

# Research on open innovation under the PERSÉIS program (science-society interface for innovative and scientific entrepreneurship) - 2024-2025

**Competition year:** 2024-2025

**Deadline (application):** October 16, 2024 at 16:00 (EST)

**Amount:** Up to \$300,000 over 3 years

**Duration of funding:** Maximum 3 years

**Announcement of results:** December 2024

**Partner:** MAIN-Mouvement des accélérateurs du Québec

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The electronic form is available in the [Fonds de recherche du Québec \(FRQ\) electronic portfolio \(ePortfolio\)](#). To access the form, **you must select Nature et technologies (managing agency)**. The form is available under “Available competitions, Program: Research grants”.

## Introduction

This program refers to the [Common General Rules](#) (CGR), which apply to all FRQ programs. Any conditions specific to the PERSÉIS program are indicated in this document and prevail over the CGR.

In the event of a discrepancy between the English and French versions of this call for proposals, the French version prevails.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Québec’s entrepreneurial ecosystem is more mobilized than ever. Major consultations have been initiated by our government in connection with the [Québec Research and Innovation Investment Strategy](#) (SQRII), the entrepreneurship action plan of the ministère de l’Économie, de l’Innovation et de l’Énergie (MEIE), the creation of the Conseil de l’innovation du Québec, and the development of the scientific entrepreneurship strategy put forward by Axelys.

### The challenge

Inspired by these initiatives, the ecosystem’s actors wished to go further by strengthening data-driven decision making. However, they also noted significant needs and obstacles, including:

- The need for more structuring initiatives with a long-term vision in the support ecosystem, given:
  - the prevalence of ad-hoc and short-term research initiatives;
  - low accessibility, exploitation and adoption of results by users;
  - the lack of common tools and frameworks.
- Cultural barriers due to:
  - the perception that research is slow and not focused on needs in the field;
  - a lack of awareness of available scientific entrepreneurship research.

## **The creation of PERSÉIS**

It was in this context that the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) and the Mouvement des accélérateurs d'innovation du Québec (MAIN) decided to pool their expertise and strengths to create PERSÉIS, a research-society space for innovative and scientific entrepreneurship. Above all, PERSÉIS aims to provide a structured exchange and meeting place where participants can get to know each other, share information and tools, and co-construct solutions through research into ecosystem needs.

## **Benefits expected from the creation of PERSÉIS**

### For support organizations and innovative and scientific companies

- Better understanding of the innovative and scientific entrepreneurship ecosystem;
- Analysis of challenges and identification of solutions;
- Access to the best models, frameworks and tools adapted to the reality of Québec.

### For the research community

- Opening up of research perspectives;
- Development of new lines of thought;
- Stronger knowledge mobilization in practice settings and enhanced networking with society.

### For elected officials, civil servants and decision-makers involved in the public sphere

- Development of appropriate strategies and policies;
- Implementation of high-impact programs.

## **Documenting and evaluating open innovation in the PERSÉIS research-society space**

Since 2023, the FRQ and MAIN have been putting forward initiatives to stimulate research on innovative and scientific entrepreneurship in Québec via the PERSÉIS research-society space.

The PERSÉIS team has formalized its intentions in the following strategic orientations and action plan:

- Orientation 1 – Monitoring, assessment and development of PERSÉIS

Action 1. Fund research into PERSÉIS, its mission, functioning, obstacles and facilitators

Action 2. Set up a PERSÉIS consultation team

Action 3. Create and run a virtual PERSÉIS space

- Orientation 2 – Knowledge mobilization and adoption

Action 1. Set up watch groups to mobilize existing research and stimulate the emergence of research projects

- Orientation 3 – Integrating governmental and paragonovernmental needs into PERSÉIS

Action 1. Establish a working group to draw up action plans to be implemented in the short term.

Against this backdrop, the FRQ and MAIN are launching this call for research projects to document and assess the impact of the open innovation mechanisms in place within PERSÉIS, with a view to continuous improvement and assessment.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

Research projects should focus on:

- the relevance of PERSÉIS orientations and the initiatives arising from them;
- the development of success indicators in the PERSEIS open innovation methodology;
- the ability to federate stakeholders (support organizations, entrepreneurs, the research community, elected officials, civil servants and decision-makers in the public sphere);
- the spin-offs generated in relation to the benefits expected from the creation of PERSÉIS.

Research projects should be structured around existing initiatives:

- [PERSÉIS research projects funded in 2023](#) through a co-construction approach and supported by inter-project coordinators;
- [PERSÉIS watch groups](#) to mobilize existing research, leverage scientific knowledge in the innovative and scientific entrepreneurship support ecosystem, and generate new research projects on the following themes:
  - Intellectual property (IP);
  - Mental health;
  - Impact measurement.
- Strategic projects under development.

The expected deliverable is a research report including:

- Documentation of the open innovation mechanisms in place in PERSÉIS;

- An evaluation framework for PERSÉIS practices and their impacts;
- Recommendations for continuous improvement and assessment.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

#### 3.1 Team composition and eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible, a project must:

- be headed by a team of at least two researchers with Status 1, 2 or 3 as defined in the [CGR](#).

