing heating infrastructure to geothermal systems.
- Analysis of innovative drilling techniques and modular designs suitable for urban environments.

b. Research on solar (thermal) systems and their architectural integration

- Compact, high-efficiency solar (thermal) systems integrated into urban structures
- Architectural solutions aimed at a harmonious integration of solar systems into urban landscapes.

c. Optimization of heat recovery and waste heat recovery in urban areas

- Exploration of new infrastructures (tunnels, car parks, canal, ...) to install heat recovery systems.
- Integration of urban sources of waste heat within a heating network.

d. Mapping and optimization of urban energy demand

- Advanced spatial modelling to identify areas suitable for local energy production based on demand density and urban constraints.
- Cross-sector collaboration to optimize energy production in residential, industrial and tertiary areas.

e. Evaluation of the Integration of District Wind Energy

- Development of compact and silent models of wind turbines adapted to urban environments.
- Integration of wind turbines into urban structures to maximize renewable energy production.

2. Integrated and decentralised district energy networks (including heating/cooling networks)

Objective: to support the implementation of integrated and decentralized district energy networks (including heating/cooling networks) that meet the urban energy needs of tomorrow and strengthen resilience.

Examples of potential themes include:

a. **Modeling and Design**

- Modeling and simulation of integrated and decentralized urban energy networks adapted to urban constraints and integrating different types of actors (tertiary, industrial, residential, etc.)
- Design of integrated and decentralized district energy networks taking into account energy equity issues

b. **Energy security and network synergies**

- Role of urban networks in energy supply in times of high demand or crises.
- Synergies between electricity networks and heating/cooling networks.
- Security aspects related to the various energy networks

c. **New legislative and economic models**

- Revision of regulatory or legislative frameworks in the context of the management of decentralized networks.
- Public-private or public-public partnerships for the financing and scaling up of integrated and decentralized district energy networks.
- Coupling of the various networks with the industrial, mobility and health sectors.

3. Advanced Energy Storage Solutions for Urban Areas

Objective: To investigate energy storage technologies adapted to urban environments, addressing spatial, economic and regulatory constraints while ensuring energy accessibility and supporting socio-economic resilience.

Examples of potential themes include:

a. **Modular and scalable storage solutions**

- Design of modular and scalable storage for implementation at the scale of buildings or districts.
- Storage solutions adapted to the energy needs of the different sectors (residential, industrial, tertiary, etc.).

b. **Medium/long-term energy storage & resilience**

- Strategies and technical feasibility of seasonal storage in urban areas.
- Integration of energy storage into emergency plans to strengthen urban disaster preparedness.

c. **Energy storage and interaction with grids**

- Interactions between integrated and decentralized district energy networks and storage solutions

4. Adaptive energy consumption modulation and demand management

Objective: Study dynamic approaches with the aim of optimizing real-time energy consumption based on the end user (citizens, businesses, public authorities, etc.).

Examples of potential themes include:

a. Predictive Models

- Real-time modeling to balance energy consumption in the residential, industrial and/or tertiary sectors.

b. Demand Adjustment

- Systems that encourage voluntary supply-side adjustment of energy consumption.
- Energy flexibility in all economic sectors (industry, tertiary, mobility, etc.)

c. Intelligent systems

- Smart devices, HVAC systems and industrial processes that automatically adapt to energy availability.

2.3. Expected impact

European and regional frameworks highlight the importance of innovative, inclusive and collaborative approaches to a successful energy transition. These approaches must combine technical, economic and social dimensions to meet current challenges. At the heart of this is the integration of socio-economic considerations with technological advances. The transition to renewable energy must not only aim to reduce environmental impacts, but also to build economic resilience, boost inclusive growth and reduce structural inequalities.

In this context, priority must be given to solutions such as local renewable energy production, adaptive consumption strategies, advanced storage systems and decentralized grids. In addition, the use of digital tools, the development of public-private partnerships and the adoption of community-based approaches play a fundamental role in ensuring the success and sustainability of these initiatives.

As a medium-term valuation is expected, particular attention must be paid to the impact of the projects on the economic, social and environmental landscape of the Brussels-Capital Region. As a reminder, this call aims to promote the transfer of knowledge from research organizations to public institutions, non-profit organizations and/or Brussels-based companies.

In summary, projects must:

1. Promote the paradigm shift from a non-renewable & centralized energy system to a sustainable energy system.
2. Conduct targeted research, aimed at generating knowledge, analysing data, better understanding phenomena and/or developing expertise that will be useful to stakeholders, companies (public or private) and/or policy makers.
3. Contribute significantly to the state of the art in the field of sustainable energy transition on the basis of one of the 4 proposed thematic axes.

