

# *Connect Call*

**From research to the social sector**

*Rules for  
participation  
in the call*



## *Rules for participation in the call*

### 1. What is the aim of the call?

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The main purpose of the **Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation** is to contribute ideas and scientifically proven results, both to enrich the public debate with regard to social problems and to help ensure that decisions taken in this area are informed and rigorous.

In the current economic and social climate, characterised by numerous challenges and uncertainties, the Social Observatory is launching **this call** with the aim of **promoting the relationship and combined work between the research sphere and the practice sphere** (social sector and public administration) and of **increasing the social impact of both spheres**.

The call is the result of a process of participation and knowledge intermediation with authorities from both of these areas for the purpose of combining efforts, knowledge, and tools in the quest for effective interventions and social policies.

### 2. Who can participate?

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The call is aimed at **organisations from the research and practice spheres**, with their **headquarters and activity in Spain**, and that will form **mixed teams** prepared to progress together **a project** with a shared aim and that will **produce a positive social impact**.

In the **research sphere** the following can participate:

- » Organisations linked to a university
- » Organisations registered as research centres in any public register<sup>1</sup>
- » Organisations that include research in their Articles of Association

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<sup>1</sup> Below are some examples of public registers of research centres:

- » Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- » Technological Centres and Centres for Support of Technological Innovation
- » CERCA Institution: Research Centres in Catalonia
- » Register of Research Institutes and Centres and Register of Research and Development Personnel of the Valencian Community.
- » Register of Researchers, Research Teams and Research Centres of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands
- » Register of Agents of the Riojan Innovation System



In the **practice sphere**, the following organisations can participate:

- » Organisations from the Third Social Sector or the Social Economy, including also second-level or higher organisations<sup>2</sup>
- » Public administrations or other local, supra-municipal, autonomous and national public administrations.

A **minimum of two collaborating organisations** are required (one from the research sphere and the other from the practice sphere), and each collaborating organisation **must contribute at least one person to the work team** and, if they have more than one person in the team, designate a representative.

The collaborating organisations will number four at the most, providing that the minimum of one from each sphere is respected, as indicated previously. If there is more than one organisation for each sphere, it should be indicated which of the collaborating organisations will coordinate the research sphere ("Research Coordinating Organisation") and which organisation will coordinate the practice sphere (Practice Coordinating Organisation"). The coordinating organisations will sign an agreement with the "la Caixa" Foundation.

With the aim of guaranteeing the correct execution of the project, the contribution to decision-making and the generation of changes within the organisation, **each one of them will designate a person responsible for the execution and monitoring of the project and with the following profile:**

- » Organisations from the research sphere: a person with a PhD qualification.
- » Organisations from the practice sphere: a person with a position of responsibility or who forms part of the governing body.

Without prejudice to the existence of a coordinating organisation for each sphere, the **leadership of the project will be shared**, and **collaboration between the different applicant organisations will be encouraged**.

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<sup>2</sup> On the basis of the definitions set out in the respective Spanish laws:

- » Law 5/2011, of 29 March, on the Social Economy: [www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5708-consolidado.pdf](http://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5708-consolidado.pdf)
- » Law 43/2015, of 9 October, on the Third Sector for Social Action: [www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2015/BOE-A-2015-10922-consolidado.pdf](http://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2015/BOE-A-2015-10922-consolidado.pdf)

