



Call 2017  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Aging and social research:  
people, places and relations



fondazione  
**cariplo**

[www.fondazionecariplo.it](http://www.fondazionecariplo.it)



**DEADLINE: APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 2017:**

## AGING AND SOCIAL RESEARCH: PEOPLE, PLACES AND RELATIONS

### THE BACKGROUND

By 2030 the number of elders will double, reaching 1 billion. Furthermore, it is likely that before 2050 this number will reach 2,5 millions<sup>1</sup>. A handful of nations, including Italy, lead the global aging pack having opened this new millennium with more elders than young people.

The gradual, but continuous increase of longevity has been associated to several changes including modern improvements in medicine, family's structure changes, but also the establishment of new social and economic structures that have been gradually taking shape since the 18th century.

As we learn from the literature the multiple facets of this change – in its uniqueness and complete peculiarity – remain unclear and thus significant difficulties emerges when the aim is to develop strategies, policies and answers appropriated to the variety of problems that they have been generating.

In front of these numerous changes, it becomes crucial reflecting over the complexity of elements that contributed and are still contributing to shape the realities that we are experiencing and we will be experiencing in the next future. These elements might be contextual, cultural and/or social. Longevity and aging are themes that develop specific tones and forms accordingly to the context in which they are developing and in turn contribute to shape.

This becomes immediately clear when we compare what happens in urban realities to what happens in extra-urban realms. In the former context, elders experience familiar relationships increasingly pulverized and inconsistent. Here time and space take forms absolutely peculiar that are becoming more and more difficult to govern. On the contrary outside cities' boundaries, time tends to slow down and in parallel space changes taking shapes very peculiar. According to this logic space, and more precisely the ways it is shaped and contribute to create new shapes become an excellent position from which reflect over the very meaning of aging.

### AIMS OF THE CALL

The present call, in line with Fondazione Cariplo interventions strategies that traditionally supports human wellness and social cohesion, is dedicated to social research studies aimed to analyze old as a life condition.

In particular, proposals must fall within the two following fields:

- Study of *aging* as a process in its different and peculiar contexts, being these urban or extra-human, in order to analyze and understand the different opportunities and complexities related to the specific context. Special attention will be given to those study reflecting over the numerous issues associated to our welfare system and community welfare;
- study of elders in their social and human relations, being these within or outside the family realm, in consideration of the possible economic implications that might arise. In this context, particular relevance will be played by the environment they live and experience daily including nourish homes and rehab centres, their home, all the different places where elders socialize, voluntary associations, (for all active elders and socially committed) and neglected realms (especially for those in situations of emargination).

From the methodological perspective the approach can only be multidisciplinary and multisectorial. This will make it possible to analyze the problem from different perspectives in order to better understand 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 proposed in relation to the research question. The latter must be very clear and specific, developed on the gaps clearly identified in the literature. All methodological decisions must be clearly explained. This is valid for proposals proposing mixed methods approaches combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including experimental ones with statistical analysis and big data. And it is also valid for those projects that prefer one or another of those methods being this qualitative or quantitative.

In order to promote an effective collaboration between the different research groups included in the research studies, projects must propose partnership including at least two eligible subjects. It will be necessary clarify in detail the competencies peculiar per each Partner in addition to the ones of the Leading

<sup>1</sup> Demographic data, projections and estimation included in this document refer to the Data Base supported by International Programs Center, U.S.: Census Bureau and Solovskii, J (2009). The cultural context of aging. World wide perspectives. Praeger.

organization. Furthermore, it must be explained how these different competencies are integrated together in one unique design.

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

Finally, embracing the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation<sup>2</sup>, Fondazione Cariplo aims to promote initiatives fostering communication and interaction between researchers and civil society. In particular, 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 considered an integral part of the research proposal.

## GUIDELINES

### Eligible applicants

Beyond 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 and thus 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>3</sup> might be activated as Partner.

