



**2025**

# **Calls for proposals L'Initiative**

Questions raised during the webinar « info session on the call for proposals of L'Initiative » on 2 December 2024.

**Strengthening Health Systems at all levels  
(Community to national)**

**&**

**Strengthening the role of key and vulnerable populations in  
relation to HIV, Tuberculosis and/or malaria to improve their  
health and well-being**

**&**

**Operational Research : Resistances**

**Deadline for calls: 21 JANUARY 2025 AT 12 : 00 NOON (UTC+1)**

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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

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***Will we have access to the webinar recording?***

The webinar is recorded in French and English.

We will make these recordings available to you on L'Initiative website.

***Should the project start at the beginning of November 2025? How long will it take for the contract to be signed?***

The project will start at the end of the negotiations, and the start of November is indicated in the timetable as the starting date for the negotiations leading up to the signing of the agreement. In fact, if the selection committee makes the selection of your entire project conditional on changes to your project or indicates recommendations to be taken into account, you may have to make adjustments to the proposed methodology or to the documents submitted before the agreement is signed. So a start date of November 2025 is possible, if the selection of your project is not conditional, but it can also be postponed to a later date, if the negotiations take a long time. The project could therefore start as early as November/December 2025, but it could be delayed until at least the first quarter of 2026 if negotiations take longer than expected.

***Is L'Accélérateur's call for expressions of interest (CEI) also affected by this limitation on applications?***

No, L'Accélérateur CEI is independent of the 5 calls for projects published on 21 November 2024. If you wish, you can read the CEI guidelines. You will find all the information you need on L'Initiative website:

<https://linitiative.expertisefrance.fr/en/call-for-proposals/cei-2025-step-up-the-fight-to-malaria-through-community-based-approaches/>

***We work with disadvantaged young people in Cameroon. Health is one of our pillars, alongside education and rugby.***

***Have you already put organisations in touch to respond to your appeal?***

L'initiative does not network or help to set up a consortium. We invite you to contact the national coordinating body (CCM) of the country where L'initiative is being implemented and/or the French Embassy. You can also contact structures or networks with which you could cooperate.

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## APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY

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### ***Can commercial organisations also apply as lead applicants?***

Yes, there is nothing to prevent a for-profit organisation from applying as lead applicant.

However, the selection committee will assess the relevance of the proposed partnership arrangement and your role as lead applicant in the project.

### ***Could a university with a legal entity based in one of the 38 eligible countries be eligible as lead applicant?***

Yes, this institution could be eligible, but will most likely have to co-finance the project (minimum 10% of the total amount of the project).

### ***Can a local CSO submit a proposal on its own?***

A local CSO may submit a project on its own, with the proposed Action being implemented in a single country (single-country project) if it is legally registered in the country in which it will implement the project. The evaluation committee will assess the relevance of the proposed methodology, implemented by a single actor.

Please refer to the lead applicant eligibility criteria in the guidelines (section 4. Eligibility criteria) to assess whether you are eligible as a lead applicant.

### ***Can a community-based organisation apply for this call for proposals?***

***We are based in Cameroon and work in the field of monitoring and support for vulnerable people whose vulnerability is linked to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.***

Yes, a community-based organisation can apply to the calls for proposals as long as it is legally registered in one of the eligible countries (or in France) and meets the eligibility criteria defined in the guidelines. Legal registration means that the organisation must have its board of directors/decision-making body in the eligible country, have a registered office at a local address and comply with the social and tax legislation of the eligible country.

### ***We have a regional programme and are registered in some countries (e.g. Cameroon) but with liaison offices in other countries. Is a liaison office considered by the Initiative as a registration (to meet the requirement that we must be registered in the countries in which we are going to implement the project)?***

The lead applicant must be a legal entity that is legally registered in one of the eligible countries (or in France) and can prove in its registration document that it has a board of directors/management committee in one of the eligible countries and that it has a registered office at a local address. If the lead applicant is not legally registered in the country in which it wishes to implement the action, he must have one or more partners legally registered in the country of implementation. The liaison office mentioned in the country of implementation is not taken into account in the study of eligibility criteria. However, it may be taken into account in the evaluation of the project, if the project is eligible for evaluation.

