

CALL FOR PROPOSALS RESEARCH GRANTS

As part of its research strategy, the [Microinsurance Innovation Facility](#) has teamed up with the [European Development Research Network](#) (EUDN) to stimulate further research on microinsurance as one instrument in poverty reduction. To achieve this goal, the Facility and the EUDN are issuing series of research grants.

We now invite applications for the 2nd round of research grants by academics for studies that will contribute knowledge on issues relevant for microinsurance in developing countries.

In the 2nd round, two types of grants will be awarded:

- 2 larger grants (up to 50,000 USD) - with a priority for projects that require collection of primary data and that are submitted by researchers from developing countries
- 8 smaller grants (up to 10,000 USD) - open to other eligible proposals

Potential applicants are invited to consult the Microinsurance Innovation Facility's [Research Strategy](#) (see the Facility research website) to identify some of the questions which have been identified as specifically useful to be addressed via the research grant. The study design and appropriateness in responding to the Facility's research agenda are the most important selection criteria. Applicants are also invited to consult the [literature review](#) (Dercon and Kirchberger) offering background research information and visit the [Microfinance Gateway](#) for more practical information on microinsurance. Overview of research projects selected for the [1st round of research grants](#) is available at the Facility research grants website.

We prefer proposals that focus on specific issues and apply a rigorous economic or social research methodology. Please note that in case of empirical research, it is possible to use existing data collected by the applicant and reanalyze it from a specific microinsurance angle. Source, quality and appropriateness of the data should be clearly defined. While any researcher can apply, the Facility is committed to ensure that a significant number of research grants will be allocated to researchers based in developing countries. The Facility also welcomes research projects that are developed jointly with practitioners and that will have immediate implications to improve practice, especially with those microinsurance providers that have received "[Innovation grants](#)" from the Facility.

Proposals should strictly follow the guidelines below and should be sent to microinsurance@fundp.ac.be (Tatiana Goetghebuer) by **October 30, 2009 at 12pm (noon) Central European Time**. Please also fill in the cover page in Excel and send it to us together with your application. The applications can be submitted in English, French or Spanish. Late applications will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified by December 18, 2009.

In collaboration with the Facility, EUDN will coordinate the selection and the monitoring of successful proposals. Projects are expected to start soon after the approval and should generally be completed within one-year period. Expected deliverables are: a concise research paper and a 4-page briefing note providing a summary of findings and recommendations so that the research is accessible to practitioners and policy makers. The researchers will also grant the Facility the right to publish deliverables on its website. Researchers will be encouraged to publish their research in peer-reviewed journals and other academic publications.

GUIDELINES CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS

Please first, fill in the cover page. Then, make sure that all of the following sections appear in your application in a concise presentation. **If any sections are missing or incomplete, your proposal will not be evaluated.**

- (1) **A short abstract** (100 to 150 words)
- (2) **Aims and objectives** (1.5 pages double spaced)
 - a. Rationale of the study and its place in the context of microinsurance literature and poverty in developing countries.
 - b. Main research questions and core research objectives.
 - c. Explain its relevance in relation to the call for proposals.
- (3) **Methods** (5 pages maximum double spaced)
 - a. Description of the specific hypotheses, the theoretical context and the empirical approach used to test them.
 - b. Data needs and a discussion how the available data can address the issue
 - c. Discussion of data analysis techniques and how they will ensure that the research question will be answered.
 - d. What empirical problems do you foresee?
- (4) **The study team** (1 page + 1 page CV for each team member - education, relevant experience, relevant research and relevant publications)
 - a. Principal investigator: brief bio and explanation as to why they are well suited to lead this research.
 - b. Other key research staff and their roles, and a brief description of their relevant experience.
 - c. List of the past, current or pending projects in related areas involving team members: title of the project, list of team members involved, and name of the funding institution(s).
- (5) **A budget** (1 page maximum), stating and justifying the spending of the total amount applied for.

GUIDELINES SELECTION CRITERIA

Each application will be reviewed by two persons from the EUDN Scientific Committee and evaluated using a scoring mechanism. The weights given to each item reflect their importance for selection:

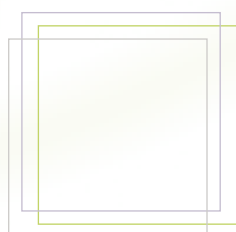
Item	Maximum Score
Abstract, main research question and core research objectives, the extent to which the main research question responds to the Facility research agenda and will contribute to improved policies and practice.	15
General development of research objectives, theoretical and empirical framework	10
Data needs and how available data can address the issue	10
Data analysis techniques, modeling and testing	10
The study team	15
Total	60

Besides this score, assessors will provide an overall judgment on whether the project should be funded, to be used alongside this score. Some projects may be funded with conditions attached to them.

Housed at the International Labour Organization's Social Finance Programme, the Microinsurance Innovation Facility - www.ilo.org/microinsurance - seeks to increase the availability of quality insurance for the developing world's low-income families. The objective is to help them guard against risk and overcome poverty. The Facility was launched in 2008 with the support of a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The European Development Research Network (EUDN) - www.eudnet.net links members of different development research institutions, particularly in the field of development economics, from Europe with the rest of the World. The EUDN is partner of the Global Development Network www.gdnet.org.

For more information on the Facility's Research Grants, please contact EUDN at: microinsurance@fundp.ac.be.



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www.ilo.org/microinsurance