

EDUCATION SECTOR FUND

"DIGITAL INCLUSION: EDUCATION WITH NEW HORIZONS" MODALITY

2018 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. BACKGROUND

The *Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación* (ANII or National Research and Innovation Agency) and the *Fundación Centro Ceibal para el Estudio de las Tecnologías Digitales en la Educación* (Ceibal Centre Foundation for the Study of Digital Technologies in Education) have created a modality within the *Fondo Sectorial de Educación* (Education Sector Fund) with the aim of funding research projects that will produce original data regarding existing knowledge in the field of teaching and learning enhanced by digital technologies, which may be linked to social or educational aspects of *Plan Ceibal*.

2. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the call is to provide funding to research projects aligned with one or more of the priority topics and lines of research. The latter should result in proposals inputs that can be applied or transferred to the educational context.

The proposal must mention the modalities or mechanisms with which the research is expected to have an impact in the selected areas.

| LINES | TOPICS |
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| NEW WAYS OF KNOWING, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSING | New pedagogies (deep learning) and technologies |
| | Cognition and meta-cognition |
| | New curricular approaches |
| | Learning in multiple environments |
| | Formal, informal and non-formal learning |
| | Self-learning and personalization |
| DIGITAL AGE EDUCATORS | Early training and use of technology |
| | Innovation in teacher professionalization |
| | The teacher as a knowledge worker: motivation and recognition |
| | Teacher profiles in the XXI century |
| | New ways to boost performance |
| SOCIAL USES OF ICTS AND DIGITAL | Knowledge use and generation practices |

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| CULTURE | Digital literacy, fluency and maturity |
| | Subject, citizenship and digital identity |
| | Social networks and communities |
| | Changes in school culture |
| EXTENDED ACHIEVEMENTS IN LEARNING | Performance |
| | Assessment of achievements in both formal and informal education |
| | Effects on school learning |
| | New rubrics, metrics and indicators |
| RESOURCES AND PLATFORMS | Production and ownership of educational resources |
| | Accessibility, usability and inclusion |
| | Mobile devices ('bring your own device', or BYOD for short) |
| | DIY technologies |

The proposals must be aligned with at least one of the lines mentioned above, and identify the question or questions that the study will seek to answer. Moreover, proposals should also include how the research will produce concrete inputs, whether in terms of knowledge/output transfer or educational inputs/intervention at the social, community or other level, with quantifiable effects in the short term.

Within three months of their completion, the studies must produce a final research report that includes the details of the research carried out, its findings and recommendations, as well as other aspects to be indicated. The projects must also generate an academic paper in a national or international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Project results (report or similar) will be openly accessible and published in the institutional repository of Ceibal Foundation or in the repository of any other institution the Foundation shall indicate.

3. MODALITY

This Modality is aimed at research groups based in national and international, public and/or private institutions.

4. RESTRICTIONS

If the applicant is a foreign-based institution, it should have a national counterpart in order to be eligible. In this case, the project will have two proposing institutions. In addition, in the case of national institutions, partnerships between these groups and institutions from other countries will be positively assessed.

The Scientific responsible and co-responsible may submit only one project per call. It is possible to Scientific responsible and co-responsible of up to two nationally-funded research projects (ANII, CSIC, INIA, etc.) running simultaneously.

The project's Scientific responsible and co-responsible must allocate at least 10 hours a week to the project.

Applications will be rejected if their Scientific responsible and/or co-responsible are in breach (e.g. overdue technical progress reports, final accounts, closure reports, surveys) of any of ANII's programmes as of the closing date of the call.

It is compulsory to submit the curriculum vitae (CV) of all project participants. National researchers must submit their CV in the CVuy format updated as of the closing date of the call. In the case of foreign researchers, support technicians, consultants and visiting professors, it is suggested that they submit their CVs in the CVuy format, although this is not mandatory.

No member of the research team may exceed 60 hours per week considering all the occupational activities undertaken (including teaching hours or hours at other public or private jobs).

All the documents requested in the application form must be attached.

5. DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

The duration of the projects that can be funded may not exceed 24 months. Longer research projects can be limited to a first stage lasting 24 months, and they have to submit applications in the successive calls.

6. AMOUNTS

Non-reimbursable funding will be provided, the largest amount of which will depend on the duration of the projects:

- Projects lasting up to 12 months inclusive: \$ 1,450,000.
- Projects lasting up to 24 months inclusive: \$ 2,900,000.

