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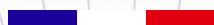
# **Call for proposals**

## **"Autonomy: ageing and disability"**

### **Round 2**

Closing date: 17/03/2023 at 11:00 am (CET)

Consultation page for the call for proposals: <http://anr.fr/ppravh-2022>



# Summary

This call for proposals falls under the Priority Research Programme (PRR) on autonomy (ageing and disability). Led by the CNRS, this PRR aims to structure the research community and fund ambitious long-term multidisciplinary and collaborative research projects on underexplored science issues.

This programme should result in major scientific and technical advances to help France meet human, social, demographic, health, and economic challenges, by adapting both the policies in these areas but also the environment in which people with disabilities or losing their autonomy live or are likely to live in the future.

Clinical, medical, or medico-technical approaches are expected to be exceeded in favour of larger approaches that include the collective and social aspects of disability and the ageing process.

Research communities are invited to take advantage of the funding opportunities provided in this call, which are of an exceptional nature and differ from recurrent research funding. Its terms and conditions in the field of autonomy are unprecedented, whether in terms of consortia composition, project length, grant allocated or support to be provided through the implementation of a specific scientific management system.

The research projects funded under this call will last 3 to 5 years. The grant requested shall be between €1 and 3.5 million for each project. The call for proposals has a €19 million budget.

A first call focusing on the 1st (design and use of the concept of autonomy) and 2nd challenge (public autonomy policies) was launched in Summer 2021, and its 4 winning proposals were announced in Spring 2022.

This call for proposals covers the 3rd (life situations and experiences of becoming autonomous and of autonomy being reduced) and 4th challenge (design, reception and usage of innovative tools and experiments).

The 3rd challenge aims to analyse the circumstances, situations, and experiences of becoming autonomous and of autonomy being reduced, both from the point of view of institutional and contextual factors, and from the point of view of individuals, according to their characteristics and personal trajectories.

The 4th challenge aims to study the design, reception and use of innovative tools and experiments, whether technological, social, organisational, etc., in terms of compensation, replacement, adaptation of the environment and human support for people with a view to their autonomy. Of particular interest will be to assess the effects of disability and loss of autonomy, in terms of preserving and activating autonomy and self-determination in all its components (functional, physical, citizen, relational, etc.).

## Keywords

Access to rights, acceptability, accessibility, support (human, technological), adaptability, organisation, carers, decision-making support, reasonable accommodation, learning, diachronic/longitudinal approach, assistance, autonomy, becoming autonomous, empowerment / incapacity, sensors, cognition, compensation, universal design, social / living / working conditions, confidentiality, discrimination, tools, environment, personal experience / collective experiences on independent living, facilitation, data management, adapted habitat or housing, AI, inclusion, inequalities, innovation, social interactions, intersectionality, isolation, mobility, digital, connected objects, social participation, perception, preventing loss of autonomy, professionals, forward-looking, virtual reality, participatory research, recourse / non-recourse, network, robotics/social robotics, safety, autonomy / disability, support, stimulation, replacement, system, teleassistance, cognitive disorders, mental disorders, use / non-use, smart city.

## Important dates

### Closing date of the call for proposals

The submission dossier must absolutely be electronically submitted, including documents signed by the legal representative of each Partner Institution before:

**17 March 2023 at 11:00 am (CET)**

at:

<https://france2030.agencerecherche.fr/ppr-avh-v2/accueil.php>

### Webinar on

**09/12/2022 from 09:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Registration link:

<https://cnrs.zoom.us/meeting/register/tj0rceigqDlrGNycEh-jto72gPMHaxO1vpgy>

## ANR Contacts

**Scientific Project Manager: Marion Patte**

**Programme Manager: Michel Isingrini**

Please read carefully and thoroughly this document as well as the instructions available on the submission website:

<https://france2030.agencerecherche.fr/ppr-avh-v2/accueil.php>

For any question regarding the AAP: ppr-avh@anr.fr

# Summary

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# 1. The Priority Research Programme (PPR) Autonomy

On **11 February 2020**, during the 5th National Conference on Disability (CNH), the French Government committed to launching a major national research and technological innovation programme for everyday life and autonomy by using the **€30 million** budget, **over the 2021-2026 period**, from the 3rd Investment for the Future Plan included in France 2030. Like the various France 2030 rounds, this programme aims to **strengthen and structure national research focusing on autonomy**.

