

## Aging and social research: people, places and relations

Call for proposals

Deadline: April 5<sup>th</sup> 2018:

### THE BACKGROUND

Starting from today up to 2050 the world average age is going to experience a sensible growth. NATO most recent estimate indicates that Europe is likely to become the oldest country in the world with 34% of the population over the 60s. In all other countries, excluding Africa, the over 60s range around a quarter of the population<sup>1</sup>. In perfect line with the rest of the EU between 2007 and 2050, in Italy the number of over 65s is going to raise from 20% to 30%. In the same period the percentage of over 80s is going to double growing from 6% up to 13%<sup>2</sup>.

The stable, but constant increase in longevity represents a complex process -unique and peculiar- made of a constellation of elements that are only partially clarified. The increase in the number of elders has been associated to several changes including modern improvements in medicine and family's structure changes as well as the establishment of new social and economic structures that have been gradually taking shape since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In front of changes of such relevance, it is almost mandatory to reflect over the complexity of contextual, cultural and social elements that contributed, and are still contributing, to shape the realities that we are experiencing, and we will be experiencing in the next future.

Following this logic means to look at time and space as special dimensions of analysis from which to reflect over the very meaning of aging and longevity. Indeed, space plays a significant role in the ways elders experience their everyday realities, and becomes even more crucial in the ways they perceive themselves and shape their social relations. Likewise focusing on time -means to reflect over how differently the time of the present, past and future is perceived according to individuals' biological ages, as well as understanding the special role played by time in shaping our realities and everyday experiences.

### Aims of the call

In line with Fondazione Cariplo's interventions strategies traditionally in support of human wellness and social cohesion, the present call is dedicated to focus on social research studies aimed to analyze *old* as a life condition. The point of views from which to look at the problem are time and space. For the purpose of this call these dimensions become two peculiar lenses from which to understand what does it mean to be old.

From the methodological perspective these issues are better addressed following a multi or trans-disciplinary perspective. This should facilitate the analysis of the problem from different angles considering its very complexity.

Projects must propose a solid rationale developed on the analysis of current academic debate and funded on the analysis of primary or secondary data derived from other publications. Particular attention will be paid to proposals' originality as well as the adequacy of the methodological approach planned to answer the research question.

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<sup>1</sup> Bosia, D. Zhang, Y Thiebat, F Savio, L. (2017) "Age-friendly cities: spazio pubblico e spazio privato, Journal of Technology and Environment" Journal for technology for Architecture and environment, (14): 321-329.

<sup>2</sup> Noale, M. Limongi, F. Scafato, E. Maggi, S. Crepaldi, G. Longevity and health expectancy in an ageing society: implications for public health in Italy. Ann Ist Super Sanità 2012 (48) 3: 292-299.

The latter must be very clear and specific, it must be built on the gaps identified in the literature. It is important to clearly motivate all methodological decisions. This is needed for proposals addressing the problem with either qualitative or quantitative methods, and even more necessary for those preferring mixed methods approaches that combine qualitative and quantitative methodologies (e.i. experimental ones with statistical analysis and big data).

In case of proposals presented in partnership it is necessary to clarify in detail how the Partner contribute in completing the competencies of the of the Leading organization. Furthermore, it must be explained how these different competencies are integrated together in one unique design.

Projects are strongly advised to develop and represent training and professional opportunities for the development of the young researchers.

Finally, embracing the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation<sup>3</sup>, 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 the research. Planned activities are meant to facilitate the activation of a dual exchange between science and society. The communication plan is to be considered an integral part of the research proposal.

## GUIDELINES

### Eligible applicants

Beyond the general requirements set out in the “*Guidelines for presentation*”, it should be noted that this call is intended to all institutions directly carrying out scientific research in the specified field of interest of this call and which demonstrate to be well endowed in terms of staff and equipment. It should be noted that for this call organizations coming from the Third sector<sup>4</sup> might be activated as Partner.

Moreover, it should be noted that the operational headquarter of the leading organization must fall in the geographical area of interest of Fondazione Cariplo (Lombardia plus Novara and Verbania districts). Proposals failing to respect this constraints shall be excluded from the peer review evaluation. This requirement does not refer to Partners.

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<sup>3</sup> The European movement on the theme of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is constantly evolving, as emerges from the debate which has recently led to the so called “Rome declaration on RRI” ([http://www.sis-rri-conference.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RomeDeclaration\\_Final.pdf](http://www.sis-rri-conference.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RomeDeclaration_Final.pdf)). In light of the available literature, it is possible to describe RRI as a dynamic and iterative process which intends to match research and innovation to values, needs and expectations of the society. Moreover, RRI aims at actively involving all the stakeholders taking part to activities of research and innovation, making them mutually responsible with respect to both the research process and its results

<sup>4</sup> For the purpose of this document Third sector means the combination of nonprofit bodies set up with the aim to purpose' civic solidarity and social utilities. These organizations must promote and implement activities pursuing public interest through forms of voluntary action free or mutual or resulted from the production and exchange of goods and services. These must be achieved in respect of the principle of subsidiarity, and organization own statutes or acts constituent. All political associations, trade unions, professional associations and representation of economic categories are excluded from the Third sector. Banking foundations as organizations involved in the pursuit of the purposes listed in this Act are not subjected to the present disposition and the related decrees. " LAW DECREE March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, n. 40. art. 8 law June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, n. 106. LAW DECREE 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, n. 111. art 9, 1:c) and d), Law 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, n. 106.  
LAW DECREE 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, n. 112. Revision art 2, 2, c) Law 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2016, n. 106.  
LAW DECREE 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, n. 117. art 1, 2, b) Law 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 2016, n. 106.

