

# Call to support research projects on *childhood and vulnerability*

(FP23-1B)



TheSocialObservatory

## Object

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The aim of the Flash calls of the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation is to fund projects with a fast turnaround from hypotheses to conclusions that collect quantitative data through the use of a survey.

The call will fund social science research projects that use **quantitative survey data** on **situations of childhood vulnerability in Portugal**.

## Context

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One of the missions of the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation is to support quantitative research in the field of social sciences that can provide relevant knowledge to policy makers, professionals in the third social sector or communications professionals, among other social agents.

The Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation is launching this call to support new research on topics of particular relevance to the current socioeconomic context.

In view of the current context, the call aims to promote the generation of sound knowledge that can help to shed new light on **situations of vulnerability in childhood**.

## Requirements: what are we interested in with this call?

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### TOPICS

Proposals that study the **current challenges associated with situations of childhood vulnerability in Portugal** will be of interest, admitting as objects of study all types of situations of vulnerability and all age ranges.

Without this list being exclusive, the following types of situations associated with childhood (defined as the life period between 0 and 16 years of age) will be admitted as objects of study:

- » Factors impeding the development of life skills required for the integration and autonomy of a person.
- » Factors impeding social and educational development, or undermining opportunities in this respect.
- » Factors leading to situations of child poverty.
- » The undermining of children’s rights.
- » Factors placing the person at risk of being harmed, abused, persecuted, discriminated against, undermined or negatively influenced by hostile actors against whom he/she is inferior, helpless or fragile.
- » Subjective factors of vulnerability (fear, uncertainty, sense of insecurity, loss of self-esteem and confidence in one’s own capacities, feeling of vulnerability to present and future threats and so on).
- » Objective factors of vulnerability (labour market developments, cuts in social protection resources, public insecurity, environmental damage, social climate and so on).
- » Dynamic combination of these or other factors influencing vulnerability.
- » Social groups at special risk of vulnerability.

The following will also be positively valued:

- » Proposals capable of generating data beyond those already existing on socioeconomic and labour variables.
- » Research that can compare intergenerational perspectives, providing data on intragenerational differences and similarities, offering information on subjective variables or paying attention to social diversity (in aspects such as provenance and origin, gender aspects, etc.).
- » Research capable of adding a qualitative layer to the quantitative data collected that can enrich the analysis within the limits of a valid survey.

The Social Observatory supports quantitative research in the field of social sciences with the aim of studying society as a whole and the societal impacts of a given issue. As such, proposals dealing with clinical research, therapeutic interventions, validation of scales or questionnaires, individual psychology, model or prototype testing or similar areas are outside the topics of this call and therefore **not eligible for funding**.

#### SCOPE

- » Original research on Portuguese society.
- » In order to fund projects with the greatest possible impact, the evaluation will prioritise proposals that refer to the whole of Portugal over those that analyse a sub-state reality. Studies covering only small regions or specific municipalities are therefore less likely to be selected.

#### DATA

- » The research should be data-driven and lead to quantitative evidence. Complementary qualitative data can be collected if desired and if allowed by the survey format.
- » Data can be collected through a telephone, online or face-to-face survey. The proposals may also include data from other available sources in addition to the data obtained from the survey.
- » In any case, the data obtained through surveys (regardless of format) must be collected by polling companies that meet the requirements outlined in the 'What do we ask for' section.

## Who can apply?

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This call aims to support proposals led by researchers of any nationality who conduct their activity in universities, research centres or private non-profit organisations dedicated to research and legally based in Portugal.

The agreement will be signed with the university or centre to which the Project Leader is affiliated and payment will also be made to this institution. This university or centre must be identified from the beginning since the submission of the proposal needs to be approved by an Organisation Manager pertaining to said institution or centre, as explained in the 'Administrative issues' section.

Project Leaders must hold a PhD. Research teams can have any size or composition, but all agreements and communications will be conducted through the Project Leader.

Project Leaders of selected projects will not be allowed to submit new proposals in subsequent calls organised by the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation during the time the project is still being executed, without prejudice to the possibility of submitting new proposals once the project has ended. This also means that Project Leaders with an ongoing project funded by the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation are not eligible to apply for this call.

## Evaluation of applications

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A team of independent, multidisciplinary social science experts from fields related to this call will be responsible for evaluating the proposals submitted that comply with these terms and conditions.

The aspects or selection criteria that will be taken into account in the evaluation and consequent selection are as follows:

- » Social relevance and interest of the problem or phenomenon analysed.
- » Original, innovative nature of the research questions that are answered.
- » Technical quality of the methodology and data analysis, including appropriateness of the budget submitted for the proposed purposes.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the strength of the proposed research. In order to avoid bias and ensure that the process is fair, experts will not be given any information about the authors or their affiliation. Therefore, the information in the project proposal must be entirely anonymous. The details of the Project Leader will be provided on the online submission platform and kept totally blinded to the evaluators.

