

University Hospital Federations (FHU) in Île-de-France

Call for Projects 2019

Closing date of the call for projects Monday, August 5, 2019

SUMMARY

The increasingly competitive international context, marked by the emergence of new health challenges, justifies a new impetus for translational and clinical research.

In 2012 and 2013, 16 university hospital departments (DHU) were jointly accredited for 5 years by AP-HP, universities and research organisms.

This program and the 16 DHUs were evaluated by HCERES. The report is very positive and recommends that the experience be repeated

DHUs have been very structuring for research in hospitals. In this context, and that of a rapidly changing research landscape, in particular for life and health sciences, a new call for projects is launched, open to the previously accredited DHUs and new teams. It is proposed to label about twenty University Hospital Federations (FHU) for 5 years, the name DHU having been replaced by FHU which better describes the purpose of this call which is to bring together and federate clinical and research teams.

The FHUs are set up on the basis of a perfectly defined medical theme, within university hospital perimeters (including at least one university, one AP-HP GH (Hospital Group) and one national research organisation laboratory). The integration of other partners (“grandes écoles”, industry,...) will be a plus for the project.

In their project, the FHUs must describe the clinical and translational research goals they set for themselves over 5 years and present their links with institutional research support structures (URC, DRCI poles, CIC, etc.), universities, research units of an EPST and associated partners (“grandes écoles”, industrialists,...). They must demonstrate their ability to federate within the framework of large investigation networks at regional, national and international level to enhance their attractiveness. They must also present the expertise missions conducted at the international level that they lead or will lead. These FHUs bring together a critical mass of hospital staff, faculty members and researchers. They must demonstrate a level of excellence that positions them as future international leaders in their field.

The project will describe its integration into the strategic axes of the 3 partners. This call for projects is open to all clinical research themes to which biology, imaging or interventional activities may be associated with.

Within the university hospital perimeter of Ile-de-France, the FHU label is awarded jointly by the 3 partners (AP-HP, Inserm, Universities) for a period of five years. The selected projects will produce a brief annual report and will be subject to an evaluation at the end of their mandate.

The FHUs are not autonomous legal entities but a federation of clinical and research teams and possibly partners (grandes écoles, industrialists, etc.).

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1. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The creation of FHU should aim to strengthen hospital-university relations in order to boost medical research and improve the quality of care, through a more rapid dissemination of innovations.

The objective of the FHU is to support joint projects between hospitals, universities, research organisations, industry,... and to strengthen their collaboration on medical themes that lead to breakthrough innovations.

As such, these new federations will support the integration of care, teaching and research, and will have specific governance.

The creation of university hospital federations (FHU) has three main objectives:

1. **Boosting university hospital relations**

The aim is to bring together medical, research and academic teams in order to foster collaborative projects on a theme of excellence.

2. **Enhance the visibility and identification of priority themes in research, teaching and care**

The FHU should:

- Reinforce the visibility and attractiveness of the themes promoted by the 3 partners, both with regard to clinicians and researchers or academic and industrial partners;
- Promote the continuum between basic research, clinical research, translational research and care. The aim is to accelerate the transfer of research results to the benefit of the patient. This begins, among other things, with the conduct of major multicentric clinical trials, participation in major international research networks, the structuring of new cohorts and biological collections, the emergence of new research structures, and the quantitative and qualitative development of publications within the scope of the FHU;
- Promote excellence in care through early access to innovation;
- Strengthen cultural continuity between research and clinical activities;
- In the field of training and capacity building: set up specific actions to and through research, and involve the youngest (medical students, interns...).

3. **Diversify, target and optimize financing**

The FHU will receive specific support, resulting from a joint allocation of resources from partners.

The creation of the DHU, by strengthening the identification of priority research and care themes within the Ile-de-France university hospital perimeter, will also make it possible to seek new funding. The labelling of the current DHUs has had a leverage effect which has been achieved by obtaining, among other things, the following: 3 RHU (€23.5M), 1 IHU, 1 ERC...

