Call for Research Proposals

GPR "HUMAN PAST"
Innovative Actions

Launch of the CRP: October 1st, 2026

Submission of projects: before **November 20, 2026 11:59pm**

Evaluation during the PIs Board Meeting: December 10, 2026

CRP #8 Major Research Programme

"HUMAN PAST"

The deadline for submission of the project is before **November 20, 2026, 11:59pm**

Applications (**one project per leader**) should be sent to
Mélina Abdou (melina.abdou@u-bordeaux.fr) with copy to the GPR co-leaders (dir.humanpast@u-bordeaux.fr)

OBJECTIVES OF THE GPR HUMAN PAST

The GPR (Major Research Programme) "Human Past" is an interdisciplinary research project, funded by the Initiative of Excellence of the University of Bordeaux. "Human Past" gathers ~200 researchers from 5 laboratories (PACEA, AUSONIUS, Archéosciences Bordeaux, EPOC, and CBMN) associated with the University of Bordeaux (UB) and the University Bordeaux-Montaigne (UBM).

"Human Past" aims to document, characterize and understand the tipping points that triggered critical biologic and cultural changes in past populations. Covering a broad time span, ranging from prehistory to historical periods, our research aims to identify the steps that allowed a primate originally adapted to African ecosystems to evolve into a species that occupies and impacts every ecosystem on the planet. Biological and cultural systems are examined at different scales, using a variety of perspectives, with particular attention to phenotypic and genetic variation, cognition, technology, social organization, belief systems and the different biological and cultural adaptive strategies that govern human societies.

We focus our efforts on five interconnected questions: 1) What mechanisms have affected the genetic and phenotypic diversity of human and animal communities? 2) How have human societies interacted with their environment? 3) How and why do new cultural traits appear, propagate and disappear? 4) How did symbolic systems emerge and how did they affect social organization? 5) How can the study of cultural heritage improve our knowledge of the human past while at the same time promoting its protection and strengthen societal and community development? 6) Can we establish an operational synthesis of the mechanisms that have produced major and irreversible changes in the evolution of human societies?

Important: Applicants who have already received funding under previous Innovative Actions CRP during Phase 1 can apply to the present CRP#8

OBJECTIVES OF THE "INNOVATIVE ACTIONS" CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

This call for proposals aims to:

- Promote new research exploring “Human Past” topics
- To fund projects by colleagues who are not members of the GPR “Human Past” (e.g. a new member of a unit) and who wish to join it.
- Fund actions that test the feasibility of a new line of investigation or the potential of new equipment that will benefit the GPR “Human Past”
- Fund publications highlighting new discoveries which are in line with the objectives of the GPR “Human Past”

All members of the laboratories involved in the GPR “Human Past” are eligible to apply.

PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR PROJECT EVALUATION

The main criteria for assessing these projects will be

- Scientific quality of the project, recognised by the PI Board
- Contribution to the identification and documentation of Tipping Points within the frame of the GPR ‘Human Past’
- The innovative and interdisciplinary nature of the project
- Potential leverage effect of the project to obtain external resources (Aquitaine Region, ANR, FEDER, ERC, etc.)
- Potential visibility of the project and its scientific valorisation
- The project must be new and not have been the subject of an application to the CRP of the Department of Archaeological Sciences

SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES)

The positioning of the project in relation to the state of the art should be included in the introduction to the proposal. The objectives of the project and the relevance of the means requested to achieve them should then be described. The scientific added value of the project and the extent to which it meets one of the objectives of the GPR "Human Past" and the evaluation criteria should be demonstrated. A presentation of the project's feasibility must also be made.

TECHNICAL DETAILS AND APPENDICES (4 PAGES MAXIMUM)

Feasibility, project duration and schedule

- Provide the project schedule
- Projects funded by this CRP must use the GPR funding **before December 31, 2028**
- The project leader commits to lead the project during the entire project duration

- If the project leader leaves the GPR before ending his/her project, the remaining budget will be reintegrated to the GPR budget. Exceptionally, all or part of the remaining budget could be used for publication fees for a publication on a topic directly related to the project funded by the GPR. This decision should be taken by the PIs board

- Post-doctoral applicants must hold an employment contract covering the entire duration of the project

Alignment to GPR WPs

Indicate the "Human Past" workpackages concerned by the proposal.

