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PARTICIPATORY INTERSECTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Deadline for project proposals:

**March 31, 2025, 5pm**

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## 1. Background

### 1.1 Mission

The intersectoral research initiative “Towards a more inclusive Quebec society”, also known as Société Inclusive, brings together and mobilizes players from the academic and community sectors to develop innovative intersectoral participatory research projects, with the aim of creating more inclusive physical and social environments for people of all ages living with disabilities[[1]](#footnote-2) that may be motor, sensory, intellectual, cognitive or language in nature, or stem from neurodiversity, aging or mental health issues.

* In 2025, Société Inclusive will fund up to 12 participatory and cross-sectoral research projects, divided into two competitions (winter and autumn). Up to six projects will be funded in each competition.
* The maximum duration of the proposed project must be 18 months. This timeframe is important to ensure that the needs of the community organization (lead partner) are met within a reasonable timeframe.
* For the Winter 2025 competition, the deadline for project proposals is 5 p.m. on March 31, 2025. The project may start in September 2025 and end no later than March 31, 2027.
* There will be another call for projects in Fall 2025.
* Funding is $35,000 per project, with a minimum of $10,000 to support partner involvement.
* A portion or all of the funding can serve as leverage in the [Mitacs Accelerator program](https://www.mitacs.ca/our-programs/accelerate-core-students-postdocs/) to pay for one or more interns. We strongly encourage you to ask our intersectoral coordinators (ACI) for help in finding the best way to put together the financing package to meet your needs.

### 1.2 Financing program objectives

Société Inclusive's Intersectoral Participatory Research Program (the Program) provides financial, material and human resources to support innovative intersectoral participatory research projects. These projects must produce concrete changes in various aspects of the lives of people living with disabilities, by accompanying the transformation of associated ecosystems (family and friends, community organizations, public bodies). These projects must implement solutions that will reduce the environmental and social obstacles these people encounter in carrying out their lifestyle habits.

We encourage teams to submit projects involving any type of disability: motor, sensory, intellectual, cognitive or language-related, or arising from neurodiversity, aging or mental health issues.

### 1.3 Support from intersectoral cooperation officers (ACI)

We strongly encourage teams wishing to submit a project to contact an ACI at an early stage (or as soon as possible) to benefit from their support in developing the project. ACIs are responsible for ensuring links between partner organizations and researchers, monitoring and documenting project progress, and disseminating tools, results and best practices as widely as possible. To contact an ACI, simply send an e-mail to [info@societeinclusive.ca](mailto:info@societeinclusive.ca).

### 1.4 Financial partners

Une image contenant Police, texte, capture d’écran, Graphique

Description générée automatiquementUne image contenant Graphique, Police, graphisme

Description générée automatiquementLe This contest is financed thanks to the support of the Mirella & Lino Saputo Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation and Mitacs. We would like to thank them for their support, which together will help to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities and, more broadly, to make our community more inclusive.

## 2. Eligibility criteria

Submitted projects will be analyzed according to the six criteria described below. Each criterion must be met and demonstrated on the application form, for the application to be considered.

### 2.1 In line with the themes of an inclusive society

The proposed research projects must be structured around major research themes that are intended to be cross-sectoral and promote scientific complementarity, making it possible to address the major issues raised by Société Inclusive, i.e.:

* Physical environment and personal mobility;
* Social environment;
* Health and adaptation-rehabilitation;
* Attitudes, prejudice and discrimination.

For further details, please consult the following web page: <https://societeinclusive.ca/en/proj/thematiques/>

### 2.2 Project focused on a need identified by at least one community organization

Proposed projects must respond to a REAL need expressed by one or more organizations directly related to the needs of people living with disabilities or the defense of their rights. *It is therefore essential that the proposed project responds to a need identified by a community organization and is not the result of theorized research. Since this is an eligibility criterion, it is expected to be demonstrated in the project description*.

The letter of commitment from the partner organization must demonstrate its role in identifying the need, and in designing and implementing the project to meet it. It should also explain how the results of the project will be integrated into the organization's activities.

The project's lead partner organization must be a non-profit organization (NPO), with or without a charitable registration number.