2. FHU CHARACTERISTICS

2.1. Geographical scope

For organizational efficiency and resource optimization, it is strongly recommended that the creation and structuring of an FHU within a geographically defined university hospital perimeter be formed around one or more GHUs.

The inter-GHU dimension may be required by the need for a strong dynamic in favour of a few major thematic axes.

The FHUs will also be able to present their involvement in the hospital groups of their territory (GHT).

2.2. Structural scope

The FHUs are composed of entities that share common research, teaching and care themes. The FHUs are organized primarily around hospital and research teams located at AP-HP hospital sites. The local connexions and interaction with research laboratories of the hospital group need to be strengthened.

The FHUs combine one or more university medical departments (DMU) or elements of the DMU and one or more joint research units - UMR (and, if necessary, other laboratories evaluated by HCERES such as university host teams), around a specific theme, allowing optimal management of resources in order to achieve the research objectives assigned to the FHU.

The participation of various profiles of researchers will be appreciated (doctors, nurses, ...).

IMPORTANT: teams participating in one of the IHUs selected under the "Investissement d'avenir" programme are not eligible for this call for projects.

2.3. Commitment and labelling period

The FHU label is granted for a period of five years.

The accreditation is granted by the heads of the 3 partners after assessment by an independent international jury, on the basis of external expertise.

From the 2nd year of certification, a meeting of FHU managers will be organised annually.

2.4 Governance

The FHU benefits from a non-binding governance, which main role is to lead and monitor the project.

The governance of the FHU is based on a management committee composed of:

- one or more clinicians representing the DMU or DMUs constituting the FHU;
- one or more representatives from academic partners;
- one or more researchers of the UMR constituting the FHU.

The Executive Committee appoints, among its members, the FHU coordinator in charge of resource management.

The governance procedures are specified in an operating charter.

3. REVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

Applicants will be required to complete an electronic form describing their project. The file will have to be submitted no later than Monday, August 5, midnight.

A selection will be made by a steering committee composed of 10 French experts from outside the Ile-de-France region assisted by 3 representatives of the partners (Elli Chatzopoulou for Inserm, Pr Gabriel Steg for the Universities and Pr Marc Delpech for AP-HP). The steering committee will be chaired by the president of the final jury. A maximum of 35 projects will be selected. They will be sent to international experts whose reports will be provided to the final jury.

The final jury will be composed of the steering committee and 4 to 5 international experts. It will meet at the end of November or beginning of December 2019 and will interview each project leader. It will make a ranking after the audition.

Based on the jury's report and ranking, the heads of AP-HP, Inserm and the Universities will decide on the list of FHUs that will be accredited.

4. MEANS AND FINANCING

In addition to the existing resources within the scope of the FHU, the latter will have resources resulting from the commitments of each of the three parties (partnership agreement), and in particular:

- For the University: an academic position as a CCA or equivalent;
- For AP-HP: an annual budget managed by the DRCI for the financing of a project manager (€55k) and an operating budget (€10k) which may be supplemented by resources provided by the GHUs as part of their research support policy;
- For INSERM: €20k

Additional funding may come from associated partners (operating envelope, provision of resources and equipment, access to cutting-edge expertise and technological platforms, financing of interface contracts, co-financing of visiting scientists, etc.).

IMPORTANT

PUBLICATION ADDRESS

<http://recherche.aphp.fr/2019/05/29/appel-a-projets-fhu-2019/>

CLOSING DATE OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Proposed projects must be submitted before:

Monday, 5 August, 2019 midnight

DOCUMENT SIGNATURE

Proposed projects must be signed by:

- the project coordinator

the following authorities:

- the director of the GHU concerned (or the directors of the GHUs concerned)
- the director of the UFR concerned (or the directors of the UFR concerned)
- the president of the university concerned (or the presidents of the universities concerned)
- the local manager (regional delegate) of the research organisation concerned (or of the research organisations concerned: DR of Inserm or CNRS for example)
- the head of the FHU's partner institutions who provides financial support to the project.

DOCUMENT FILING

Projects must be sent by e-mail before midnight on 5 August.

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CONTACT

For all questions relating to the organisation of the call for projects:

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