

EDUCATION SECTOR FUND

MODALITY "DIGITAL INCLUSION: EDUCATION WITH NEW HORIZONS"

TERMS OF REFERENCE- 2017

1. BACKGROUND

The National Agency for Research and Innovation (Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación - ANII) and Ceibal Foundation Center for the Study of Digital Technologies in Education create the "Digital Inclusion: Education with New Horizons", a modality of the Education Sector Fund aiming at financing research projects which provide original data regarding existing knowledge in the field of teaching and learning with the help of digital technologies, which may be linked to social or educational aspects of Plan Ceibal.

2. OBJECTIVE

This call is addressed to financing research projects framed in one or more of the priority lines and topics, whose execution could be translated into proposals or inputs which could be applied or transferred to the educational context.

The proposal should include the modalities or mechanisms with which the inputs produced by the research will have an impact on the selected areas.

LINES	THEMES
NEW WAYS OF KNOWING, LEARNING, TEACHING AND EVALUATING	New pedagogies (<i>deep learning</i>) and technologies
	Cognition and metacognition
	New curricular approaches
	Learning multi-environment
	Formal, informal, and non-formal learning
	Self-learning and personalization
EDUCATORS IN THE DIGITAL AGE	Initial training and use of technology
	Innovation in teacher professionalization
	The teacher as a knowledge worker: motivation and acknowledgment
	Teaching profiles in the 21st century
	New ways to boost performance
SOCIAL USES OF ICT AND DIGITAL CULTURE	Use practices and knowledge generation
	Digital literacy, fluency and maturity

	Subject, citizenship and digital identity
	Communities and social networks
	Changes in school culture
INCREASED ACHIEVEMENT IN LEARNING	Performance and output
	Assessment of achievements in both formal and informal learning
	Effects on school learning
	New rubrics, metrics and indicators
RESOURCES AND PLATFORMS	Production and appropriation of educational resources
	Accessibility, usability and inclusion
	Mobile devices (<i>Bring Your Own Device</i> [BYOD])
	DIY Technologies

Proposals must be adjusted to at least one of the specified lines, identify the question(s) which their study will seek to answer and how the research will translate into concrete input, either in terms of knowledge transfer/educational products or input/intervention at social level, community or other, whose effects can be measurable in the short term.

Likewise, within the three months after its conclusion, the research must generate an academic report or *paper* in a scientific journal nationally or internationally recognized (including peer review).

The pre-print version of the research report or *paper* should be available through the open access research repository of Fundación Ceibal.

3. MODALITY

This modality is aimed at research groups residing in national and international institutions, public or private.

4. RESTRICTIONS

In case the applicant is an institution residing abroad it must have a national counterpart and therefore the project shall have two proponent institutions. In addition, in the case of national institutions, special recognition shall be given to the association of such groups with institutions in other countries.

The Director and Co-Director may submit only one project per call.

It shall be possible to be Scientific Director and Co-Director of up to two research projects with national funding (ANII, CSIC, INIA, etc.) in simultaneous execution.

The Scientific Director and Co-Director of the project must have a minimum commitment to it of 10 hours per week.

Applications shall not be accepted if the Scientific Director or Co-Director, as of the closing date of the call, is non-compliant with ANII in any of its programs (for example: owing technical progress reports, final balances, closing reports, surveys).

Submitting the curriculum vitae (CV) of all project participants shall be mandatory. National researchers, including the intern, must submit their CV in CVUy format updated by the closing time of the call. In the case of foreign researchers, support technicians, consultants and visiting teachers, the submission of their CVs in CVUy format is suggested, but not mandatory.

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

All documents requested in the application form must be attached.

5. PROJECTS LENGTH

It shall be possible to fund projects with a length of up to 24 months. Longer-term research projects may be limited to a first stage of 24 months, and must apply in successive calls.

6. AMOUNTS

Non-reimbursable funding will be granted, the maximum amount of which shall depend on the projects length:

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

The minimum contribution to be made by the beneficiary institutions shall be the 20% of the investment planned in the project. This can be made in money, accepting for it any means of legal payment or in kind¹, in which case a detailed valuation of them must be issued.

7. CATEGORIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

To carry out the project, the following categories shall be eligible for funding:

- Materials and supplies
- Laboratory equipment and other equipment
- Consultants
- Training
- Services
- Building adaptation
- Bibliographic material
- *Software*
- Intellectual property protection
- Promotion and outreach
- Dissemination (minimum 5%)
- Administrative expenses (maximum 5% of total budget)
- Unforeseen expenses (maximum 5% of total budget)
- Technical staff: The incremental costs of hourly dedication to the researchers' project or the incorporation of new researchers shall be funded to meet project objectives. Technical or support staff fees shall only be allowed when their participation is clearly defined and justified in terms of the proposed objectives and work plan. Members of the team holding positions of exclusive dedication, full-time, *tenure* or other highly dedicated regimes in any national or foreign institution, shall not be recognized a complementary remuneration.
- Travel: Travel expenses and tickets for team members shall be funded only for activities related to project execution or the presentation of its results.
- Visiting teachers: Fees corresponding to the days of stay in the country with the research team shall be acknowledged.

All expenses must be associated with the activities developed in the project. The acquisition of vehicles or land shall not be funded.

In order to bring acquired knowledge to a wide audience, promoting dialogs between those who generate it and the different social sectors, at least 5% of the amount granted must be allocated to the

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

dissemination of the project. Projects must translate this scientific-technological knowledge in a way that it could be understood by people who do not know about the specific subject matter, as well as facilitate and encourage social appropriation and democratization processes.

The Evaluation and Monitoring Committee (Comité de Evaluación y Seguimiento - CES) reserves the right to modify the budget of a proposal if it considers that any item requested is not relevant.

8. ABOUT INCORPORATING A MASTER'S STUDENT

In order to promote training of human resources in this subject matter, projects including a master's student in their research team shall be positively evaluated. At the time of application, its funding could be requested.

Funding shall be carried out under the modality of national postgraduate scholarship and shall be governed by the General Regulation of the National Scholarship System. The amount of the scholarship shall be separated from the total cost of the project to be funded.

At the moment of the project application, the information required for the Master's Scholarship must be stated, including the name of the counselor, postgraduate program, among others.

The counselor does not necessarily have to be part of the project research team.

9. SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS

This fund is administered under the form of competitive funds. In this call, proposals shall be submitted in two stages:

- Stage 1: Idea of the research project.
- Stage 2: Research project.

The ideas and projects must be submitted in the form that was prepared by ANII for such purposes.

Submission of project ideas must include aspects such as a summary of the project to be developed, justification of its applicability, impact, associated human resources and summary budget.

Submission of projects must include aspects such as associated human resources and their background, project summary, background of the subject matter, general objective, specific objectives, contribution to knowledge generation and problem solving, expected results, methodology, description of the activities to be carried out, execution program with corresponding milestones, resources available for the execution of the project and budget.

In order to expedite the evaluation process, applicants are encouraged to take into account the following considerations:

- When submitting the research project, applicants may propose the names of up to three evaluators external to their research group who may eventually be taken into account by the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee (CES).
- When submitting the research project, applicants may indicate, in a well-founded manner, the names of up to three external evaluators who they consider as not appropriate to act as evaluators of their proposal.

In the case of projects that achieve approval for funding, a contract shall be signed between ANII and the beneficiary institution.

10. PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The Agenda Committee (Comité de Agenda - CA) and the CES shall act in the evaluation process. The CA is composed of members appointed by the ANII Board of Directors and by the Board of Directors of Fundación Ceibal. The CES is made up of members proposed by the CA, appointed by the ANII Board of Directors and approved by the National Council of Research, Science and Technology (Consejo Nacional de Investigación, Ciencia y Tecnología - CONICYT), in accordance with the provisions established by the legislation in force.