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***Our headquarters are in the United States, but we are legally registered in each of the countries that are implementing the project and are among the eligible countries. So (1) can we apply as the lead applicant? (2) can one organisation apply for two eligible countries?***

1) You can only apply as a lead applicant if you are legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries + France. To be legally registered, you must have your board of directors present in this eligible country and have a local address as shown in the proof of registration. In your case, if your registered office and board of management are in the United States, your organisation does not appear to meet the eligibility criteria for lead applicants. However, you could apply as a partner and receive up to 15% of the delegated budget.

2) If you are eligible, you may only submit a maximum of 2 projects under a single call, and 3 projects in total under all of L'Initiative's 2025 calls for proposals, i.e. the 5 calls published on 20 November 2024.

You can therefore apply for 2 different eligible countries. If you are not legally registered in the second country (see definition in the guidelines), you will have to submit your project with a partner legally registered in this other eligible country.

***Our headquarters are in the United States, but our various national programme offices are also registered as INGOs in the respective countries in which they operate. For example, we are registered as an INGO in Thailand and plan to submit a grant application as the lead applicant for a proposed project in Thailand. Are we eligible?***

The lead applicant must be a legal entity with its board of directors/management committee and registered office in one of the 38 eligible countries or in France.

You must therefore prove that your organisation has its board of directors in Thailand. An authorisation to operate as an INGO in the country is not sufficient.

***Our organisation, based in Myanmar, is a faith-based organisation and one of the local CSOs. Is it possible to submit a proposal without being registered?***

***Our organisation only has a letter of recognition from the Myitkyina diocese of the Catholic Church.***

No. Any organisation applying as lead applicant or partner must be legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries + France.

***The eligibility rules state that the lead applicant must be legally registered and have a board of directors/management committee and a registered office in the eligible country. Can a management team be considered a 'management committee'?***

A management team cannot be considered as a 'steering committee'. The board of directors/decision-making body must be officially registered in the country where the project is being implemented. This board must be able to decide on the structure and very existence of the project in and from the country. A management team taking its instructions from a decision-making body not located in the country of registration is not enough.

***We are a foreign direct investment (FDI) social enterprise registered in Vietnam (a lower middle income country). We are wholly owned by an Australian university, but operate as a limited company in Vietnam. The Board of Directors is based in Australia, while the Executive Director and staff are based locally in Vietnam. Can you confirm our eligibility?***

The Board of Directors must be based in Vietnam. For the specific situation of organisations in Vietnam, we would nevertheless ask you to explain the special status of 'limited liability companies' under Vietnamese law and how this justifies your particular set-up.

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***Can a company working in the health sector, specifically in supporting health facilities in resource management, including HRH and health promotion, be taken on as a partner?***

There is nothing in the guidelines to prevent a private-sector organisation, such as a company, from being a partner in a project. However, this company must be legally registered in the country where the Action will be implemented. If it is not registered in the country where the Action is to be implemented, the budgetary delegation that may be made to this/these partner(s) must not exceed a total of 15% of the Expertise France grant, regardless of the number of implementing partners registered in a non-eligible country.

However, the proposed consortium set-up will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee, which will assess its coherence and quality.

***We are a branch of an international organisation. We have a local registration in Cameroon but we only have a board of directors in Washington DC, which manages the entire organisation, and not a local board of directors. Are we eligible?***

To be eligible, your board of directors must be present in one of the 38 eligible countries + France.

Local registration, or authorisation to operate, granted to an international organisation does not represent legal registration in one of the 38 eligible countries + France, within the meaning of L'Initiative's CPF guidelines.

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## ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES














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### *Is Mozambique on the list of eligible countries?*

Mozambique is eligible for L'Initiative's 2025 calls for proposals.

