

CANCÉROPÔLE EST 2026 CALL FOR PROPOSAL

« SUPPORT FOR EMERGING CROSSBORDER PROJECTS »

Context

The Cancéropôle Est territory includes the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Grand Est regions as well as a large crossborder area from Wallonia in Belgium to the Swiss Jura. Scientific excellence on both sides of the border is recognized. The Cancéropôle therefore wishes to promote projects and exchanges between the Cancéropôle Est teams and their partners located in these border regions (Wallonia, Luxembourg, Rhineland Palatinate, Saarland, Bad Württemberg, and the cantons of Basel, Jura, Neufchâtel, Vaud). As part of its label for 2023-2027, Cancéropôle Est set up a support tool for emerging crossborder projects. The objectives of this support are to allow the development of new research projects and promote crossborder collaborations.

This support for emergence is provided by Cancéropôle Est through a call for proposal "Support for emerging crossborder projects" in addition to the calls for proposal "Emergence / Translational innovation" and "Emergence / Human and social sciences, epidemiology, public health (HSS-E/PH)".

Criteria

1. Nature of the expected projects

This initiative is open to all scientific disciplines in oncology, including those in HSS-E/PH.

The expected projects must have a translational aim in oncology. They must demonstrate the innovative nature of the research undertaken and respond to an identified need for patients.

They must be projects requiring short-term risk-taking to test new scientific hypotheses or research approaches, or "pilot" projects to validate the feasibility or methodology of a future research program. They can represent the arrival of a team in a new disciplinary field.

Will be particularly encouraged projects of scientific and/or technological breakthroughs (new and original approaches), and multidisciplinary projects.

Projects must clearly demonstrate the innovative character and a synergy between the crossborder teams. These criteria are decisive for demonstrating the adequacy of the project with the framework of the call for projects and will be assessed by the reviewers. Candidates must therefore take particular and precise care in explaining this point in the application.

They must show the expected impact (limiting step to be taken, deliverables, leverage effect of the funded part, contribution to the crossborder partnership), and indicate the follow-up envisaged in the event of success.

2. Applicants

The call for proposal is for the entire scientific community. The principal investigator must be a researcher and/or clinician affiliated with a team from the Eastern interregion (Grand Est region and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region). He must provide proof of an employment contract covering the period of the project. Young researchers with no permanent position are allowed to apply if their position is secured for the time of the project (letter of support from his director is mandatory).

Projects must necessarily involve a partner team located in the crossborder area (Belgium: Wallonia; Luxembourg; Germany: Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Baden-Württemberg; Switzerland: cantons of Vaud, Neuchâtel, Jura and Basel). The platforms and technical platforms of the Eastern interregion and the crossborder area will be favored as technological support. The agreement of all partners must be obtained.

The Cancéropôle Est displays on its website a directory of teams and platforms existing in the Eastern interregion if needed (www.canceropole-est.org/la-recherche/annuaire-du-canceropole-est).

3. Funding

Budget support for selected projects will be a maximum of 25,000 euros per project for 18 months. The funds will be allocated by Cancéropôle Est. **Only teams from the French Eastern interregion participating in the project can receive funds.**

The subsidy may finance running costs and various consumables, missions, services, non-permanent staff (internships in particular, engineers/technicians, contractors, etc.). Equipment requests are not eligible. If the total cost of the project is greater than the amount requested from Cancéropôle Est, the principal investigator must indicate that he will be able to carry out the project thanks to additional funding (support requested/obtained, etc.).

Projects should be ready to start as soon as funding is awarded. The project must comply with the regulations in place. The regulatory authorizations, if necessary, must be obtained from the competent bodies before the payment of the allocated funding.

Selection process

1. Stages of the selection procedure

The steps of the selection procedure are as follows:

- Determination of the eligibility of projects: the innovative character of the project and the budget are criteria which will condition the eligibility of the application for the evaluation process,
- Project review by experts,
- Classification of projects by the Cancéropôle Est Scientific and Clinical Council (COSC).

The decisions of the COSC are sovereign, it is not required to justify its decisions.

2. Evaluation criteria

The following points will be considered:

- The scientific quality of the project and the interest of the theme (positioning in the international context),
- The innovative aspect of the project,
- The quality of the candidate/team and of the partnership,
- Feasibility over 18 months,
- The expected impact and the follow-up envisaged.

Warning: particular attention is paid to the presentation and clarity of the dossier. Please take care of the quality of the writing and the readability of your text.

● **How to apply**

The application must include: the administrative and scientific presentation of the principal investigator and his/her partner(s), the summary and description of the project, the feasibility, perspectives, and the budget.

All applications must be submitted by completing the online form available at escape.canceropole-est.org **no later than March 3, 2026**.

The results will be communicated to the applicants in June 2026.

Cancéropôle Est will post the results of the call for projects on its website www.canceropole-est.org. Principal investigators accept that the following information be published: title of the project, name of the promoter and its partners, brief summary of the project.

● **Project follow-up**

For the selected projects, a financial agreement will be established with the institution managing the funds. The projects will start in September 2026. The expenses must be incurred within 18 months of the signing of the agreement.

A mid-term report will be requested to monitor the progress of the project. At the end of the period covered by the agreement, the principal investigator will be required to provide Cancéropôle Est with a report including a financial statement justifying the use of the funds, a scientific report showing the added value of the funding obtained, and a data management plan (INCa model).

A follow-up will be carried out over the 3 years following the end of the funding (submission and success of national and/or international calls for projects, publications, collaborations, promotion, etc.), and the principal investigator will be invited to present their work to the COSC, as well as to Cancéropôle Est events such as the Forum.

● **Contact**

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