The evaluation will be conducted in two phases. The evaluation criteria for the proposals in both phases are those mentioned above: social relevance and interest, innovative nature of the research and methodological strength. Each proposal will be evaluated by two experts in the first phase. The best rated projects in this phase will move on to the second evaluation phase, in which five experts evaluate all the proposals. The best rated projects in the second phase will be selected to be funded by the call.

## What we offer?

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This call offers **funding to conduct social research based on quantitative surveys**.

The maximum funding for each project is **THIRTY THOUSAND EUROS (€30,000)**. This amount includes applicable taxes, as well as the expenses and overheads of the university or research centre.

The funding will be paid through a collaboration agreement with the institution to which the Project Leader is affiliated.

» The amount will be invoiced as follows:

- 10% upon signing the agreement;
- 60% when the research team/institution can reliably demonstrate that the survey will be carried out by a reputable provider specialising in professional opinion polling or survey services, with proven experience and a sound reputation;
- and the remaining 30% once the documentation required under these terms and conditions has been validated.

The amount that can be spent on overheads, indirect costs or organisational costs is limited to 10% of the total funding.

## What do we ask for?

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The beneficiaries undertake to:

- » Sign an agreement with the "la Caixa" Foundation that will regulate the funding covered by this call during the month following the publication of the resolution of the FP23-1B call.
- » Carry out the data collection and analysis within a maximum period of 12 months beginning from two weeks after the publication of the resolution of the call.
- » An extension of this period may be requested in the following cases, provided that the person leading the project is reliably accredited as taking time off work:
  - Sick leave of more than one month
  - Maternity or paternity leave of the person
  - Leave of absence for the care of first-degree relatives for more than one month

- » Comply with the ethical, social, financial, human resource and contractual standards set by the organisation to which the researchers are affiliated in planning and undertaking the funded research.
- » Collect quantitative data, and qualitative data if any, by means of a survey with a representative sample of the population studied.
- » Conduct the quantitative survey by contracting a reputable provider specialised in professional opinion polling services or surveys of proven and demonstrable sound reputation, which additionally fulfils the following characteristics:
  - That the amount of the order does not exceed 30% of the company's annual turnover.
  - That the company has conducted similar projects in the last 5 years to the one proposed.
  - A sworn declaration must be presented stating that there is no conflict of interest (financial, family, etc.) between the contractor and the contracted party.

The "la Caixa" Foundation may require, and beneficiaries undertake to provide, documentation that reliably proves the contracting of a supplier of polling services that complies with the above requirements.

- » Set up a Monitoring Committee made up of a representative of the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation, the Project Leader and, where appropriate, a representative of the entity or organisation. These will meet at the request of the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation, and these meetings may take the form of remote interviews and will follow the calendar established in the aforementioned agreement. At these meetings, the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation may request from the selected projects (and they undertake to provide this) any documentation it deems necessary to justify compliance with any obligations established in these terms and conditions.
- » Submit at the end of the research a document that describes in detail the research methodology and its technical and analytical aspects.
- » Submit at the end of the research a document that describes in summary form the context and main results and conclusions of the research conducted.
- » Apply an Open Access policy on the data generated in the survey and those arising from the research. The general Open Access policy for research funded by the "la Caixa" Foundation can be consulted at this link:  
[https://fundacionlacaixa.org/documents/10280/692563/politica\\_acceso\\_abierto\\_en.pdf/c5801c90-1fff-43d7-a8fb-6b3fa48b6539](https://fundacionlacaixa.org/documents/10280/692563/politica_acceso_abierto_en.pdf/c5801c90-1fff-43d7-a8fb-6b3fa48b6539)
- » Once the required documentation has been submitted and validated, and if both parties deem it appropriate and are interested, they will evaluate the possibility of establishing future collaborations in order to disseminate or publish an outreach article on the research conducted. The production of this article would be regulated by means of a service provision contract that would be drawn up outside the agreement that regulates the research grant, and therefore outside the funding amount of the research call.

## Administrative issues

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The agreement will be signed with the university, research centre or private non-profit organisation to which the Project Leader is affiliated (the 'Host Organisation'), and the funding will be channelled through this organisation. Therefore, this Host Organisation must be able to sign an agreement with the established conditions. Furthermore, should the project be selected, the Project Leader must be legally linked to the Host Organisation either by statute, work agreement or another type of collaboration by the time the project starts and throughout the whole duration of the project.

The Host Organisation is required to offer the Project Leader independence to manage the project. It must also be willing to support the Project Leader and any team members throughout the project period, providing an appropriate scientific and administrative environment for the project to be conducted.

In particular, the Host Organisation must ensure that the funding awarded in the grant is made available for use by the research team in accordance with these terms and conditions.

