

Inequalities Research - Generating new knowledge to reduce inequalities

Call for proposals

17th May 2023

GRANTING SCHEMES 2023 - SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Fondazione
CARIPLO

TUTE SERVARE MUNIFICE DONARE • 1816



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Inequalities Research - Generating new knowledge to reduce inequalities

1. PREMISE

The call “INEQUALITIES RESEARCH - Generating new knowledge to reduce inequalities” falls in Fondazione Cariplo strategic aim: “Demographic challenges: experimenting new responses for a changing society”.

2. BACKGROUND

The constant proliferation of inequalities has been widely recognized as one of the main obstacles towards people well-being, social cohesion, and progress¹.

Contemporary societies are experiencing constant increase in the forms/dimensions of inequality. This is happening both at qualitatively and quantitatively, according to a logic that is complex and frequently additive. Examples of inequality dimensions include health, education, income, geographic origin, personal security, job access and the opportunity to participate the decision-making process. After the pandemic this framework, already problematic, has been further complicated. In fact, it has been argued in different occasions that the pandemic presents the potential to increase the current profile of inequalities at a multidimensional level^{2,3}.

According to data published by the Bank of Italy, during 2021, the ratio of net wealth to gross disposable income decreased. In addition, in 2021, the definitive estimates on poverty published by Istat indicate that in Italy there are over 1.9 million

families in absolute poverty. It is about 5.6 million individuals (9.4% of the population). This picture is in line with the 2020 values when the incidence of families in absolute poverty has reached its historical highs⁴.

With its peculiarities, Italy has the potentiality to elicit reflections and valid models at international level. In fact, our country, not only for its geographical characteristics, has been broadly recognized as a complex mosaic of realities housing cities and rural areas, large metropolises, small towns, and inland areas.

Among the main challenges we are facing there certainly is the development of a more equitable and accessible society. A society like this would recognize to all individuals - regardless of their economic, social, territorial, cultural and / or gender conditions - full dignity in terms of citizenship. In such a context, all citizens can actively contribute to the development of their territories and communities from social, civil and cultural perspectives.

3. AIMS

With this call, Fondazione Cariplo aims to support multidisciplinary studies that contribute to:

- understand and map the nature, diffusion and relevance of the different dimensions of inequality;
- identify the main problems associated to inequalities;

¹ Oxfam (2014). Even it up: Time to end extreme inequality. https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/cr-even-it-up-extremeinequality-291014-en.pdf;

Piketty, T. (2014). Capital in the twenty-first century. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press; World Bank (2016). Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality, Washington: World Bank Publications. https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0958-3_ch1;

<https://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/inequality/the-framework/media/mif-framework-0719.pdf> e Stiglitz, J. (2012). The price of inequality:

how today's divided society endangers our future, New York: W.W. Norton and C.

² https://www.oxfamitalia.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Report_LA-PANDEMIA-DELLA-DISUGUAGLIANZA_digital2022_definitivo.pdf

³ <https://unric.org/it/un75-i-grandi-temi-disuguaglianza-come-colmare-il-divario/>

⁴ Bank of Italy and Istat (2023). The wealth of Italy's institutional sectors 2005 | 2021.

- support a reflection on how the different forms of inequalities are connected to the structural changes that characterize our societies;
- encourage the development of shared agendas aimed at building more inclusive societies.

Considering the complexity that characterizes how societies are experiencing inequalities, projects are requested to embrace a multidimensional approach and in turn combine at least two dimensions inequality.

In addition, projects are required to clearly explicit their geographical focus, and explore if and how geographical inequalities impact on their studies (cities and rural areas, internal areas). This approach is meant to encourage a better understanding of how inequalities emerge, exist and interact between each other.

Research rationale should include the study of the state of the art and the collection and analysis of primary data and, where necessary, secondary data derived from other publications and studies.

Applicants should pay attention on both the originality of their projects and the definition of a clear match between the methodological approach and research objectives⁵. In addition, it is desirable that proposals foster integration between different disciplines and skills, also using diverse and complementary methodologies. Indeed, this call encourages multidisciplinary studies.

Scholars must clarify how their projects contribute to reduce existing gap[s] in the literature and increase our understanding of the phenomenon. Furthermore, it should be noted that this call intends to facilitate knowledge transfer beyond the academic boundaries and in turn promote the development of more inclusive society especially within Fondazione Cariplo's geographical area.

Although the call focuses on Italy, can be proposed comparison across different contexts. Nevertheless, it is always necessary to provide

clear evidence of the research impact at national and/or local level.

Projects in partnership are requested to clarify how each partner is going to contribute to the project exploring their unique skills and how they complement the leading body. In line with the characteristics of the call, Fondazione Cariplo accepts proposals presented in partnership with third sector organizations.