### 2.3 Responding to the needs of people living with disabilities

* Produce concrete changes in various aspects of the lives of people with disabilities.
* Accompany the transformation of associated ecosystems (caregivers, community organizations, public agencies).
* Implement solutions to reduce the environmental and social obstacles faced by people with disabilities in carrying out their lifestyle routines.

### 2.4 Cross-sectoral project submitted by a team comprising at least

* Two researchers from two different sectors (Health, Nature and Technology, Society and Culture), one of whom is a university, college or institution researcher. One researcher must be affiliated with one of our partner research centers or networks.
* One person representing a non-profit partner organization
* One person with experiential knowledge

Applicant teams must demonstrate that their project is based on genuine and productive cross-sector collaboration, significantly integrating the expertise, approaches and resources of at least two distinct sectors.

This integration must be clearly articulated at every stage of the project, from design to implementation, analysis and dissemination of results. The contributions of the sectors involved are expected to be complementary, mutually enriching the scope and impact of the project.

Projects will be assessed on their ability to generate synergies between sectors, to produce innovative results and to respond more effectively and comprehensively to the issues targeted thanks to this cross-sectoral approach.

#### 2.4.1 Researchers.

The research team submitting a project proposal includes two principal investigators, each representing a different scientific sector (see point 2.4.2 - cross-sector project).

At least one of the principal investigators must hold the status of university researcher, university clinical researcher or college researcher as defined by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec (Status 1 to 3). Institutional researchers are also eligible (status 4). You can consult the criteria in the following document: <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/common-general-rules/>

At least one of the co-principal investigators must be affiliated with one of our partner research centers, networks or groups:

* [Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en réadaptation du Montréal métropolitain](http://www.crir.ca/) (CRIR)
* [Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale](http://www.cirris.ulaval.ca/) (Cirris)
* [Réseau pour transformer les soins en autisme](https://www.rtsa-tacc.com/fr) (RTSA)
* [Réseau québécois de recherche sur le vieillissement](https://rqrv.com/) (RQRV)
* [Réseau en recherche en santé de la vision](https://reseauvision.ca/) (RRSV)
* [CommunAutés Rurales et Éloignées en Santé](https://cares.inrs.ca/) (CARES)
* [Regroupement stratégique en Ingénierie de technologies interactives en réadaptation](https://regroupementinter.com/fr/) (INTER)

A principal investigator may participate in only one application per competition.

Postdoctoral fellows may not act as principal investigators, but may act as co-investigators on the research team.

It is also possible for a team to be associated with a researcher from outside Quebec. However, he or she will not be eligible to receive funding.

#### 2.4.2 A cross-sectoral project [[2]](#footnote-3)

The proposed project must cover at least two of the following three scientific areas:

* [Nature and technologies](https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/nature-and-technologies/vision-and-research-fields/)
* [Health](https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/health/vision-and-research-fields/)
* [Society and culture](https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/en/society-and-culture/vision-and-research-fields/)

Teams must demonstrate an authentic and productive collaboration, significantly integrating the expertise, approaches, and resources of these sectors. This integration must be clearly articulated at every stage of the project: design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of results. The contributions from the involved sectors should be complementary and mutually enhance the project's scope and impact.

It is essential to justify the relevance of involving the targeted sectors and to highlight the added value their interaction brings to the project. Evaluators will review the profiles of the two principal researchers and the justification for the intersectoral approach to ensure differentiation and complementarity between the sectors involved.

Projects that do not meet the intersectoral criteria will not be evaluated. Additionally, projects will be assessed on their ability to generate synergies between sectors, produce innovative results, and more effectively and comprehensively address the targeted issues through this intersectoral approach.

#### 2.4.3 Lead partner is a non-profit organization (NPO) that offers ;

A collaborative approach must be demonstrated. The lead partner must be located in Quebec. We encourage the participation of several partners, but only one must be designated as the lead partner.

Only an NPO, with or without a charitable registration number, providing direct services to people with disabilities or advocating on their behalf is eligible to be the lead partner. Non-profit associations of organizations and social economy enterprises are also eligible. An organization may participate in only one application as lead partner per competition.

