



## Fit4Future phase 2

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**1. Who can I contact if I have questions about the application process or the Fit4Future phase 2 call?**

You can find all the information about the call on our [website](#).

For any questions or clarifications regarding the application process or the Fit4Future phase 2 call, applicants should contact us exclusively via the dedicated email address: [fit4future@fondationbotnar.org](mailto:fit4future@fondationbotnar.org). Please note that inquiries sent directly to individual staff members of Fondation Botnar will not receive a response.

**2. Who is eligible to apply for a Fit4Future phase 2 grant?**

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises registered for at least two years and operating in one of these focus countries: Romania, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Indonesia, Vietnam, Colombia, and Ecuador. Lead applicants must have a registered office or be incorporated in one of our focus countries. Organisations without a local office can still participate as part of a consortium.

**3. Which types of projects will Fondation Botnar fund?**

Fondation Botnar seeks projects that leverage digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the wellbeing of young people, particularly those from marginalised communities. Projects should focus on creating inclusive cities or advancing inclusive education, addressing barriers faced by youth with disabilities, those out of school, or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Preference will be given to projects that are deeply rooted in the community and demonstrate strong local ownership.

**4. How much funding can applicants request?**

The minimum funding for a project is CHF 200,000, with a total of CHF 3.19 million available for 5-7 projects in this call. Applicants may request up to 10% of their total grant budget for overhead costs. To ensure a diversity of partners and initiatives, we anticipate funding 5-7 projects with budgets ranging from around CHF 400,000 to CHF 700,000. While we may consider proposals beyond this range, they would need to demonstrate exceptional quality, innovation, and potential for impact to be selected.

Projects that are co-funded, either in cash or in-kind, will be given preference.

**5. What is the application process and timeline?**

Applicants should submit short proposals by February 10, 2025. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by the end of March 2025 and invited to submit a full proposal. Selected projects will be announced in July 2025 and can start with project implementation after signing the contract. The expected project duration ranges from two to four years.

**6. How long does it take for an organisation to be validated on the application portal?**

Validation through the application portal is needed to submit your project proposal, but it's not required to fill out your application. Organisations that have already registered will be validated by the end of January at the latest, following a verification process to confirm their existence. The application submission deadline is 10 February.

If the lead applicant's account does not have an institution assigned, or if an organisation is not listed in the dropdown menu during registration, you can manually add the organisation's name in the text field, and the system will save it.

**7. Do proposals need to be submitted in English?**

Yes, proposals must be submitted in English. Applicants may write in their preferred language and then use online translation tools to translate the proposal into English.

**8. Can one organisation submit more than one application?**

No, each organisation can only submit one application as the lead applicant.

**9. Can I apply if I have an existing grant with Fondation Botnar?**

Existing grant partners of Fondation Botnar are eligible to apply, except those who have received funding during phase 1 of Fit4Future as lead applicants. Organisations that received grants from Fondation Botnar but were not in the first Fit4Future cohort are eligible to apply. This approach aligns with our goal of expanding the Fit4Future network and fostering new collaborations.



**10. Which criteria will be used to evaluate proposals?**

Proposals will be evaluated against several criteria, including their alignment with the call's objectives, potential for impact, level of innovation, feasibility, and sustainability. In the first stage, an internal expert panel will review the short proposals. In the second stage, a broader panel comprising both internal and external experts will assess the full proposals.

**11. What is the expected number of young people the project should aim to reach?**

There is no predefined number. Projects may reach a large number of young people or work with a smaller group, such as 200 while focusing on achieving systemic impact through collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

**12. Are joint implementation projects between multiple focus countries eligible?**

Yes, joint implementation projects between multiple countries are eligible.

**13. What are the requirements and expectations for the consortium approach?**

The consortium approach requires applicants to bring together stakeholders and organisations with relevant expertise for the proposal. Consortia should ideally include stakeholders with complementary skills and experiences, prioritising local partners from focus countries. The lead applicant is responsible for coordinating the consortium.

**14. Can an organisation be involved in multiple proposals, either as a collaborating partner or as part of a consortium, including those that received funding in Phase 1?**

Yes, an organisation can be involved in multiple proposals but only submit one proposal as the lead applicant.

**15. Can faith-based organisations, including churches, apply or collaborate with partner organisations?**

Based on our funding policy, faith-based organisations are not eligible to apply as lead applicants. However, non-faith-based lead applicants may include faith-based organisations as part of their consortium or as collaborating partners.

**16. Are organisations required to have a certain level of annual income to apply?**

No, there is no minimum annual income requirement to apply. However, successful applicants will undergo a due diligence process in later stages to review the organisation's financial stability and capacity.

**17. Are government entities eligible for funding?**

We do not fund government entities directly, but they can be consortium partners.

**18. Can proposals include collaborations with for-profit companies, and if so, what is the structure?**

Yes, that is possible. It is up to the applicant to determine the governance structure of the consortium.

**19. Do we need to have a written agreement with partners by the time of application?**

No, agreements with consortium partners are not needed by the time of application.

**20. What role should AI and other digital technologies play in proposals?**

We are looking for proposals that demonstrate the meaningful and purposeful application of digital tools, AI, and data to address challenges and drive impact. Fit4Future projects should leverage technology to empower young people, enabling them to shape their environments and education systems. While the use of AI is not mandatory, its thoughtful integration can enhance an application's strength and potential.

**21. Is it possible to submit proposals for both thematic areas: inclusive cities and inclusive education?**

Yes, it's possible to submit a proposal addressing both thematic areas. However, each organisation can only submit one proposal as the lead applicant, so both themes would need to be addressed in one single proposal.

**22. Can we propose our own metrics of success, i.e. indicators and targets, or are we expected to align with/adhere to guidelines provided by Fondation Botnar?**

Yes, proposing your own metrics of success is encouraged. We value the insights of our partners and welcome your perspectives on defining and measuring the outcomes of your proposed projects.

**23. Can projects focus on rural, peri-urban areas, or must they be exclusively urban?**

We seek projects that address the challenges and barriers faced by young people in urban and peri-urban areas. While youth from rural areas are not excluded, proposals should maintain a primary focus on urban and peri-urban contexts.

**24. Do you fund proposals at the ideation stage?**

Yes, projects that are in the ideation stage are eligible for funding.