### *Which countries are eligible?*

A project must be implemented in one or more of the 38 eligible countries listed below:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Algeria                            |  Guinea-Bissau  |
|  Benin                              |  Haiti          |
|  Burundi                            |  Laos           |
|  Cambodia                           |  Lebanon        |
|  Cameroon                           |  Liberia        |
|  Central African Republic           |  Madagascar     |
|  Chad                               |  Morocco        |
|  Comoros                            |  Mauritius      |
|  Congo                             |  Mauritania    |
|  Côte d'Ivoire                    |  Mozambique   |
|  Democratic Republic of the Congo |  Myanmar      |
|  Dominican Republic               |  Rwanda       |
|  Djibouti                         |  Senegal      |
|  Equatorial Guinea                |  Sierra Leone |
|  Ethiopia                         |  Thailand     |
|  Gabon                            |  Togo         |
|  Gambia                           |  Tunisia      |
|  Ghana                            |  Ukraine      |
|  Guinea                           |  Vietnam      |

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## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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### ***Est-ce que notre association peut postuler comme porteur principal ?***

Please refer to the explanation in section 4., in the guidelines, which explains all the eligibility criteria for lead applicants.

### ***Is there a limit to the number of partners?***

There is no limit to the number of partners in a consortium. However, the proposed consortium will be assessed by the Evaluation Committee, which will evaluate its coherence and quality.

### ***Can there be more than one partner in the same country?***

Yes, this is possible. There is only one lead applicant, but there can be as many partners and stakeholders as desired. However, each partner must receive a delegation of funds from the lead applicant. The Evaluation Committee will nevertheless assess the relevance of the proposed partnership structure in terms of the project's objectives.

### ***Are there any criteria for consortium partners other than financial/budgetary criteria?***

The consortium partners must be legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries. The Evaluation Committee will assess the relevance of the proposed consortium in terms of its objectives.

### ***Is it necessary to form a consortium with a French organisation? Or can we just set up a consortium of local organisations?***

There is no obligation to form a consortium with a French organisation. The only criterion for choosing a partner is that it must be legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries. The Evaluation Committee will assess the consistency and quality of the proposed consortium with regard to the objectives of the project submitted. In the case of a project implemented in a single country, the lead partner may also choose not to submit the project as a consortium if it is itself registered in the country of implementation. In the case of a multi-country project, the lead applicant must ensure that it has at least one partner in each of the proposed countries of implementation.

### ***Do all the partners in the consortium, without exception, have to be registered in one of the 38 eligible countries? Or does this only apply to the lead partner?***

***In particular, we are considering a partnership with an organisation based in the Netherlands that specialises in the health and inclusion of people with disabilities.***

Partners must be legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries or in France for the budget delegation to be paid to them to exceed 15% of the total amount of the grant. However, it is possible to join forces with partners from outside the eligible countries, limiting their budget delegation to 15% of the total amount of the grant requested from Expertise France.

However, the lead applicant must be legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries or in France.

### ***We are proposing a multi-country project with 3 eligible countries (Cameroon, Congo and Gabon) with a Belgian partner who will benefit from a 15% budget delegation. Are we eligible?***

The limitation of budget delegation to 15% of the total grant requested from L'Initiative only applies in cases where one or more implementing partners are not legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries (+France).

A budget delegation of maximum 15% of the total grant requested from Expertise France will be possible for your Belgian partner.



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***Is it possible to have a Swiss partner?***

Yes, it is possible to have a Swiss partner.

As Switzerland is not an eligible country, the budget delegated to a partner organisation legally registered in Switzerland may not exceed a total of 15% of the grant requested from Expertise France.

***Our project is being implemented in an eligible country with 1 Australian partner and 1 French partner. Does the 15% budget delegation also count for the French partner?***

The limitation of the budget delegation to 15% of the total grant requested from L'Initiative only applies in cases where one or more implementing partners are not legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries or in France. There is therefore no limitation on the amount of budget delegations for your French partner, but the budget delegation for your Australian partner will be limited to a maximum of 15% of the total amount of the grant requested.