By submitting a proposal, applicants and their organizations accept the “portability of the grant”. This means that, as long as the research objectives are preserved, PIs maintain all rights to ask Fondazione to move the research headquarter from one institution to a new eligible one. Final decision in favour or against requests of this kind are under the responsibility of Fondazione Cariplo according to the guidelines of this call of proposals. This special clausal does not refer to Third sector organizations.

Fondazione Cariplo will not consider proposals presented by a project leader holding a grant for a project which is still ongoing by the time of the new submission and which was winner of another call launched by Foundation Research Area. For the purpose of this call we consider still ongoing any project missing, even partially, of the necessary financial and scientific documentation requested to monitor and evaluate the results of the project. It is mandatory to fulfil this request before the deadline of the call.

With regards to the project leaders, as they have been defined above, they are only allowed to present one proposal<sup>5</sup>.

#### Eligible projects:

To be eligible, proposals must:

- fall in at least one of the key priority research areas of this call;
- propose as Leading organization a research centre;
- include, train and enhance young researchers<sup>6</sup>;
- prepare a communication plan of activities with civil society, coordinated by one of the researcher fully included in the working team (for more detail see the “*Communication Guidelines*”).

Fondazione Cariplo requires to all proposal planning field work- and thus implicating human subjects and their lives - to clearly specify the more adequate ethical strategy<sup>7</sup> (informed consent, privacy, *etc*).

The total cost of the project can only include costs related to the realization of the proposed studies, respecting the eligibility criteria and the thresholds below:

- A03 - “Equipment and software”  
This entry cannot exceed 20% of the additional costs<sup>8</sup>. It covers fully the costs for newly acquired equipment and software that must be clearly motivated in accordance to the specificity of the project. In this category can also be included renting costs as well as building expenses for the installation of the new equipment.
- A06 - “Temporary staff”  
This entry can only include research personnel costs. The cost of administrative staff is not allowed.
- A07 - “Sub-contractors and consultants”

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<sup>5</sup> In case Fondazione Cariplo receive more than one proposal by the same project leader it will be automatically considered valid the first one submitted.

<sup>6</sup>The term “young researcher” in this call for proposals indicates graduate fellows, PhD students and post-docs not older than 35 years of age, at the Call’s deadline.

<sup>7</sup> In case the documentation it is not available at the time by the call deadline, Fondazione Cariplo is going to ask the Leading organization to present the missing documents after the assignment of the grant.

<sup>8</sup>Sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10.

- This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable<sup>9</sup>.
- A08 - “Materials and supplies”  
This entry can include costs related to stationery and photocopies.
- A09 - “Overheads”  
This entry cannot exceed 5% of the additional costs<sup>10</sup>.
- A10 - “Travel, publication and dissemination costs”  
This entry cannot exceed 15% of the additional costs<sup>11</sup> and can only include travel expenses and conference participation fees for the research personnel involved in the project, scientific publications.

The grant will cover 100% of project costs. Requested funding should range from 100,000 to 200,000 euros.

When filling in the forms, note that total costs of the project must coincide with the requested funding.

### Application submission

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2018. Leading organizations must submit applications for all partners accessing the online platform available on Fondazione Cariplo’s website. First-time applicants need to register and require their username and password.

Fondazione Cariplo will consider non eligible applications submitted on paper or using forms different from the ones made available online.

In order to apply for this grant, applicants are kindly requested to integrally fill all the online forms organized as below:

- Leading organization details (fill in the form with in details; or check and update your organization’s details if already registered);
- Project section<sup>12</sup>;
- Additional information;
- Budget section<sup>13</sup>.

In addition, the Leading organization must upload all compulsory documents as it is indicated in the Guidelines for Presentation:

- Project Form (in pdf) <sup>14</sup>;

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<sup>9</sup>With the sole aim of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, the amount which has to be considered is obtained multiplying the eligible costs detailed in the Budget (sum of entries A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10) by the coefficient 1.25 (which represents an estimate of the co-funding generally guaranteed by the hosting institution, mainly in the form of permanent staff). It is also recommended to refer to chapter 10 of the “Grant management and reporting guide” and to the “Guidelines for audit”; both documents are available on the “Grant management and reporting” page of Cariplo Foundation’s website.

<sup>10</sup>See footnote 8.

<sup>11</sup>See footnote 8.

