

# Health Research 2017 Call for Proposals Rules for Participation



"la Caixa" Foundation

# Rules for Participation

**Health Research 2017  
Call for Proposals**

**"la Caixa" Foundation**

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## 0 Definitions

When used in this call for proposals, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below:

**Agreement:** the agreement to be signed between "la Caixa" Foundation and the Host Institution.

**Application or Proposal:** the application for a grant submitted within the framework of this Call.

**Call:** this open call for proposals (year 2017), which aims at allocating funds to support basic, clinical and translational biomedical research projects.

**Category:** each of the two categories detailed in section 3.4 of this Call.

**Consortium:** a group of two or more institutions collaborating in a project. Consortiums in this Call can have a maximum of 5 Research Performing Institutions. For the sake of clarity, all requirements specific to Consortiums in accordance with this Call will apply to all Consortiums irrespective of their Category, unless expressly provided to the contrary in this Call.

**Co-Project Leader (or "Co-PL"):** a researcher of the Project from a Research Performing Institution of the Consortium based in Spain or Portugal.

**Host Institution:** the non-profit Research Performing Institution based in Spain or Portugal acting as the coordination Institution in case of Consortiums, and as the sole Institution in all other cases.

**Institution(s):** Partner Institution(s) and Host Institution.

**International Partner Institution:** any Partner Institution not based in the country of the Host Institution.

**Partner Institution:** a Research Performing Institution, a civil society organization or an established company of a Consortium not acting as the Host Institution.

**Projects:** research projects submitted to this Call.

**Project Leader (or "PL"):** principal investigator of the project in the Host Institution.

**Research Performing Institution (or "RPI"):** any non-profit Institution devoted to research pursuant to its bylaws or otherwise as part of its usual activity (research centres, universities, hospitals, etc.).

**Selection Committee:** one of the five multidisciplinary committees that will evaluate the candidates selected in the pre-selection peer review process for each Thematic Area.

**Thematic Area:** each of the five categories detailed in section 3.3. of this Call.

**Trans-disciplinary Approach:** with regard to this Call, for a Project to be deemed as having a Trans-disciplinary Approach, it is mandatory that it integrates knowledge, data and/or techniques from two or more scientific disciplines. Non-academic knowledge, such as that coming from social stakeholders (as Civil Society Organizations), may also be considered as part of the Trans-disciplinary Approach.

# 1 Preamble

“Changing lives, building futures”

The “la Caixa” Foundation firmly believes that scientific progress and excellent research are essential for the advancement of our society and for the quest to find solutions to the main challenges that humanity faces. These societal challenges require cutting-edge and groundbreaking research projects with transdisciplinary approaches, in which relevance and excellence come together to contribute to the advancement of scientific frontiers and societal positive impact.

One of the main priorities of the institution, as collected in the Strategic Plan of the “la Caixa” Foundation 2016-2019, is to consolidate the support to biomedical research aimed at fighting the most serious and widespread diseases. During this period, the “la Caixa” Foundation’s strategy in health research is to support groundbreaking research projects in order to increase Spanish and Portuguese research competitiveness towards European and international benchmark standards of scientific excellence, enhancing the significance of their scientific and medical impact beyond their borders. The “la Caixa” Foundation will encourage Projects both from the basic sciences and with a clinical and translational perspective. The “la Caixa” Foundation supports the translation of knowledge and technology to society, endorses the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation and believes that high quality international collaborations improve health research.

Following these guidelines the “la Caixa” Foundation launches an open call to select outstanding biomedical research Projects that aim to address some of the major health challenges that our society faces today.

# 2 Timeline

The deadlines and times included in these rules are listed in Central European Time - CET.

Opening for Applications	Deadline for Applications	Project Pre-Selection and Committees	Decision announcement	Execution of awarded projects
29 November 2017 at 10 a.m.	16 March 2018 at 2 p.m.	March-July 2018	July 2018	September 2018-September 2021

## 3 General grant framework

**3.1** The fundamental activity of this “la Caixa” Foundation call for proposals is to support research in **groundbreaking, original, and highly relevant** (up to three years) Projects that will lead to advancements in knowledge and solutions related to some of the most important health problems of our century. The “la Caixa” Foundation is looking for research projects of **scientific excellence** in their field, with **potential value** and **high social impact**. The “la Caixa” Foundation encourages proposals of any trans-disciplinary nature that cross the boundaries between different fields of research with groundbreaking approaches, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional approaches to health problems.

