**EDUCATION SECTOR FUND**
**"DIGITAL INCLUSION: EDUCATION WITH NEW HORIZONS" MODALITY**
**2019 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### 1. BACKGROUND

The *Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación* (ANII or National Research and Innovation Agency) and *Fundación Centro Ceibal para el Estudio de las Tecnologías Digitales en la Educación* (Ceibal Centre Foundation for the Study of Digital Technologies in Education) devised the modality "Digital Inclusion: Education with New Horizons" in 2015 as part of the *Fondo Sectorial de Educación* (Education Sector Fund) with the aim of funding research projects that would produce original data regarding existing knowledge in the field of teaching and learning aided by digital technologies, which may be linked to social or educational aspects of *Plan Ceibal*. From now on, the modality "Digital Inclusion: Education with New Horizons" is supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

### 2. OBJECTIVE

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

The proposal must include the modalities or mechanisms through which the inputs produced by the research will have an impact on the selected areas. The projects should also contemplate at least one of the following crosscutting lines:

- **21st Century Skills and STEM**
- **Assessing the impact of digital technologies.**
- **Professional Teacher Development**

| LINES | TOPICS |
|---|---|
| **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 |

| | Early training and use of technology |
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| **DIGITAL AGE EDUCATORS** | 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 CULTURE** | Knowledge use and generation practices |
| | Digital literacy, fluency and maturity |
| | Digital subject, citizenship and 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 conform to at least one of the lines above, and identify the question or questions that the study will seek to answer and how the research will result in 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.

In addition, once the research has been completed, a final report must be produced 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.

Any work resulting from or related to the selected projects must be deposited in *Fundación Ceibal* 's repository and that of the project leader's affiliate in Uruguay, if any.

## 3. MODALITY

This modality is aimed at research groups based in national and international, public and/or private institutions. Special recognition will be accorded to the association of national institutions with groups belonging to institutions from other countries.

Up to 20% of the funds available for the call may be allotted to financing projects that have only one foreign institution as a proponent.

## 1.  RESTRICCIONES

The Officer and Co-Officer may submit only one project per call. It is possible to be the Science Officer and Science Co-Officer of up to two nationally-funded research projects (ANII, CSIC, INIA, etc.) running simultaneously.

The project's Science Officer and Co-Officer must allocate at least 10 hours a week to the project.

Applications will be rejected if their Science Officers or Co-Officers 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. Researchers based in national institutions must submit their CV in the CVuy format updated as of the closing date of the call. In the case of researchers based in foreign institutions, 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 on 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 must 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 kind[1], in which case a detailed breakdown of its value must be submitted.

In the case of projects of foreign institutions, the equivalent in USD at the time of the resolution of ANII's Board of Directors will be made available.

## 7. FUNDABLE ITEMS

Funding may be provided for the following items as part of the project:
- Materials and supplies
- Laboratory and other equipment
- Consultants
- Capacity-building
- Services
- Adaptation of premises
- Literature
- Software
- Intellectual Property Protection
- Promotion and dissemination (at least 10%)
- Participation in national and/or international conferences, presentations or symposia, publication of academic articles in peer-reviewed journals.
- Administrative expenses (5% of the total budget at the most)
- Incidentals (5% of the total budget at the most)
- Technical staff: Funding will cover the incremental costs of the time devoted by the researchers to the project or the recruitment of new researchers to meet 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 diems and 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.

If an item included in the budget is not considered relevant/applicable by the Evaluation and Assessment Committee, the latest reserves the right to not accept its inclusion in the proposal.

## 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.

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

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 outcomes, 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 the names of as many as three external assessors to the research group who he/she does not consider should assess and evaluate his/her proposal.

In the case of the projects selected for funding, a contract will be signed between ANII and the beneficiary institution.


## 9. ASSESSING THE PROPOSALS

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, the *Ceibal* Foundation Board, and IDRC. 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 for project ideas has been closed, the eligibility analysis will be performed. The 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 9.2 of this document will be analysed. As a result of this stage, the highest priority proposals will be selected, and the corresponding research teams will be invited to formulate 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. The 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 5 calendar days – if they deem it appropriate – to comment on the contents of the reports in no more than 1000 words. 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 account of both the reports prepared by the assessors and any comments that may be 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 analysed by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee and will submit its recommendation of selected projects to the ANII Board.

## 9.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

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

## 9.2 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 the knowledge generated in the research to educators, educational policy users or makers;
- linkage with international research groups;
- background of the research team;
- contribution to training human resources, building capacity, and generating valuable knowledge in the countries involved.

## 9.3 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 interdisciplinarity of the teams involved in the project.
- Funding: Access to additional funding will be an asset.
- Inter-institutionality of the research group: Institutional partnerships and networking related to the intended objectives. Taking account of the different project areas, interaction of inter-institutional efforts and the degree of involvement of other national or international research institutions in the project will be considered an

asset.

- Ethical research: The necessary measures should be considered and ensured if 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]
- 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.
- The inclusion of the gender perspective in the proposals will be an asset.
- The ethical issues that may be involved in the research proposals must be identified and presented on the application form during Stage 2, together with the mechanisms for addressing them, considering the restrictions included in point 11 and Appendix II.

## 9.4  ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Agenda Committee will take account of 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 result of the project, considering its strategic approach and its consistency with the priority topics and objectives of the call.

## 10. PROJECT MONITORING AND DISBURSEMENTS

As regards the disbursements, the first advance will be paid in accordance with 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, PERMITS AND ETHICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH

It is the responsibility of the research team to enquire early enough about the requirements and permits necessary for the implementation of the research and take all the necessary steps to secure the authorizations from each of the institutions directly or indirectly involved with the project.

However, if the research requires access to information on people (students or teachers) in educational centres, the research group must, at the moment of submitting the project, show proof of the terms agreed in each case and the corresponding authorizations. For this purpose, they must submit a formal request to the corresponding educational institution that includes all the information on the research project, its objectives, methodology, research team and duration.

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

The research team is responsible for providing all the relevant information to the institutions or individuals involved. If the research requires access to educational centres, the research group must have requested access from the corresponding institution before signing the contract with ANII and submit the file number assigned to it.

## 12. SUPPORT/ADVISORY SERVICES OF CEIBAL FOUNDATION AND/OR CENTRO CEIBAL

When submitting the project, the research teams must state whether they will request any kind of support from *Ceibal Foundation* or *Ceibal Centre*; whether in terms of advice on the development of platforms, applications, content, access to data, equipment or others.

If the intention is for the project's products to be made available to Ceibal's beneficiaries, this must be coordinated with the Foundation, which will determine if it is appropriate to seek advice from specific areas of *Ceibal*. The requests for advice 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.

If it is necessary to access Ceibal Foundation's or Ceibal Centre's data, a formal request must be submitted to the corresponding institution with details of the request, purpose, objectives of the research, opportunities and inputs expected to be generated through it, and the reasons why access to said data is necessary. This request must be submitted at the moment of formulating the full project to the relevant institution, which will assess the legal, technical and ethical possibility of providing access to the required data and under what conditions.

The signing of the contract with ANII will be conditioned by compliance with the above provisions.