The **pre-figuration efforts** of the PPR, conducted by the CNRS in the first half of 2020, show that structuring initiatives have so far mostly targeted specific populations for which autonomy was a topic of interest. The same applies for many incentive and funding schemes, for which autonomy is a resulting aspect of research on diseases or cognition. Research support schemes may have been able to suggest autonomy as a main theme by adopting a predetermined, sometimes restrictive, e.g., technological, perspectives.

**Thus, the need for an ambitious research programme specifically targeting autonomy, in line with ageing or disability, was identified. It should make it possible to mobilise, using a broad spectrum, teams from all disciplinary fields opting to conduct research focusing clearly on autonomy, centrally and properly, and to consider interdisciplinary issues.**

**This programme should result in major scientific and technical advances** to help France meet human, social, demographic, health, and economic challenges, by **adapting** both the **policies** in these areas but also the **environment** in which people with disabilities or losing their autonomy live or are likely to live in the future.

This call, funded as part of the "Priority Research Programme", is of an exceptional nature and differs from recurrent research funding. The **funding allocated** constitutes **additional resources intended for new actions** for higher education and research institutions.

**Research communities are invited to take advantage of the funding opportunities provided in this call**, whose terms and conditions, in the field of autonomy, are unprecedented, whether in terms of consortia composition, project length, grant allocated - providing the opportunity to offer, within a consortium, a support function and support to conduct research - or support to be provided through the implementation of a specific scientific management system.

A first call focusing on the 1st (design and use of the concept of autonomy) and 2nd challenge (public autonomy policies) was launched in Summer 2021, and its 4 winning proposals were announced in Spring 2022<sup>1</sup>.

**This call for proposals covers the 3rd (life situations and experiences of becoming autonomous and of autonomy being reduced) and 4th challenge (design, reception and usage of innovative tools and experiments).**

<sup>1</sup> [Read the introduction for all winning proposals \(PDF, 370Ko\).](#)

## 2. Objectives of the call for proposals

### 2.1. Projects expected

This call for proposals aims to **revive perspectives, methods and solutions supported by research on autonomy issues**, in line with ageing and disability: community renewal and opening of communities (training through research and researchers from other disciplinary fields, relations with stakeholders and users), themes, theories, methodologies, etc.

More specifically, it involves **shedding light**, through the production of new and unprecedented knowledge, **on life situations and experiences of becoming autonomous and of autonomy being reduced (challenge 3), and the design, reception and usage of innovative tools and experiments (challenge 4)**.

Under this call, **clinical, medical, or medico-technical approaches** (with their own funding (see part 7.1)) are expected **to be exceeded in favour of larger approaches** that include the collective and social aspects of disability (socio-historical period, socio-economic and environmental inequalities) and the ageing process (which social sciences especially address).

This call intends to promote **cross-vision through multidisciplinary approaches**. Based on a jointly developed research strategy, organising at least the contributions of each party while including them in an overall framework, the projects expected must foster the improvement of research methods and prospects. Consortia are also expected to **explain how the issue of autonomy will be understood, developed, and examined**, regardless of the other scientific issues addressed in the projects. The aim is to **draw on the contribution of social sciences and humanities together with other disciplines**, such as engineering, information, health, digital, environmental sciences, etc. This well-integrated multidisciplinary is fundamental, both from a scientific point of view - addressing autonomy issues is required -, and as a structuring element for French research communities.

Project coordinators will make sure to **bring together a relevant number of partners** (academic or not), while avoiding the juxtaposition of the various contributions (independent workpackages per teams, disciplines, etc.), or specific contributions in terms of themes, audiences, methods, etc.