Projects eligible for this call must be led by non-profit Research Performing Institutions (RPI) based in Spain or Portugal.

**3.2** The **objective** of this grant is to support **basic, clinical or translational biomedical research** Projects. Clinical trials are not eligible in this call. Projects must be groundbreaking, original and highly relevant.

**3.3** Projects have to be submitted in one of the following five priority **Thematic Areas** of biomedical research:

- a) **Cardiovascular disease.**
- b) **Neuroscience\*.**
- c) **Infectious disease.**
- d) **Oncology.**
- e) **Other biomedical areas:** other biomedical projects not specifically focused on the previous thematic areas. They will be projects of high biomedical and health interest in transversal areas such as genetics, pharmacology or chemical biology or facilitating technologies such as bioinformatics, nanotechnology, big data, etc.

\*One of the selected Projects in the neuroscience thematic area will be on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and will be funded partially by the Francisco Luzón Foundation.

**3.4** Projects also have to be submitted in one of two **Categories**:

- a) **Category A Projects:** Projects that can be submitted by only one Institution (the Host institution) but can also be submitted by a Consortium. Projects in this category may receive support up to a **maximum of €500,000, for an up to 3-year proposal.**
- b) **Category B Projects:** Projects that **must: (i) include a trans-disciplinary approach and (ii) be necessarily submitted by a Consortium.** Consortiums in Category B must include a minimum of 2 Research Performing Institutions. Projects in this category may receive support up to a **maximum of €1,000,000, for an up to 3-year proposal.**

**3.5** All Consortiums can include as well other Partner Institutions apart from RPI's such as civil society organizations (e.g. patient associations) and/or established companies. The **maximum number of RPI's per Consortium is 5** as defined in section 0.

**3.6** The "la Caixa" Foundation believes that high quality international collaborations improve health research and will specially value the inclusion of cross border collaborations in Category B Projects.

## 4 Funding

**4.1** For the 2017 Call, grants may be awarded up to a maximum of **€12,000,000** to support a certain number of projects. The intent is to distribute this amount approximately equally amongst the Thematic Areas, but the final distribution will always be subject to the quality and specific characteristics of the Projects submitted to this Call.

**4.2** The maximum funding amount of the grant for projects in each Category is detailed as follows:

- a) **Category A projects:** may receive support up to a maximum of €500,000, for up to a 3-year Proposal.
- b) **Category B projects:** may receive support up to a maximum amount of €1,000,000, for up to a 3-year Proposal.

**4.3** The grant will be awarded to the Host Institution, which will be in charge of any budget distribution to other Partner Institution(s), as detailed in the Application form of this Call.

**4.4** The grant will be distributed annually during the total duration of each Project, according to the budget submitted and the Agreement.

**4.5** The grant will cover any Project-related costs when adequately justified. The budget of the Proposal can include:

- a) Direct costs:



- Personnel costs
- Travel expenses
- Consumables and Equipment
- Publications
- Subcontracting (Audits and others)
- Other direct costs

b) Indirect costs (overhead): a maximum of 10% of the Direct costs (minus Subcontracting)

**4.6** In the **budget structuring**, the following criteria and items need to be taken into account:

- a) Up to **10%** of the direct costs (minus subcontracting) of the grant budget can correspond to **overhead**.
- b) The budget of Category B projects must include the cost of an external audit that must be done by the Host Institution at the end of the duration of the Project, as foreseen in Clause 14.2 of this Call.
- c) For Projects in Consortium, **up to 30% of the total budget can be allocated to Partner Institutions based outside of Spain and Portugal**.
- d) **Civil Society Organizations** included as a Partner Institutions can receive part of the project budget.
- e) **Established companies** included as Partner Institutions cannot receive part of the project budget.

**4.7** During the evaluation of Projects, the proposed project budget will be reviewed alongside the scientific design and needs of the project.

## 5 Eligibility Criteria

**5.1** The Host Institution must be a **non-profit Research Performing Institution based in Spain or Portugal**. The Host Institution will be the coordination Institution in case of Consortiums.