The team may also include an unlimited number of co-investigators with Status 1, 2, 3 or 4 and collaborators.

#### 3.2 Roles in the research project

##### **Principal investigator (responsible for the application)**

Person who acts as scientific director of the project for which funding is requested. The principal investigator has administrative responsibility for the project, including correspondence with the FRQ, financial responsibility for the grant, and meeting reporting requirements.

##### **Co-investigator**

A co-investigator makes a significant contribution to the project and may be delegated to manage part of the funds.

##### **Collaborator**

The research team may also include collaborators who bring specific expertise to the project for which funding is requested.

##### **Person from a non-academic environment (e.g. person from a business accelerator or incubator (BAI))**

A person from a non-academic environment who plays an essential role in the realization of the project, notably through theoretical, practical, technical, traditional, cultural or experiential knowledge, an in-depth understanding of the ecosystem and a significant contribution to the overall process, may be listed as a collaborator and the person's role may be included in the project description.

#### 3.3 Participation in more than one project

A researcher may submit only one (1) application as a principal investigator to this call for projects. A principal investigator may, however, participate in other applications as a co-investigator or collaborator.

#### 4. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

##### **Documents to be attached to the form**

The principal investigator is asked to submit the following documents:

- A text of up to 4 pages describing the project in relation to the objectives of the call for projects and evaluation criteria, and including the following elements in the order indicated below:
  - a project description;
  - a paragraph describing the planned collaboration with the PERSÉIS team, the people responsible for the various PERSÉIS initiatives and projects, and the community mobilized around the PERSÉIS space;
  - a paragraph describing the composition of the team and each member's contribution.
- The abridged CV of the principal investigator and each co-investigator, prepared in accordance with the presentation rules provided [here](#) (maximum 2 pages per CV);
- A detailed budget (based on the eligible expense categories detailed in the CGR) and a maximum of 1 page of budgetary justifications.

#### 5. APPLICATION EVALUATION

##### **5.1 Evaluation committee**

Applications will be evaluated by a committee whose members are recognized for their skills, expertise and achievements related to the program's objectives and the submitted applications. Given the diverse profiles of committee members, applicants are encouraged to present the project in such a way as to be easily understood by an intersectoral committee from different spheres of society.

To be recommended for funding, an application must receive an overall score of 70% or more.

##### **5.2 Evaluation criteria**

1. Quality and realism of the project (30%)

## 2. Relevance of the project (30%)

- Alignment between the project and the context and objectives of the call for projects
- The quality of the strategy for collaborating with the PERSÉIS team, the people responsible for the various PERSÉIS initiatives and projects, and the community mobilized around the PERSÉIS space

## 3. Team composition (20%)

## 4. Anticipated benefits (20%)

- for the PERSÉIS community
- for supporting innovative and scientific entrepreneurship in Québec
- for the advancement of scientific knowledge

## 6. IMPORTANT DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

- Deadline for application: October 16, 2024 at 16:00 (EST)
- Application evaluation period: October - November 2024
- Announcement of results: December 2024

## 7. DESCRIPTION AND NATURE OF FUNDING

The maximum annual grant amount is \$100,000 for a maximum of three years.

In accordance with the program's objectives, the grant must be used to cover expenses directly related to the implementation of the project. All budget items listed in the CGR are eligible (see Section 8 of the CGR).

Indirect costs equivalent to 27% of the grant amount will be paid in addition to the research grant.

Also eligible:

- Support for project coordination and management, given the focus on networking with the PERSÉIS community.

### **ATTENTION!**

If the project involves stakeholders from non-academic environments (such as BAIs), the budget is expected to provide for fees or compensation to enable them to contribute fully and in keeping with their role in the project.

## 8. FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING

In accordance with the CGR, holders of a grant obtained under this program are required to submit a final report, the format of which will be communicated in due course to the principal investigators of the funded applications.

In addition, a research report containing the following deliverables must be submitted no later than three months after the end of the grant period:

- Documentation of the open innovation mechanisms in place in PERSÉIS
- Definition of a framework for evaluating PERSÉIS practices and their spin-offs
- Recommendations for continuous improvement and assessment
- An executive summary to facilitate dissemination to various audiences (BAIs, government agencies, etc.)

Furthermore, in the interest of promoting the impacts of the research project, teams must contribute, on invitation, to events such as forums, conferences and follow-up or transfer activities organized by MAIN and the FRQ. Teams also agree to present the progress of their work at the Accelerator Summit during the years of their grant.

## 9. IMMEDIATE OPEN ACCESS FOR PUBLICATIONS RESULTING FROM THIS GRANT

Peer-reviewed publications resulting from the research made possible by this grant must be released in immediate open access (without embargo), under an open license, in accordance with the FRQ's [open access policy for the dissemination of research](#) (revised in 2022).

## 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

These rules apply to the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

## 11. CONTACT PERSON

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Fonds de recherche du Québec