***I am in an ineligible country. Can I be in partnership with a French project leader?***

The lead applicant must be a legal entity legally registered in one of the 38 eligible countries (or in France), which can prove in its registration document that it has a board of directors/management committee in the eligible country and that it has a registered office at a local address. Organisations may be implementing partners, even if their board of directors/management committee and head office are registered in a country not listed, provided that the part of the budget to be delegated to this/these partner(s) does not exceed 15% of the total amount of the grant requested from L'Initiative, regardless of the number of implementing partners registered in a non-eligible country.

***We have a prefecture registration number as a community-based organisation and a unique identification number. Which of these two numbers should I use?***

The proof of registration is a compulsory document that must be sent to us when the application is submitted. It is the document that proves that the lead applicant is legally registered in the country where the project is being implemented. The proof of registration contains the registered address of the lead applicant.

***If it is difficult to obtain proof of registration in the country where you wish to operate, what document can be submitted to replace it?***

If you are submitting a project for a French organisation, the proof of legal registration will be French and should be easy to obtain.

However, if you are submitting a project for an organisation that is legally registered in another of the 38 eligible countries and, for some explainable reason, you are having difficulty obtaining proof of registration, you will need to provide us with a legal document proving the date of registration and the address of the registered office. You will also need to provide us with the articles of association legally registered in the country to explain how you operate and how the board of directors is constituted.

***My organisation is legally registered in the country of implementation but has only been for 2 years. Is it eligible?***

The lead applicant must have been **legally established for at least 3 years** at the time of publication of the call for proposals on 20 November 2024.

***Can the same organisation submit 2 projects for a single Call for Proposals (CFP)? Is there a limit to the number of projects a project leader and a partner can submit?***

The maximum number of projects submitted as lead applicant is **two** in the same CFP and **three** in all calls for proposals (for example: one project submitted in the VP CFP 'new projects' and two projects submitted in the RSS CFP 'new projects'; or one project submitted in the VP CFP, one project in the RSS CFP and one project in the RO CFP).

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However, there is no maximum number of projects in which an organisation can be a partner or stakeholder (without budget delegation).

In the case you mentioned, it is therefore possible to submit 2 projects as lead applicant (whether in the same CPF or in two different CPF) and 2 projects as partners.

For To submit your 2 projects as lead via POPs, you will need to create two different accounts, with a different contact name, but with the same organisation name and ID number.

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## FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

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### *Is there a maximum amount for project proposals?*

The total requested grant amount must cover at least 50% of the project and be between **€650,000** and **€3,500,000**.

### *Is AFD co-financing possible?*

Yes, AFD co-financing is possible.

In the specific case where the project submitted receives confirmed or planned co-financing by AFD or Expertise France, or by any other French bilateral financial or human support, the applicant must:

- Present the characteristics of the project and its financing in a fully transparent manner as early as the note of intent stage (assets, requested, period, type of contract, reference, etc.) and,
- In the case of co-financing with another French actor, provide for consultation between the French co-financiers prior to approval of funding, in order to best meet the requirements of accountability to our supervisory authorities and prevent the risk of double-funding.

### *Can financing by the Global Fund be considered as possible co-financing?*

The grant requested from L'Initiative is supposed to be complementary to the Global Fund Action and not a duplication. It is also important to understand how the Global Fund financing that you would present as co-financing can be used in the framework of the project that you are submitting and that you have their agreement for this.

### *Regarding co-financing in kind: My organisation is offering to make female researchers available. Should the total salary (including employer and employee contributions) be taken into account? Or should we prorate the full time?*

The co-financing "in kind" must be included in the budget assessed on the basis of the market value/real cost of the elements provided, so that these non-monetary resources are included in the overall project budget. In the case of salaries paid to these researchers, the total cost to the employer should be used (gross + salary and employer's contributions), calculated in proportion to the time that these researchers will devote to the project. In the supporting documents that you will then provide in your financial reports, you will then need to draw up time sheets showing the time spent by the researchers on the project on a monthly basis, corresponding to the cost reported on the financial report.