**5.2** Host Institutions must have endorsed or asked for endorsement in *The European Charter & Code for Researchers* before the closing date of this call. The *European Charter for Researchers* and *Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers* documents addressed to researchers, as well as research employers and funders in both the public and private sectors, are key elements in the EU's policy to boost researchers' careers.



**5.3** Host Institutions, PL, Co-PL, team members and Partner Institution(s) must follow **ethical principles and the highest standards of research integrity and good scientific practice** as described for instance at the [Code of Conduct for Research integrity -Allea-](#).

**5.4** The Proposal must relate to the objectives and Thematic Areas of the grant.

**5.5** Projects proposed must be **original** and cannot already be funded, totally or partially, through any other grant (either by the "la Caixa" Foundation or by any other Institution) at the time of submission.

**5.6** The application must include a Project Leader (PL) and can include a **Co-Project Leader** (Co-PL). The Co-PL cannot be based in the same Institution as the PL.

**5.7** The PL must be **connected**, either by statute, employment or other type of collaboration in the framework of this project, to the **Host Institution** at the time of the grant application. In the case of national health system institutions which develop their research activities through private foundations or other private or public entities in accordance with the applicable regulations, the PL must be connected to these.

**5.8** Individuals acting in the capacity of PL and Co-PL must be of legal age and can be of any nationality.

**5.9** PL and Co-PL must have a minimum of 6 years of postdoctoral research experience, and must have finished their doctoral degrees before 1st October 2011.

**5.10** The Host Institution must be **willing to support the PL and the research team and**, if applicable, to **Consortium**, for the entire duration of the Project and to **provide the appropriate scientific and administrative environment** for the Project to be conducted.

**5.11** The Host Institution will **represent** the other Partner Institutions vis-à-vis the "la Caixa" Foundation. The individual acting in their representation will be the PL.

**5.12** Each PL and Co-PL can present only one Project as a PL or Co-PL; however they can collaborate in different Projects as partners.

**5.13** There is no limit to the number of Projects that an Institution can submit or be awarded as Host Institution or Partner Institution.

**5.14** The PL and Host Institution are responsible for **guaranteeing the implementation of the Project** in accordance with the initial conditions expressed in the Application and the Agreement.

## 6 Application submission

**6.1** The Application must be submitted electronically through the application link available on the "la Caixa" Foundation Call for Projects website: <https://www.convocatoriaslacaixa.org/Convocatorias/?idioma3>

**6.2** Proposals must be complete with all of the requested information and be submitted before the Call deadline. Incomplete Proposals may be declared ineligible.

**6.3** The entire application and selection process, including the interview, will be conducted in English. Documents or attestations have to be submitted in English. Any initially drafted in any other language must be accompanied by an English translation.

**6.4** In the application form, applicants should select the options in which they want to be evaluated:

- a) Thematic Area.
- b) Research discipline(s).
- c) Project Category.

**6.5** The Project Proposal form must include descriptions of the following:

- **General Project Information:** acronym, title, scientific abstract, lay summary and keywords.
- **Project:** state of the art, project aims and objectives, methodology, scientific approach, work plan, timeline, expected results and trans-disciplinarity.
- **PL (Co-PL, if applicable):** brief curriculum vitae.
- **Research team:** brief description of team members and relevant contribution.
- **Project impact:** description of the scientific impact and of the social relevance.
- **Consortium:** description of the contribution of each partner in the consortium.
- **Budget:** detail of the project budget by year and by Consortium member(s) (if applicable).

**6.6** Complementary documentation for project evaluation:

- Certificate from the Spanish or equivalent Portuguese authority vouching assuring that the Host Institution has fulfilled its obligations with regards to taxation and, for Portuguese institutions, that it is resident for tax purposes in Portugal at the moment of submission of the Project (mandatory).
- Certificate from the Spanish Social Security or equivalent Portuguese authority vouching that the Host Institution has fulfilled its obligations pursuant to employment applicable regulations, valid at the moment of submission of the Project

(mandatory).

- Template "Budget distribution" (mandatory).
- Gantt chart for the Project (mandatory).
- Template of statement signed by the legal representative of the Host Institution, by the Project Leader and by the legal representatives of all Partners Institutions in Consortium, if applicable (mandatory).
- Template of ethical issues self-assessment of the Project (mandatory).
- Optional recommendation letters supporting the PL (and Co-PL) career exceptionalism are accepted.
- Optional extra graphics and figures, explaining the Proposal.
- Optional complete Curriculum Vitae for the PL and Co-PL.

