

Research Program in Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2025

**The new challenges of air pollution in the light of emerging
contaminants, innovative methods, and climate change**

Download proposal template and send your
proposal to contact@fondationevertéa.org between
January and June 2025 (deadline June 30th at noon)
in an email entitled
“RT2E2025 – Air Pollution & New challenges”

The evertéa Foundation

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

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

A Major Global Health Challenge: Air Pollution

Air pollution remains one of the most urgent challenges in global public health. Governments and international organizations focus on monitoring classical air pollutants, such as fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). However, the rapid evolution of climate change, natural disasters, and the emergence of new environmental contaminants suggest that critical factors related to air pollution may still be overlooked by current monitoring systems.

Objective of the RT2E 2025 Call for Proposals

In this context, the **2025 Call for Proposals** by the Research Program in Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology (RT2E) seeks to foster the **development of innovative research projects addressing air pollution**. This call emphasizes:

- **Emerging contaminants** that are underrepresented in current monitoring frameworks;
- **Innovative scientific approaches** that address gaps in existing regulatory systems; and
- **Interactions between indoor and outdoor air pollution**.

Funding Details

This call, issued by the **evertéa Foundation**, will fund up to three projects for a duration of two years, with a maximum budget of **€20,000 per project**.

Priority Research Areas

Proposals of particular interest include:

- Characterization and modelling of emerging atmospheric contaminants (chemical, biological or physical), taking into account multiple sources and atmospheric dynamics;
- Health and environmental impacts of air contamination, including natural or anthropogenic disasters; and
- Applications of advanced technologies such as **artificial intelligence (AI)** or **machine learning (ML)** to understand, predict, or model air pollution.

Eligible Disciplines

This call is open to diverse fields, including:

- **Toxicology** and **ecotoxicology**;
- **Ecology** and **environmental sciences**;

- Airborne microbiome;
- **Epidemiology**; and
- **Social sciences**.

Projects offering practical solutions, risk assessment tools, predictive approaches, or modelling frameworks will be especially valued.

A Call for Innovation and Scientific Transversality

Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that push the boundaries of current research and offer a deeper understanding of air pollution challenges. Collaborative and interdisciplinary initiatives are highly welcomed.

Characteristics of the proposals

Research projects proposed under the **RT2E** program must be innovative. Projects such as pilot studies are encouraged. Proposals must have the potential to contribute to the development of future research projects through co-financing or a clearly demonstrated leveraging effect.

Research projects may be led by a single team or involve several partner teams. Public/private/industry/voluntary sector collaborations are welcome, but only a French public team can receive funding as project leader.

Review of project proposals

The main steps of the selection procedure are as follows:

- The call for proposals is open from **February 2025**; proposals will be accepted until **June 30th, 2025 at noon**;
- Examination of the eligibility of project proposals by the evertéa Foundation according to the criteria presented below;
- Peer review by external experts selected by the evertéa Foundation (July 2025 - Oct. 2025);
- Evaluation of project proposals by the International Scientific Council (SC) of the evertéa Foundation, based on the external reviews (Nov. 2025);
- Publication of the list of projects selected for funding (Dec. 2025); and
- Finalization of the scientific, financial, and administrative process for the selected projects (Jan. to March 2026).

Eligibility of proposals and commitment of the project leader

The evertéa Foundation's examination of the eligibility of project proposals will be based on the criteria set below:

- The call for research projects is open to French research teams from higher education and research institutions, research organisations and public institutions with a research mission. National or international partners are welcome. Partners of another nature are also allowed, if they bring clearly established added value in the project. The call is also open to companies in the social and solidarity economy, as partners;
- The funds allocated to the project will be paid to the project leader; he/she will manage the project's funds for the entire consortium and will compile and submit the scientific and financial report at the end of the project;
- The project leader must not be a member of the evertéa Foundation (board of directors, scientific council, etc);
- The duration of the project, including the preparation and submission of the final report, must not exceed 24 months;
- The financial support provided by the evertéa Foundation will not exceed €20,000;
- The project leader must participate in the promotion and demonstration activities organised by the evertéa Foundation during the project period and during the 12 months following its closure (maximum two solicitations); and
- Proposals and reports must be written in English.

Review of the proposals

Projects submitted under the **RT2E** framework are evaluated by external experts identified by the evertéa Foundation as well as by the Scientific Council. Based on the assessments provided by the external reviewers and the Scientific Council, a ranking of the projects will be established and submitted to the Board of Directors of the Foundation. The evaluation is carried out based on the criteria set below (weighing is indicated in parentheses):

- Relevance of the proposal relative to the Objectives and Priority Research Areas of the Call For Proposals (25%);
- Scientific quality of the project (35%). Justification of methodological choices must be provided. For example, exposure concentrations, if applicable, must be justified and environmentally realistic exposure scenarios will be prioritized;
- The ability of the consortium to carry out the proposed project according to the proposed schedule will be evaluated. The CV of the principal investigator, included in the proposal template, should demonstrate how their experience fits with the proposed project. The project must include a paragraph on the relevance of the consortium;
- Feasibility will also be considered;
- Innovative nature and the integration of different disciplinary fields (20%); and
- Impact of the project (20%). Discuss the potential leverage effect of the project for starting new collaborative research and implementation activities. Highlight the scientific breakthroughs and societal benefits that could result from this project.

Ethics - animal experimentation

Projects requiring the use of animal testing within the framework of European Directive 2010/63/EU must demonstrate how they abide by the relevant regulations in force at the national level, particularly in terms of obtaining experiment authorisations. The organisation responsible for approving these experiments should be clearly indicated in the project proposal. Where the experimental project has already been granted approval by the competent authorities, the authorisation number must also be indicated in the proposal.

Funding rules

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

- Staff costs, namely the wages of fixed-term contracts, vacations, social charges, internship bonuses and payroll taxes included;
- Operating expenses including laboratory costs (purchase of products or consumables, instrument user fees), publication costs, travel expenses for permanent or temporary staff assigned to the project (in particular, participation in promotional events organised by the Foundation), conference registration fees related to the project;
- Subcontracting, the cost of which must remain less than 30% of the total amount of the grant, unless the project leader is able to justify an exception; and
- Structure costs must remain below 4% of the total budget.

N.B.: If the project is co-funded, (1) the nature and amount of co-financing must be specified and (2) applicants must explain what would happen if they do not receive the co-funding, i.e. whether the project will still be realized and the planned outcome of the proposal achieved. Finally, if the project completion depends on other parameters besides the evertéa Foundation funding, these constraints must be specified in the text and in the budget template.