This call for proposals covers two challenges (challenges 3 and 4). **Projects will address either or both challenges.**

### 2.2. Analysing the present to envision the future

The **3rd challenge aims to analyse the circumstances, situations and experiences of becoming autonomous and of autonomy being reduced, both from the point of view of institutional and contextual factors** (living, working, housing, public and private equipment, associations, access to social and health policies, etc.) **and from the point of view of individuals, according to their characteristics** (gender, social allegiance, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.) **and personal trajectories** (birth, diseases, accidents, age transitions).

Just as society's adaptive response to ageing or advocating for universal accessibility has forced public decision-makers to reflect, the aim is to address the research challenge on the circumstances, situations and experiences of autonomy or loss of autonomy in contemporary society and in tomorrow's society. The aim is to shed a descriptive, comprehensive, comparative, and prospective light on these diverse



circumstances, situations, and experiences, which were analysed as mechanisms involving stakeholders, objects, institutions, regulations, processes, etc.

**The objective is to question the consequences of changes in life configurations** (micro-meso- macro environments; physical, technological and social; presence or absence of information and professional carers; voluntary or imposed moving, etc.) **on the feeling of being autonomous and the ability to act and choose** people concerned by disability, the impacts of ageing, or both.

The project submitted could target existing tools (circumstances, situations, experiences) covering various areas of social life (housing, education and training, work, cultural life, leisure, sports and physical activity, elective and community life, parenting, sexuality, etc.) and various audiences in terms of age, social characteristics, and health.

The projects can rely on existing data (qualitative and/or quantitative), second analyses of existing research, or generate new data from circumstances, situations and experiences targeted by the research, which will be extensively described in their various material and relational components, while seeking to update and analyse the dynamics that facilitate or hinder the empowerment of their beneficiaries.

**Taking into consideration a prospective aspect** is strongly encouraged, in terms of prevention and organisation of living environments, to identify the environmental conditions of autonomy and propose, for public decision-making, efficient and innovative environmental, technical, and human solutions (these solutions are covered by the 4th challenge).

## 2.3. Innovate to support autonomy

**The 4th challenge aims to study the design, reception and usage of innovative tools and experiments**, (existing or non-existent, whether technological, social, organisational, etc.), in terms of compensation, replacement, adaptation of the environment and human support for people in the perspective of their autonomy. Whatever the areas of social life and the activities they target, the innovative virtual or real tools and experiments targeted by this call will aim as much as possible for the **involvement of users, from their design to their evaluation**. This will involve assessing **the impacts** on disability and the loss of autonomy, **in terms of autonomy preservation and activation and the self-determination in all its components** (functional, material, citizen, relational, etc.), both for the person itself, but also his/her relatives, professionals, and its long-term use for the general population.

These innovative tools and experiments may focus on **various areas of life** (communications, mobility, social relations, and interactions, etc.) **within the framework of various social activities** (work, leisure, education, housing, civil life, sports, and physical activities, etc.).

The projects expected in line with this 4th challenge, may focus on tools and experiments:

- Attached directly to the disabled persons with loss of autonomy, their living environment, or carers. They may focus on human, technological, material, or mixed support tools, mobilise digital approaches, statistical survey, cohorts, or ethnographical data, etc.,
- Acting on the interaction between the person and his/her physical and social environments by encouraging the expression of forms of autonomy at different scales (home, neighbourhood, city, territory, etc.) and its various components,



- Acting on the environment itself, from various fields and services (town planning, architecture, transportation and mobility, school, leisure, and culture, etc.) as well as the links between these components,
- Targeting the consequences of loss of autonomy or disability (e.g., difficulty moving, access to services, etc.), or of a more universal scope for better integration to social life (e.g., communication or mobility support tools, access to culture) and preventing this loss of autonomy.