**6.7** The online application platform will be open from 29 November 2017 until the deadline for Applications, 16 March 2018 at 2:00 p.m., Central European Time (CET).

## 7 Evaluation criteria

**7.1** The evaluation criteria used for this Call are the following:

### 7.1.1 Scientific Excellence of the Project (Weight: 50%):

#### 7.1.1.1 Project Quality (30%)

- Originality of the concept and of the research.
- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives.
- Relevancy and transformative approach of the concept towards challenges in its own field of action.
- The extent to which the proposed Project goes beyond the state of art and demonstrates originality and groundbreaking potential.
- The extent to which the trans-disciplinarity of the Project is an added value (only applicable for *Category B* Projects).

#### 7.1.1.2 Methodology and resources (10%)

- Feasibility and rigor of the methodology and work plan according to the goals and expected outputs.
- Proper justification of timescales and resources needed to conduct the Project.

#### 7.1.1.3 Research team / Consortium (10%)

- Adequacy of the role and capacity of the research team members to support the Project execution.

- Clarity of the governance model of the Consortium members and value of their contribution.
- Inclusion of international research partners and extent to which they improve the scope of the Project (only applicable for Category B projects).

### **7.1.2 Project Leader (and Co-Leader, if applicable) (Weight 25%):**

#### 7.1.2.1 Career trajectory (12.5%)

- Demonstration of scientific excellence and management capacity for conducting groundbreaking research in the research field(s), according to the career trajectory.

#### 7.1.2.2 Research potential (12.5%)

- Demonstration of capacity for conducting original and groundbreaking research beyond the state of the art in the research field(s) of the proposal.

### **7.1.3 Impact (Weight 25%):**

#### 7.1.3.1 Scientific impact (12.5%)

- Extent to which the Project aims to make a positive, relevant and innovative difference to its specific research field.
- Consistent description of the contributions to knowledge and advancement in its scientific field.
- Demonstration of accurate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content.

#### 7.1.3.2 Social relevance (12.5%)

- Adequate description of how the Project will anticipate and assess potential implications and societal/clinical benefits.
- Adequate description of mechanisms, actions and activities of dissemination, communication and social engagement. The inclusion of Civil Society organizations including non-academic audiences and patients, will be positively valued.
- Management of the possible valorization and knowledge transfer generated by the implementation of the Project, if applicable.
- Accurate consideration of ethical, legal, social, and environmental project implications.

## 8 Evaluation procedure

### 8.1 The Project evaluation procedure consists of the following phases:

- a) **Eligibility criteria scrutiny:** All Applications received will be reviewed to ensure the fulfilment of the criteria published in the Call. In case an application is dismissed, the "la Caixa" Foundation will send an e-mail notification to the applicant explaining the reasons.
  
- b) **Pre-selection peer review process:** Each of the Applications that pass the eligibility phase enters the pre-selection peer review process made up of three or four international experts with broad experience in the discipline(s) and Thematic Area of the Application and an extensive list of publications or contributions within this Thematic Area. The Applications that receive the best ratings from each Thematic Area of the Call will pass to the next stage.  
The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify candidates whether or not they have been shortlisted by e-mail.  
The evaluation criteria (see Section 7) will be applied to each Project.
  
- c) **Selection Committees:** There will be five Selection Committees, one for each Thematic Area of this Call. Each Selection Committee will be composed by 8 to 12 internationally renowned experts with broad experience in the Thematic Area of the application and an extensive list of relevant contributions within this Thematic Area. Candidates whose applications have passed the pre-selection phase stage will be called in for a face-to-face interview before a multidisciplinary Selection Committee made up of researchers with extensive experience in evaluation and selection processes.  
The interviews will be held in Barcelona. For the purpose of carrying out the evaluation procedure for all shortlisted candidates, all interviews will take place face to face. They cannot be conducted over the telephone or using any other audio-visual means. These will be entirely in English.  
The dates scheduled for the selection interviews or for the notification of the results may be subject to change due to organisational reasons. In case this occurs, candidates will be notified by e-mail immediately.  
Should attending the interview entail travel or accommodation expenses, candidates may request compensation (limited to the PL and subject to the reimbursement policy that will be sent to these candidates).  
At the end of this phase, each Selection Committee will select the final number of projects awarded based on the evaluation criteria of this call for proposals (see Section 7).