The minimum counterpart to be contributed by the beneficiary institutions will be 20% of the investment planned in the project. This counterpart may be paid in money, any means of legal payment being acceptable, or in kind¹, in which case a detailed breakdown of its value must be submitted.

7. FUNDABLE ITEMS

Funding may be provided for the following items as part of the project:

- Materials and supplies
- Laboratory and other equipment
- Consultants

¹ Fees for technical and academic staff, transportation and infrastructure are considered as "contribution in kind."

- Capacity-building
- Services
- Adaptation of premises
- Literature
- Software
- Intellectual Property Protection
- Promotion and dissemination (10% at least. This may include participation in national and/or international conferences, presentations or symposia, publication of academic articles in peer-reviewed journals, among others.
- Administrative expenses (5% of the total budget at the most)
- Contingencies (5% of the total budget at the most)
- Technical staff: Funding will cover the incremental costs of the time dedicated by the researchers to the project or the recruitment of new researchers to meet the project objectives. The fees of the technical or support staff will only be admitted when their participation is clearly defined and justified according to the proposed objectives and work plan.
- Travel expenses: Funding will cover the team's per day fares only for activities related to the implementation of the project or the presentation of its findings.
- Visiting professors. Fees for the days they stay in the country with the research team will be recognized.

All the expenses must be associated with activities undertaken as part of the project. Funding will not cover the acquisition of vehicles or land.

The Assessment and Monitoring Committee (CES) reserves the right to modify the budget of a proposal if it considers some requested item not to be relevant.

8. SUBMITTING THE PROJECTS

This fund is administered as a competitive fund. For this call, the submission of proposals will occur in two stages:

- Stage 1: Research project idea.
- Stage 2: Research project.

The ideas and projects must be presented on the form developed by ANII for this purpose.

The submission of project ideas should include aspects such as a summary of the project to be implemented, justification of its applicability, impact, related human resources and a summarized budget.

The submission of the projects must include aspects such as related human resources and their background, project summary, background in the subject, general objective, specific objectives, contribution to knowledge generation and problem solving, expected results, methodology, description of the activities to be undertaken, implementation schedule with

the corresponding milestones, resources available for the implementation of the project and budget.

In order to expedite the assessment process, applicants are advised to take the following into account:

- When submitting the research project, the applicant may propose the names of as many as three external assessors to his research group who may be taken into account by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee.
- When submitting the research project, the applicant may indicate, with adequate justification, the names of as many as three external assessors who the applicant believes should not act as assessors of their proposal.

9. ASSESMENT AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The assessment process will involve the participation of the Agenda Committee and the Assessment and Monitoring Committee. The Agenda Committee is made up of members appointed by the *ANII* Board and the *Ceibal* Foundation Board. The Assessment and Monitoring Committee consists of members proposed by the Agenda Committee, appointed by the *ANII* Board and approved by the *CONICYT* (National Council for Innovation, Science and Technology), in keeping with the provisions of the current legislation.

The assessment process will involve four stages:

1. Once the call has been closed, the eligibility analysis will be performed. Ineligible projects will be removed from the assessment process, and their research officers will be informed.
2. The Agenda Committee will undertake the relevance and prioritization assessment of project ideas in accordance with the criteria set out in these Terms and Conditions. This stage will not involve an in-depth technical assessment, but aspects such as those listed in article 10.2 of this document will be analyzed. As a result of this stage, the highest priority proposals will be selected, and the corresponding research teams will be invited to write and submit the entire project. The ideas that are not prioritized will not move on to the next stages of the process and their research officers will be informed. A maximum of 20 project ideas will be selected.
3. The technical assessment stage will be the responsibility of the Assessment and Monitoring Committee. Applications will be subjected to at least two technical assessments carried out by peers. These assessments will be major inputs for the Assessment and Monitoring Committee, but in no case will they be binding on the rulings of the assessment process. The reports prepared by the assessors on each project will be released to the research officer, who will have 10 calendar days – if they deem it appropriate – to refute, in no more than 2 pages, the conclusions of the reports. Project reformulations will be not be allowed; only comments on the assessment will be accepted. The final assessment of each project by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee will take into account both the reports prepared by the assessors and any possible comments received from the applicant. This assessment will result in a list of high-quality projects which will be recommended for funding.

