



# RECEPTION AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 2026

February 2026

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### What is Share4Rare?

Share4Rare (S4R) is an online platform dedicated to research on rare diseases. The S4R community consists of patients, caregivers, and patient associations from over 50 countries who actively contribute their data and experiences to the studies or research projects conducted on the platform. In this way, S4R allows knowledge to be generated collaboratively.

In order to encourage research into rare diseases, S4R aims to support new projects based on data reported by patients in 2026.

### What are the benefits of conducting your research project at Share4Rare?

S4R provides a secure and private infrastructure for collecting self-reported data from patients or their caregivers and professional support throughout the project's implementation and development.

The services that S4R offers to research teams from patient associations or academia during project implementation on the platform are:

- Advice from a team specialising in research initiatives in the field of rare diseases for the design of a research project based on data donated by patients/carers: sample size; hypotheses and objectives; questionnaire design; identification of statistical variables to be studied.
- Possibility of advice from expert researchers in rare diseases at the Sant Joan de Déu Research Institute.
- Support in obtaining project approval from the Ethics Committee of the Sant Joan de Déu Research Foundation.
- Implementation of the questionnaires and scales in different languages.
- Support in recruiting participants by condition (and symptoms), country, or other demographic characteristics.
- A private and secure environment for collecting patient data and clinical image data through forms, validated scales, clinical image files, etc.
- Access to statistical analysis services for the collected data and support in interpreting the result reports.
- Advice and support in disseminating the results to participants (design of dissemination materials).

This document describes the guidelines to be followed by patient associations, academic institutions, or other entities in order to request services for the development of a research project on the S4R platform.

## **2. PROJECT SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PERIOD**

### **Objective**

The objective of the S4R is to promote the generation of scientific knowledge about rare diseases. To achieve this, we provide support for research projects based on data reported by patients or caregivers that require the services offered on the S4R platform.

### **Type of projects**

Projects submitted must require data that are self-reported by patients or their caregivers, whether they are studies on a specific rare disease or cross-sectional studies for a group of diseases. The projects can be addressed to collect quantitative or qualitative data and target different goals such as the description of the natural history of the disease, patient registries, analysis of the burden of disease, quality of life of patients and/or their caregivers, creation and/or validation of scales, correlation between patient-reported data and clinical imaging data, etc.

### **Who can request a service from S4R?**

Patient organizations, academic institutions, or any interested parties aiming to promote research in rare diseases, in which the patient is the key element for collecting relevant information about the disease.

### **Deadline for submission, evaluation, and acceptance of the service**

This process will open on 25 February 2026 and close on 31 May 2026.

This process is non-competitive; all projects that meet the requirements described in this document and that submit the documentation within the established deadline will be evaluated.

The final definition of the services required by each project will be jointly agreed upon between the S4R team and the applicant entity. After the initial evaluation of the project and the necessary meetings to discuss the terms of the collaboration, a proposal of services and its quotation will be provided for the approval.

### **Confidentiality**

Within the framework of this selection process, all information provided by applicants will be considered confidential. Therefore, the Sant Joan de Déu Research Foundation commits to maintaining the utmost secrecy about it until both parties agree otherwise.

## **3. SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION PROCESS**

To submit a service request, entities must send the **Research Services Request Form** (Annex 1) to the email address [info@share4rare.org](mailto:info@share4rare.org), written entirely in Spanish, Catalan, or English. Any

questions regarding the information required in the form can be included in the same email. Any clarifications or notifications from S4R will also be sent via this email.

The deadline for submitting the **Research Services Request Form** is 31st May 2026 to the above-mentioned email address.

This document will be evaluated by the S4R FSJD Coordination team, and an online meeting will be scheduled with the contact person of the organization/company that requested the services. The purpose of this meeting is to assess the project's needs and agree on the terms of the services to be provided by the S4R team. Based on this information, an initial project quotation will be provided. This assessment will be sent to the applicant via email.