### *Do we need to provide audit accounts?*

The lead applicant must provide us with the organisation's most recent validated audit report. If this report is not available for phase I, it will be requested if you are preselected for phase II.

### *Is there a budget ceiling for human resources, equipment, the RTA, etc.?*

No, there is no limit on the budget for human resources or other budget categories. However, the Evaluation Committee will assess the appropriateness of the budget requested and the breakdown between budget categories in relation to the objectives (e.g. if the HR category is too high in relation to the objectives, or if, on the other hand, the equipment category is too low in relation to the desired activities).

***Co-financing is at a minimum of 10% if expenditure is over €5. Is there a maximum amount of co-financing?***

There is no maximum amount for co-financing. However, the grant requested from L'Initiative may not be less than 50% of the total amount of the Action. Mathematically, your co-financing cannot therefore exceed 50% of the total amount of the project.

***Our total budget is over €3.5 million but we plan to share the costs over and above €3.5 million. Do we have to show the total budget even if it's more than €3.5 million? Or just the €3.5 million?***

The total cost of the project must be indicated, so that the amount of the grant requested and the percentage of your co-financing can be clearly displayed. You should therefore indicate the planned budget for each of the headings in the 'total project budget' column, then the part covered by co-financing in the next column and finally the amount covered by the grant requested from Expertise France in the last column. The amount displayed in the last line 'Total (total 2+ admin fees)' will be the total amount for the Action.

	<b>Total Budget of the project (in euros) : € (A+B)</b>	<b>Co-financing (€) (A)</b>	<b>Budget request to Expertise France(€) (B)</b>
HR (salaries et expenses )	0,00 €		
Coordination costs	0,00 €		
Activities	0,00 €		
Operational research activities	0,00 €		
Other costs (Communication, learning and knowledge sharing)	0,00 €		
Mid-term evaluation *	0,00 €		
<b>Total 1</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>
Contingencies (max 5%)	0,00 €		
<b>Total 2 (Total 1 + contingencies)</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>
Overhead costs (max 10% of total 2)	0,00 €		
<b>Total (total 2 + overhead costs)</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>
* Only for projects for which the budget requested from the Initiative exceeds €1,000,000			

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## THEMATIC QUESTIONS

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***Regarding the Operational Research (OR) call: Can we submit an application for only one disease, for example resistance to tuberculosis or resistance to HIV?***

Please consult the guidelines for the call for “new projects” in OR dedicated to “resistance” to understand the objective of the theme chosen this year.

***Regarding the following point: ‘Operating costs do not exceed 10% of the budget for the action’. Do operating costs correspond to ICR or overheads?***

Operating costs consist of overheads.

***Regarding the Operational Research (OR) call: Does antibiotic resistance in general, and not specifically the fight against the 3 pandemics, fall within the scope?***

Please consult the guidelines for the call for “new projects” in OR dedicated to “resistance” to understand the objective of the theme chosen this year.

***Regarding the Operational Research (OR) call: Are we only talking about resistance to TB, HIV or malaria, or are we talking more broadly about antibiotic resistance to other bacteria that may also be responsible for co-infection in immunocompromised populations?***

Please consult the guidelines for the call for “new projects” in OR dedicated to “resistance” to understand the objective of the theme chosen this year.

***Regarding the Vulnerable Populations (VP) call: Can a VP project include ongoing training activities for health workers in line with the project's objectives?***

Yes, if this is relevant to the objectives.

***Does the WHO definition of a person vulnerable to tuberculosis include healthcare workers?***

Nous vous invitons à consulter le règlement de l'appels à projets « nouveaux projets » PV pour comprendre la définition de « personnes vulnérables et clés » retenue par L'Initiative. Please consult the guidelines for the ‘new projects’ VP call for proposals to understand the definition of ‘vulnerable and key persons’ used by L'Initiative.

