

Call for projects « Structuring Actions »

1. Context

The Canceropole is launching its “Structuring Actions” call for projects aimed at supporting original and ambitious multi-year programs that can help emerge, strengthen, and/or structure a specific theme related to the strengths and/or opportunities identified in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.

Learn more about previously supported structuring actions: <https://canceropole-paca.com/propulser-vos-recherches/acceder-aux-technologies-expertises/>

2. Objectives

Submitted projects should contribute **to strengthen or develop a regional expertise**. Their ability to structure the scientific community in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, to develop, consolidate or sustain a network around specific areas of **cancer research**, and to increase the visibility of this regional expertise will be an essential evaluation criterion.

The organizational set-up must **involve multiple teams and centers from the region, both in Marseille and Nice**. The programs should have a regional scope and be capable of bringing together cancer research teams and, if necessary, teams from other disciplines to foster the emergence of new approaches or strategic directions in the fight against cancer.

3. Scope

This is a bottom-up call, open to programs in biology in the broadest sense, as well as human and social sciences, epidemiology and public health, and any other multi- or transdisciplinary field applied to cancer.

Special attention will be given to programs aligned with the regional cancer plan themes (poor prognosis cancers, AI applied to oncology, sharing of medical imaging and pathology, cancer and aging). Project leaders working within this context are particularly encouraged to submit a proposal.

Proposals may include, but are not limited to: structuring collaborations between teams and sharing knowledge around a specific theme, creating a service, or setting up a technical and/or advisory platform.

4. Funding

Duration: 24 months (renewable for 12 months after evaluation)

Funding: up to €200,000 per year

The grant can cover:

- Non-permanent staff (technicians, assistant engineers, engineers, postdocs, temporary workers)
- Scientific equipment, including co-funding (except from the region)
- Operating costs and service provision, up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget.

Proposed programs should not be subject to parallel funding requests. They must differ from projects submitted under national calls for projects (PL-Bio, Cancer Plan, PHRC, ARC, etc.).

Teams located outside the region, as well as private partners, may be associated with the projects but will not be eligible for funding from Canceropole. Industrial partners and/or external teams will need to ensure their own funding.

5. Commitments and Counterparties

Each action will be led by the project leader(s) in collaboration with a project manager from Canceropole. A Steering Committee will be established for each project. It will bring together scientific experts (researchers, clinicians, engineers, etc.), designated by the Canceropole Scientific Committee, as well as the project leader(s) and the project manager. This committee will meet every six months to ensure the follow-up and direction of the actions.

The project leader(s) will commit to:

- Organize, with the support of Canceropole, an annual regional feedback meeting (e.g., a themed scientific seminar)
- Present their results in response to Canceropole's requests, for example, during the Annual Seminar
- Provide an annual activity report (scientific and financial) and an action plan for each year funded by Canceropole.

6. Evaluation

The process is carried out in two stages:

1. Evaluation of complete files by experts external to the region,
2. Interview by the Scientific Committee for the shortlisted proposals.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The structuring aspect of the program at the regional level
- The originality of the program, its innovative character
- The expected impact at the regional, national, and international levels
- The legitimacy of the coordinator(s) and the complementarity of the consortium formed
- The management: quality of the organization of collaboration between teams
- The feasibility of the program
- The justification of the requested budget

7. Submission Guidelines

A proposal must be completed according to the template provided by Canceropole and sent by email to canceropole-paca@univ-amu.fr before November 20, 2025, 3:00 PM.

Note: It is imperative that interested teams contact the Canceropole coordination team to discuss their project prior to submission so they can benefit from optimal support.

Timeline

April 22, 2025	Call for projects opens
May to October 2025	Consultation with the Canceropole team for project development
November 20, 2025	Deadline for submission of complete proposals
March 12–13, 2026	Project interviews in front of the Scientific Committee
By September 1st, 2026	Project start date at the latest