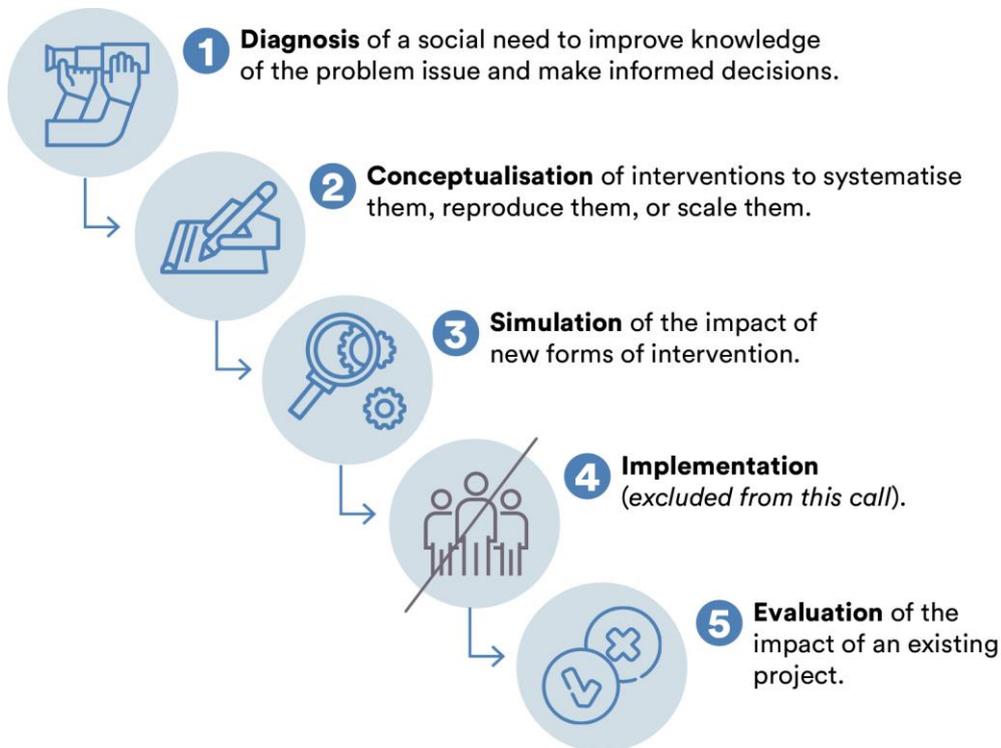


### 3. What type of projects can be presented?

Applicants can present **social projects related to emotional wellbeing and mental health** in Spain.

Proposals focusing on research or interventions with a uniquely clinical focus, tests of prototypes or similar areas lie outside of the subject area of this call and, therefore, cannot apply for funding.

The project can be framed within **any of the following typologies** or can be a **combination of them**, with the exception of the implementation:



The call is aimed at **research projects**. In the case of collaborating organisations that wish to **implement an intervention**, this will **not be funded by this call**.

The project **must generate quantitative evidence** and the **contribution of complementary qualitative evidence** will be advantageous. Sources used can include both **primary sources** (data generated by the research itself) and **secondary sources** (surveys, administrative records, etc.).

The projects will have a **duration of between 12 and 24 months**, which will be counted **from the date the funding is awarded**, and will include **all phases of the projects up to the delivery of the final results**.

The **results generated within the framework of the project** will be **open access**, to enable them to be disseminated and made available for **future projects and research studies, whether by**



own researchers (for example, in future Social Observatory calls) or by third parties. With this goal in mind, collaborating organisations must comply with the research results management policy and the research integrity policy of the "la Caixa" Foundation, which is available on its website ([link](#)).

## 4. What does this call offer?

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### **ECONOMIC RESOURCES:**

For each of the projects selected, **the call offers a maximum sum of 80,000 euros** (taxes, indirect costs and charges, where applicable, included). This sum **includes all the expenses necessary for the research**, such as staff expenses, costs of extracting and processing data, travel, subsistence and accommodation or infrastructures, among others. **Costs associated with the implementation of interventions are not contemplated.** The indirect costs of the organizations applying to the call must not be more than 10% of the total direct costs requested by that organization.

Requests for payment will be issued in two parts: **70% at the time of signing the agreement** and the **remaining 30%** when the completion of the project has been justified, along with the production of all the documents for dissemination mentioned below.

This payment will be paid in a maximum of 60 days from the receipt of the request for payment, to the Practice Coordinating Organisation (the part relative to the budget corresponding to the practice sphere, according to the proposal presented) and to the Research Coordinating Organisation (the part relative to the budget corresponding to the research sphere, according to the proposal presented), in accordance with the details of the agreement that will be signed with the two organisations. Each collaborating organisation commits to comply with the corresponding part of the budget presented, and the coordinating organisations will take responsibility for sharing it between the other organisations, if applicable, in accordance with the aforementioned budget.

### **ADVICE, NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY GENERATION**

During the execution of the projects, **individual and group technical and strategic advice sessions** will be offered to facilitate **the application of learnings**, and **guides and useful tools for decision-making** will be provided. Additionally, **networking sessions and sessions for exchanging knowledge and best practices** between the various work teams will be held, and also a **meeting for the closing session and presentation of results**.

Once **the project has been completed**, the two people responsible for the execution and monitoring of it (one for each sphere) **will be able to form part of the "la Caixa" Foundation's Social**



**Research Talent Network.** This community will offer the opportunity of participating in **networking sessions and sessions for the exchanging of knowledge and best practices.**

## **DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS**

Upon completion of the project, and should both beneficiaries and the Social Observatory agree this, future collaborations may be established with the aim of disseminating the results of the research carried out to specialised and interested audiences.

## **5. What is required?**

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### **SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT TO REGULATE THE AWARDING OF THE GRANT**

The beneficiary coordinating organisations, in other words, the Practice Coordinating Organisation and the Research Coordinating Organisation, agree to **sign a joint agreement between the coordinating organisations and the "la Caixa" Foundation**, in order to regulate the grant that is the subject of this call.

### **COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS**

The people making up the work team commit to complying, in the planning and execution of the project funded, with **the ethical, social, economic, human resources and contractual standards set out by the collaborating organisations** to which they are attached, as well as any other regulation applicable to their activity.

### **MONITORING COMMITTEE**

The people who make up the work team will **participate in the monitoring committee meetings**, in accordance with the provisions established in the aforementioned agreement.

