

Call to support research projects on the social impact of COVID-19

Object

This call is endowed with a maximum amount of **60,000 euros** (including all applicable taxes in Spain) and aims to foster understanding in the social sciences by supporting **original, quantitative research** on the **social reality in Portugal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic**.

The aim of the call is to fund **quantitative research projects** that can complete the entire path from hypotheses to conclusions within a **maximum period of 6 months** and present the results of the research in an outreach article to be published by the Social Observatory of "la Caixa".

Context

One of the missions of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa" is to support research in social sciences that can provide relevant knowledge to policy makers, professionals in the third social sector or communication professionals, among others.

The Social Observatory of "la Caixa" is launching this new call for proposals with the aim of supporting new research on topics of particular relevance in the current socioeconomic context and to be able to transfer the results of this research to outreach formats that will be published and disseminated by the Social Observatory of "la Caixa".

Requirements: what we are interested in with this call

The call seeks to support research that allows data to be obtained on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Portuguese society, especially on how it has affected:

- Social and economic inequality
- Political and social balance
- The job market
- Health resources and health of the population
- Access to education
- The well-being of citizens
- Mass communication, media and social networks
- The use of digital cultural resources and content platforms
- The role of civil society and non-governmental organisations

Scope:

- Original research on Portuguese society.
- If the geographical scope is a relevant variable in the research, priority will be given to proposals that refer to the whole of Portugal over those that analyse a sub-state reality. If, on the other hand, geographical scope is not a relevant variable in the research, the geographical scope proposed will not affect the evaluation.

Data:

- The research has to result in quantitative evidence.
- Both primary sources (data generated by the research per se) and secondary sources (surveys, administrative records, etc.) can be used.
- The data used must be the most recent and current available when it comes to the sources selected on the date of submitting the application.

What we offer?

The call offers **financial resources** to conduct quantitative social research. A maximum of **5 projects** will be funded.

A total of 10,000* euros is provided for each project (including university or research centre expenses and overheads, and exclusive of VAT).

The amount will be paid in two parts: 30% on the signing of the contract and the remaining 70% once the Social Observatory has given its consent to all deliverables (see next section).

**It is compulsory that the non-resident company obtaining incomes in Spain delivers to "la Caixa" Foundation a specific certificate of residency in Portugal. Such certificate must include the specification that the company is a resident of Portugal within the meaning of the Portugal-Spain Double Tax Treaty. If such certification is not provided, "la Caixa" Foundation will have to withhold 19% to the aforesaid amount according to the non-residents Spanish tax regulation.*

What we ask for

The beneficiaries undertake to:

- Sign an agreement with the "la Caixa" Foundation that will regulate the financial and delivery conditions of the article, as set out in these terms and conditions.
- Comply with the ethical, social, financial, human resource and contractual standards set by the university or research centre to which the researchers are attached in planning and conducting the funded research.
- Submit a document that describes in detail the research methodology and the technical analytical aspects used. This document will be peer-reviewed in order to evaluate the scientific soundness of the research conducted.

- Submit an original, unpublished outreach article explaining the results and conclusions of the research. The aim of this article is for it to be published on the Social Observatory. The aforementioned agreement will regulate the conditions for producing the article and its signing will entail the exclusive transfer to the "la Caixa" Foundation of all the exploitation rights for the resulting contents, including the rights to reproduction, distribution, public communication (including on the Internet) and transformation (including translation into other languages that it considers opportune).

All this without prejudice to moral duties and, in particular, to the recognition of the beneficiaries as the authors of the article.

Regarding the outreach article

- The contents of the article must correspond to the research question(s) asked at the time of the application.
- The delivery period for the article will be 6 months, starting from the notification that the proposal has been selected.
- The editorial guidelines of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa" must be followed.
- The Social Observatory of "la Caixa" reserves the right to publish the article in various formats, although it will not be obliged to do so.
- Its publication on the Social Observatory of "la Caixa" is not incompatible with subsequent publication of the results arising from the research in academic journals or general media considered by the beneficiaries. In fact, the mission of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa" is to disseminate this research as widely as possible and therefore encourages and supports this. In such cases, explicit mention must be made of the support received from the "la Caixa" Foundation in obtaining these results.