3. Program Framework

3.1. Consortium

Research projects must be conducted by a **transdisciplinary consortium**, consisting of **research teams from different backgrounds**, originating from **at least two independent institutions**. Eligible institutions are **research organizations** that meet the definition in point 16 ff of the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation 2022/C 414/01 (universities, higher education institutions, De Groote centres, etc.) that have at least one place of business in the Brussels-Capital Region. The transdisciplinarity of the consortium is an essential element for the solidity of the consortia.

For the *project outline* phase, it is requested that the research partners be at least known and that there be a letter of intent.

For the submission of the full proposal, the partner research teams must negotiate and validate a

consortium agreement governing the terms and conditions of the collaborative project (including the sharing of risks and results, dissemination of results, allocation of intellectual property rights and access to them).
In the proposal, each research team must be represented by a sponsor, who must be a professor or senior researcher. The sponsor must hold a permanent position within the research organization.
Please note that a sponsor cannot be involved in more than 2 projects submitted under this call.
Among the partners, a coordinator must be identified. The latter will act as the main point of contact and will be responsible for the internal coordination of the project.

3.2. Valorisation

The programme aims to carry out disruptive research in order to anticipate **major socio-technical developments and/or needs in strategic areas** for the Region. The final objective is to enhance the results in the **medium term**, in particular through the transfer of knowledge, methodologies or technologies to Brussels companies, organizations and institutions. Particular attention must be paid to the valorisation of projects and their impact on the Brussels ecosystem, society and the environment.
Here are some examples of medium-term valuation:

- Transfer of knowledge, methodologies and/or technologies to companies, non-profit organizations or public institutions.
- Transfer of knowledge, methodologies and/or technologies through R&D (Research and Development) projects, consultancy services, etc.
- Selling/licensing intellectual property to an organization.

3.3. Mentors

To achieve the valorisation objectives, the project consortium must be associated with at least one **mentor** other than research organisations, each of which has a place of business in the Region and is independent of the consortium.
The independence between the mentor and the partners is intended to be both legal and factual independence. It is therefore necessary to consider not only the legal elements (any statutory or contractual provisions) but also the factual elements. An entity is independent when it is capable of performing its activities alone, given its organisational structure, capital, equipment and workforce. In other words, in addition to the fact that the two entities are not part of the same group and are not controlled by the same shareholder, there must be no sharing of staff or equipment and no interference by one entity on the other in the definition of the strategy/mission.
Particular attention is paid to cases in which a natural person both has an academic role in the consortium and holds a position in the entity presented as a mentor.
Each mentor must show its active interest in the valorisation of the project's results for internal use, for integration into their *core business* activities or any other involvement for the entity. More generally, the mentor can provide a problematic that is of concern for the society in general. In conclusion, the mentor can be involved in any way in the Brussels Region that could be impacted by and thus have an interest in the project's results.

The mentor must be involved all along the project. It can validate and/or give inputs on the valorisation, the exploitation or the dissemination of the results. It is up to the mentor to clearly state its level of involvement. This level is to be chosen between the following five:

- Level 1 – Inspiration/technological watch
  The mentor/entity is interested in the project in an active way. A representative attends project follow-up committees or dissemination activities to keep up to date with the results.
- Level 2 - Challenging
  The mentor has more regular contacts and interactions with the research consortium. It gives its active feedback on the project.
- Level 3 – Collaboration
  The mentor shares its expertise and results linked to the project with the consortium and gives access to its facilities. This requires more time and human resources.
- Level 4 - Pilot case
  The mentor offers a case study, in its facilities or activities. It is involved in the pilot case definition and may benefit from it.
- Level 5 - Effective collaboration
  Specific human resources at the mentor's facilities are dedicated to the project and the mentor performs some of the project's research tasks. The mentor is then a research partner.

At least one of the mentors must be involved at level 2 (or more). High levels of involvement are a good sign for Innoviris, in terms of the effective valorisation of research results.

Please note that if a mentor chooses the effective collaboration (mentor level 5, see above), he then becomes part of the consortium and must fill out the application forms and participate in the consortium agreement as such. A grant is then likely to be granted. Specific eligibility conditions and levels of intervention are described in Annex 1. As level 5 collaboration is an exceptional measure, the mentor's involvement and budget will be assessed.
Innoviris reserves the right to reconsider the mentor's level of involvement.
For the project outline phase, **at least one** mentor must be known and must submit a project outline.

