

i4KIDS ACCELERATION PROGRAMME 2025

Participation rules

1. INTRODUCTION

The i4KIDS Paediatric Innovation Hub (i4KIDS), an initiative launched by Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona Children's Hospital (SJD) as the coordinator of a network of 32 entities (<https://www.innovation4kids.org/en/>), is committed to advancing innovation in fetal, paediatric and maternal health through the development and testing of solutions tailored to the needs of children and mothers. In line with this objective, i4KIDS announces the launch of the **second edition of the Acceleration Programme 2025**, extending invitations to five eligible projects dedicated to positively influencing the future of children and mothers.

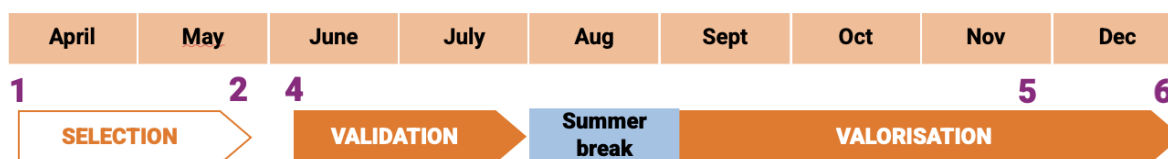
2. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The **i4KIDS Acceleration Programme** is a six-month initiative designed to fast-track early-stage innovations in fetal, paediatric, and maternal health. The programme supports high-potential projects through two structured phases. The **Validation Phase** (June–July) helps teams define and strengthen their value proposition through specialized training, mentoring, and gap assessments. The **Valorisation Phase** (September–December) builds on this foundation, offering expert consultancy, collaborative workshops, and pitch preparation support. The programme culminates in a final pitch event during *Paediatric Innovation Day* on **November 20th, 2025**, in Barcelona.

The timeline for the 2025 edition of the programme is as follows:

Key Dates:

1. **April 11th, 2025:** Call for projects.
2. **May 18th, 2025:** End of the call for projects.
3. By the end of May, the five projects selected to join the Acceleration Programme will be announced.
4. **June 2nd, 2025:** Kick-off meeting and start of the programme for the participants.
5. **November 20st, 2025:** End of classes and Pitch competition during the Paediatric Innovation Day.
6. **December 19th, 2025:** End of Valorisation Phase.



Format of Sessions:

- **Group Classes (Masterclasses):** Held online between **15:00 and 18:00 CEST**, with a maximum duration of **1.5 to 2 hours**. This schedule aims to facilitate coordination among all participants.
- **One-to-One Mentoring Sessions:** Scheduled individually, considering the availability of both participants and assigned mentors or consultants. This flexible approach helps accommodate different commitments and ensures personalized support.

2.1. Validation phase. June and July

The Validation phase is designed to validate early-stage innovation projects (TRL 2 to 4) by confirming their value proposition through a structured approach comprising the following steps:

- Specialized Training: Participants engage in a specialized training programme that guides them through the key stages of healthcare innovation—from identifying unmet needs to navigating IP, MDR regulations, business models, and market access. Along the way, they gain practical insights into clinical trials and patient engagement. The programme blends group workshops with one-on-one mentoring, ensuring a balance between shared learning and personalized support.
- GAP Assessment: Using a healthcare innovation cycle methodology, like the CIMIT approach, we conduct a GAP assessment to pinpoint disparities between the current project state and the desired project outcomes. This process enables strategic planning and resource allocation to efficiently bridge these gaps.

Following the Validation phase, a comprehensive analysis will determine the most suitable services for the project's advancement. The specific list of services will be agreed upon between the i4KIDS team, mentors and participants (Appendix A). At the end of the Validation phase, the project team should have a clear idea of its strengths and what it needs to work on in the following phase.

2.2. Valorisation phase. September to December

The Valorisation Phase is designed to de-risk early-stage innovation projects by increasing their value and maturity through a structured support programme. This phase runs from **September to the end of November**, culminating in the **final project presentations during the i4KIDS 2025 Acceleration Programme Final Event on November 20th in Barcelona**.