In addition, projects must represent a professional opportunity for young scholars/researchers and adopt mechanisms aimed at promoting gender equality in research.

Finally, embracing Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)⁶ principles, with this call Fondazione Cariplo aims to promote initiatives fostering communication and interaction between researchers and civil society. Researchers must propose a communication plan inclusive and open to all stakeholders differently implicated in and by the study. Planned activities are meant to foster the development of a dual exchange of information between science and society. Ultimately, to encourage the transferability of research results into local policies, it is mandatory to include policy makers among the main targets of communication activities.

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 Eligible organizations

For the purpose of this call, we consider eligible any public or private non-profit organization conducting scientific research.

The call is also open to third sector organizations⁷ with the role of partner or leader.

The project must be carried out by an operational structure located in the Foundation's reference area. The actions referring to any partners can also be carried out in other structures outside the Foundation geographical context.

⁵ It should be noted that proposals adopting a deductive approach will be accepted, and therefore on the basis of general principles will make it possible to explain particular phenomena, and proposals favouring an inductive approach, and then through the analysis of particular case studies lead to the definition of general principles suitable to include other similar phenomena.

⁶ The European movement on RRI is constantly evolving, as emerges from the debate that led to the so called "Rome declaration on RRI" (https://www.sis-rri-conference.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RomeDeclaration_Final.pdf).

Considering the available literature, it is possible to describe RRI as a dynamic and iterative process aimed to match research and innovation with society values, needs and expectations. Moreover, RRI aims to actively involve all the stakeholders differently implicated in research and innovation and make them mutually responsible of each other and with regards to research process and results.

⁷ Third sector organizations will be able to participate as leader only if scientific research is indicated as their main objective by law.

Participating this call, organizations accept the grant portability for all Principal Investigators (PIs) of all the involved units (leading organizations and partners). Any change in the host institution needs to be approved by Fondazione Cariplo according to the “Guidelines for presentation” (“Guida alla presentazione dei progetti su bandi”) and the “General criteria for granting contributions” (“Criteri generali per la concessione dei contributi”).

4.2 Non eligible projects

To be eligible projects must present the following characteristics:

- fall within the call’s research priorities;
- involve, train and empower young researchers⁸;
- promote gender equality in research career;
- include policy makers amongst the target of their communication activities and publish at least one article of dissemination targeted to civil society.

PIs (leading institution and partner):

- propose no more than one proposal on this call⁹;
- they must not be responsible for units in projects financed in the previous edition of this call.

Fondazione Cariplo will guarantee the coverage of 100% of the project costs; therefore, the requested contribution must correspond to the total cost, in compliance with the eligibility criteria and the ceilings listed below:

- A03 – “Equipment and software”. This entry should not exceed the threshold of 20% of total project cost. It covers the costs for newly acquired equipment and software. All costs must be clearly motivated in relation to the project needs. A03 include renting costs as well

as building work expenses meant to cover new equipment installation.

- A04 – “Other amortizable costs”. This entry can include patent costs and the costs covering equipment rental;
- A05 – “Structured Staff”. This item must not exceed the threshold of 30% of the total project costs and must only concern the remuneration of the structured staff belonging to third sector organizations. In this regards A05 covers exclusively hours spent on the project and in addition to the normal business or service;
- A06 – “Temporary staff”. This entry is dedicated to research personnel costs. Please note that costs for administrative staff are not allowed;
- A07 – “Sub-contractors and consultants”¹⁰.
- A08 - “Materials and supplies”. This entry cannot include costs related to office supplies and photocopies.
- A09 - “Overheads”. This entry cannot exceed the threshold of 5% of total project costs.
- A10 - “Travel, publication and dissemination costs”. This entry is dedicated to cover research personnel’s travel expenses and conference fees, scientific publications and all communication activities.

Requested funding should range from 100,000 to 200,000 euros.

Proposals should provide the following mandatory documents:

- Letter of agreement¹¹;
- Partnership agreement¹²;
- Project form¹³, PDF format;
- Project Communication plan¹⁴, PDF format;
- Budget form, EXCEL format.

With the participation to this call, organizations acknowledge, agree and irrevocable accept “Intellectual property rights policy”, “Open access

⁸ For the matters of this call the term young researcher refers to graduates, doctoral students and postdocs under 35 years old, by the call’s deadline.

⁹ Should more than one proposal be received on this call, only the first received will be considered admissible. The criteria concern both the coordinator/principal investigator of the lead unit and the coordinator/principal investigator of any partner unit.

¹⁰ This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable. Exclusively certificated auditors are considered eligible. For the sole purpose of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, with the exception of third sector organizations, the amount to be taken as a reference is

obtained by multiplying the costs included in the Economic Plan (sum of items A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10), by the coefficient 1.25. In any case, it is anticipated that in the event of funding, the Foundation will confirm to individual beneficiaries any obligation to fully meet the fulfilment.