3.4. Platform

A platform gathers research teams (consortium) and mentor(s) associated with a project. Exchanges between different projects (and associated platforms) are encouraged to build broader knowledge and expertise in the field.

3.5. Intellectual Property

The intellectual property generated during the project belongs exclusively to the consortium as described in the consortium agreement. In this document, the terms must be in accordance with the European Directives stipulating that the research organisations or research infrastructures

receive compensation equivalent to the market price for the IPR which result from their activities and are assigned to the participating undertakings, or to which participating undertakings are allocated access rights. The aim of this point is to prevent indirect aid from being granted to participating companies via research organisations due to the more favourable terms of the collaboration. The absolute amount of the value of the financial and other contributions of the participating mentor(s) to the costs of the activities of the research organisation or research infrastructure that generated the DPI concerned may be deducted from this remuneration.

3.6. Project duration

The project duration is minimum two years and maximum three years.

3.7. Financing

Funding can be up to 100% of the research teams' budget. Eligible costs are described in the Accounting guidelines available on our website.
Only mentors involved in effective collaboration (cf. 3.3) are eligible for funding, provided they meet the requirements set out in Annex 1.

3.8. Submitting a project

3.8.1. Submitting your application

Applications are written using the forms available on the Innoviris website.
Each application must be submitted by the Knowledge Transfer Office (or counterpart) of the coordinator's research organization after approval by the authorities of the different research teams. They are sent to the following email addresses: funding-request@innoviris.brussels and gdanneels@innoviris.brussels . Applications submitted in any other form or in another way shall not be taken into consideration.
Please contact the Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) or its equivalent of your research organization as soon as possible to prepare your application and plan its introduction.
The submission of application files is done in two stages:

1. Project *outline*:

This first phase consists of a short form where you must explain your project, describe the partners and establish the budgets. This form must be submitted **by June 23, 2025 at 12:00 p.m**.

2. Full proposal:

During this second phase, a platform can submit a full application in the form of a *full proposal*. This phase is only accessible to projects that have been positively evaluated during the expression of interest phase by Innoviris. Full forms can be submitted no later than **October 24, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.**

3.8.2. Processing of your application

3.8.2.1. Receipt

On receipt of your application, both the project outline and the project proposal, Innoviris' services will send a confirmation of receipt within 5 days following the submission of the application.

3.8.2.2. Admissibility

Within the month, you will receive a letter informing you of the administrative admissibility of the application. An application is admissible if it is full and meets all the criteria set out above, in particular:

1. compliance with the submission deadline.
2. the eligibility of the participating entities (please note that a promoter cannot be involved in more than two projects submitted for this call.
3. the fact that the project has not started after the submission of the aid application.
4. if the project is not carried out in effective collaboration, at least one letter of intent from the mentor must be attached to the application to reflect the interest of the socio-economic sector in the project **and** to confirm that its financial situation is "healthy" (as defined by European legislation[7]).
5. if the project is carried out in effective collaboration, the Brussels-based entity applying for funding meets the conditions set out in Annex 1.

3.8.2.3. Project outline analysis

Innoviris will carry out an analysis of the project's relevance to the call (theme, consortium composition, mentoring modalities, project duration, etc.).

If necessary, Innoviris reserves the right to appoint external experts to carry out this analysis.

Innoviris will invite any project deemed admissible during the project outline phase to submit a *full project proposal* by the specified deadline.

3.8.2.4. Evaluation and selection (*full proposal*)

For an application in the full proposal phase, the content and level of detail of the application must enable the project to be assessed according to the criteria defined below. Innoviris reserves the right to carry out a pre-assessment according to these criteria to confirm the relevance of presenting the application to the jury of experts. Where applicable, only shortlisted projects will be assessed.

Each eligible (and, where applicable, shortlisted) project will be assessed by a jury organised and presided by Innoviris. The jury is made up of experts selected for their specific skills related to the subject covered by the project, as well as representatives of Innoviris. The consortium may inform Innoviris when submitting the application of any conflicts of interest that may exist with certain specialists in the field concerned, in Belgium and abroad.

[7]Cf. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651 p19, §18

Each expert signs a confidentiality agreement before receiving a copy of the project for prior reading. The evaluation is based on the analysis of the documents submitted by the applicant and an interview by the jury. The project is defended by the research teams and their mentors and KTOs (or counterparts).

