



Research and Technology Transfer Area

Science and Technology Studies

Deadline: July 4th, 2019.

Year of issue: 2019



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1. INTRODUCTION

Fondazione Cariplo Research and Technology Transfer Area launches the Science and Technology Studies Call for proposals. The deadline for this call is set on the 4th July, 2019.

2. BACKGROUND

Climate change, stem cells and cloning, nanoscience and nanotechnologies, genetically modified organisms, artificial intelligence, biological weapons, the practice of animal tests are just a few examples of how science and technology have entered the political, social and economic debate, becoming a popular topic on newspaper frontpages, in the houses of parliaments as well as in the courtrooms. This state of art unveils a complexity proper of the relationship between science, technology and society that perfectly fits with the nature of the main contemporary and post-contemporary challenges.

Science and technology have always contributed to shape the world as we know it: acting on the distribution of wealth and poverty, shaping city boundaries and demography, giving new meanings to traditional concepts like justice and injustice and shifting the limits of human possibilities. Most likely this is going to become even more evident in the next future. Science and technology play a critical role on the ways we produce, buy, move, communicate, work, organize and experience time and space, shaping everyday activities both as individuals and as a community. Equally undeniable the role played by specific social, cultural and ethical factors on science and technology development. The decision to ban or, on the contrary, to legalize GMOs, governments decision to limit IVF practices, to regulate the use of supernumerary embryos, to invest, or non-invest, in new nuclear plants or alternatively to support major projects such as the Human Genome Project: are just a few examples of how societies have been contributing to shape the development of scientific debates, sometimes even significantly.

Well aware of the existence of that negotiation area in-between science, technology and society, clearly conscious of the role it occupies in the definition of future scenarios, several scholars have started a reflection over the roles and limits where inscribing the natural search for new knowledge characterizing the human genre. Since the Second World War, the attention towards these issues has been formalized becoming the object of study of an active community of academics at the international level. Attention towards these issues has spread all over the Europe, as it is well testified by the launch of «Science and Society»¹ action plan by the European Commission in 2001. This is the first document of a long series dedicated to science and technology studies. The latter, because of their very nature, transcend geopolitical and disciplinary boundaries, binding together different schools of thoughts all linked together by the common desire of looking at science and technology from the society perspective.

This call is part of this florid debate and aims to build a mature and critical culture, fostering a productive dialogue between science, technology and society their respective desires, needs and values.

3. AIMS

The Foundation will focus on research projects characterized by a strong multidisciplinary value in order to promote the study of science and technology as a social object. In particular,

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub_gender_equality/ss_ap_en.pdf



the Foundation will promote projects aimed to study the relationships between science, technology and society, including, among other things, ethical, social, political and economic reflections.

The projects must include a strong research rationale based on the analysis of the state of the art and/or primary or secondary data developed by other scholars. Particular attention will be paid to proposals' originality and the adequacy of the methodological approach to provide valid answering to the research question. The latter must be clear and detailed in order to explore specific gaps in the literature. The choice of the methodological model needs to be clearly motivated and documented. Preferably, it should combine qualitative approaches, such as interviews or field studies, with experimental quantitative methodologies that might involve statistical analysis and the use of big data.

The project's contribution to improve the relationship[s] between science and society in Italy must be clearly explored. Reflections over the relation to our history, tradition and culture are welcomed. Where projects relay on cross countries comparisons, we strongly encourage to highlight the research impacts at national and/or local level.

All proposals presented in partnership must specify Partners' competences in detail indicating how competencies coming from the different institutions are integrated with the ones of the leading organization.

In addition, projects must provide training and professional opportunities for young researchers.

Finally, embracing the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation², 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 and by the research study. Importantly, planned activities are meant to foster the development of a dual exchange between science and society. Please note that the communication plan is considered an integral part of the research proposal.

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 ELIGIBLE SUBJECTS

It is mandatory for the leading host institution, and more specifically the operational headquarters of the project, to be located within Fondazione Cariplo geographical area of

² 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" (https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/rome_declaration_RRI_final_21_November.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.



interest (Lombardia plus Novara and Verbania districts). This requirement does not pertain potential partners.

Host institutions must provide PIs with appropriate workspaces, laboratories, equipment, qualified staff (e.g. lab technicians), as well as any other resources needed to adequately carry out the project.

Participating to this Call, organizations accept the “portability of the grant”. Any change in the host institution hinge on on Fondazione Cariplo approval according to the guidelines of this Call.

4.2 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible, projects must:

- fall in at least one of the key priority research areas of this Call;
- involve, train and value young researchers³;
- provide a plan of communication activities with civil society (for more detail see Fondazione Cariplo Communication Guidelines).

Moreover, the PIs of all the involved units (leading organizations and partners) must:

- be involved as PI (of the leading organizations or partners) in no more than one project of the Scientific Research Area (except for Calls in partnership with other granting agencies)⁴;
- have concluded any other project previously funded by the Scientific Research Area (except for Calls in partnership with other granting agencies)⁵.

The total cost of the project corresponds to the requested amount. The latter is comprehensive of the additional costs⁶, related to the realization of the proposal, and the overhead, according to the eligibility criteria and the thresholds listed below:

- A03 - “Equipment and software”
This entry cannot exceed 20% of sum of all additional cost. It fully covers the costs for newly acquired equipment and software. All costs must be clearly motivated in relation to the specificity of the project. Renting costs as well as building work expenses for the installation of the new equipment can be included in this category.
- A04 - “Other amortizable costs”
This entry is fully dedicated to patent costs.
- A06 - “Temporary staff”

³ For the matter of this call the term “young researcher” in this Call refers to graduate fellows, PhD students and postdocs not older than 35 years of age at the Call’s deadline.