Programme Highlights:

- Need/Pain Validation: This step entails a thorough evaluation of identified needs or pain points. It involves engaging clinical experts in interviews to validate the hypothesis risen. Insights obtained from these stakeholders ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges being addressed.
- Mentorship accompaniment: Engaging experienced mentors who provide guidance and support tailored to the specific needs of each project, aiding in navigating challenges and maximizing opportunities for success.
- Workshop in impact: Workshops to enhance project strategies, encourage collaborations, and increase positive social impact in paediatric healthcare.
- Consultancy services providing access to expert consultancy services in areas such as Regulatory Compliance, Business Planning, Intellectual Property Management, Market Access and Technological Feasibility, while not all services may be covered by the programme, a thorough assessment is conducted to prioritize the most essential services tailored to each project's specific needs and maturity level.
- Deck preparation and communication to pitch: Aid teams in creating persuasive pitch materials that effectively display their project's vision, goals, and milestones. Support includes not only the design and structure of the deck, but also strategic guidance on how to

communicate the pitch, ensuring clarity, coherence, and impact. The aim is to empower teams to deliver compelling presentations to stakeholders, evaluators, and potential partners.

3. CANDIDATES

Only projects from the i4KIDS member research groups can apply to this programme (the members' list can be found in Appendix B). If you are interested in participating in the programme but are not a member of the i4KIDS network, you can contact our i4KIDS team through raquel.batlle@sid.es and contact@innovation4kids.org our team will evaluate your candidacy for potential adherence to the network.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Acceleration Programme considers **projects** from both **academic environments and start-up companies** with the following objectives and categories:

- Projects falling within Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 2 to 4.
- Projects rooted in MedTech, Digital Health, Biotech, or Pharma, situated within the domains of life sciences, health, or well-being. Projects dedicated to advancing products and/or services targeting paediatric (from fetal to 21 years old) or maternal health.
- Projects must have a committed team with availability to participate in the acceleration programme (including all its activities and phases). Minimum 2-person committed on assisting to the programme sessions and activities.

5. SELECTION

All project submissions must be completed by filling out the "i4KIDS Acceleration Programme form" document before the specified **deadline of May 18th at 11:59 PM**. This form must be filled and sent in **PDF format** to the emails address: raquel.batlle@sid.es and contact@innovation4kids.org indicating in the Subject: ***"Application Acceleration Programme 2025"***.

Projects submitted after this deadline will not be reviewed. Initially, all proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation to assess their alignment with i4KIDS participation criteria, as well as their relevance to designated areas and fields.

A panel of external experts will evaluate eligible candidates to select **five projects** for the Acceleration Programme. Notification of selection will primarily be conveyed via the contact details provided in the Project Proposal for the i4KIDS Acceleration Programme, followed by dissemination through i4KIDS communication channels.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals submitted to the i4KIDS Acceleration Programme will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Idea (25%)
 - Identification of an unmet clinical need.
 - Scientific rationale and solution supported by state-of-the-art knowledge and proof-of-idea results.
- Market opportunity (20%)
 - Identification and early validation of the market needs.

- Target market characteristics.
- Identification of potential users and customers.
- Competitors and differential value proposition.
- Transfer and implementation capacity (15%)
 - Current stage of development.
 - Intellectual property maturity and strategy.
 - Plan for project exploitation.
- Impact (20%)
 - Economic and social impact.
 - Benefit for patients.
- Team (20%)
 - Experience in the field and roles complementarity of the project team.
 - Commitment of the team members to participating in the programme.

If necessary, the evaluation panel may request verification of information provided in the proposals through either in-person or online interactions with the applicants.

7. COST OF PARTICIPATION AND PROFIT SHARING

The i4KIDS Acceleration Programme is entirely free for participants, with no equity taken by the organisers. Instead, a carefully crafted profit-sharing mechanism is triggered in the event of project or start-up success (“success events”), reflecting the programme’s estimated value of €30,000 per project. In such cases, a portion of the proceeds will be reinvested into the Sant Joan de Déu Foundation and i4KIDS (FSJD/i4KIDS), ensuring continued support for innovation in paediatric and maternal health.

Success events include:

- Sale or licensing of the Start-up or its technology to a third party.
- Revenue generated from the exploitation of technology (e.g., product sales, service provision).
- Completion of investment round.

In case of any successful event, participants are obligated to notify such event to FSJD/i4KIDS. Below are the details regarding profit-sharing:

- If a lump-sum payment equal to or exceeding 300.000€ is received, FSJD/i4KIDS is entitled to the total aid amount (30,000€). Payment to i4KIDS will be made within three months after receiving the payment.
- If a lump-sum payment is less of 300,000€, and/or in the case of recurring payments, FSJD/i4KIDS is entitled to receive an amount equal to two percent (2%) of each recurring payment, up to 30.000€. Payments to FSJD/i4KIDS will be made annually for all recurring payments obtained during the same year, within the first quarter of the following year.