**8.2** Projects must follow the internal rules of their Institutions with regards to ethical committee requirements. Submission of the Proposal to the internal ethical committee of the Host Institution must have been done at the time of the Application, and such approval must be obtained before signing the Agreement. The final selection of Proposals must also be **approved by an external ethics committee** under the responsibility of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

**8.3** Under no circumstance can the applicant contact the evaluators participating in the selection process in order to obtain information about any aspect related to the Call. If this happens, the applicant may be excluded from this call or any other future "la Caixa" Foundation call.

## 9 Selected Projects

**9.1** The "la Caixa" Foundation Executive Committee will collect the Proposals selected by the Selection Committees and approve and announce the final list of Proposals that will be awarded grants.

**9.2** The outcome of the decision will be published on the "la Caixa" Foundation website.

**9.3** Each eligible applicant may have access to further information on the evaluation of its Proposal.

**9.4** In case of rejection by a selected Project, the grant will be offered to the candidates of the reserve list in the corresponding order.

**9.5** The grant will be provided to the Host Institution under the same circumstances in which the Proposal was awarded and cannot be modified in any way (including, without limitation, any structural changes).

## 10 Redress procedure

**10.1** Within seven calendar days from the date the rejection notification is sent, candidates may submit documental technical redresses by sending an e-mail to [fbcresearch@fundaciolacaixa.org](mailto:fbcresearch@fundaciolacaixa.org), which must include an explanatory text together with the documents that the candidate deems appropriate.

**10.2** Redresses will be resolved by a redress committee. The resolution will be sent by email within fifteen calendar days from the date of receipt of the redress. This resolution will be deemed final and will not be subject to appeal.

**10.3** The redress procedure will be strictly confidential.

**10.4** The technical or scientific appraisal of the evaluators will not be called into question. The selection and evaluation processes themselves ensure the independence and the objectivity of the evaluation.

## 11 Considerations for project implementation

**11.1** The "la Caixa" Foundation supports the principles of **Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)**. RRI takes into account gender equality in R&I and other inclusivity issues; open access to scientific results, ethics and research integrity and the engagement of social stakeholders in the design and performance of R&I.

**11.2** Cases of **scientific misconduct** that may arise during the evaluation and throughout the life of a "la Caixa" Foundation-funded Project or after its finalization has to be immediately communicated by the Host institutions to the "la Caixa" Foundation.

**11.3** Inclusion of a research **data management plan** will be mandatory for selected Projects within six months from the date of notification of the award; a data management plan describes the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated by the project.

**11.4** The "la Caixa" Foundation supports the principles of **open access**, following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary". Relating to publications, Institutions must follow the ["la Caixa" Banking Foundation open access policy](#) .

**11.5** Grants will only be awarded to **Projects that are executed in the conditions set out at the time of application.**

## 12 Research grant policy

**12.1** Institutions are obligated to explicitly **acknowledge** that their action has received "la Caixa" Foundation funding. This must be done, if possible and unless the "la Caixa" Foundation requests otherwise, in all communication, dissemination and activities, as well as on all equipment, infrastructure and major results funded by the grant. Any such



communication and dissemination materials must be submitted to "la Caixa" Foundation's prior review and approval.

**12.2** The "la Caixa" Foundation emblem and reference to "la Caixa" Foundation funding must be displayed in a way that is easily visible for the public and with sufficient prominence (taking also into account the nature of the activity or object), always subject to "la Caixa" Foundation's prior review and approval.

**12.3** Scientific articles published as a result of these research grants will have to include the following text "The research that has given rise to these results has received funding from the "la Caixa" Foundation". Selected applicants shall give the "la Caixa" Foundation prior notice of the publication of any such articles.

**12.4** If, as a result of the research carried out in the Project granted under this framework, any results protected or suitable to be protected and/or registered as intellectual property rights or otherwise would arise, Institutions agree to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation.

**12.5** In any amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) Project is funded partially by Fundación Luzón, the obligations to be fulfilled by Institutions vis-à-vis the "la Caixa" Foundation in accordance with Clauses 13.1 to 13.4 above shall also be fulfilled by Institutions vis-à-vis Fundación Luzón.

