

Research Program in Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2022

Effects and consequences of early exposures to environmental stressors: from humans to ecosystems

Download proposal template and send your
proposal to contact@fcsrovaltain.org before June 30th in
an email entitled
“RT2E2022 – Environmental factors & Early Exposure”

The Rovaltain Foundation

The Rovaltain Foundation, Foundation for Scientific Cooperation in Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology Research, was created in July 2013 by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Its purpose is to support research and training in Health & Environment and to promote the dissemination of knowledge in this field.

To achieve this goal, the Rovaltain Foundation finances calls for research projects through a framework validated by the Foundation's International Scientific Advisory Board: the Research Program in Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology (RT2E).

Human beings and living beings in general are exposed during their entire lifetime to environmental stressors, i.e., chemical, physical, biological and/or psychosocial stressors, what is also described as the “exposome”. Indeed, the conceptual framework of exposome for humans or eco-exposome for animals attempts to integrate all these exposures over time to help understand and decipher the causal links between exposure and pathologies. Research suggests that the early stages of life, e.g. foetus, embryo, young organism, are the most sensitive windows of exposure, e.g. the 1000-day window for humans from conception and equivalent early stages in other species.

In this context, the aim of the RT2E 2022 call is to help **the development of new research projects through a leverage effect for deciphering the effects of early-life exposure to environmental stressors on the health and physiological balance of organisms.**

The present call is aligned with the topic of a congress co-organised by the SFSE (“Société Francophone de Santé et Environnement”) and the Rovaltain Foundation in November, from the 23th to 25th, 2022 – “Early exposure to environmental factors: understanding the effects on ecosystems & human health”.

This Call for Proposals issued by Rovaltain would finance projects of 2-year duration with a total max. budget of 20K euros.

The effects of environmental factors on living beings exposed during the early stages of life is still under-addressed today. In particular, this window of exposure is known as crucial for development, and it is important to raise the question of consequences on further life stages in terms of the main physiological functions, e.g., reproduction, behaviour, feeding. This call targets projects that address one or more of the following elements:

Study of the effects of exposure to environmental stressors during the first stages of life in organisms:

- Study of the effects of chemical contaminants; in this case, only projects focusing on emerging contaminants will be considered.
- Study of the effects of other categories of stressors: physical, e.g., exposure to radiation, extreme temperatures, electromagnetism, noise; biological, e.g., exposure to viruses; psychosocial...
- Projects including potential effects of climate change would be particularly appreciated.
- Projects that address the question of early exposure to contaminants in socially deprived groups, e.g. people living close to industrial poles, refineries; study of the link between social inequality and incidence of pathologies, e.g. cancer, would be particularly appreciated.
- Partnerships with social science research teams to analyse regulatory and/or public engagement issues would be particularly appreciated.

N.B. The call is open to ecotoxicological, toxicological, epidemiological, ecological or social sciences research teams.

Characteristics of the proposals

Research projects proposed under the RT2E program must be innovative projects. Projects such as pilot studies would be particularly appreciated.

Projects must have one or several clearly identified objectives and the potential to contribute to the development of future research projects through co-financing or other funding sources.

These research projects may be led by a single team or involve several partner teams. Public/private collaborations are welcome but only a French public team can receive funding.

The financial support granted to the projects will not exceed 20,000 euros, the maximum duration of the projects being fixed at two years. The rules applicable to financing are detailed below.

Review of project proposals

The main steps of the selection procedure are as follows:

- Examination of the eligibility of project proposals by the Rovaltain Foundation according to the criteria presented below;
- Peer review by external experts selected by the Rovaltain Foundation (Oct. 2022);
- Evaluation of project proposals by the International Scientific Council (SC) of the Rovaltain Foundation based on the external reviews (Nov. 2022);
- Publication of the list of projects selected for funding (Dec. 2022);
- Finalisation of the scientific, financial, and administrative files for the selected projects (2023).

Eligibility of proposals and commitment of the project leader

The Rovaltain Foundation's examination of the eligibility of project proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- The call for research projects is open to French research teams from higher education and research institutions, research organisations and public institutions with a research mission. National or international partners are welcome. Partners of another nature are allowed, provided that they bring clearly established added value in the project.
- The credits allocated to the project will be paid to the project leader; he/she will manage the project's credits for the entire collaboration and will provide the scientific and financial report at the end of the project.

