

Spanish social-impact foundation with 60+ years of expertise seeks R&D partners to co-develop scalable solutions for disability inclusion, employment and life-course support

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request Spain

Company's country

POD reference

RDRES20260923018

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

**Research and development
cooperation agreement**

Targeted countries

• All countries

Contact Person

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Term of validity

8 Oct 2026**8 Oct 2027**

Last update

8 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

Founded in 1962 in Lleida, Catalonia, Fundació Aspros supports 679 people through 20+ specialised services and 595 professionals. It seeks universities, RTOs, technology providers and experienced Horizon Europe partners to co-develop, test and validate scalable, person-centred solutions that improve labour inclusion, social protection, autonomy and quality of life for people with disabilities across the life course.

Full description

Founded in 1962 in Lleida, Catalonia, Fundació Aspros is a long-established social-impact organisation specialising in intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health. In 2024, the foundation supported 679 people and their families through more than 20 specialised services delivered by 595 professionals. Its integrated ecosystem covers person-centred support, residential and community services, vocational training, supported employment, occupational pathways, mental health, social enterprise and cooperation with employers and public authorities. Aspros is seeking R&D partners to transform more than six decades of practical knowledge into robust, evidence-based and transferable solutions for the labour and social inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the life course. The profile is particularly aligned with Horizon Europe topic HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-07, "Persons with disabilities: opportunities for labour inclusion and social protection through the life course".

The proposed cooperation would focus on developing, testing and evaluating inclusive, person-centred pathways that connect vocational guidance, skills development, supported employment, reasonable accommodation, employer engagement, social services and social protection. Particular attention would be paid to transitions between sheltered or supported environments and the open labour market, job retention, re- and upskilling, the compatibility of employment with disability-related benefits, and the changing support needs of people with disabilities as they age.

Fundació Aspros brings a distinctive real-life implementation environment. Its employment and training services work directly with people facing significant barriers to employment and with companies in the Lleida region. The foundation also holds a territorial coordination role within the Incorpora network in Lleida, which comprises ten social organisations. This provides a strong basis for multi-stakeholder research involving end users, employers, social services, training providers and community actors.

The R&D cooperation may include comparative research, co-design with people with disabilities, longitudinal studies, development of indicators, pilots in real workplaces and services, evaluation of employment and quality-of-life outcomes, analysis of benefit traps and additional disability-related costs, testing of reasonable accommodations, and assessment of digital or assistive solutions that can support autonomy and participation in the open labour market.

Aspros can contribute as a living-lab, pilot-site and implementation partner, providing professional teams, access to real service settings, end-user involvement, employer networks, training capacity and long-term follow-up. The organisation is particularly interested in collaborating with partners able to contribute social and labour economics, disability studies, implementation science, impact evaluation, data analysis, digital and assistive technologies, public policy expertise and Horizon Europe coordination.

The ambition is not to export a single service model, but to co-create evidence-based, scalable and replicable solutions that can reduce the disability employment gap while ensuring adequate social protection, autonomy and full participation. Results should be relevant to policymakers, service providers, employers and disability organisations across different European contexts.

Advantages and innovations

Fundació Aspros offers a combination of long-term sector expertise, scale, territorial embeddedness and real-life implementation capacity that is especially valuable for applied R&D.

Its main advantage is the possibility to connect research directly with practice. Aspros can provide operational settings where interventions are co-designed with people with disabilities, implemented by multidisciplinary teams, tested with employers and social services, and followed over time.

The organisation brings more than 60 years of accumulated knowledge across different stages of the life course, from education and vocational pathways to employment, community participation, independent living and ageing. This makes it possible to study not only access to employment, but also retention, transitions, changing support needs and interaction with social protection.

Aspros also combines supported employment expertise with a direct relationship with companies and a strong territorial network. Its coordination role in the Incorpora network in Lleida adds multi-actor capacity and access to complementary social organisations.

Innovation lies in turning this mature practice base into validated, measurable and transferable solutions: person-centred employment pathways, evidence-based reasonable accommodations, models to avoid benefit traps, digital and assistive supports, outcome indicators, and scalable methodologies for employers and service providers.

People with disabilities can participate as co-designers and validators rather than only as research subjects. This strengthens relevance, accessibility and real-world impact.