Moreover, it is mandatory for the leading institution to have its operational headquarter located in the geographical area of interest of Fondazione Cariplo (Lombardia plus Novara and Verbania districts). This requirement does not refer to Partners.

By submitting a proposal, applicants and their organizations accept the “portability of the grant”. This means that PIs always maintain the rights to require the transfer of the research project to a new eligible institution, for as long as the research objectives are preserved. Any change in the host institution depends on Fondazione Cariplo approval according to the guidelines of this call of proposals. This condition does not refer to Third sector organizations.

### Eligible projects:

To be eligible, proposals must:

- fall in at least one of the key priority research areas of this call;
- be realized in partnership. The latter must include at least two different eligible institutions. One of them needs to act as leading organization. The Leading organization must be a research centre;
- focus on causal mechanisms;
- include, train and enhance young researchers<sup>4</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*”).

By all means Fondazione Cariplo requires to all proposal planning field work- implicating human subjects and their lives – to clearly specify the more adequate ethical strategy (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>5</sup>. It covers

<sup>2</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>3</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 6 June 2016, n. 106 1.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10.

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"*  
This entry should also include audit<sup>6</sup> costs, where applicable<sup>7</sup>.
- A08 - *"Materials and supplies"*  
This entry cannot include costs related to stationery and photocopies.
- A09 - *"Overheads"*  
This entry cannot exceed 5% of the additional costs<sup>8</sup>.
- A10 - *"Travel, publication and dissemination costs"*  
This entry cannot exceed 15% of the additional costs<sup>9</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.

#### Evaluation criteria

Fondazione Cariplo rely on external, independent and internationally renowned reviewers, in order to guarantee transparency and objectivity.

Besides the overall scientific quality of the proposal, the evaluation takes into account the following elements:

- demonstration of the level of confidence with the academic debate and state of the art;
- preliminary data robustness;
- clarity of the research question, aims and strategies;
- adequacy of the methodologies proposed according to the expected results and their impact on scientific community;
- relation to current social and health policies and possible impacts on future policies;
- originality and innovativeness of the project;
- presence of a multidisciplinary approach;
- research team and PIs' track record;
- engagement of young researchers<sup>10</sup>, and the presence of training programmes;
- quality of the communication plan also in relation to Responsible Research and Innovation principles<sup>11</sup>;
- Responsible engagement and inclusion of different stakeholder differently implicated in the research project
- level of consolidation of the collaborations with national or international research centres and/or the ability to build new partnerships between basic or preclinical and clinical research centres;
- nature and strength of the partnership as well as the value added by each partner to the implementation of the project;
- budget adequacy and sustainability of project's duration.

#### Application submission

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017. 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.

<sup>6</sup> Exclusively certificated auditor are considered eligible.

<sup>7</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>8</sup> See footnote 4.

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 4.

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 7.

<sup>11</sup> See footnote 6.

Fondazione Cariplo will consider ineligible applications submitted on paper or using forms different from the specific ones available online.

In order to apply for this grant, applicants are required to fill in integrally 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.

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

- Project Form<sup>13</sup>;
- Budget Form<sup>14</sup>;
- Project Dissemination Form<sup>15</sup>;
- Letter of commitment from the hosting institution;
- Partnership agreement;
- Documentation of the applicant organizations<sup>16</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.fondazione-cariplo.it](http://www.fondazione-cariplo.it):

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

<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 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.

<sup>14</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

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-step 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 ineligible will be notified. Organizations will receive a formal letter explaining in detail the reasons for 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 composed by 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:

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (weight 10%)
2. CV OF THE CANDIDATE (weight 20%)
3. APPROACH (weight 20%)
4. EXPECTED OUTCOME (weight 20%)

<sup>15</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>16</sup> Applicants are advised to read the document 'Guidelines for Grantseekers' available on Fondazione Cariplo's website.

5. SYNERGIES WITH THE PROJECT FUNDED BY FRRB (weight 20%)
6. PROJECT PLAN AND PROJECT LENGTH (weight 10%)

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.

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