Private companies are not eligible as lead partners,but can be secondary partners. Similarly, public, parapublic or government bodies are not eligible as lead partners (i.e., cannot receive funding), but are encouraged to collaborate as secondary partners (e.g., CI(U)SSS, municipalities, etc.).

#### 2.4.3 Include a person with experiential knowledge in the research team

In addition to researchers and partners, the team must include at least one person with experiential knowledge, i.e. a person with one or more disabilities. We encourage teams to compensate this person appropriately for his or her participation in the research project.

## 3. Selection criteria

Projects submitted and deemed eligible will be analyzed according to six criteria. Each criterion must be met and demonstrated on the application form, otherwise the application will not be considered.

**3.1 Potential for real impact on the social inclusion of the people concerned by the project**

Applicant teams must demonstrate how their project addresses a specific need clearly identified by the lead partner. This demonstration must include an analysis of the partner's needs and a justification of the strategies chosen to meet them.

The impact on the social inclusion of people with disabilities must be described in detail, highlighting the anticipated benefits for these people. This impact may be immediate or projected over time.

If the expected impact on social inclusion is not immediate, the team will need to spell out the steps and actions planned to achieve it. Progressive and realistic planning, including intermediate objectives, will be positively assessed. Teams must demonstrate their ability to assess this impact and adapt their approach according to the results obtained during the project.

### 3.2 Involvement and consultation of team members

Applicant teams must demonstrate how their project offers concrete and diversified opportunities for active participation at every key stage: from initial conception to the implementation of activities, and to the appropriation and implementation of results.

It is expected that all team members, including partners, collaborators and relevant stakeholders, will be involved in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to their respective roles and expertise.

Projects will be assessed on the team’s ability to integrate an inclusive and collaborative approach, favoring co-construction and shared responsibility. Approaches that enable equitable and rewarding participation for each member will be particularly valued.

### 3.3 Realism of the project and quality of the scientific approach

Applicant teams must demonstrate how their project offers concrete and diversified opportunities for active participation at every key stage: from initial conception to the implementation of activities, through to the appropriation and valorization of results.

It is expected that all team members, including partners, collaborators and relevant stakeholders, will be involved in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to their respective roles and expertise.

Projects will be assessed on their ability to integrate an inclusive and collaborative approach, favoring co-construction and shared responsibility. Approaches that enable equitable and rewarding participation for each member will be particularly valued.

### 3.4 Commitment of the target community to adopt the developed solution

Candidate teams must demonstrate the active involvement and support of the stakeholder community throughout the project. This commitment must translate into concrete actions, such as collaboration in the design, implementation and evaluation of the solution developed, as well as a clear willingness to adopt and integrate this solution into their practices or organization.

Projects will be assessed on their ability to establish a solid and lasting partnership with the stakeholder community, fostering effective appropriation of the results. The team will also have to show how it will ensure that the solution meets the real and specific needs of the target community, and how it plans to support the latter in adopting and sustaining the solution.

Documentation of the commitments made by the target community (letters of support, contributions in kind or expertise, etc.) will reinforce the credibility of the project.

### 3.5 Innovation potential and general assessment

Applicant teams must demonstrate that their project is part of a clear and ambitious social innovation process, contributing to the resolution of concrete problems through innovative approaches. The project can be part of one, or more than one, of the three phases of the social innovation process:

* Emergence (involving problem identification and project development);
* Experimentation (based on an iterative scientific approach to knowledge application, co-construction and feedback);
* Appropriation (appropriation of knowledge in the target environment or elsewhere).

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Description générée automatiquement

Source: Réseau québécois en innovation sociale, Acteurs et processus d'innovation sociale au Québec, 2007. Please note that a more complete version, better reflecting the various interwoven stages, is available by following this link: [*Cycle de vie d’une innovation sociale*](https://www.rqis.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Outils-evaluation-is-Schema-cycle-de-vie_VF.pdf).