⁴ It should be noted that in case of multiple submissions as PI (leading or partner unit), only the first one received will be considered.

⁵ A project is considered ongoing unless the final grant reports – both the scientific and the financial ones - have been uploaded on our website before the deadline of this call.

⁶ Sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10



This entry is dedicated to research personnel costs. Please note that none costs of administrative staff are allowed.

- A07 - “Sub-contractors and consultants”
This entry is deputed to include audit costs⁷.
- A08 - “Materials and supplies”
Office supplies and photocopies costs are not included in A08.
- A09 - “Overheads”
This entry cannot exceed 5% of the sum of all additional costs.
- A10 – “Travel, publication and dissemination costs”
This entry cannot exceed 15% of the sum of all additional costs. A10 is dedicated to cover research personnel’s travel expenses and conference fees, scientific publications and all communication activities.

Awarded grants cover 100% of project costs. Requested funding should range from 100,000 to 200,000 euros.

4.3 NON-ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Any proposal with the following characteristics will be considered non-eligible:

- purely descriptive;
- aimed to set up new research centres and/or laboratories and/or animal facilities;
- basic research projects without any impact on society;

4.4 SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m on 4th July, 2019 at.

Please note that the leading organization is the only entitled to present the application on behalf of the entire partnership accessing the dedicated IT platform. All detail can be found in Fondazione Cariplo's website and the Presentation Guidelines.

In order to apply for this Call, applicants are required to fill in integrally all the online forms organized as below:

- Project Form⁸, PDF format;
- Budget Form (in Italian and English)⁹;
- Project Dissemination Form¹⁰, PDF format;
- Letter of agreement of the leading organization;

⁷ Exclusively certificated auditors are considered eligible. 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 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.

⁸ The detailed project shall be prepared in accordance with the template related to the Call

⁹ The detailed budget form shall be prepared in accordance with the template related to the Call.

¹⁰ The project dissemination form shall be prepared in accordance with the template related to the Call.



- Partnership agreement;
- Detailed documents of the leading organizations and partners¹¹.

In any case, Fondazione Cariplo will only accept applications submitted using the provided forms with no exceptions.

4.5 CRITERIA

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

- **Formal Preliminary Control**
The preliminary control serves to check that all required documents are correctly submitted in consistency with the Presentation guidelines. At this stage, Fondazione Cariplo also checks the eligibility of both the leading organizations and partners. Only applications considered eligible enter the peer review process. Non-eligible projects are notified with a formal letter detailing the reasons beyond the exclusion. When available all this information will be made accessible through Fondazione Cariplo's website.
- **Peer Review**
Eligible applications are evaluated by independent experts following a peer review process ensuring applicants the highest levels of expertise and impartiality. The review panel, made of 3 reviewers, is made of foreign scholars, expert in social studies of science and technology. Please note that reviewer-project matching follows the indications applicants provided through the selection of the keywords.

Project final score is calculated considering reviewers' scores and according to the criteria's weight as follows. Please note that Fondazione Cariplo officers express their appraisals in terms of the budget coherence and the quality of the dissemination plan.

1. **DESCRIPTION (weight 10%)**
 - knowledge of the literature debate and the state of the art;
 - clarity of aims and strategies.
2. **APPROACH (weight 20%)**
 - clear project design in relation to the project's aims;
 - well integration of the quality/quantitative methods;
 - multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach;
 - synergic integration of team partners;
 - development of network with the local context;
 - development of significant relationship with civil society
 - adequacy of strategies and methodologies.
3. **INNOVATION (weight 10%)**
 - relevant contribution to the development of the state of art.

¹¹ Applicants are advised to carefully read the *Presentation Guidelines* document available on line.



4. OUTCOMES (weight 25%)
 - clear exploration of the impact of the research on the relationship between science and society on the national and local socioeconomic system;
 - ability to anticipate specific social, economic, and cultural needs at the national and local level;
 - development of new networks or enrichment of existing ones;
 - relevance of the topics discussed regarding social sciences within and outside the local context.

5. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, TEAM AND ENVIRONMENT (weight 10%)
 - track record and adequacy of the PI and team competencies (leading organization and partner);
 - PIs' scientific and managerial leadership;
 - well integration of the team within the national and international research context;
 - adequacy of the team members in relation to the project's issues;
 - presence of adequate equipment (software etc) in relation to the project's dimension and typology.

6. YOUNG RESEARCHERS (weight 10%)
 - engagement of young researchers in responsibility roles;
 - training programmes for young researchers.

7. DISSEMINATION (weight 5%)
 - consistency of the dissemination with the Communication guidelines and with Responsible Research and Innovation principles.
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8. BUDGET AND DURATION (10%)
 - budget suitability and coherence with the project timeline.

The final ranking 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.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The budget available for this call is 1.5 million euros.

6. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATIONS

The Foundation, as a private entity, is not required to align with public procedures and can decide, at any time to not allocate the entire budget, in whole or in part.

The Call for Proposals and all the mentioned documents can be found on the Foundation website www.fondazione.cariplo.it

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