**12.6** The Host Institution and PL must ensure that the Co-PL, team members and Institutions in Consortium, if applicable, as well as its successors and assignees (to the extent possible), apply these diffusion conditions established in this call to their activities and publications.

## 13 Grant management and obligations of Host institution and PL

**13.1** The Host Institution will manage and administer the amounts that the "la Caixa" Foundation allocates each year for the grant and will be in charge of any budget distribution to the other Partners Institutions, as appropriate. For such purposes, the "la Caixa" Foundation:

(a) will request that Category B selected applicants provide an external audit report justifying the costs of the project activities carried out by the Host Institution and Partner Institution(s), if applicable, at the end of the duration of the Project. The cost of this audit report is to be included in and allocated to the Project budget, as indicated in Clause 4.6. of this Call for Proposals.

(b) may request that Category A selected applicants provide an audit report and/or statement, as well as any additional information, documentation and/or clarification that might be deemed appropriate by the "la Caixa" Foundation so as to enable its

auditors and/or advisors to assess the correct allocation of the granted funds. The cost of this audit report and/or statement will be borne by the "la Caixa" Foundation unless any irregularities are found as a result thereof, in which case it will be borne by the applicant.

The request mentioned in paragraph (b) above may take place at any moment and may also apply to applicants selected in Category B in addition to the audit report indicated in paragraph (a) above.

**13.2** At the request of the "la Caixa" Foundation, and for the purpose of ensuring fulfilment with the terms and conditions of the grant, the PL(s) must provide a scientific-technical summary related to their Agreement on an annual basis, as well as any other information that the "la Caixa" Foundation deems necessary, or they must authorise the Host Institution to provide it.

**13.3** At the request of the "la Caixa" Foundation, the selected applicants must certify, with original or certified documents, the files attached to the Application. Likewise, the "la Caixa" Foundation can request the original certifications of any data mentioned in the Application.

**13.4** The Project must comply with the European Union's ethical principles, Spanish, Portuguese and international legislation applicable in this field, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. All applicants (including, but not limited to, awarded applicants) warrant that the Projects comply and will comply with any applicable regulations and that the Projects (including, without limitation, their proposal and eventual execution) do not infringe or will infringe any third party rights, including, without limitation, any intellectual property rights and/or previous commitments or undertakings). In this regard, all applicants will hold the "la Caixa" Foundation harmless from and against any damages resulting from a breach of this warranty.

**13.5** The awarded Projects shall be run pursuant to the approved Proposal and cannot be modified in any way (including, without limitation, any structural changes). All awarded Projects will be subject to monitoring and interim evaluation.

**13.6** All awarded Proposals will be further regulated in an Agreement to be executed between the selected applicants and the "la Caixa" Foundation. The Agreement is a mandatory requirement for receiving the grant.

## 14 Confidentiality. Privacy and data protection policy

**14.1** Institutions authorize the "la Caixa" Foundation to access, use and share the information contained in the Proposal, including any and all documents referred to in it, whether submitted at the time of the Application or at a later stage, for the purposes of this Call and to the extent necessary, including, without limitation, for the evaluation, selection and monitoring of the Projects. Institutions warrants to the "la Caixa" Foundation that any such information and documentation can be shared and used for any such purposes.

**14.2** The "la Caixa" Foundation fully complies with current legislation in terms of personal data protection. All applicants must also fully comply with any applicable regulations in this field.

**14.3** All personal data pertaining to grant applicants, team members and Institutions which is included in the documents referred to these rules will be included in a file owned by the "la Caixa" Foundation to manage the service or information required and to send them information about the programmes, activities or services provided by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

## 15 Additional comments

**15.1** The submission of an Application for this Call implies all applicants' express acceptance of both these rules and the criteria and decisions that the "la Caixa" Foundation may make in case any questions arise regarding how to interpret the requirements and terms and conditions contained herein.

**15.2** Detection of any noncompliance with these rules, regardless of when this occurs and the status in which the application is found within the Project awarding process, will entitle the "la Caixa" Foundation to cancel the application or the grant, should it have been already awarded.

Should the grantee not fulfil the aforementioned obligations, or any other obligation included among the terms and conditions of the grant, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to act as it deems appropriate, including requesting the return of the amounts received.

**15.3** Further detailed information and documents regarding this [Call for Projects can be found at the "la Caixa" Foundation website.](#)



"la Caixa" Foundation