

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Regulatory Framework and Productivity in Latin America

CAF's Socioeconomic Research Department welcomes research proposals studying **the impact of regulations and public policies on productivity in Latin America.**

Proposals should focus on specific regulations or policies. We invite projects of the following two types:

- (1) Case studies addressing the effect of industry-specific regulations/policies on productivity. We are particularly interested in “network” sectors such as telecommunications, transport and energy.
- (2) Studies addressing broader regulations/policies affecting all sectors or a large subset of them.

We are particularly interested in regulations/policies aimed at:

- Competition advocacy and antitrust,
- Intellectual property protection,
- Bankruptcy,
- Consumer protection,
- Innovation,
- Employment protection, unemployment insurance, and minimum wages,
- Collective (wage) bargaining,
- Social security and pensions,
- SME and entrepreneurship financing,
- Credit allocation,
- Trade, and
- Environmental protection.

We also welcome proposals that focus on regulatory and bureaucratic procedures (i.e., red tape) that affect, for example, firm entry or the efficiency of the judicial system in order to facilitate contract enforcement.

It is important to emphasize that the main objective of the proposals should be to measure the impact of specific regulations and public policies on (sectoral or aggregate) productivity. Proposals that in addition evaluate these policies in the context of high informality or unemployment as well as their effect on the distribution of firm size are of special interest.

We are seeking empirical proposals based on firm-level microdata that implement a rigorous identification strategy. We will particularly value projects that use administrative data, especially if it has not been previously used.

Proposals should be sent to investigacion@caf.com by **March 15, 2017**. A maximum of 6 projects will be awarded funding of US\$ 15,000 with an additional amount of up to US\$ 5,000 for proposals that use administrative data. Selected proposals will be notified about **March 30**.

Proposals should be in PDF format and no longer than 5 pages (2500 words approximately). We accept proposals in English or Spanish. Proposals should clearly describe the research question to be studied as well as the data and methods to be used. They should also indicate the research team that will be carrying out the project.

Awarded projects are expected to submit the **first draft** of their study by **August 31, 2017**. The **final draft** is expected by **November 30, 2017**. Selected projects will be invited to present their (preliminary) findings in a conference in September or October 2017.

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed by CAF's researchers (Fernando Alvarez, Christian Daude and Manuel Toledo) and Marcela Eslava from Universidad de Los Andes.