For a European consortium, Aspros can therefore bridge the gap between research, end users, employers, social services and implementation, increasing the feasibility, transferability and societal impact of R&D results.

Technical specification or expertise sought

The sought partner(s) should provide complementary scientific, technological or methodological expertise to design and deliver a rigorous European R&D project on labour inclusion and social protection for people with disabilities.

Priority expertise includes:

- social and labour economics, disability employment and social protection systems;
- disability studies, social policy, supported employment and life-course research;
- quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method research, including longitudinal and comparative studies;
- impact evaluation, cost-effectiveness analysis and development of outcome indicators;
- data collection and analysis disaggregated by disability type, age and sex, ideally aligned with Eurostat and international standards;
- implementation science and evaluation of person-centred interventions in real-life settings;
- reasonable accommodation, accessible workplaces and inclusive HR practices;
- digital accessibility, assistive technologies, AI-enabled or data-driven tools where these can improve autonomy, job matching, workplace support or retention;
- research ethics, participatory research and co-design with people with intellectual disabilities;
- Horizon Europe proposal development, coordination and exploitation/replication planning.

The ideal consortium should combine universities or RTOs with social-service providers, disability organisations, employers or employer networks, public authorities and organisations with expertise in social protection.

Aspros is especially interested in partners capable of converting real-world practice into strong research protocols, comparable evidence and scalable outputs, while ensuring that people with disabilities and frontline professionals are meaningfully involved throughout the project.

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequality**
- **Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **Goal 4: Quality Education**

IPR Status

No IPR applied

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

Fundació Aspros is seeking to join or help build a multidisciplinary European consortium as an applied R&D, pilot and implementation partner.

The preferred consortium coordinator should have proven experience in Horizon Europe or comparable European R&D programmes and the capacity to lead a Research and Innovation Action involving several countries and stakeholder groups.

Partners are expected to contribute complementary scientific, methodological, technological or policy expertise and to work closely with Aspros in the co-design of the research methodology, comparative framework, indicators and pilot activities. Universities and RTOs may lead research design, data analysis and evaluation; technology partners may contribute accessible digital or assistive solutions; public authorities and policy organisations may support analysis of social protection systems and transfer into public policy; employers and business networks may contribute to workplace pilots and validation of inclusive employment models.

Fundació Aspros would contribute a real-life pilot and demonstration environment; people with intellectual and developmental disabilities involved through appropriate ethical and accessible processes; multidisciplinary professionals with expertise in vocational guidance, training, supported employment, social care and community inclusion; relationships with employers and companies in Lleida and its surrounding territory; territorial networking capacity; implementation of pilots; professional training; end-user validation; and long-term follow-up.

The consortium should aim to produce evidence and tools that are useful beyond academia, including validated person-centred employment pathways, policy recommendations, practical employer tools, outcome indicators, accessible digital or assistive solutions, training resources and replication guidelines.

Aspros is not seeking to coordinate the proposal at this stage. Its preferred role is that of a strong applied R&D partner connecting research with end users, employers, social services and real-world implementation in Spain.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 11-49**
- **SME <=10**
- **University**
- **Big company**
- **Other**
- **R&D Institution**
- **SME 50 - 249**

Call Details

Framework program

Horizon Europe

Call title and identifier

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-07 – Persons with disabilities: opportunities for labor inclusion and social protection through the life course

Submission and evaluation scheme

Single-stage Research and Innovation Action (RIA); lump-sum funding; full proposal evaluated under Horizon Europe award criteria.

Anticipated project budget

EUR 3,000,000–4,000,000

Coordinator required

Yes

Deadline for EoI

31 Mar 2027

Deadline of the call

23 Sep 2027

Project duration in weeks

208

Web link to the call

Project title and acronym

INCLUDE-LIFE

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **02003006 - Prototypes, trials and pilot schemes**
- **11004 - Technology, Society and Employment**
- **11002 - Education and Training**
- **11001 - Socio-economic models, economic aspects**
- **11006 - Citizens participation**

Targeted countries

- **All countries**

Market keywords

- **05010003 - Patient rehabilitation & training**
- **09003005 - Consulting services**
- **07005004 - Education and educational products and materials**
- **05010002 - Cognitive aid**

Sector groups involved

- **Proximity and Social Economy**

Media

Images



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