## 2.4. Project length and grant amount

The research projects funded under this call will last **3 to 5 years**. The grant allocated under France 2030 will be **between €1 and 3.5 million maximum by project**. **All projects must include a “training through research” component**, by funding master’s, doctoral and post-doctoral students in charge of conducting the research project. The call for proposals has a **€19 million budget**.

# 3. Cross-cutting scientific management

The CNRS, in charge of leading the PPR Autonomy, aims to manage and support the scientific communities funded within the framework of the calls for proposals launched by the ANR, and thus achieve a **“programme effect”**. The aim is to foster the dialogue on the projects funded within each challenge, between the challenges<sup>2</sup>, with a large scientific community (including internationally), and civil society.

This scientific management programme can be achieved by means of regular exchanges led by the PPR Autonomy project team, intended for all or part of the projects funded and its groups, under various formats (national and international symposiums, working groups, seminars, webinars, summer schools, etc.)

One aspect of this programme will be focusing on research data issues, particularly the collective support for projects seeking to commit to the dissemination of data (quantitative or qualitative) that will be collected, programmes, methodological support, etc.

Funded communities are expected to actively take part in this scientific management programme.

# 4. Evaluation of the projects submitted

## 4.1. Presentation of the selection process

**The PPR Autonomy’s Scientific Board is not involved in the project selection.**

Eligible projects (see part 2) will be **assessed by an independent and international scientific panel**, whose members are selected by the ANR and approved by the French

<sup>2</sup> Both challenges 3 and 4 of this call, but also challenges 1 and 2 included in the previous call.

Committee on Education, Research, and Innovation Ecosystems (CEERI). The composition of the panel implies that all projects should be drafted in English.

If necessary, the panel may call upon **external peer reviews** and conduct a hearing (in English) with pre-selected project coordinators.

Following its proceedings, **the panel will provide the CEERI** with a report including:

- The **marks given to the projects assessed**, in accordance with the evaluation criteria (see part 4.3),
- **The list of projects recommended for funding by the panel**,
- **The list of projects not recommended for funding by the panel** due to insufficient quality on at least one of the evaluation criteria, or at least one of the elements listed above.

Each project assessed will be the subject of an argument justifying its position on one of the two lists. The panel may submit an opinion on the amount of funding requested.

The CEERI shall submit the projects that could be funded and the amount that could be permanently allocated to them, to the French General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI). **The Prime Minister, after receiving the opinion of the SGPI, chooses the recipients and the amounts granted.**

Each project shall be the subject of a contract between the ANR and the project coordinating institution, detailing the mutual obligations of the parties.

The members of the evaluation panel and external peer reviewers called upon undertake to comply with the rules of ethics and scientific integrity set up by the ANR. The ANR's Ethics Charter is available on its website. The ANR ensures strict compliance with the rules of confidentiality, the absence of personal connections between panel members or external peer reviewers and project coordinators, as well as the absence of conflicts of interest for panel members and external peer reviewers. If there is a duly noted breach, the ANR reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary to remedy the situation.

The composition of the evaluation panel will be posted on the call for proposals publication website at the end of the selection process.

## 4.2. Acceptability criteria

The dossiers that do not meet the acceptability criteria will not be submitted to the scientific panel and will in no way be eligible for funding.

- 1) The submission dossier, which includes the scientific document written in English (15 pages maximum) and the administrative and financial document, must be deposited digitally, under the format requested, on the ANR submission website before the closing date of the call for proposals listed in pages 1 and 4. The commitment letters signed by each Partner Institution and scanned must be filed on the ANR submission website at the time and date listed in pages 1 and 4.
- 2) The scientific document of the project must follow the template available on the call for proposals website and be submitted under unprotected PDF format.
- 3) Projects must last 3 to 5 years and seek €1 to 3.5 million funding.
- 4) The Coordinating Institution must be a higher education and research institution.