***Currently, we are talking about triple elimination (HIV/TB/Hepatitis). But can our projects take into account the management of co-infections and hepatitis?***

Yes, that's the case.

***Should the proposal focus on all three diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria)?***

***Can the proposal focus on just one disease?***

There is no obligation to present an approach that targets all three diseases at the same time. Your proposal can therefore focus on one or more diseases. On the other hand, all projects must have a catalytic aim to change practices in the fight against the three pandemics and a systemic and integrated approach to improve systems and behaviours in the long term.

***We work in primary care centres. Would HR training in reference centres for the diseases mentioned be eligible for a grant application?***

The subject you wish to address appears to be eligible under the HSS call for projects, which again this year makes the strengthening of human resources in health a priority for L'Initiative.

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However, you must also ensure upstream that your status is eligible, which depends on several criteria. The list of eligibility criteria for lead applicants, partners or stakeholders is described in section 4 'Eligibility criteria' of the calls for proposals guidelines.

## SUBMISSION ON POPS

### ***Can several people create accounts on the platform for the same project?***

Yes, but the project submission file must only be submitted via a single account. To maintain consistency between accounts created by several people for the same organisation, please ensure that you use the same wording for the organisation's name and acronym and provide the same registration number.

### ***Does the organisation have to download all the documents?***

Yes, you must download the consultation file and the guidelines in order to be able to open the annexes that will enable you to put together your proposal, which you will submit via POPS. No other document format (letter of intent or administrative form) will be accepted for your application.

### ***As a partner organisation, do we have to have an account on POPS or is it only the supporting partner that submits the application?***

Each organisation may have an account on POPS if it wishes, in particular, to download the consultation file or the regulations. However, the proposal must only be submitted through the account of the lead applicant, who will submit the file on behalf of the consortium.

### ***Where can I find the letter of intent form and the required annexes?***

These documents can be found on the POPS platform of the desired call. You must download the consultation document in order to open the annexes, which you must use to put together your proposal.

This consultation document can be found by clicking on 'Documents' on the POPS call consultation page (here the page for the 'new projects' HSS call for proposals):

[https://pops.expertisefrance.fr/sdm/ent2/gen/ficheCsl.action?PCSLID=CSL\\_2024\\_bGJmME0ieU&cycNum=0&ongletActif=2](https://pops.expertisefrance.fr/sdm/ent2/gen/ficheCsl.action?PCSLID=CSL_2024_bGJmME0ieU&cycNum=0&ongletActif=2) ) :

Reply

[View the guide online](#)

Documents

Questions/answers 5

Inbox 0

Call for Projects Regulations :

Download Call for  
Projets Regulations

Tender Folder - TF :

dc-v2.zip  
4.0Mo - 11/20/24

Download



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***Serait-il possible de nous envoyer tous les documents nécessaires par mail afin de postuler ? Would it be possible to send us all the necessary documents by e-mail in order to apply?***

You must submit your proposal on POPs. No e-mail submissions will be accepted. We are also unable to send you the consultation file and the rules and regulations by e-mail to ensure that our exchanges remain traceable and that our calls for projects are as transparent as possible.

***Do we need to create an account for each proposal? Or should we create an account for each main applicant?***

Yes, if a single lead applicant wishes to submit several proposals for the same call for projects (max. 2), two accounts must be used.



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## OTHER QUESTIONS

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***My organization submitted letters of intent last year, which were rejected. There was no explanation in the notification. Is it possible to obtain information on this subject?***

You can contact L'Initiative at the following address: [aap.linitiative@expertisefrance.fr](mailto:aap.linitiative@expertisefrance.fr)

***Is it possible to access the consultations that have been selected in the 2024 call for proposals for VP?***

You can access this list on L'Initiative's website, where we publish the full list of grants awarded and the names of the recipient organisations.

**L'INITIATIVE**

Sida, tuberculose, paludisme

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