

We generate and
communicate *knowledge*
in social sciences



The Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation

A space for analysis, debate and reflection that aims to study current issues and the challenges facing society, and communicate knowledge of the social sciences

Mission: To generate rigorous and current knowledge about society and communicate it to help enrich the public debate.

Vision: To support research and reflection with the aim of becoming a reference point in the transfer of relevant knowledge.

Since 2019 in Spain:

4,900,000 euros in grants for projects

106 projects funded

450 publications

136 articles

Since 2020 in Portugal:

700,000 euros in grants for projects

16 projects funded

9 articles

The Social Observatory...

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Generates science-based knowledge on social issues

through:

A. Competitive calls:

- Social Research
- Flash
- Connect

B. Own studies in collaboration with the areas of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

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Communicates the knowledge that it generates

through different formats:

A. Publications:

- Dossiers
- Articles
- Collections of Reports

B. Activities for reflection and debate at CaixaForum Macaya and the rest of the CaixaForum centres.

Portugal:



The Social Observatory has expanded to Portugal in order to address specific issues related to Portuguese society.

From 2020, it has extended its Social Research call with the support of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT). The first Flash calls relating to different social challenges have also been launched.

The studies resulting from these calls are published on the O Observatório Social website in the format of general communication articles.

Social Research Call

Support for research in *social sciences*

Biannual projects that generate knowledge regarding phenomena of social interest in Spain and Portugal, based on quantitative methodologies.

Aims:



- Favour research in the social sciences.
- Fund projects that stand out for their excellence, innovative nature, and social orientation.
- Generate original content for the Social Observatory.
- Identify new challenges faced by society.

Since 2019

43 projects funded in Spain and Portugal

4.2 million euros

Distributed at 100,000 euros per project

Assessors: academics and practitioners

Selection process:

- Anonymous. The focus is on the proposal (and not on the candidate) to guarantee equal opportunities.
- Geared towards social impact. Academic assessors and practitioners from the social sector.
- Transparent. Close to 120 international assessors take part.



Flash calls

Improving *knowledge transfer* in the social sciences



Flexible and modular calls to support quantitative studies on the social reality of Spain and Portugal. Projects of 6 to 8 months in duration that generate **content for communication**.

Aims:



- Support competitive research projects capable of generating rigorous current and relevant knowledge on specific social topics.
- Generate content in the form of publications and activities for the Observatory.
- Identify new trends and knowledge gaps.
- Contribute to the body of studies based on quantitative surveys.

*Since 2019 in Spain
and since 2020 in Portugal:*

Spain:

11 calls

66 projects funded

968,000 euros
awarded

Portugal:

3 calls

13 projects
funded

317,000 euros
awarded

Budget per project:

10,000 – 30,000 euros

Evaluation process:

Blind, in two phases (by assessors who are experts in the field)

Assessors: academics

Connect Call

Generation of synergies between the social sciences and the social sector

Joint research between a research centre and a Third Sector organisation or the public administration.

Aims:



- Promote the relationship and joint work between the research field and practice, and increase the social impact of both areas.
- Favour applied research in social sciences.
- Identify tendencies and interests of the Third Sector.
- Conduct a support programme during the application process and for selected projects.
- Promote needs analysis and the design and evaluation of interventions.

The design of the call has been validated by the academic and practitioner community

First edition:

Proposals related with emotional wellbeing and mental health

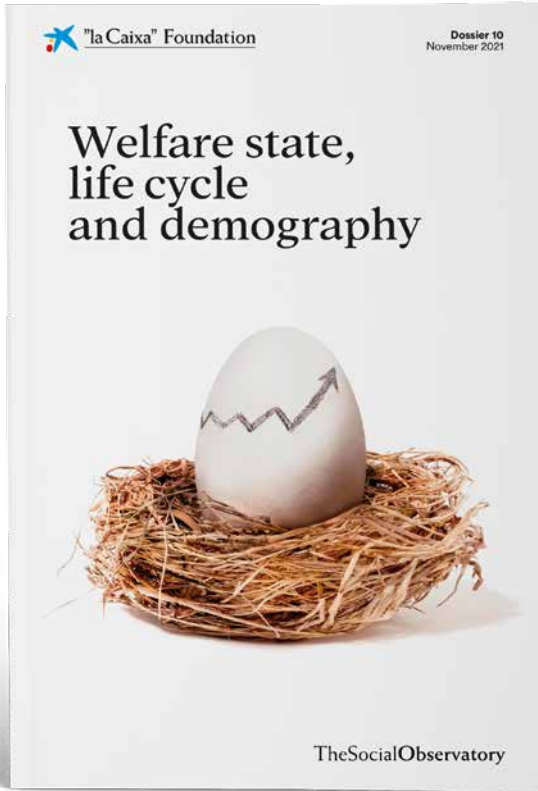
Presentation of proposals:
from 23 November to 21 December 2021

Duration: 12-24 months

Budget per project:
40,000-80,000 euros

Assessors: academic and practitioners





Issue-specific dossiers
In-depth articles
Collections of reports

Publications

Communicates the knowledge of experts in different social areas through publications to contribute towards a more open and global society.

Contributes scientifically-backed ideas and results that help enrich public debate and provide a reliable reference point for the media.

Tackles subjects, such as underprivileged groups, social needs, labour market, demographics, citizenship, elderly people, reconciliation, education levels, technological advances, etc.

Dissemination:



Content is communicated via two **websites**:

1. The website for Spain addresses the Spanish reality in Spanish, Catalan and English:

elobservatoriosocial.fundacionlacaixa.org

2. The website for Portugal addresses the Portuguese reality in Portuguese and English:

oobservatoriosocial.fundacaolacaixa.pt

And **newsletters**, as well as through social media network channels and "la Caixa" Foundation centres.

Publications for Spain since 2016:

10 dossiers

136 articles

18 reports

Activities

It organises a line of activities for debate and reflection on social issues. These are held in person or via streaming at the CaixaForum centres.

Topics:

Addresses topics related with the **social issues related to the main "la Caixa" Foundation** programmes, as well as the Social Observatory's lines of interest such as:

- mental health and wellbeing
- technology and society,
- climate and society,
- education,
- elderly people,
- the demographic challenge,
- inequality,
- democracy,
- humanities, etc.



In November 2021, CaixaForum Macaya was designated as the first **UNESCO centre for social sciences and humanities**, which represents its incorporation into a worldwide network of excellence.

This designation comes from the activities programmed at the new centre and the Dossiers produced by the Social Observatory.

Collaborating organisations





"la Caixa" Foundation

It's only progress if we all progress