

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

### Human capital formation and youth access to high-quality employment in Latin America

In Latin America, the number of very young and elder people is relatively high in comparison to working age population. This fact reflects that population is still young, which entails that there is a set of opportunities that could contribute to socioeconomic development in the region. In order to take advantage of the demographic dividend, it is key to have a well-trained youth, possessing a wide set of skills that enable them to adapt to a changing environment, such as that produced by technological change in labor markets. However, Latin American countries also face many challenges that disproportionately affect the youth: school dropout, skill mismatch in labor markets and barriers to access high-quality employments. These issues can drain the opportunities to gain from the demographic dividend.

This call aims at supporting research proposals that contribute to a better understanding of human capital formation and youth employability in the region with particular emphasis in two areas: First, we will prioritize projects that study the **link between schooling, skills and youth employment**. Second, we will prioritize proposals that study conditions of **accessibility to sources of employment** for urban and young people in situation of socioeconomic vulnerability. Special consideration will be given to research proposals that present novel evidence for Latin America.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of topics that research proposals could address:

- *The effects of technical and vocational education and professional training on labor market insertion and youth labor market trajectories.*
- *Socio-demographic profiles of technical and vocational students vs those in general education, and their labor market outcomes and earnings over the life-cycle.*
- *The geographical distribution of the technical and vocational education supply and its link to the regional productive structure.*
- *Fertility and labor opportunities.*
- *The effects of technological change on demand for youth employment, particularly on the abilities that are on demand and abilities that might be demanded in the future. The effect of retraining and reskilling on labor force reallocation in the face of technological change.*
- *Lifelong learning and employability through the life cycle.*
- *Spatial distribution of employment opportunities for the youth.*
- *Public service supply and infrastructure to favor accessibility to sources of employment in cities, for the youth and the disadvantaged population.*

A maximum of **4 winning proposals** will be awarded **USD 10.000** each to finance their research.

### **Important information:**

Proposals must be submitted through the following [link](#), until **23:59 hours of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Buenos Aires Time (GMT -3)**. Authors must complete the form and attach three files:

- i. **Research proposal, of a maximum length of 4 pages and 2000 words**, presenting the research question and describing the methodology and data sources (if it is an empirical work)
- ii. **Research team**, including full name, current affiliation and contact details of every member
- iii. **Updated CV of the lead researcher**

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.**

### **Instructions for the submission**

- The documents must be attached in pdf format only.
- Please use the following document names:
  - o Main document: proposal's title only
  - o Research team: word "Team" followed by the proposal's title
  - o Lead researcher's CV: word "CV" followed by the proposal's title

### **Schedule for winning proposals**

- Winners will be announced by **May 30, 2019**.
- A first draft of the project must be submitted by **August 30, 2019**
- The **final version of the project** must be submitted by **November 20, 2019**, and it will be uploaded to the CAF Working Paper Series. The authors will be free to publish their work afterwards in any scientific journal.
- A two-page **policy brief** summarizing the main points and conclusions of the project must be submitted by **November 20, 2019**.

### **Evaluation committee**

The committee in charge of assessing the proposals will be integrated by researchers of CAF's Socioeconomic Research Department (Fernando Álvarez, Lucila Berniell, Dolores de la Mata and Ricardo Estrada), Eva Arceo-Gomez (CIDE) and Hugo Ñopo (ILO).

There is a Frequently Asked Questions document joint with the call with answers to most common questions. Any further question can be directed to [investigacion@caf.com](mailto:investigacion@caf.com)