¹¹ Letter of agreement should be filled in according to the available online format.

¹² To be provided exclusively in case the project involves partner. Please note that Partner agreement form is available online.

¹³ Project form is available online.

¹⁴ Communication plan form is available online.

policy” and “Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers”. Please note that these documents are available online for downloading.

4.3 Criteria

Proposals’ evaluation will be performed as indicated in “Guida alla presentazione dei progetti su bandi”. Projects final score will be calculated according to the following criteria.

1. EXPOSITION (weight 5%)

- knowledge of the state of the art;
- adequate discussion of the academic context;
- relevance and positioning of the project with respect to the academic debate;
- clear formulation of the objectives and the strategies adopted.

2. APPROACH (weight 20%)

- clear project design and a good match between the project’s aims, the timing considered necessary to carry out the research activities and the requested resources;
- appropriateness of the multidimensional strategy proposed and proper integration in the project design of two or more dimensions of inequalities;
- adequacy of methodologies and strategies proposed with respect to the research objectives;
- well integration of qualitative and quantitative methods;
- adequacy of the multidisciplinary approach in terms of proper integration between different disciplines and skills.

3. ORIGINALITY (weight 15%)

- originalità e innovatività del progetto.

4. IMPACT (weight 25%)

- clear definition of the impact of the research in terms of developing new knowledge and increase our understanding, analysis and success to reduce existing forms of inequalities;
- contribution of the proposal in the identification of appropriate indicators to measure inequalities and their interactions;
- development of new networks or enrichment of existing ones;

- contribution of the proposal in the formulation of policies and / or solutions aimed at reducing inequalities with particular attention to Fondazione Cariplo geographical context of reference.

5. PROJECT COORDINATOR, TEAM AND ENVIRONMENT (weight 10%)

- track record and adequacy of the PI and of the competencies shared between team members (leading organization and partner);
- PIs’ scientific and managerial leadership;
- well integration of the team within the national and international research contexts;
- synergic integration of competencies and knowhow of the different institutions;
- presence of adequate equipment (software etc) in relation to the project.

6. YOUNG RESEARCHERS (peso 5%)

- engagement of young researchers in the project also in roles of responsibility;
- training programs for young researchers.

7. GENDER EQUALITY (weight 5%)

- development of research teams equally divided on the basis of gender. Exceptions will be accepted if clearly motivated.

8. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION (weight 5%)

- adequacy of the communication plan;
- appropriate involvement of policy makers as recipients of at least one science communication activity.

9. BUDGET AND DURATION (weight 10%)

- budget suitability and coherence with the project timeline. Whether present the evaluation of partners and subcontractors’ contribution should be assessed here.

It should be noted that the merit assessment of projects is carried out through peer review. In particular, projects are sent to qualified experts. To carry out their activities reviewers are requested to follow specific rules and procedures aimed at excluding conflicts of interest, prejudices ideological, personal pressures and self-referentiality. The Offices will express an opinion limited to the consistency of the Economic Plan and the adequacy of the Communication Plan.

4.4 Non-eligible projects

Proposals will be considered non-eligible in case they are not in line with “4.2 Eligible projects” and/or fall in any of the following categories:

- projects aimed to set up new research centers, and/or laboratories, and/or animal facilities;
- projects without clear social and policy implications;

4.5 Submission process

The deadline for proposals’ submission is at 5.00 pm on **May 17th ,2023**.

5. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The budget available for this call is 2.5 million Euros.

Please note that eligible and non-eligible costs are detailed in section “4.2 Eligible projects”.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Fondazione Cariplo, as a private entity, has full power to decide on the allocation of the budget. The text of the call and all the necessary documents are available at Fondazione Cariplo website: www.fondazione-cariplo.it.

For the purposes of peer review process, any personal data reported in the detailed description of the project may be transferred to non-EU countries or organizations, in compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679. For more information, before submitting an application, please have a look at the new privacy policy on the processing of personal data and the transfer of personal data to countries or organizations outside the European Union.

7. SUMMARY*

Call	Inequalities research
Type of call	Public or private non-profit organizations
Deadline	17th May 2023
Budget	€ 2.500.000
Aims	Generate new knowledge to reduce inequalities and foster the development of more inclusive societies
Target	Public or private non-profit organizations
Budget limit	Grant requests range between € 100.000 and € 200.000
Contacts	Research Area Fondazione Cariplo Contact available: www.fondazione-cariplo.it

** The data in the “Summary” are a snapshot of the key elements of this Call. Please read carefully the full text of the Call for all details.*