Profit sharing will cease:

- When FSJD/i4KIDS has obtained an amount equal to 30.000€.
- After five (5) years since granting of the aid.

8. POST-PROGRAMME OPPORTUNITIES

Upon completion of the Acceleration Programme, participating projects will become part of the i4KIDS Alumni network. This community aims to foster continued growth and connection among past participants, offering opportunities such as follow-up mentoring, visibility in future i4KIDS events, access to a network of innovation experts and partners, and potential prioritization in future i4KIDS initiatives or collaborations. Being an i4KIDS Alumni provides ongoing support and positioning within the paediatric innovation ecosystem.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INDUSTRIAL/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

This programme entails a commitment to confidentiality from all parties involved, regarding the ideas and information presented, if such ideas and information are not lawfully publicized. i4KIDS will always respect the ownership of the industrial and intellectual property of the participating entrepreneurs, as well as the ideas and know-how they contribute.

Your participation in this programme does not imply any concession or transfer of such rights to us.

10. DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Our programme requires all participants to maintain confidentiality regarding the ideas and information shared, until such time as they are lawfully made public.

Participants in the i4KIDS Acceleration Programme may have their images and related materials disseminated on social networks and at events for promotional purposes.

Regarding personal data processing, the five candidates selected will sign a specific data sharing agreement. Each party is responsible for processing the personal data of the other party's signatories. Contact details for responsible parties are provided in the agreement.

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Appendix A – Description of the activities and services

Appendix A provides a description of the activities and services that will be provided during the i4KIDS Acceleration Programme.

VALIDATION PHASE

The aim of the i4KIDS Validation phase is to validate the value proposition of early-stage innovation projects, employing the following steps:

- Group and individual sessions encompassing Regulatory Affairs, Business Planning, Intellectual Property, Patient engagement. Clinical trials and Market Access.
- Conducting GAP assessments adhering to the CIMIT methodology.

This stage is scheduled to commence in early June and culminate by the end of the month.

VALORISATION PHASE

The i4KIDS Valorisation phase aims to de-risk early-stage innovation projects by increasing their value through the following steps:

- Validation of the need/pain through a clinical focus group.
- Mentorship accompaniment.
- Impact on a workshop through collaboration with the Impact Hub.
- Consultancy services in the field of:
 - o Regulatory and Clinical Trials
 - o Business Plan
 - o Intellectual Property
 - o Market Access.

Not all these services will be covered by the programme, but an assessment will be done to prioritize the most adequate needed services to be developed during the programme by each project and agreed with the project team, i4KIDS team and mentors.

- Deck preparation and Pitch training.

This phase will start in September and conclude by December, with the final projects being presented during the i4KIDS 2025 Acceleration Programme final event (pitch competition) on 20th of November 2025, in Barcelona.

Hospital Sant Joan de Déu (HSJD)

- Technologies de la Salut i Innovació
- Origen dels sarcomes del desenvolupament
- Translational Genomics
- Tumors del desenvolupament
- Càncer Pediàtric
- Leucèmia i hemopaties pediàtriques
- Patients Engagement in Research (PERA)
- Malalties Infeccioses I Microbioma
- Neurogenètica i Medicina Molecular
- Medicina metabòlica y mitocondrial
- Enfermedades neurometabólicas de expresión en el SNC
- BCNatal (with Hospital Clínic)
- Neuromonitorització en el pacient crític cardíac

Fundació Sant Joan de Déu (FSJD)

- Epigenètica del Càncer Pediàtric
- Tratamiento del cáncer pediátrico
- Investigación aplicada en enfermedades neuromusculares
- Malalties metabòliques d'origen pediàtric

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).

- Biomechanical Engineering Lab
- BIOART
- Robòtica Intel·ligent i Sistemes
- Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence IDEAI-UPC
- Speech Acquisition and Perception Group (SAP)
- Reasoning and Infant Cognition Group (RICO)

Universitat de Barcelona (UB)

- Neurociència cognitiva
- Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Grup d'investigació sobre aplicacions de realitat virtual i altres noves tecnologies en Psicologia clínica i de la salut
- Neural Development Lab
- Molecular bases of rare brain diseases and channelopathies

Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL).

