

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

### CAF Research Program on Corruption and Prevention Policies

Corruption is considered by Latin Americans one of the most pressing problems their countries currently face. This state of public perception may not surprise after the scandals that have come to light in recent years, but it is concerning given the harmful effects it may have on the legitimacy of political systems and governability. Hence, the prevention of corruption is a prominent issue in the regional public policy agenda.

The scientific literature has provided evidence of the negative consequences of corruption on resource allocation, growth, inequality and state capacity, among other variables. However, our knowledge about this phenomenon remains incomplete. One of the main pending assignments is assessing the effectiveness of anticorruption practices and policies.

For this reason, the Socioeconomic Research Department of CAF-Development Bank of Latin America opens this call for research proposals on corruption and instruments for its prevention, in the framework of the preparations for the 2019 edition of the Report on Economic Development (RED 2019).

Some of the specific subjects to be considered in this call are:

- Campaign finance and its effects on selection and behavior of politicians.
- Functioning of justice systems.
- Functioning of organizations for the prevention and control of corruption.
- Incidence, causes and effects of vote-buying.
- Role of civil society in the prevention of corruption. Transparency campaigns, diffusion of information and its processing by citizens. The importance of information sources.
- Social/cultural determinants of attitudes towards corruption.
- Psychological features associated to the integrity of public officials. Techniques to measure them. Their role in personnel recruitment processes.
- Role of the media in preventing corruption. New technologies and social networks.
- The role of private agents in corruption. Characteristics of private organizations that benefit from corruption.
- Theory of anticorruption reforms and their implementation.
- Public-private sector job transitions, revolving doors and conflicts of interest.
- Corruption costs and relationship with development indicators.
- Peer-effects in corruption. The role of corporate/institutional culture.
- Electoral sanctioning of corruption and variables that mediate electoral punishment.
- Perception of monitoring by individuals and how it may differ from actual monitoring levels. Tools to manipulate perception.

This list is not exhaustive and any question that is relevant for the anticorruption agenda will be considered. Works presenting evidence for Latin America will be specially valued.

**Important information:**

- Proposals must be sent to [investigacion@caf.com](mailto:investigacion@caf.com) by **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.
- Proposals must include two files: i) a **document of maximum 4 pages (2000 words) presenting the research question** and describing the methodology and data (if it is an empirical work) to employ; ii) the **list of members of the research team**, with their current affiliation and contact details, plus an **updated CV of the corresponding author**. These documents can be presented in English or Spanish. Clarity in the description of the project and the identification strategy (in the case of empirical works) will be highly valued. Failure to comply with the rule regarding the maximum length of the main document will imply the automatic disqualification of the proposal.
- A maximum of **3 winning proposals** will receive a prize of **USD 15.000** each to finance the project.
- Winners will be announced by **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.
- A first draft of the project must be submitted by **June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. During **July of 2018**, a preliminary version of the project will be presented in a Seminar that CAF will organize in a Latin American city to be determined. CAF will cover travel expenses (economy class airfares and lodging) for one author of each of the selected projects.
- The **final version of the project** must be submitted by **September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, and it will be incorporated into the CAF Working Paper Series. The authors will be free to publish the work in any scientific journal.
- A **policy brief** summarizing the main points and conclusions of the project must be submitted by **November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**.
- The committee in charge of assessing the proposals will be integrated by Pablo Brassiolo (CAF), Rafael Di Tella (Harvard Business School), Gustavo Fajardo (CAF), Claudio Ferraz (PUC-Rio), Monica Martinez-Bravo (CEMFI), Juan Vargas (CAF – Universidad del Rosario) and Federico Weinschelbaum (Universidad Torcuato Di Tella).

Any further question can be directed to [investigacion@caf.com](mailto:investigacion@caf.com)