EDUCATION SECTOR FUND
DIGITAL INCLUSION: EDUCATION WITH NEW HORIZONS
2016 CALL

1. BACKGROUND

The A*gencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación* (*ANII* or National Research and Innovation Agency) and the *Fundación Centro Ceibal para el Estudio de las Tecnologías Digitales en la Educación* (Ceibal Center Foundation for the Study of Digital Technologies in Education) have devised a modality within the *Fondo Sectorial de Educación* (Education Sector Fund) with the aim of funding research projects that will produce new scientific knowledge and analyze how the digital technologies create teaching and learning opportunities and challenges.

2. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the call is the funding of research projects consistent with the lines and priority areas defined below:

LINES	TOPICS
NEW WAYS OF KNOWING, LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSING	New pedagogies (deep learning) and technologies
	Cognition and meta-cognition
	New curricular approaches
	Learning in multiple environments
	Informal and non-formal learning
	Self-learning and personalization
DIGITAL AGE EDUCATORS	Early training and use of technology
	Innovation in teacher professionalization
	The teacher as a knowledge worker: motivation and recognition
	Teacher profiles in the XXI century
	New ways to boost performance
SOCIAL USES OF ICT AND DIGITAL CULTURE	Knowledge use and generation practices
	Digital literacy, fluency and maturity
	Subject, citizenship and digital identity
	Communities and social networks
	Changes in school culture
EXTENDED LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS	Performance
	Assessment of achievements in both formal and informal education
	Effects on school learning
	New rubrics, metrics and indicators
RESOURCES AND PLATFORMS	Production and ownership of educational resources
	Accessibility, usability and inclusion
	Mobile devices (and 'bring your own device', or BYOD for short)
	DIY technologies

Proposals must comply with at least one of the lines above, and identify the question addressed by the study.

The research should result in a report and/or academic paper publishable in an internationally recognized peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The pre-print of the research report and/or paper should be made available through the Foundation's open-access research repository.

3. MODE

This modality is aimed at research groups based in national and international, public and/or private institutions.

4. RESTRICTIONS

In order to apply, foreign-based institutions should have a national counterpart. In this case the project will have two proposing institutions. In addition, in the case of national institutions, special recognition will be given to partnerships between these groups and institutions from other countries.

The Chief Science Officer may submit only one project per call.

It is possible to be the Chief Science Officer of up to two nationally-funded research projects (ANII, CSIC, INIA, etc) running simultaneously.

The project's Chief Science Officer must allocate at least 10 hours a week to the project.

Applications will be rejected if their Chief Science Officers are in breach (e.g. overdue technical progress reports, final accounts, closure reports, surveys) of any of ANII's programs as of the closing date of the call.

No member of the research team may exceed 60 hours per week considering all the occupational activities undertaken (including teaching hours or hours at other public or private jobs).

All national researchers should have an updated CVUy as of the closing date of the call.

5. DURATION OF THE PROJECTS

Projects lasting up to 18 months can apply for funding. However, 6-12 month projects will be given propriety and will be assessed positively in the evaluation process. This does not preclude the possibility of presenting projects of less than 6 months. Long-term projects exceeding 18 months may reduce their design and present a first part of the project (18 months) to this call and apply for subsequent ones.

6. AMOUNTS

On the basis of their duration, the selected projects will be provided with the following non-repayable funds:

1. Up to UYU 795,000 (seven hundred and ninety-five thousand Uruguayan pesos), 80% of the total cost of the project, for projects lasting up to 6 months.

2. Up to UYU 1,060,000 (one million sixty thousand Uruguayan pesos), 80% of the total cost of the project, for projects lasting up to 18 months.

The minimum part to be contributed by the beneficiary institutions will be 20% of the investment planned in the project. This part may be paid in money, any means of legal payment being acceptable, or in kind[1], in which case a detailed breakdown of its value must be submitted.

7. FUNDABLE ITEMS

The following items may be funded as part of the project:

- Materials and supplies

- Laboratory and other equipment

- Consultants

- Capacity-building

- Services

- Adaptation of premises

- Literature

- Software

- Intellectual Property Protection

- Promotion and dissemination

- Administrative expenses (5% of the total budget at the most)

- Contingencies (5% of the total budget at the most)

- Salaries of researchers. Funding will cover the incremental costs of the time devoted by the researchers to the project or the incorporation of new researchers to meet the project objectives. *Fees for technical or support staff will only be allowed when their involvement is clearly defined and justified in terms of objectives and proposed work plan.*

- Travel expenses. Funding will cover the team's per diems and fares only for activities related to the implementation of the project or the presentation of its findings.

- Visiting professors. Per diems, fares and fees will be recognized.

All expenses must be associated with activities undertaken as part of the project. Funding will not cover the acquisition of vehicles or land.

8. DISSEMINATION OF THE PROJECT RESULTS

In order to reach a wider public and promote discussion, a minimum of 5% of the total amount received should be destined to disseminating the project results. Projects should translate the scientific-technological knowledge acquired so that it can be understood by people who do not know the specific

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[1] Fees for technical and academic staff, transportation and infrastructure are regarded as "Contribution in kind."

subject, and that it may facilitate and promote democratization processes and social appropriation of knowledge.

9. ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF A MASTER DEGREE STUDENT

With the objective of promoting training of human resources in the field of education and technology, projects including a Master Degree student within the research team will be positively assessed during the evaluation process. The student will be able to apply for a scholarship of the National System of Scholarships whose funding will be additional to the overall amount requested by the project.

Applicants should clearly state and complete the form with the data required for the Master Degree scholarship including the tutor name and postgraduate program among others. The tutor does not necessarily need to be part of the project research team.

10. PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

This fund is administered as a grant fund through calls. The projects must be submitted on the relevant form developed by the ANII and must be endorsed by the participating institutions. In the case of projects selected for funding, a contract between ANII and the proposing institution/institutions will be signed.

11. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS

The assessment process will involve the participation of the Agenda Committee and the Assessment and Monitoring Committee. The Agenda Committee is composed of members appointed by the ANII Board and the Ceibal Foundation Board. The technical-scientific Assessment and Monitoring Committee of the Fund consists of members proposed by the ANII and the Ceibal Foundation, appointed by the ANII Board and approved by the CONICYT (National Council for Innovation, Science and Technology), in keeping with the provisions of the legislation in force.

The assessment process will involve four stages: 1) Once the call has been closed, the *eligibility analysis* will be performed. The ineligible projects will be eliminated from the assessment process, and their Research Group Leaders will be informed. 2) The Assessment and Monitoring Committee will undertake the *relevance assessment* in accordance with the criteria set out in these Terms and Conditions. The projects considered irrelevant will not move on to the technical assessment stage, and their Research Group Leaders will be informed. 3) The *technical assessment* will be the responsibility of the Assessment and Monitoring Committee, which may resort to external assessors[2]. This assessment will result in a list of projects of a high quality which will be recommended for funding. 4) The fourth, and final, stage will be the responsibility of the Agenda Committee, which will prioritize proposals meeting the quality requirements analyzed by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee and will submit its recommendation of selected projects to the ANII Board.

Eligibility criteria:

a- The projects must present the corresponding form, which must be duly completed, and all the attached documents requested on the form.

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[2] If they deem it necessary, the assessors may request an interview with the Research Group Leader of the proposed project.

b- All members of the national research teams must complete their CVs in the CVUy System.

c- No projects will be accepted after the period specified in the call.

Relevance Assessment Criteria:

The correspondence between the submitted proposal and the research lines and priority areas defined by the Fund will be taken into account.

Technical Assessment Criteria:

- Scientific-Technical Content: clarity and consistency between the general and specific objectives of the proposal, methodology and intended results; feasibility and research strategy to address the proposed work plan.

- Novelty of the knowledge to be gained: impact of generated knowledge on the state of the art in the area, innovation and originality of the proposal.

- The team's technical capacity: track-record of both the Research Group Leader and the research group(s) involved.

- d. Interdisciplinary nature of the research: suitable multidimensional approach to the proposal; training, experience and interdisciplinarity of the teams involved in the project.

- Duration: Brief projects – with an implementation time of 6-12 months – will be prioritized.

- Funding: Access to additional funding will be an asset.

- Inter-institutionality of the research group: Institutional partnerships and networking related to the intended objectives. Interaction of inter-institutional efforts abroad aimed at addressing the different areas of the project and the degree of involvement of other national or international research institutions in the project will be considered in the assessment.

- Ethical research: Defining the ethical framework of research and establishing the necessary measures to ensure compliance.

- Epistemological approach: it will be an asset if the research design contemplates one or more of the epistemological approaches identified as priorities (learning analytics, foresight, benchmarking).[3]

- Sustainability: it will be an asset if the actions go beyond the intervention period, providing continuity or generating benefits or inputs that can be replicated by the school community in different learning contexts.

- Dissemination: on popular science channels and not necessarily scientific digital media.

- Including a Master Degree student within the research team.

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[3] See Appendix 1: "Research lines of the Education Sector Fund in its *Digital Inclusion* Modality: Education with New Horizons"

12. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Besides the aspects mentioned above, the final assessment stage will take account of the strategic approach, considering the compliance with the priority areas and objectives of the call.

13. PROJECT MONITORING AND DISBOURSEMENTS

The first payment will be made upon the signing of the contract, and subsequent disbursements will be made upon approval of the progress and financial reports for the duration of the project. 10% of the total amount of the grant will be withheld until approval of the final report. It must be pointed out that any expenses incurred on account against that amount must be included in the final accounts of the project. All costs charged to the project must occur within the implementation period.

In exceptional cases, projects may complete implementation within six months after the closing date specified in the contract.

14. AUTHORIZATIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The research team will be solely responsible for acquiring all the necessary information concerning authorizations or other requirements that may be necessary to conduct the research. The research team should take all the necessary measures to obtain the authorizations from the competent authorities within a reasonable time. In the case the research requires access to educational centers in Uruguay; the research team should require authorization and submit the request to the competent authority before proceeding to sign the contract with ANII.

The project will not be able to start until it has been authorized to conduct the research by the competent educational authority and educational center.