<sup>12</sup>In the Project Section applicants are required to enter information about the project, their organization and the organizations making up the partnership. Fondazione Cariplo may use this information for internal and external communications, and for analysis about performance of the call. Applicants are required to enter information in Italian using a language that is understandable to a lay person.

<sup>13</sup>The Budget Section requires to indicate the costs according to the different item costs, project’s annuity, partners and actions (WPs).

<sup>14</sup> The detailed project shall be prepared in accordance with the template relating to the call that can be downloaded from the section Additional Information under Online Forms.

- Budget Form (in pdf)<sup>15</sup>;
- Project Dissemination Form<sup>16</sup>;
- Letter of commitment from the hosting institution;
- Partnership agreement;
- Documentation of the applicant organizations<sup>17</sup>.

Please note that the “Project Form”, the “Budget Form” and the “Dissemination Form” are the only documents subjected to meritocratic analysis.

Before submitting a proposal, applicants are kindly invited to carefully read the documents listed below and available on Cariplo Foundation’s website at [www.fondazionecariplo.it](http://www.fondazionecariplo.it) :

- *Guidelines for Presentation;*
- *Grant management and reporting guide;*
- *Communication guidelines;*
- *Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers;*
- *Intellectual property rights policy;*
- *Open access policy.*

By submitting a proposal, applicants acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the grant requires the irrevocable acceptance of all policies mentioned above and respect of aforementioned Guide and Guidelines.

### Evaluation process

All proposals submitted before the deadline and according to the formal requirements described above will follow a two-steps evaluation process:

#### *I. Formal Preliminary Control*

This step is meant to check that all required documents are correctly submitted and they are consistent with the call’s guideline. At this stage officers will also check all Organisations’ eligibility. This is equally valid for leading organizations as well as partners. Only applications considered eligible enter the peer review stage. All applicants non eligible will be notified. Organizations will receive a formal letter clearly motivating the exclusion. This information will also be available online on Fondazione Cariplo’s web platform.

#### *II. Peer Review*

Eligible applications will be evaluated by independent experts in a peer review process ensuring scientific expertise and impartiality. The review panel will be built on international experts on social studies of aging. Each proposal will be assessed by 3 reviewers. Reviewer-project matching will be made according to the indications provided by applicants in the keywords selection. This logic is meant to ensure the identification of the most suitable reviewers for the project.

The final score given to the project reflect scores and weight:

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<sup>15</sup>The detailed budget form shall be prepared in accordance with the template relating to the call that can be downloaded from the section Additional Information under Online Forms

<sup>16</sup>The detailed dissemination form shall be prepared in accordance with the template relating to the call that can be downloaded from the section Additional Information under Online Forms.

<sup>17</sup>Applicants are advised to read the document ‘Guidelines for Grantseekers’ available on Fondazione Cariplo’s website.

1. DESCRIPTION (weight 10%)
  - State of art and background knowledge;
  - Clear definition of aims and strategies.
2. APPROACH (weight 20%)
  - Logic experimental design shaped around the project's aims;
  - Well combination of quali-quantitative methods;
  - Multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach;
  - Synergic integration of competencies coming from the different participants (individuals, groups and institutions);
  - Development of network with the local context/associations;
  - Development of dialogic activities with civil society;
  - Adequacy of methods and strategies.
3. INNOVATION (weight 15%)
  - Significant contribution to the innovation of the state of art.
4. IMPACT (weight 20%)
  - Ability in grasping and anticipating specific social, cultural and economic needs of the local and national context;
  - Development and reinforcement of existing
  - Relevance of the themes discussed in the project within and outside the local context;
  - Clear definition of the impact and the expected results over the socioeconomic system at the local and national level.
5. ORGANIZATION AND RESEARCH TEAM (weight 10%)
  - Scientific competences of the PI and collaborators;
  - Coordination abilities;
  - Connection between the research organization and the local socioeconomic system;
6. YOUR RESEARCHER INVOLVEMENT AND TUTORING STRATEGIES (weight 10%)
  - Participation of young researchers<sup>18</sup> in activities that imply certain responsibility;
  - Develop training courses for young researchers.
7. DISSEMINATION (weight 5%)
  - Define a coordinator of the communication plan;
  - Develop a communication plan in line with the Communication Guidelines (available online);
  - Inclusion of the Responsible Research and Innovation principles<sup>19</sup> in the communication plan.
8. BUDGET AND TIMELINE (weight 10%)
  - Adequacy of the budget plan and internal coherence;

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<sup>18</sup> See note 6.

<sup>19</sup> See note 3.

- Adequacy of the foreseen timeframe.

The final ranking ultimately represents the list of the best projects worth of funding. At the end of the review process, all applicants will receive official communication together with reviewers' feedback. All these documents will also be available in the dedicated area on Fondazione Cariplo's website.

#### **AVAILABLE BUDGET**

The budget available for this call for proposals is 2 million euros.

#### **Communication and information**

Please note that all documents cited in this call are available online at [www.fondazionecariplo.it](http://www.fondazionecariplo.it).