Projects submitted must aim to reduce barriers to the participation of people with disabilities, but must also be :

* **Transferable**: in other words, that the knowledge acquired can be used to promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities. The use of scientific results must be clearly demonstrated, as well as the transferability of knowledge, with a view to improving practices in the recipient environment(s).
* **Be disseminated**: in other words, the projects selected must have established a plan for disseminating the results within the networks of the partner(s) involved, as well as among their collaborators. The dissemination plan must demonstrate the progress made.
* **Innovative**: i.e. they propose a new idea or approach, a new service, product or type of organization that responds more adequately and sustainably than existing solutions to a well-defined need.

This conception of social innovation is marked by a break with the existing or a significant improvement in an approach, a service, a product or a type of organization. The team must demonstrate how its project offers the potential for social innovation, and how it will provide a response to an issue that currently has no solution.

## 4. Financing and expenses

### 4.1 Financing and eligible expenses

The project can be funded up to a maximum of $35,000, divided between the research activities and the partner(s). A minimum of $10,000 must be paid to the partner(s) involved in carrying out the project. Funding will be provided by the Fund for an Inclusive Society, managed by Université Laval's Philanthropy Department. Researchers will be required to pay the planned sums to the partners. In addition:

1. The research project must be carried out over a period of 12 to 18 months, starting on the date the funding is disbursed. An additional 6 months may be granted to facilitate the mobilization of results by the partner(s).

2. Expenses must comply with the FRQ's common general rules. Only expenses directly related to the realization of the project are eligible:

Lead partner costs associated with the project ;

Costs related to the remuneration and benefits of the personnel involved;

Scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Students enrolled in an undergraduate or professional master's program may be eligible, provided that participation in the research project does not constitute a mandatory training activity or internship;

Fees for consultants and professionals associated with research ;

Training and development costs for personnel using specialized equipment or facilities;

* Remuneration of team participants providing experiential knowledge (excluding researchers);
  + Sums or compensation paid to research participants; approved by the ethics committee;
  + Materials, equipment and resources directly related to research activities, up to a maximum of $1,000 per project;
  + Travel and accommodation expenses related to the project;
  + Dissemination and knowledge mobilization costs;
  + Other expenses deemed acceptable by the evaluation committee.

Projects whose budgets have been improved through requests for funds or additional inmate financing will be given priority. These requests can be made in collaboration with Société Inclusive's ACIs. Please note that in the form, a half-page will allow teams to describe additional objectives that will be achieved through additional funding (optional).

For members of the INTER strategic cluster, it is possible to submit a complementary component to the project submitted for INTER mandate funding. Deadlines for INTER mandate calls are usually in November, February and June.

### 4.2 Mitacs Acceleration (subsidy enhancement)

We encourage teams to apply for additional Mitacs Acceleration funding. Mitacs funding is mainly dedicated to the remuneration of students and trainees involved in the research project. These are student grants, in the form of “internship units” lasting 4 to 6 months. Each team determines its needs in terms of internship units. In this way, funding for a research project can be greatly enhanced. The research team can meet with an ACI to complete the budget section, so as to anticipate and maximize the sums available according to the project's needs.

### 4.3 Ineligible expenses

#### Indirect research costs

Program funding does not include any indirect research costs.

## 5. Financing conditions

1. Société inclusive reserves the right to propose groupings between teams submitting similar projects or projects on similar themes.
2. When the project is accepted, the signed funding application form acts as a memorandum of understanding between the principal partner (and possibly other partner organizations), the principal investigators and Société inclusive, specifying the parameters for carrying out the project and the obligations of the parties. The award letter formalizes funding by Société inclusive via the Fonds pour une Société inclusive administered by Université Laval. Once the project has been accepted, the team must complete and sign the Acceptance of Funds form.
3. We also encourage you to sign a collaboration agreement with the partner(s) to carry out the project. Société Inclusive can provide you with a template if required.
4. Funding is non-renewable and non-transferable.
5. Research teams awarded funding under the Program will be required to submit a progress report at mid-term and at the end of the project. This report should include the following elements: abbreviated presentation of the project (300 words), budget status, results obtained, deliverables, outcomes and spin-offs of the project, next steps (if applicable). Any request for an extension must be accompanied by a progress report and reasonable justification.
6. Funded teams must acknowledge the financial support of Société Inclusive, the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation, the Azrieli Foundation and Mitacs in any report, article, work or communication resulting from the grant.
7. Funded teams will be required to carry out ad hoc follow-ups with an ACI. These follow-ups will be posted on the Société Inclusive website (www.societeinclusive.ca) or otherwise.
8. With a view to sharing and transferring knowledge, funded teams undertake to present the progress and results of their research project during Société Inclusive activities (e.g. networking, knowledge transfer or annual exchange forum).
9. Funded teams, and in particular the partner(s), undertake to disseminate the results of the research project within their networks.