4. The fourth, and final, stage will be the responsibility of the Agenda Committee, which will prioritize proposals meeting the quality requirements analyzed by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee and will submit its recommendation of selected projects to the ANII Board.

10.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The proposals must present the corresponding form, which must be duly completed, and all the attached documents requested. All the members of the national research teams must complete their CVs in the CVuy System. No projects will be accepted after the period specified in the call.

10.2 RELEVANCE AND PRIORITIZATION ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

At this stage of the assessment, the Agenda Committee will take account of the following aspects among others:

- originality and clarity in the submission of the proposal;
- applicability and feasibility of transferring knowledge to educators, users or educational policy makers;
- joint proposals / partnerships with international research groups;
- background of the research team;
- contribution to training human resources and capacity-building in the country.

10.3 TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Scientific-Technical Content: clarity and consistency between the general and specific objectives of the proposal, methodology and intended results; feasibility of and research strategy for the implementation of the proposed work plan.
- Novelty of the knowledge to be gained: impact of generated knowledge on the state of the art in the area, innovation and originality of the proposal.
- The team's technical capacity: track-record of both the research officer and the research groups involved.
- Interdisciplinary nature of the research: suitable multidimensional approach to the proposal; training, experience and interdisciplinary character of the teams involved in the project.
- Funding: Access to additional funding will be considered an asset.
- Inter-institutional character of the research group: Institutional partnerships and networking related to the intended objectives. Interaction or inter-institutional efforts aimed at addressing the different areas of the project, along with the degree of involvement of other national or international research institutions will be positively assessed.
- Ethical research: The necessary measures should be considered and ensured in case the study has ethical implications.
- Quality and relevance of the results: It will be necessary to ensure compliance with the established criteria regarding the expected results.
- Epistemological approach: it will be an asset if the research design contemplates one or more of the epistemological approaches identified as priorities (learning analytics, foresight, benchmarking).²

² See Appendix 1 "Lines of research of the Education Sector Fund, 'Digital inclusion: education with new horizons' Modality."

- Sustainability: it will be an asset if the actions go beyond the intervention period, providing continuity or generating benefits or inputs that can be used beyond the period in which the research is conducted.
- Proposals that take into consideration the gender perspective will be positively assessed.

10.4 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Agenda Committee will take into account the technical assessment (prioritizing academic excellence) and the significance of the project to prepare the final list of proposals recommended for funding. The degree of significance is related to the impact of the project, considering its strategic approach and its consistency with the priority topics and objectives of the call.

10. PROJECT MONITORING AND DISBURSEMENTS

In relation to the disbursements, the first advance will be paid according to the schedule approved by ANII, after which there will be half-yearly disbursements. 10% of the total amount of the grant will be withheld until the final report is approved. It must be noted that the expenses incurred against that amount must be included in the final accounts of the project. All costs charged to the project must occur within the implementation period. In exceptional cases, projects may complete implementation within six months of the closing date specified in the contract.

11. REQUIREMENTS AND PERMITS

It is the responsibility of the research team to inform themselves -early enough- about the requirements and permits necessary for the implementation of the research, and to take all the necessary actions to obtain the authorizations from each of the institutions directly or indirectly involved with the project.

If the research requires access to information about people, educational centres, etc., at the moment of submitting the complete project (Stage 2), the research group must show proof of the agreed terms for each specific case.

If the research requires access to educational centres, the research group must have requested access from the corresponding institution (educational or not) before signing the contract with ANII and submit the file number assigned to it.

12. SUPPORT/ADVISORY SERVICES OF CEIBAL FOUNDATION AND/OR CEIBAL CENTRE

Additionally, when submitting the full project (Stage 2), research teams must state whether they will request any kind of support from *Fundación Ceibal* or *Centro Ceibal*; whether in terms of advice for the development of platforms, applications, content, access to data, equipment or others.

If the project's products are intended to be available to Plan Ceibal beneficiaries, this must be coordinated with Ceibal Foundation, which will determine if it is appropriate to request advice from specific areas of *Ceibal*. The requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and in no case will they imply that any area of Ceibal is responsible for the development of software, applications, platforms or educational content and/or the allocation of its own resources to their development.



AGENCIA NACIONAL
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Fundación **Ceibal**

The signing of the contract with ANII will be conditioned by compliance with the provisions of points 11 and 12.