The evaluation process shall consist of four stages:

1. Once the call for project ideas is closed, the eligibility analysis shall be carried out. Ineligible proposals shall be removed from the evaluation process and their research directors shall be informed accordingly.
2. The CA shall carry out the assessment of relevance and prioritization of project ideas according to the criteria established in these Bases. At this stage an in-depth technical evaluation shall not be carried out, but aspects such as those listed in Section 10.2 of this document shall be analyzed. As a result of this stage, those proposals that are of higher priority shall be selected, and the corresponding research teams shall be invited to submit the complete project. Those ideas that are not prioritized shall not continue to the next stages of the process and their research directors shall be informed accordingly. A maximum of 20 project ideas shall be selected.
3. The technical evaluation stage of the projects shall be carried out by the CES. Applications shall have at least two peer-reviewed technical evaluations. These shall be important input for the CES, but in no case shall they be binding on the opinions of the evaluation process. The reports carried out for each project by evaluators shall be informed to the research director. The latter shall have 10 calendar days -if appropriate- to refute, in no more than 2 pages, what was stated in said reports. No project reformulations shall be allowed, only evaluation-related comments. The CES final evaluation of each project shall take into account both the evaluators' reports and any comments submitted by the applicant. As a result of this evaluation, a list of projects that have a high level of quality and are recommended for funding shall be drawn up.
4. The CA shall be in charge of the fourth and final stage. It shall prioritize those proposals that meet the quality requirements analyzed by the CES and shall submit their recommendation of the selected projects to the ANII Board of Directors.

10.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposals must be submitted with the corresponding form duly completed and all attached documents requested.

All members of the national research teams must complete their CV in the CVUy system.

Projects shall not be accepted after the deadline stated in the call.

10.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR RELEVANCE AND PRIORITIZATION

At this stage of the evaluation, the CA shall take into account, among others, the following aspects:

- Originality and clarity of the proposal presentation;
- Applicability and feasibility for transferring the knowledge generated in the research to educators, users or educational policymakers;
- Connection with international research groups;
- Background of the research team;
- Contribution to the training of human resources and capacities in the country.

10.3 TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Scientific-technical content: Clarity and coherence between general and specific objectives of the proposal, methodology and results to be achieved; research strategy and feasibility to comply with the proposed work plan.
- Innovative nature of the knowledge to be achieved: Impact of the generated knowledge in the state of the art of the subject matter, innovation and originality of the proposal.
- Technical competence of the team: The careers of both the research director and the research groups involved.
- Interdisciplinary nature of the research: Appropriate multidimensional approach to the proposal; training, experience and interdisciplinarity of the teams participating in the project.

- Funding: Having complementary funding channels shall be deemed valuable.
- Interinstitutionality of the research group: Institutional alliances and network works relevant to the defined objectives. Taking into account the different areas of the project, the interaction of interinstitutional efforts and the degree of participation of other national or international research institutions in the project shall be deemed valuable.
- Ethical research: The necessary measures should be considered and ensured in case the study has ethical implications.
- Results quality and relevance: Compliance with the established criteria in terms of expected results shall be necessarily ensured.
- Epistemological approach: The inclusion of one or more of the epistemological approaches defined as priorities (learning analytics, forecast, comparative studies) in the research design shall be deemed valuable².
- Sustainability: Having the actions transcend the intervention, offering continuity or generating benefits or input that could be used beyond the period in which the research is to be carried out shall be deemed valuable.
- Dissemination: Dissemination both in scientific dissemination channels and in non-scientific digital media shall be deemed valuable.
- Incorporation of a master's student into the research team.

10.4 CA EVALUATION CRITERIA

The CA shall take into account the technical evaluation (prioritizing academic excellence) and the project relevance to prepare the final list of recommended proposals for funding. The degree of relevance is linked to the impact that the project result implies, taking into account the strategic approach and considering the alignment with the priority subject matters and objectives of the call.

11. PROJECT MONITORING AND DISBURSEMENTS

With regard to disbursements, a first advance shall be made according to the schedule approved by ANII, and subsequent disbursements shall be made on a semi-annual basis. The 10% of the total amount of the subsidy shall be withheld until the final report is approved. It should be mentioned that the expenses incurred on account of said amount must be included in the final balance of the project. All expenses charged to the project must be included within the execution period. Exceptionally, projects may terminate their execution within a period of no more than 6 months after the closing date provided for in the contract.

12. REQUIREMENTS AND PERMITS

It is the responsibility of the research team to be informed sufficiently in advance about the requirements and permits needed to carry out the investigation and to take all necessary measures to obtain the authorizations from each of the corresponding institutions. In case the research requires access to educational centers, the research group must have made the request for access to the corresponding institution before signing the contract with ANII and submit the file number assigned to it.

² See Annex 1 "Research Lines of the Education Sector Fund, modality 'Digital Inclusion: Education with New Horizons'".