## 4.3. Evaluation criteria

The projects will be reviewed by the scientific panel according to the following criteria:

- 1) **Contribution to the general objective** of the calls for proposals, **relevance of the project with regard to the general objective** of the programme and its **priorities and expectations** (see part 2),
- 2) **Scientific excellence:**
  - **Clarity and relevance of the objectives, research hypotheses and methodological choices of the project,**
  - **Quality of the results already achieved by the members of the consortium,** including in other fields than those covered by the call,
- 3) **Quality of the consortium:**
  - **Quality of the profile of the project manager and the coordinating team** of the consortium, especially with regard to its capacity to lead the project,
  - **Quality of the teams deployed** within the framework of the project,
  - Degree, nature, and clarity of the contributions from **multi- or interdisciplinary collaborations,**
  - **Degree** and nature of involvement of stakeholders in the field of autonomy,
  - **Ability to build international collaborations** and develop knowledge on international scientific production,
- 4) **Organisation and resources deployed:**
  - **Appropriateness of the human and financial resources** deployed to achieve the objectives of the project,
  - Quality of the consortium's **governance arrangements,**
  - Quality of **the work organisation** implemented within the consortium (between teams, between researchers, between disciplines, with stakeholders, etc.),
  - Relevance of the **project timeline** (timetable) and the **proposed intermediate and final deliverables,**
- 5) **Impacts:**
  - Quality of the **scientific dissemination system,**
  - Quality of the **promotion system intended for stakeholders** in the field of autonomy,
  - In terms of future theoretical and methodological impacts and innovations or in terms of public and intervention policies.

# 5. General provisions for funding

## 5.1. Funding

Eligible expenses are specified in the financial regulation on the allocation of grants. Financial support will be provided in the form of a grant, whose disbursement is made by the ANR for the project coordinating institution, according to the timetable set out in the agreement, over the duration of the project. Only higher education and research institutions with corporate personality can benefit from such support.

## 5.2. Consortium agreements

Partnership-based funded projects must enter into a Consortium Agreement specifying the rights and obligations of each Partner Institution involved in the project. This agreement specifies:

- The distribution of financial allocation, tasks, and deliverables between the different partners, as well as the human and financial resources mobilised by the latter,
- The scientific, technical, and financial terms to access the resources shared between the partners,
- The terms to exploit the results achieved at the end of the research and share their intellectual and industrial property,

The Consortium Agreement must demonstrate that, for projects that include one or more partners such as an association or a company, said partners do not benefit from indirect funding.

This Consortium Agreement may be revised throughout the research, if warranted, and within the limits of the initial funding granted (e.g., to consider the involvement of a new partner).

## 5.3. Open Science

As part of the ANR's contribution to the promotion and implementation of Open Science, and in line with the French National Plan for Open Science (NPOS) and International Plan S, recipients of the France 2030 grant undertake to ensure immediate open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications and to adopt, for research data, a FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) approach in line with the "as open as possible and as closed as necessary" principle. Thus, all scientific publications from projects funded within the framework of this PEPR will be available in open access, under the Creative Commons CC-BY license or equivalent, using one of the three following methods:

- publication in a natively open access journal,
- publication in a subscription journal that is part of a transformative agreement or transformative journal<sup>3</sup>,
- publication in a subscription journal. The publisher's version or the manuscript accepted for publication will be deposited in the Open archive HAL by its authors, under a CC-BY license, implementing the Rights Retention Strategy (RRS), according to the terms specified in the Special Conditions of the Funding Decision or Agreement.

Furthermore, the Coordinating Institution undertakes to ensure that the full text of these scientific publications (version approved for publication or publisher's version) is deposited in the national Open archive HAL, no later than the time of publication, and to mention the ANR reference of the research project from which they result.

The ANR encourages the deposit of pre-prints in open platforms or archives, and to privilege permanent or unique login details (e.g., DOI or HAL Id). In addition, the ANR recommends that priority be given to publications in natively open access journals or

<sup>3</sup> Definition of a [transformative agreement](https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/) or [transformative journal](https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/) : <https://www.coalition-s.org/faq-theme/publication-fees-costs-prices-business-models/>

books<sup>4</sup>.

