

Paediatric Hospital Innovation Call 2026

Rules of Participation

1. Introduction

Paediatric hospitals play a crucial role in developing innovative solutions to address unmet clinical, organisational and patient-centred needs in maternal and child health. Many of these innovations emerge directly from within hospitals, driven by healthcare professionals, researchers and multidisciplinary teams who work daily at the frontline of care.

The **Paediatric Hospital Innovation Call 2026** is an initiative jointly organised by **i4KIDS, i4KIDS- EUROPE** and the **European Children's Hospitals Organisation (ECHO)**. The call aims to identify, highlight and connect **highly innovative projects developed within paediatric hospitals in Europe and UK** that demonstrate **clear impact and strong potential for scalability across hospitals and health systems**.

Selected projects will be invited to present at the **Paediatric Innovation Day (PID)**, taking place on **18 September 2026 in Helsinki**, providing international visibility and opportunities for collaboration within the European paediatric innovation ecosystem.

2. Objectives of the Call

The objectives of this call are to:

- Identify innovative projects originating from paediatric hospitals or paediatric departments that address relevant challenges in paediatric health.
- Promote solutions with demonstrated or potential **impact on clinical practice, patient outcomes, efficiency or experience**.
- Highlight projects with **clear scalability and transferability** to other paediatric hospitals across Europe and the UK.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between paediatric hospitals and innovation ecosystems.
- Provide selected teams with international visibility at the Paediatric Innovation Day.

3. Scope and Types of Projects

Projects submitted to this call may address, among others:

- Clinical innovation and care models
- Digital health and data-driven solutions
- Organisational or process innovation with clinical impact
- Diagnostic, care delivery or monitoring approaches
- Patient- and family-centred innovations
- Innovations improving equity, access or continuity of care

Projects may be at different stages of maturity but must demonstrate a **clearly defined value proposition, a proven impact at least in one hospital** and a **realistic pathway for adoption beyond the originating hospital**.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- The project must **originate within a paediatric hospital** or paediatric department.
- Only hospitals located in **Europe and the United Kingdom** are eligible to participate. **They do not need to be members of the i4KIDS-EUROPE or ECHO networks.**
- The applicant must be a **healthcare professional, researcher, innovation unit or multidisciplinary hospital team.**
- The project must be **paediatric-first**; focus on **paediatric health** (for patients under the age of 18)
- The innovation must go **beyond local implementation**, demonstrating potential for **replication or scaling in other hospitals.**
- Projects must comply with applicable EU/UK ethical standards and regulatory frameworks.
- Applicants must be available to attend and present the project at the **Paediatric Innovation Day on 18 September in Helsinki.**

Projects led primarily by external companies or startups without hospital ownership/origin are **not eligible** for this call.

5. Application Process

- Applications must be submitted through the official [application form](#).
- All applications must be completed in **English**.
- Each application must clearly describe:
 - The problem addressed
 - The innovative solution
 - The role of the hospital in the project
 - Impact achieved or expected
 - Scalability and transfer potential

Applications will open the **11th of May, 2026** and will remain open for 4 weeks until the **14th of June, 2026**. Announcement of the finalist projects: 26th, June, 2026.

6. Selection Process

All applications will undergo a two-step evaluation process:

1. **Eligibility screening** to ensure compliance with the call criteria.
2. **Evaluation by an expert committee**, appointed by the organisers, based on predefined evaluation criteria.

A limited number of 5 projects will be selected to participate in the Paediatric Innovation Day 2026 in Helsinki.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Innovation (30%)

- Novelty and originality of the solution
- Relevance to paediatric healthcare needs

Impact (25%)

- Demonstrated impact on patients, families, professionals or healthcare systems
- Alignment with patient- and family-centred care

Scalability & Transferability (30%)

- Feasibility of adoption in other paediatric hospitals

- Consideration of organisational, regulatory or contextual barriers

Team & Hospital Involvement (15%)

- Team involvement and multidisciplinary approach
- Level of institutional support and commitment

8. Participation in the Paediatric Innovation Day 2026

Selected projects will be invited to:

- Attend the **Paediatric Innovation Day (PID)** on 18 September in Helsinki.
- Present their project to an international audience of paediatric hospitals, innovators and stakeholders.
- Engage in networking and knowledge exchange sessions.

Presentation format and guidelines will be communicated in advance.

Participation in the Paediatric Innovation Day 2026 shall be free of charge for all selected projects. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each participating project shall be **solely responsible for covering its own travel, accommodation, and any other expenses related to attending the event.**

Selected projects shall be granted a reserved presentation slot within the Pitch Competition of the relevant edition of Paediatric Innovation Day. Participation in the Pitch Competition will provide selected projects with the opportunity to compete for an economic prize, subject to the specific terms and conditions communicated by the organisers. In addition, participating projects will have the opportunity to engage and network with a community of hospitals, investors, and other stakeholders from across Europe.

9. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of the present Rules of Participation.

10. Ethics and Data Protection

In accordance with Article 19 of Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on personal data protection and digital rights, the personal data of representatives of Participating Companies will be processed by the Organisers and Collaborating Entity solely as company contact data for the purpose of participating in the event. Appropriate

technical and organisational measures will be applied to ensure data security and prevent unauthorized access, alteration, or loss, in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Data will be retained only as long as necessary and to fulfil legal obligations.

All projects must comply with ethical principles and applicable regulations, including data protection rules (GDPR where applicable). Personal data will be processed solely for the purpose of managing participation in the call.

The Organisers may disseminate the event on their websites and social media. Participants authorize the capture, editing, reproduction, and public use of their image on the Organisers' websites, social media, and related platforms, without time or territorial limitation, always respecting personal honour and privacy and in accordance with current legislation, solely for promotion of the event.

11. Intellectual Property

All intellectual and industrial property rights associated with the projects will remain with the applicants and/or their institutions. Participation in this call does not imply any transfer of rights.

12. Contact Information

For any questions regarding this call, please contact: contact@innovation4kids.org

13. Applicable Law and Jurisdiction

These legal terms will be governed in accordance with Spanish law. They will be competent to resolve any claim or controversy that may arise in relation to the validity, interpretation, or fulfilment of these legal terms at the Courts and Tribunals of the city of Barcelona.