

CALL FOR PROJECTS 2025-2026



Context

The Fund GENeHOPE has been set up by the King Baudouin Foundation at the initiative of a family who has experienced the loss of a child due to a genetic disease. In developed countries, genetic diseases are the leading cause of death among children under 1 year old. When inherited, they can affect patients and their families for a lifetime.

The Fund GENeHOPE supports basic and translational research into genetic diseases, aiming to increase our understanding of their molecular mechanisms, and advance diagnostics and treatments. By fostering collaboration among different internationally recognized genetic centers and research groups the Fund seeks to harness the knowledge and expertise, accelerate scientific progress and maximize impact for patients.

In the initial phase, the Fund supports partnerships between Belgian research teams (or consortia of research teams) and the Institut Imagine in Paris. The Fund's long-term aim is to become an international and impactful initiative that benefits society at large.

The Fund GENeHOPE is managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the help of an international scientific jury, a Scientific Committee, and a Steering Committee.

Call for projects 2025-2026

The Fund is launching a second call for projects. Scope of this call:

Financial contribution to joint research into genetic diseases between a research team from Belgium and a team from the Institut Imagine France.

The collaboration, whether already established, envisioned or yet to be initiated, will receive financial support to strengthen the collaboration, expand it, attract additional expertise, and thus accelerate research breakthroughs and clinical applications.

Budget

A total amount of **€ 200.000** is made available for this call, supporting **minimum 2 collaborative projects**, with a maximum of €100.000 per project, covering 2 working years.

If insufficient high-quality applications are submitted, the Steering Committee may reserve unallocated funds for a subsequent call.

The collaborative project must be submitted by one **single main applicant**. However, upon approval of the grant, the awarded budget will be divided into 2 separate contracts (Belgian Research Institute - Institut Imagine) according to the distribution proposed in the application file.

No overhead may be charged on awarded amounts up to €50,000 (any overhead must be calculated for each individual grant, not on the total amount awarded per project). For grants exceeding this amount, overhead costs may not exceed 17%. Any potential overhead costs must be included in the requested budget.

Selection procedure

Applications should be submitted via the online platform of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be, in English by 03/02/2026 at midnight at the latest. Candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

The selection will adhere to the highest standards of quality, impartiality, and transparency and following these steps:

- Each application will be reviewed by a jury of international independent experts, using an online selection procedure based on predefined criteria. (*)
- The proposals and expert evaluations will be shared with the Scientific Committee of the Fund GENeHOPE, and discussed and shortlisted in a plenary meeting.
- The chairs of the Scientific Committee will present the selection process and the conclusions to the Steering Committee of the Fund, that will ratify the selection.

The selection will be announced in June 2026 at the latest. The laureates will be asked to present their awarded project at the Award ceremony that will take place in the second half of June 2026.

(*) If more than 10 submissions are received, the scientific committee may conduct a pre-select based on the pre-defined criteria.

Eligibility

- Mandatory collaboration (ongoing, envisioned or new) between a Belgian research institute/consortium and Institut Imagine France
- Former laureates may submit a new project once their final report has been approved (in practice, not before the call 2026 - 2027).
- Former, non-selected candidates may submit a new or revised project, taking into account the jury's feedback.

Selection criteria

Scientific quality of the project

- Overall scientific quality of the research
- Clear project description

Track record

- Track record and career potential of the project leaders (scientific environment, creativity, management skills, international visibility...)
- Strength and potential of the research team & collaborating teams

Collaboration

- Well-defined collaboration between the Belgian research team(s) and the team of Institut Imagine, highlighting the added value of this collaboration

Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approaches

- Any interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary approaches that enhance the quality, relevance, or innovative potential of the project.

Impact

- Potential impact of the results on diagnosis/treatment/quality of care/quality of life

Budget

- Appropriateness of the budget and equitable distribution between the teams

Contact

- For technical assistance during the application process:
Contact centre – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
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King Baudouin Foundation

The King Baudouin Foundation's mission is to contribute to a better society in Belgium, in Europe and elsewhere in the world. It is an actor for change and innovation, serving the public interest and increasing social cohesion. It seeks to maximise its impact by improving skills in organisations and for individuals. It also stimulates effective philanthropy by individuals and corporations. The King Baudouin Foundation was set up in 1976, on the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

With thanks to the National Lottery and its players, and also to our many donors for their ongoing commitment.

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