Finally, the Coordinating Institution agrees to provide, within 6 months after the start of the project, a first version of the Data Management Plan (DMP), under the terms and conditions set out in the Grant Agreement.

## 6. Terms of submission

### 6.1. Content of the submission dossier

#### IMPORTANT

No additional element will be accepted after the closing for the submission of the call for proposals, whose date and time are listed in page 4.

The submission dossier shall include all the elements necessary for the scientific and technical evaluation of the project. It must be deposited before the closing of the call for proposals, whose date and time are listed in pages 1 and 4.

No additional element will be accepted after the closing for the submission of the call for proposals, whose date and time are listed in pages 1 and 4.

The documents are to be deposited on the submission website whose address is listed in page 4. To access this service, opening an account first is required (username and password). It is recommended to register as soon as possible to obtain those elements.

The **full submission dossier** consists of **three fully completed documents written in English**:

- The **scientific document**, which includes a description of the proposed project, under the format provided. It should not exceed 15 pages (minimum font size: 11, Times New Roman or equivalent), with an appended list of scientific publications made within the last 3 years by the researchers or team submitting the project,
- The **administrative and financial document**, which includes the administrative and budgetary description of the project,
- The **commitment letters** signed by the Partner Institutions.

The elements of the submission dossier (administrative and financial document in Excel format, of the scientific document and commitment letter in Word format) will be available on the publication page of this call for proposals (see the URL on page 1).

### 6.2. Submission procedure

The **documents of this submission dossier are to be sent in electronic format** by the Scientific and Technical Project Manager:

- Before the closing date listed in pages 1 and 4 of this document),
- On the submission website, as recommended.

Prior registration on the submission website is required to submit a project.

Only the electronic version of the submission documents available on the submission website when this call for proposals closes will be considered for assessment.

<sup>4</sup> The DOAJ website (<https://doaj.org/>) lists peer-reviewed open access scientific journals. The same applies to the DOAB website (<https://www.doabooks.org/>) but with monographs.

An **acknowledgement of receipt**, in electronic format, will be sent to the Scientific and Technical Project Manager once the documents are submitted.

NB: The signature of the commitment letters certifies that project partners agree to submit the project in compliance with the conditions described in the administrative and financial document as well as the scientific document and its potential appendices.

## 6.3. Submission advice

It is strongly advised to:

- Open an account on the submission website at the earliest,
- Not wait until the deadline for submission of projects to enter data online and upload files (please note that the submission deadline must be respected),
- Check that the documents submitted in the dedicated areas under the headings "submission documents" and "signed documents" are complete and consistent with the expected elements. The submission dossier and the filing of signed documents can only be approved by the Scientific and Technical Project Manager if all the documents have been uploaded,
- Regularly consult the programme's dedicated website at the address listed in page 1, which includes up-to-date information on its operation,
- Contact, if necessary, the correspondents by email at the address listed in page 4 of this document.

# 7. Appendices

## 7.1. Other possible sources of funding

As described in the "General objective of the call", projects are expected to **overcome clinical, medical, or medico-technical approaches on the concept of age and disability**, in favour of larger approaches that include other historical, socio-economic, and environmental aspects. These approaches are supported, in fact, by other sources of funding, the main ones being listed below:

- **The "Technologies for Health and Autonomy" (TecSan) call led by the ANR** between 2005 and 2014, which has since become a regular subpriority in its Generic Call for Proposals (AAPG)<sup>5</sup>. This research area provides financial support of several million euros to interdisciplinary research projects covering engineering and system sciences applied to new concepts, tools, and methods in technologies for e-Health and disability and autonomy compensation,
- **The European "Active Assisted Living (AAL)" programme led by the ANR** in France between 2008 and 2012<sup>6</sup>, which sought to create better living conditions for the elderly and promote the use of communication and information technologies, to strengthen the European leadership in silver economy,
- **Research programmes funded by the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health**<sup>7</sup>, with projects that may be eligible for grants of several million euros:

<sup>5</sup> [Go to the AAPG 2022 page on the ANR's website.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Go to the AAP page on the AAL programme website.](#)

<sup>7</sup> The French Clinical Research Programme (PHRC), the French Health Economic Research Programme (PRME), the French Research Programme on Healthcare System Performance (PREPS) and the French Nursing and Paramedical



- The French Clinical Research Programme (PHRC) aims to improve human health and the progress of care techniques while respecting the individual,
- The French Health Economic Research Programme (PRME) aims to evaluate the health technology efficiency - i.e., the cost/quality ratio,
- The French Research Programme on Healthcare System Performance (PREPS) assesses professional institutions that improve care and practice quality,
- The French Nursing and Paramedical Hospital Research Programme (PHRIP) supports innovative procedures that promote the improvement of medical attendant practices and, thus, the quality of the care provided to patients,
- The Translational Research Programme (PRT) ensures that the discoveries stemming from basic research are applied in practical terms in clinical research,
- **The Structures 3.0 calls from the French Digital Health Agency**<sup>8</sup>, which aim to experiment and evaluate in real-life conditions new e-Health solutions and uses in social and medico-social institution and departments (ESSMS),
- **The i-Lab Innovation Contest led by BPI**<sup>9</sup>, which aims to identify projects for the creation of innovative technology companies, and support the best among them through a grant (€600,000) and adapted support,
- **The “Third-party trial sites” call for proposals**<sup>10</sup>, which aim, under the “Digital Health” acceleration strategy, to fund third-party sites, between 2022 and 2024, to help the assessment, trial, and emergence of new innovative solutions in digital health.

The PPR Autonomy is also noteworthy because of its size, extent, and length, with regard to other autonomy research support programme, such as:

- **The annual programme “Autonomy: the elderly and people with disabilities” from IReSP**<sup>11</sup>, which aims to produce knowledge in social sciences and humanities and public health, in line with public action challenges restricted to the CNSA’s missions, with projects of €250,000 maximum, over no more than four years,
- **The French International Foundation of Applied Disability Research (FIRAH)’s annual programme**<sup>12</sup>, which supports applied research over three years maximum, with €10,000 grants, and contributing to the improvement of autonomy, quality of life and social involvement of people with disabilities.

The applicants to the call must also consider **the announcement made in Summer 2022 regarding the launch of an Exploratory Priority Research Programme (PEPR) O2R dedicated to robotics**. It aims to address questions and issues on robot integration within our lives and society and proposes to implement robotics that are socially adapted in its principles, behaviour, performances and uses, and also open to the complexity of society issues. This exploratory research programme will rely on a multidisciplinary approach that includes social sciences and humanities,

Hospital Research Programme (PHRIP) [Go to the research programme page on the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health website.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Go to the “Structures 3.0” AAP page on the French Digital Health Agency.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Go to the i-Lab Innovation Contest page on the BPI website.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Go to the AAP “Third-party trial sites” page on the French Government’s website.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Go to the Autonomy Programme page on the IReSP website \(new browser window\).](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Go to the AAP page on the FIRAH website \(new browser window\).](#)



digital and engineering sciences.

## 7.2. Preparatory work for this call for proposals

### The publication of a call for expressions of interest

On 18 February 2022, the ANR published a call for expressions of interest (AMI) in preparation for this call<sup>13</sup>, with the following objectives:

- To supplement, deepen and move the research issues/themes pre-identified by the Scientific Board, with a view to drafting the future call for proposals,
- To identify - at least in part - the research involved,
- To bring together the people working on the same subjects, consolidate the projects and build consortia,
- To equip the research community to strengthen the chances of projects being funded under the future AAP (interdisciplinarity, participatory research, etc.).

Seventy-seven letters of intent were received. **This was not a pre-selection stage.** The responses submitted to this AAP do not require to go through the AMI stage.