As agreed between both parties, the S4R FSJD Coordinator will provide the requesting entity with the final quotation for the services. This will cover the project's costs according to the specific requirements of each study:

- Advice on the design of the research project.
- Submission of the project for evaluation by the FSJD Ethics Committee, which is necessary for the start of a research project.
- Design and implementation of data collection questionnaires.
- Translation of the questionnaires or scales into different languages, if necessary.
- Design of dissemination activities and materials for the study.
- Creation of an informative landing page to facilitate participant registration in the study.
- Project management (including regular meetings with the applicant entity and/or Principal Investigator).
- Data analysis and result reporting.
- Advice on scientific publications.

If the applicant accepts the final quotation, they must communicate this via email and attach the **Financial Commitment Letter** (Annex 2). This will initiate the project execution on the agreed calendar. The applicant must pay 50% of the service cost within 30 calendar days of accepting the proposal for services. The remaining 50% will be paid in two instalments: 25% halfway through the project and 25% upon completion.

## Appendix 1 – Research services request form

<b>Contact Information of the Person Responsible for the Proposal</b>
<b>Legal name of the organization</b>
<b>Name and surname of the contact person</b>
<b>E-mail address of the contact person</b>
<b>Postal address of the organization</b>
<b>Disease of interest on which the research will focus</b>
<b>Is the organization a member of Share4Rare?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Project or Study Information</b>
<b>Project title</b>
<b>Project typology</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Study of the natural history of the disease <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life study (of patients and/or caregivers) <input type="checkbox"/> Patient registry or observatory <input type="checkbox"/> Validation of scale/s <input type="checkbox"/> Correlation of data with clinical imaging <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Specify: .....
<b>Summary of the main objective of the study. How will the study benefit people affected by the disease? (maximum 1 page)</b>

<b>Study Population</b>
Who is the study aimed at: <input type="checkbox"/> Patients <input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers Age range of the study population, only if the population is patients:
In which language(s) the study will be implemented:
In which language(s) the study will be implemented:
<b>Methodology</b>
<b>Do you need help with the project design?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> (Please fill in the sections you can answer for now and <a href="#">request a meeting</a> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> (Please continue to fill out the form)
<b>Study sample size (and, if applicable, control group size):</b>
<b>Study hypothesis</b>
<b>Specific study objectives</b>
<b>Statistics: Variables of study</b>
<b>Timeline: How long will the study last?</b> Indicate the estimated start date and the estimated end date:
<b>Do you have or will you have the questionnaires and/or scales that are part of the study and will be implemented in Share4Rare?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>

<b>Participants Recruitment</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> The organization will be in charge of the recruitment. <input type="checkbox"/> We need Share4Rare to recruit participants.
<b>In case the applicant organization is recruiting participants, please describe how it will be done.</b> Please note that Share4Rare can provide technical support and follow-up in the registration of participants.
<b>Funding</b>
<b>Does the organization have funding to cover the study's costs?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Dissemination</b>
<b>How will you inform Share4Rare and the participants about the research results?</b> (e.g., thank you letter and final report, informative webinar, video of the researcher)
<b>Are there any dissemination actions planned to help give visibility to the study and recruit participants?</b> Please describe them briefly.

Please send the completed [application form](#) to [info@share4rare.org](mailto:info@share4rare.org).

## Appendix 2 – Financial Commitment Letter

(Name and surname of the person responsible for the proposal)

(Name of the organization or entity to which they belong)

(Full address)

(E-mail address)

.....(Date)

A/A: Begonya Nafria Escalera  
Share4Rare Coordinator  
San Joan de Déu Foundation (FSJD)  
C/ Santa Rosa, 39-57  
08950 Esplugues de Llobregat, Barcelona  
[info@share4rare.org](mailto:info@share4rare.org)

Dear:

(Name and surname) ..... in my capacity as  
(position)..... of the (organization)..... I declare  
that I am aware of the financial conditions required for the development of the research project  
on the Share4Rare platform and that we will comply with the following agreements:

- The annual cost of the project will be fully funded by the applicant organization.
- We undertake to make a first payment of 50% of the service cost within 30 days of the budget acceptance, 25% of the budget cost halfway through the project, and the remaining 25% at the end of the project.

We also undertake to report any financial changes or situations that may affect the development of the project.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature of applicant)

(Full name of applicant)

Please complete and sign the [financial commitment letter](#) and send it to [info@share4rare.org](mailto:info@share4rare.org).