### **PROOF OF EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT**

As **proof of the project's execution**, two reports should be delivered:

1. **A report on the research results**, suitable for evaluation by expert persons from the research sphere.
2. **A report on the application of the results in practice**, which contains the details of the changes generated or that may be generated in the organisation of the practice sphere based on the project results. This report must include a **Plan for application of the learnings** with a forecast of the changes that will continue to be generated in the short and medium term. This document will be suitable for evaluation by expert persons from the practice sphere.

The team's participation is also requested in at least one session for presenting the results.



## 6. How will the projects presented be evaluated?

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### SELECTION PROCESS

**First evaluation and preselection:** all the candidate projects presented that comply with these rules for participation will be evaluated by an independent and multi-disciplinary group of evaluators. Each candidate project will be evaluated by four experts (two persons from the research sphere and two from the practice sphere) in accordance with the selected criteria defined in these rules for participation. From the result of this first evaluation, a pre-selection of 20 candidate projects will be made.

**Interviews and definitive selection:** a multidisciplinary selection committee formed by six experts (three in the research sphere and three in the practice sphere) will interview the two people responsible for each candidate project (one per coordinating organisation). Therefore, 20 interviews will be held, one for each of the 20 pre-selected candidate projects, with the aim of finding out the project details and of sharing queries and contributions. Once the interviews have been held, the definitive selection will be made. All 20 pre-selected candidate projects - both those ultimately selected and those not selected - will receive a short report explaining the reasons for the final decision.

For more information on the selection process, please consult the document **Evaluation of projects** to be published on the Social Observatory's website.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

#### General interest

- » Relevance of the social reality studied
- » Potential social impact of the project (number of people affected and degree to which affected)
- » Transferability of results to practice

#### Research design and methodology

- » Rigour and robustness of the methodology
- » Use and management of the data (source, ownership, permission for use and exploitation, management mechanisms, etc.)
- » Original and innovative nature of the research questions that are being answered
- » Viability of the budget
- » Degree of implication of the population studied in the design of the proposal

#### Application of the results

- » Potential for the generation of changes in the action of the practice sphere
- » Viability of the budget
- » Original and innovative nature of the transferability of the results to practice



### Organisations and team

- » Experience and diversity of the organisations in the research sphere
- » Experience and knowledge of the people in the research sphere that form part of the work team, in relation to the project presented
- » Experience and diversity of the organisations in the practice sphere
- » Experience and knowledge of the people in the practice sphere who form part of the work team, in relation to the project presented

### Degree of collaboration

- » Quality and parity in the collaboration between organisations (sharing of tasks and responsibilities, mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, etc.)
- » Use of methodologies that facilitate the generation or application of joint skills and knowledge between collaborating organisations
- » Development of a part or the totality of the project at one of the work centres of the organisation in the practice sphere

## 7. How is the application presented?

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Interested organisations will prepare the following documents **in Spanish or Catalan** (respecting the maximum word counts for all sections of the document):

- » Document A: description of the project
- » Document B: budget
- » Document C: declaration of participating organisations
- » Document D: details of the organisations and the member teams of the project
- » Copy of the articles of association of the collaborating organisations (only in the cases indicated in document D)

If the documents are not in the evaluators' language, the "la Caixa" Foundation will translate proposals before sending them to be evaluated.

One member of the project from either the Practice Coordinating Organisation and the Research Coordinating Organisation will have to submit the project documentation through the online platform. The link to the platform will be published on the Social Observatory's website in October 2021. We will only accept projects presented through the online platform. For more information on the call and how to present the project, visit the website: <https://observatoriosociallacaixa.org/en/convocatorias>



## 8. What is the calendar for the call?

The call will proceed according to this **calendar estimate**:



## 9. How can queries regarding the call be resolved?

During the months prior to the **applications presentation process** there will be **information sessions on the call**, for the purpose of **facilitating networking and the generation of alliances between the organisations from the research sphere and those from the practice sphere**, in line with a methodology that enables the sharing of needs, knowledge and interests.

Additionally, **any queries** can be sent to: [observatoriosocial@fundacionlacaixa.org](mailto:observatoriosocial@fundacionlacaixa.org).

## 10. Acceptance of the rules for participation

Participation implies **full acceptance of these rules for participation**.

Applications that **do not comply with all the requirements defined in these rules for participation will not be eligible and**, therefore, will not pass through to the evaluation phase.



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## 11. Protection of personal data

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The Fundació Bancaria Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa", Plaza de Weyler, 3, 07001 Palma (Balearic Islands, Spain), is responsible for the processing of data in order to manage participation in this call for proposals. The personal data supplied will be stored until the end of the applicable limitation periods. The data will only be transferred if necessary to comply with legal obligations. Access to such data by technology providers located outside of the European Economic Area has all the required legal guarantees. You may request more information or exercise your rights of access, rectification, suppression, limitation, portability and opposition before the Data Protection Officer of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation at Avinguda Diagonal 621 – 629, 08028 Barcelona, or by writing to "dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org". You may also exercise your rights before the Spanish Data Protection Agency ([www.aepd.es](http://www.aepd.es)).