- Stem Cell Potency Group

- Grup de Malalties Neurometabòliques
- Sarcoma Research Group
- Hematopoietic stem cell biology and leukemogenesis
- Nucleases, càncer i immunitat

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

- Grup de Sensors i Biosensors
- Tecnologia i aplicació multimèdia i digital als dissenys observacionals (GRID)
- Pedagogia Hospitalària en neonatologia i pediatria (PHNP). Grup de Recerca i Innovació en Disseny
- Barcelona Science and Technology Studies Group (STSb)
- Pedagogia Hospitalària en neonatologia i pediatria (PHNP). Grup de Recerca i Innovació en Disseny.

Fundació Institut d'investigació Germans Trias i Pujol (IGTP).

- Grup de recerca translacional en patologia hepàtica i immunitat innata

Fundació Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB).

- Comparative genomics
- Signalling and Cell Cycle Laboratory
- Complex Metabolic Diseases and Mitochondria
- Cell Division Lab
- Targeted Protein Degradation and Drug Discovery
- Microtubule Organization
- Laboratori de la Traducció Genètica
- Biomedical genomics (BBGLab)

Fundació Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya (IBEC)

- Nanoprobes and nanoswitches
- Biomaterials for Regenerative Therapies
- Nanobioengineering

Fundació Institut en Salut Global Barcelona (ISGLOBAL)

- Grup de Recerca en Epidemiologia i Salut Internacional (GRESI)

Fundació Institut de Recerca de l'Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (IR-HSCSP).

- Fisiologia Molecular de la Sinapsi
- Women and Perinatal Health Research Group
- Grup de Recerca en Cures Infermeres
- Servei de Genètica
- Pediatria

Fundació Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron - Institut de Recerca (VHIR)

- Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders

- Neurologia Pediàtrica VHIR
- Grup de Recerca en patologia neuromuscular i mitocondrial

Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS)

- Diagnòstic molecular
- Patologia Neuromuscular i Mitocondrial
- Neurobiologia dels receptors ionotròpics de glutamat en la salut i la malaltia
- IncaSyM – Integrated Care & Systems Medicine (subgrup 6.04 IDIBAPS)

Institut de Química Avançada (IQAC) del CSIC.

- Nanobiotechnology for Diagnostics (Nb4D)

Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV).

- PÓLIPO
- Alimentación, Nutrición, Crecimiento y Salud Mental (NUTRCRSM)
- Unitat de recerca en pediatria, nutrició i desenvolupament humà (URPNDH)
- NeuroÈpia - Neurociència Clínica i Epidemiològica
- Unitat de Recerca de Lípids i Arteriosclerosi

Fundació Privada Centre CIM.

- Fabricació Additiva grup 3D Printing for Health

Institut Químic de Sarrià (IQS).

- GEMAT: Grup D'Enginyeria dels Materials

Associació Acondicionamiento Tarrasense – LEITAT

- Health and Biomedicine

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)

- Full-Body Interaction Laboratory (FuBIIntLab) a Unitat Technology, Society and Interaction (TESI)
- BCN MedTech
- Grup de Recerca en Neurobiologia del Comportament (Grenec-NeuroBio)

Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa (MUTUA TERRASA)

- Grup de Recerca Interdisciplinar en Malalties Infeccioses MutuaTerrassa (GRIMIMT)

Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí.

- Grup de malalties minoritàries Parc Taulí Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí

Fundació Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (ICFO)

- Super resolution light microscopy and nanoscopy lab
- MEDICAL OPTICS

Fundació Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona Dr. Josep Trueta (IDIBGI)

- Obesitat i Risc Cardiovascular en Pediatria Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona

- Centre de Genètica Cardiovascular
- Recerca Metabòlica Materno-Fetal

Fundació EURECAT

- Unitat de Digital Health

Idiap Jordi Gol

- Infància i Dieta Mediterrània (INFADIMED)

Consorci Sanitari Terrassa (CST) – Fundació Joan Costa Roma

- Grup De Recerca En Pediatria
- Grup De Recerca Salut Integral a l'adolescència (Sia)

Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute

- Leucèmia i immuno-oncologia
- Biologia de cèl·lules mare, leucèmia del desenvolupament i immunoteràpia
- RNA regulador i cromatina
- Desenvolupament i malalties limfocítiques
- Organització 3D de la cromatina
- Epigenètica del càncer

Centre Internacional de Mètodes numèrics a l'Enginyeria (CIMNE)

- Computational Bioengineering Group

Universitat de Lleida

- NUTREN-Nutrigenomics

Universitat de Barcelona – IBUB – IRSJD - CIBERER

- Genètica Molecular Humana