Who can apply

The call is open to individual researchers or research teams of any nationality conducting their activity in universities, research centres or private non-profit organisations dedicated to research and headquartered in Portugal.

The agreement will be signed with the university or centre to which the researchers are affiliated and funding will be channelled through these institutions.

Evaluation of applications

A team of independent, multidisciplinary social science experts and non-academic experts from fields related to this call will be responsible for evaluating the proposals submitted.

In order to avoid bias and to ensure the fairness of the process, the evaluation members will not be able to identify the authors or their affiliation. The aspects that will be taken into account in the evaluation are as follows:

1. Social relevance and interest in the problem or phenomenon analysed.
2. Original, innovative nature of the research questions that are answered.
3. Technical quality of the data analysis.

How many projects will be selected

The plan is to select a maximum of 5 research projects. However, the number of proposals selected may vary depending on the quality of the proposals received.

Contents of application

The applications submitted must use clear, direct language: clarity of presentation will be taken into account in the evaluation process.

Very important: in order to facilitate the participation of international evaluation members, the following documentation must be **submitted in English**.

1. DOCUMENT A (project)

Applications must be anonymous in order to ensure fairness. Document A must therefore not contain any reference that would help to identify the main researcher or any other member of his or her team, or the university or research centre to which they are affiliated.

This document must only contain information on the following aspects over a maximum of three pages:

1. Proposal summary (maximum 4 lines)

2. Social problem and research question or questions

What social problem or phenomenon does it propose to analyse? What is its relevance?
What research question/s is/are going to be answered?

3. Background and innovation

Why is the proposal innovative? What prior knowledge exists on the question that is going to be analysed? Why is the proposed research of interest?

4. Methodology

Describe the methodology that is going to be used to conduct the research.

2. DOCUMENT B (contact details)

This document must include the following information:

Name or business name and tax code (NIF) of the university or research centre to which the researcher or research team is affiliated.

Details of applicants:

- **Main researcher:**

Full name

ID Card/Passport

Post or position

Email

Telephone

- **Other research team members:**

Full name

Post or position

Email

[If the submission is made by a research team, all the members will have authorised their participation in the proposal.]

⚠ IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- The structure of documents A and B must fully comply with the requirements described herein and reflected in the templates provided. Applications that do not comply with these submission requirements will be directly rejected without any evaluation.
- The evaluation process of the applications will be anonymous. Document A must not contain any details that enable identification of the person or persons presenting the project, or indicate their professional/employment affiliation, either past or present. Non-compliance with this requirement will disqualify the proposal.

Submission of applications

The proposals can be submitted until **1 pm** (Greenwich Mean Time) on **7th October 2020**.

All documents forming part of the proposal must be sent in a single email message, and **in PDF format**, to the Social Observatory of "la Caixa": observatoriosocial@fundacionlacaixa.org.

Notification of resolution of call

The general resolution of the call will be published on the website of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa" no later than 30 November 2020 and the selected candidates will be notified prior to this date by the contact email they provide.

Evaluation reports on the proposals will not be issued, scores for each aspect evaluated will not be made available and no appeals can be made regarding the resolution of the call.

Acceptance of terms and conditions

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of its terms and conditions.

Applications that do not meet all requirements (characteristics of applicants, subject areas, contents, format, length, presentation, etc.) will not be eligible and therefore will not go through to the evaluation phase.

Personal data protection

The Fundació Bancària Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa", domiciled at Plaça de Weyler, 3, 07001 Palma (Balearic Islands), is responsible (as the data controller) for the processing of personal data for managing the participation in this call in order to take steps to prior entering into a contract. Personal details will be stored until the end of the prescription terms applicable. Data may be transferred to technology providers located outside the European Economic Area, but "la Caixa" Foundation ensures that such transfers comply with all the required legal guarantees. Besides personal data may only be transferred for compliance with legal obligations. More information can be requested and rights of access, rectification, elimination, limitation, portability and opposition can be exercised before the Data Protection Delegate of the "la Caixa" Foundation at Avinguda Diagonal, 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, or dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org. Complaints can also be made to the Portuguese Data Protection Authority (CNPD).

Queries and consultations

For any consultation regarding this call you can write to the email address of the Social Observatory of "la Caixa": observatoriosocial@fundacionlacaixa.org.