## 6. Submit a project proposal

Research teams interested in submitting a project proposal must provide the following documents:

* Completed application form including the following sections:
  + - Presentation of the participatory and intersectoral research project.
    - Timeline;
    - Budget.
* Download and complete the following form: [Application form](https://societeinclusive.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/4.SI_ApplicationForms_2025.docx)
* Letter of commitment from the lead partner explaining its need, the intended use of the results and the number of people who will be affected by this research project;
* Letter of collaboration from other partners (if applicable);
* Canadian Common CV (SSHRC, CIHR, NSERC, FRQS/NT/SC with contributions for last 5 years) of both principal investigators;
* Tables and figures;
* Bibliographical references.

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

* Nathalie Gordon

[Nathalie@societeinclusive.ca](mailto:Nathalie@societeinclusive.ca)

Please note that e-mail is the fastest option.

418-649-3735 POSTE 2458

* **All project proposals must be sent by e-mail to**: [info@societeinclusive.ca](mailto:info@societeinclusive.ca)

The deadline for project proposals is **March 31, 2025, 5 p.m.**

Please note that all documents must be submitted in English or French (if the application is written in English, a French summary must be provided).

## 7. Evaluation of project proposals

### 7.1 The evaluation process

The evaluation process is based on a three-part evaluation grid:

1. Validation of eligibility;

2. Pre-evaluation based on project relevance and partner involvement.

3. Scientific evaluation

#### 7.1.1 Assessing eligibility

Project eligibility is assessed by the Société Inclusive team. Eligible projects are submitted to the scientific committee.

A committee made up of Société Inclusive directors and financial partners assesses each project with respect to the eligibility criteria. Only selected projects will be evaluated by the scientific evaluation committee.

#### 7.1.2 Scientific evaluation.

The scientific evaluation committee is made up of ten to twelve people, selected according to the competition and the number of applications received. The committee is made up of representatives of financial partners, community organizations and researchers from research centers, networks and groups associated with Société Inclusive.

Projects deemed eligible are submitted to the scientific committee, which evaluates the applications using the evaluation grid based on specific criteria.

Please note that the evaluation process is confidential.

Up to six projects with the highest scores will be selected to receive the available funding, from each competition.

Successful projects are presented to the steering committee of Université Laval's Fonds pour une Société Inclusive for funding approval.

1. \*The choice of the term “person with disabilities” refers to Société Inclusive's desire not to place the responsibility for disability on the individual and is based on the [Human Development Model - Disability Production Process (MDH-PPH)](https://ripph.qc.ca/en/hdm-dcp-model/the-model/). “The model applies to all people with disabilities, regardless of the cause, nature and severity of their impairments and disabilities.” For example, disabilities may be related to a physical or sensory impairment, an intellectual disability, an autism spectrum disorder, a neurodivergent disorder, a mental health problem, a loss of autonomy related to aging, etc. For the sake of simplicity, we will use the term “person with disabilities” throughout this document. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. An intersectoral project is a “research and collaborative approach that brings together researchers from disciplinary fields or research practices in at least two sectors to work on the same research object, problem, issue, method or question, in order to shed new light on common or shared issues”. Fonds de recherche du Québec “ Common general rules of the Fonds de recherche du Québec) traduction libre, *Fonds de recherche du Québec* « Règles générales communes des Fonds de recherche du Québec) [online] : <https://frq.gouv.qc.ca/app/uploads/2022/06/rgc_2022_20220630_vf.pdf>, p. 4, consulted on June 21, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)