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- **The innovative character and scientific quality of the project**: Excellence of the research program, contributions to the state-of-the-art, clarity, quality and relevance of the objectives and research question and/or hypotheses.
- **The feasibility of the project**: Quality and relevance of the work program and methodology, realism of the execution plan and the planned use of resource, risks and mitigation strategies.
- **The expertise, scientific reputation, complementarity and relevance of the scientific teams that make up the consortium**
- **The motivation and relevance of the mentor(s)**
- **The prospects for using the results of the project to benefit the Region**: potential for using the project results in the Brussels Region in the medium term and exemplarity in terms of the social and/or environmental impact on the Brussels ecosystem (cf Art 4/2 of the 2024 version of the Ordinance), which means that it makes a significant contribution to at least one of the following objectives:
    - a sufficient standard of living for the most vulnerable groups or those with specific needs, including improved access to products and services that meet basic human needs, such as water, food, housing, healthcare and education; improved access to basic economic infrastructures, including sustainable transport, telecommunications and the internet, electricity and financial inclusion.
    - the development of quality local employment.
    - the development of social and democratic entrepreneurship.
    - the creation of a more inclusive society.
    - the more rational use of resources.
    - an improved environmental impact, particularly in terms of pollutant emissions, mobility, biodiversity and ecosystems.
    - adaptation to climate change.

  Furthermore, the project can also not significantly harm any of the above objectives.

Innoviris will make a selection based on the overall evaluation by the juries. This selection will then be proposed to the sponsoring authority.

3.8.3. Protection of personal data

The personal data collected by Innoviris, as data controller, via this form, will be used to process your subsidy application (this mainly involves analysis and evaluation by Innoviris and an external jury). Their processing is necessary to meet a legal obligation incumbent on the data controller (i.e. the non-economic ordinance and its implementing decree) and the performance of a public interest mission or one that is subject to the exercise of public authority vested in the data controller. No data is shared with third parties without the prior agreement of the person in question or unless Innoviris is required to do so due to a legal obligation. Innoviris will do everything in its power to guarantee the confidentiality and security of the processed data. The data will be kept for the period necessary to accomplish the aims of the processing operations. If you have any questions or would like to apply your rights under Articles 15 to 22 of the GDPR, please contact dpo@innoviris.brussels or consult our "privacy" website page.

3.8.4. Monitoring of the project and payment of the subsidy

The partners are responsible for the correct implementation of the project.

The aid is paid in instalments, with the amount of each instalment expressed as a percentage of the total aid granted. Payments are made at regular intervals throughout the project.

A regular activity report will be sent to Innoviris. This report will include the actions undertaken, any difficulties, the results achieved and the progress made in developing the results.

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

The financial and scientific follow-up procedures (financial report, activity report, monitoring committees, etc.) will be included in the grant agreement. Document templates will be sent to the coordinator.

3.8.5. Timeline and deadlines

- Launch of the thematic call: 01 April 2025
- Launch / matchmaking event organization: 12th of May 2025
- Deadline for receipt of expressions of interest: 23 June 2025
- Expression of Interest Analysis: July 2025
- Invitation to submit *full proposals*: August 18, 2025
- Deadline for submission of the proposal for the project as a whole: October 24, 2025

- Evaluation by "ad hoc" juries: November-February 2026
- Decision to grant by the Government: May 2026
- Start of projects: from May 2026

3.9. Conflict of interest

The promoters shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could jeopardize the impartial and objective execution of the project, including situations constituting a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest may result in particular from economic interests, political or national affinities, family or sentimental ties, or any other common relationships or interests.

Any situation constituting a conflict of interest or likely to lead to a conflict of interest during the execution of the project must be reported to Innoviris without delay and in writing.

3.10. Information and contacts

Any further information can be obtained from Gaëtan Danneels (gdanneels@innoviris.brussels).

Appendix 1 - Requirements for Effective and Subsidized Mentor Collaboration

In the event that a mentor based in Brussels chooses the level 5 involvement corresponding to an effective collaboration as a research partner, the Brussels Region is likely to award a grant. In this case, the mentor becomes a full member of the consortium.

In order to be eligible for the grant, the mentor must:

- Have an economic activity.
- Have at least one place of business in the Brussels-Capital Region.
- Be in a sound financial situation as defined by European legislation (cf. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651 p19, §18);
- where applicable, provide proof of their ability to finance their share in the project.
- have fulfilled its obligations in the context of previous grants allocated by the Region.

The percentages of the budget covered by Innoviris (intervention rate) for research projects in effective collaboration are as follows:

	Rate of maximum intervention
(T)PE = [Very] Small Enterprise	80 %
ME = Medium Enterprise	75 %
GC = Large Enterprise	65 %