### The organisation of a preparatory workshops cycle

Following the publication of the AMI, three workshops<sup>14</sup> were held to:

- Present the PPR Autonomy and a review of all letters of intent, and discuss the spirit of this call (27 April),
- Discuss the perspective of interdisciplinarity and participatory research (25 May),
- Present the terms of project submission and selection, open science, and data issues, and also discuss the concept of autonomy and the contribution of living labs in the innovation process.

The discussions held during these workshops provided feedback for the PPR Autonomy's Scientific Board responsible for the drafting of this call. Some elements are listed in the "General objective of the call" (part XX), other are listed below, so they can be brought to the attention of everyone, as they represent **the desired guidance towards keeping on structuring research in the field of autonomy.**

### Set up of consortia that include the user and his/her environment at the heart of innovation processes

Consortia seeking to engage in issues related to innovative tools and experiments (technological, organisational, etc.) are invited to commit to **ambitious approaches to jointly elaborate solutions based on user expectations**, mobilising experiential knowledge as much as possible throughout the innovation process (not limited to innovation acceptability issues).

Beyond the single maturity of the innovative tool or experiment proposed, the aim is to consider its proximity with user expectations (person affected by disability or the age-related loss of autonomy, carer, support professional, etc.), and **its compliance with the environment** in which it intends to be involved (regulatory framework, organisational model, social, family and spatial pattern, etc.). Considering these elements throughout the life of a project should prevent the development of a tool or experiment that does not take into sufficient account the diversity of uses

<sup>13</sup> [For more information on this AMI, go to the ANR's website.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Download the summary for all preparatory workshops \(PDF, 672Ko\).](#)

circumstances and expectations.

### **The involvement in consortia of stakeholders in the field of autonomy**

**The involvement of stakeholders** in the field of autonomy (people concerned, professionals, carers, public stakeholders, etc.) **was encouraged**.

It may **happen in all or part of the research stages**: development of the research issue, data acquisition, data analysis, result exploitation and dissemination.

**It aims to advance knowledge by collaborating with various stakeholders**, ensuring the scientific nature of the results and their inclusion in social objectives. This means **generating “mixed” scientific knowledge** from the dual expertise of academic and non-academic stakeholders. To this end, the results stemming from this alliance are likely to be well received within public decision-making and support stakeholders, and people dealing with autonomy issues (ageing and disability). This type of project also **aims to transform the practices** of the stakeholders involved, whether or not they are researchers, and to enhance their value.

It was reported that this collaboration could be achieved by means of a provision of services to the coordinating institution or partner institution (under the rules for public tenders). It may also mean implementing a mixed or non-academic research committee.

### **The inclusion of research projects in the international scientific production on autonomy-related issues**

This call aims to fund French research that is part of the international scientific production. Consortia are invited to **establish relationships and join international networks likely to fuel their work** over the course of their research.

This collaboration may be achieved through co-supervised theses, mobility schemes for members of the consortium (e.g., post-docs or contract researchers conducting fieldwork abroad) or the provision of services to the coordinating institution or partner institution (under the rules for public tenders). It may also mean implementing an international research monitoring committee.

The objective is to include the efforts in the international scientific discussion, strengthen the ability to compare, understand and interpret the “French approach” to issues related to the autonomy of disabled or ageing people.

### **Exploitation and re-use of existing data**

The Scientific Board strongly encouraged researchers and their partners, during preparatory workshops, to **include, within the framework of their projects, existing quantitative or qualitative data**.

These may be survey data, particularly from official statistics<sup>15</sup>, administrative data, research data (quantitative and qualitative) specifically produced or not, to shed light on autonomy-related issues. This data set, some of which is regularly updated, should be considered as major research equipment. **The purpose is to renew knowledge by extending the data used in their projects, crossing them, and putting them up for discussion**.

<sup>15</sup> [Go to the statistical data on disability and autonomy page on the DREES website](#). Mapping data on disability, generated by official statistics, is available for download.



**GOUVERNEMENT**



## **Contacts**

Information about the administrative process (compiling the application, online procedures, aid rate) may be obtained from the ANR at:

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