Justification of financial claims

Provide a brief overview of operational expenses with a clear justification of the equipment required, if any. Explain exactly why these requirements are necessary.

Eligible expenses are:

- Operating expenses (e.g., consumables, missions, internship allowances, small equipment under 800 €, external services)
- Equipment up to 4000 €
- Salaries of support staff, provided that the associated missions are not part of the current activities of the involved research units or platforms, but intended to develop novel research in the framework of the GPR "Human Past"

Co-funding

Co-funding is not mandatory.
If you have or may have co-funding, indicate if the projects securing them are:

- planned
- submitted and currently under review
- acquired

Specify the amount and origins of obtained and potential co-funding (ANR, IdEx, Europe, Région, others).

IMPORTANT! In the description of the project costs, make a clear distinction in the tables between what is requested from the GPR (with sufficient detail for evaluation, avoid round and maximum sums), and the total costs envisaged for the project or other funds envisaged/requested/acquired by other means.

HUMAN PAST 7TH CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS TIMETABLE

CRP No. 8 has an amount of 25 000 €
Requested funds cannot exceed 12 000 € per project

Proposals must be sent before**, November 20, 2026, 11:59pm,** to Melina Abdou (melina.abdou@u-bordeaux.fr) with copy to the GPR co-leaders (dir.humanpast@u-bordeaux.fr)

FORM TO BE FILLED

ACRONYM OR SHORT NAME OF THE PROJECT & COMPLETE PROJECT TITLE	
PROJECT ABSTRACT (500 CHARACTERS MAX.)	
NATURE OF THE PROJECT (E.G. PILOT STUDY, BASIC RESEARCH, PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FUTURE SET-UP OF A LARGER PROJECT, PROJECT CLOSURE …) **(100 CHARACTERS MAX.)**	
ALIGNMENT TO ONE OR MORE WPS OF THE HUMAN PAST GPR	☐ What mechanisms have affected genetic and phenotypic diversity in human and animal communities? (WP1) ☐ How did human societies interact with their environments? (WP2) ☐ How and why do novel cultural traits emerge, propagate and disappear? (WP3) ☐ How did symbolic systems emerge and how did they affect societal organisation? (WP4) ☐ How can the study of cultural heritage improve our knowledge of the human past while at the same time promoting its protection and strengthen societal and community development? (WP5) ☐ Can we establish an operational synthesis of the mechanisms that have produced major and irreversible changes in the evolution of human societies?(WP6)
REQUESTED FUNDS € (MAX 12 000 €)	

MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS (E.G. PUBLICATION) (200 CHARACTERS MAX)			
NAME OF THE PROJECT LEADER			
POSITION OF THE PROJECT LEADER			
RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE PROJECT LEADER OF THE BORDEAUX SITE			
LIST OF PARTNER LABORATORIES AND DEPARTMENTS			
DATE AND SIGNATURE OF THE PROJECT LEADER			
SIGNATURE OF THE DU(S) OF THE PI'S LABORATORY(IES)			

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (MAXIMUM 2 PAGES, I.E. 4500 CHARACTERS MAX. PER PAGE)

Continuation of the description

EXPECTED OUTCOMES (1 PAGE MAXIMUM, I.E. 4500 CHARACTERS MAX.)

APPENDICES (MAXIMUM 4 PAGES)

Feasability, duration, and schedule (1 page, i.e. 4500 characters max.)

Participants to the project

Participant's name and role	Laboratory	Type of the involvement / collaboration nature and level

Justification of the financial requests made to the GPR (set out the budget in detail)

Type of expenses (HR, Operating expenses: service provision, mission, purchase of material; Equipment)	Description	Amount (€)

Total (€) :

Co-funding

Origin of potential co-funding	Amount (€)	Planned, submitted, acquired

CONTACT

GPR HUMAN PAST
Contact
Melina Abdou
(melina.abdou@u-bordeaux.fr)