Moreover, the Host Organisation must appoint an Organisation Manager as its representative. The Organisation Manager will upload and verify documentation related to the Host Organisation and accept the submission of proposals on behalf of the Host Organisation on the "la Caixa" Foundation calls online management system. Specifically, the validation by the Organisation Manager will certify the endorsement of the proposal on behalf of the Host Organisation and its commitment to sign the agreement with the "la Caixa" Foundation, should the project be selected.

The Project Leaders of selected projects will not be allowed to submit new proposals in subsequent calls organised by the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation during the time the project is still being executed, without prejudice to the possibility of submitting new proposals once the project has ended. This also means that Project Leaders with any ongoing project funded by the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation are not eligible to apply for this call.

Projects that have already received funding (either from the "la Caixa" Foundation or any other third-party grants) will not be considered eligible at the time of submission and may give rise to rejection during the life cycle of the granted project.

## Submission of applications

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The Project Leader must register on the "la Caixa" Foundation's online platform in order to submit a proposal.

The Organisation Manager must register the Host Organisation on the platform if it is not already registered there.

Proposals must be submitted **through the online platform provided for this purpose** (<http://grants.lacaixafoundation.org/>) **between 15 March and 5 April 2023**. Applications received through other channels will not be accepted. **The deadline for submissions is 1 pm (UMT) on the day of closure.**

The Organisation Manager must endorse the project through the "la Caixa" Foundation's online platform (<http://grants.lacaixafoundation.org/>) before this deadline in order for the proposal to be eligible for the call.

## Contents of application

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All the documentation must be submitted in **English**.

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

In order to ensure the **anonymity of applications**, the 'Proposal Information' category of the 'Online Application Proposal' section **must not contain any details of the person or persons presenting the project or of the Host Organisation**. Failing to do so will result in your proposal being disqualified. Please take care not to include any information that does not comply with this requirement of anonymity, including links and references. For example, applicants can submit no more than 5 references as part of their proposal, **but these references must not be publications written by any member of the research team**.

### PROPOSAL

Applicants must provide the following information:

1. Proposal title (up to 150 characters)
2. Proposal description (up to 200 characters)
3. Proposal acronym (up to 20 characters)
4. Research question/s (up to 50 words)
  - / What does this research aim to reveal? What research question/s is/are going to be answered?
5. Social problem (up to 400 words)
  - / How do the research questions relate to understanding our society? What social problem or phenomenon will be analysed? Why is it relevant?
6. Background and innovation (up to 400 words)
  - / What is the added value of the proposed research? Why is it innovative? What gap in the existing knowledge will your project address?
7. Methodology
  - / Describe the methodology that is going to be used to conduct the research (up to 400 words)
  - / Features of proposed survey
  - / Geographical scope (national, regional, city or town level)
  - / Population under study (up to 50 words)
  - / Sample size
  - / Sample type (stratified, cluster, convenience, snowball or other)
  - / Incidence in general population (%)
  - / Survey type (in person, telephone, online)
8. Budget
  - / The following budget items must be listed:
    - Amount earmarked for hiring a polling company
    - Amount earmarked for other items
    - Indirect costs, overheads, etc. (maximum 10% of requested budget)
9. Bibliography
  - / A maximum of 5 references, none of which can be publications by members of the research team. The references can be published research articles or any other type of reference deemed relevant.

During the application process, applicants only submit the details of the Project Leader (and not those of the rest of the research team). Funded projects will have the option to request a certificate with the full research team. The whole team's contribution will also be reflected in the authorship of the outreach article.

## Acceptance of terms and conditions

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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.

## Notification of results of the call

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The results of the call will be published on the website of the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation approximately 6 weeks after the deadline for submitting applications. Selected candidates will be notified prior to this date via email.

## Feedback

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Unsuccessful proposals from phase 1 of the evaluation process will receive, through the online platform, a synthetic report with the scores of the evaluators approximately 6 weeks after the selected proposals are announced.

Proposals that move on to phase 2 of the process will receive a feedback report via the online platform approximately 6 weeks after the selected proposals are announced.

## Personal data protection

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The Fundació Bancària Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa", domiciled at Plaça de Weyler, 3, 07001 Palma (Balearic Islands), is responsible for the data processing that administers participation in this call, the legal basis of which is the application of pre-contractual measures at the request of the candidate. Personal details will be stored until the end of the prescription terms applicable. Data will only be transferred for compliance with legal obligations. Access to this data by technology providers located outside the European Economic Area complies with all the required legal guarantees. More information can be requested and rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability and objection can be exercised before the Data Protection Delegate of the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation at Avinguda Diagonal, 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, or [dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org](mailto:dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org). Complaints can also be made to the Spanish Data Protection Agency ([www.aepd.es](http://www.aepd.es)).

## Doubts and questions

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For any questions regarding this call, you can write to the Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation at [observatoriosocial@fundacaolacaixa.org](mailto:observatoriosocial@fundacaolacaixa.org)