- The project leader must not be a member of the Rovaltain Foundation (board of directors, scientific council, ...).
- The duration of the project must not exceed 24 months.
- The financial support will not exceed 20,000 euros.
- The project leader must participate in the promotion and demonstration actions organised by the Rovaltain Foundation during the project period and during the 12 months following its closure (maximum 2 solicitations).
- Proposal must be written in English.

Evaluation of proposals

Projects submitted under the RT2E framework are evaluated by external experts identified by the Rovaltain Foundation. The evaluation is carried out on the basis of the following criteria:

- Quality of the project, in particular its innovative nature and the integration of different disciplinary fields.
- Feasibility. Methodological choices and ability of the consortium to carry out the proposed project according to the proposed schedule will be evaluated. The CV of the principal investigator, included in the proposal template, should demonstrate how his/her past experience fits with the proposed project.
- The quality / expertise of the team will be analysed in terms of its relevance to the objectives set out by the project. The involvement of foreign partners is possible.
- The adequacy of the financial demand in relation to the project's scope.
- The potential leverage effect of the project for starting new collaborative research activities.

Based on the assessments provided by the external reviewers and the Scientific Council, a ranking of the projects will be established and submitted to the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

Ethics - animal experimentation

Projects requiring the use of animal testing within the meaning of European Directive 2010/63/EU must respect the regulations in force at the national level, particularly in terms of obtaining experiment authorisations. The organisation responsible for implementing these experiments and its approval number should be clearly indicated in the project submission document. Where the experimental project has already received a favourable opinion from the competent authorities, the authorisation number must also be indicated in the proposal.

Funding rules

The financial support granted to the projects will not exceed 20,000 euros. Eligible expenses are those strictly necessary for the implementation of the project. They include:

- Staff costs, namely the wages of fixed-term contracts, vacations, social charges, internship bonuses and payroll taxes included.
- If the project is co-funded, the nature and amount of co-financing must be specified.
- Operating expenses including laboratory costs (purchase of products or consumables), publication costs, travel expenses for permanent or temporary staff assigned to the project (in particular, participation in promotional events organised by the Foundation), conference registration fees related to the project.
- Subcontracting, the cost of which must remain less than 30% of the total amount of the grant, unless the project leader is able to justify an exception.

Budget Template:

Categories	Rovaltain Foundation funding	Other funding	Self-funding	Total
Staff cost				
Small equipment				
Consumables				
Reagents				
Analysis kits				
Subcontracting of analyses (< 30% of the total budget)				
Travels (meetings and conferences)				
Structure costs (< 4% of the total budget)				
Communication				
TOTAL				



FONDATION
ROVALTAIN
Pour la recherche en Environnement

RESEARCH PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND ECOTOXICOLOGY

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2022

**Effects and consequences of early exposures to
environmental stressors: from humans to ecosystems**

THE DOCUMENT MUST BE RETURNED
COMPLETED AND SIGNED, IN PDF FORMAT, NO
LATER THAN **JUN 30TH** AT 12 AM VIA EMAIL TO

CONTACT@FCSROVALTAIN.ORG

FONDATION ROVALTAIN

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SITE WEB : WWW.FCSROVALTAIN.ORG

SIRET : 798 715 033 00030 – CODE APE : 9499Z

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2022**Effects and consequences of early exposures to environmental stressors: from humans to ecosystems**

Project title	
Acronym	
Project leader (name & lab)	
Duration	
Requested grand	
Abstract (300 word max)	
Résumé non confidentiel en français (300 mot max)	
Key-words	

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Project context (1 page max)

Describe why your research is scientifically and socially relevant.

Objectives (1 page max)

Describe the main objectives of the project

State of the art (1 page max)

Innovative aspects of the project, leverage effect
& perspectives
(1 page)

Describe how your project will open new pathways in your research domain, how you plan to leverage the grant from the Fondation Rovaltain, and how you plan to develop your research after the end of the grant.

Methodology and provisional schedule (1 page)

Describe the specific objectives of the project, as well as the methodology and the steps planned to reach them.

Project leader curriculum vitae (1 page)

Indicate your ORCID number, personal webpage, and all elements relevant with your proposal (5 more relevant papers, previous and present founding, students...)

References (not included in the page limits)

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Budget breakdown

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Reagents				
Analysis kits				
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Travels (meetings and conferences)				
Structure costs (< 4% of the total budget)				
Communication				
TOTAL				

DATE :

Project leader SIGNATURE :