

Call for Research Proposals: Teacher Training for the Pedagogical Use of Digital Technologies in Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico

Guidelines 2026

1. BACKGROUND

Fundación Ceibal and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have signed an agreement covering the period 2025–2027, aimed at strengthening the capabilities of public policymakers in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to support the appropriate and sustainable use of educational technologies, aligned with each country's pedagogical goals and promoting inclusive and equitable education.

One of the agreement's specific objectives is to generate evidence on the current state of educational technology integration across countries in the region. In this context, this call for research proposals is being launched to address key challenges related to digital transformation. The call is supported by the *Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII)*.

2. OBJECTIVE

This call funds **applied research projects that promote teacher training for the pedagogical use of digital technologies in Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico**. It represents a strategic opportunity to generate evidence through one or more of the following types of projects: A. Context-based and context-responsive training models for the pedagogical use of digital technologies; B. Research focused on teacher training for the pedagogical use of digital technologies; C. Mechanisms for teacher participation in the pedagogical use of digital technologies; and D. Strategic systems and methodologies to strengthen the pedagogical use of digital technologies.

Research projects must address one or more of the topics outlined in the Concept Note.

Projects are expected to generate evidence and practical inputs that support the planning of teacher training in the context of digital transformation in education, producing high-quality, innovative outputs developed by strong and effective teams.

Further details on potential project outputs can be found in Annex I. The full timeline for this call is available in Annex II.

3. BENEFICIARIES

This call is open to research teams affiliated with universities, research centers, and organizations in Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Private consulting firms specializing in educational research, public policy, or digital transformation may also be eligible, provided they have demonstrated experience in applied research projects and the operational capacity to implement them.

4. REQUIREMENTS

At the time of application:

- Each project must have a Principal Investigator and, where applicable, a Co-Principal Investigator.

- Each project must be submitted by a lead organization and may include partner organizations. The lead organization may submit more than one project under this call.
- The project must have formal endorsement from the lead organization and any partner organizations (if applicable).
- Curriculum vitae (CVs) of all project participants must be submitted.
- Individuals who, by the application deadline, are not in good standing with the *Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII)* under any of its programs (e.g., outstanding technical progress reports, final financial reports, final project reports, or required surveys) are not eligible to apply.
- Where applicable, proof of submission to an Ethics Committee must be included.
- All documents required in the application form must be submitted.

For approved projects:

- Project activities must begin in October 2026.
- In all instances where the project and its outputs are presented, its results are disseminated in any format, or any related activities are carried out, it must be stated that the project is developed within the framework of the project *Fortalecimiento de las Capacidades locales para generar una Transformación Digital Educativa sostenible y de impacto en América Latina y el Caribe (2025-2027)* [Strengthening Local Capacity to Drive Sustainable, High-Impact Digital Transformation in Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (2025–2027)], led by Fundación Ceibal (Uruguay), funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), and supported by the Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII, Uruguay). The project must be identified by its official designation and comply with the branding guidelines of Fundación Ceibal, IDRC, and ANII.
- Where applicable, contract signing will be subject to final approval by the Ethics Committee.

5. DURATION AND FUNDING

Projects of up to six (6) months may be funded. Projects may request an extension of up to three (3) months, subject to proper justification.

Up to 100% of the total project cost may be funded, with a maximum of USD 50,000 (fifty thousand US dollars).

Up to USD 75,000 (seventy-five thousand US dollars) will be allocated under this call.

6. ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

The following cost categories may be funded to carry out the project:

- Materials and supplies
- Laboratory equipment
- Other equipment
- Consultants
- Training

- Services
- Minor infrastructure upgrades
- Bibliographic materials
- Software
- Intellectual property protection
- Outreach and dissemination: Participation in national or international conferences, presentations, or symposia; publication of academic articles in peer-reviewed journals.
- Public engagement: Includes costs associated with activities aimed at communicating project findings to a broad, non-specialist audience. Accessible communication formats and styles should be used to engage audiences unfamiliar with the specific topic, with the aim of fostering dialogue across different sectors of society and contributing to the democratization and social appropriation of knowledge.
- Administrative costs (maximum 5% of the total project budget).
- Contingency costs (maximum 5% of the total project budget).
- Technical staff: Funding will cover incremental personnel costs related to the time allocated by researchers to the project, as well as the incorporation of additional researchers as needed to meet project objectives. Fees for technical or support staff will be eligible only when their roles are clearly defined and justified in relation to the proposed objectives and work plan (maximum 70% of the total project budget).
- Travel and accommodation: Covers expenses for meals, lodging, and local transportation at the destination for team members and visiting scholars, exclusively for activities related to project implementation or the dissemination of results. Expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the ANII Guidelines for Budgeting Travel Expenses for R&D Projects and Fellowships.
- Visiting scholars: Fees corresponding to their time spent in the country working with the research team will be covered.
- Air travel.

All expenses must be directly related to project activities. The purchase of vehicles or land will not be funded.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to deem any budget item ineligible if considered not relevant to the proposal.

7. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

This call is administered under a competitive funding scheme.

Proposals must be submitted through the online application form developed by the Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII).

No modifications may be made to proposals after the submission deadline.

The application form may be completed in either Spanish or English.

8. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The evaluation process will involve Fundación Ceibal, ANII, and an Evaluation Committee composed of three specialists appointed by Fundación Ceibal. The composition of this Committee will be made public.

At the outset of the evaluation process, all participants will be required to sign a document establishing ethical principles related to confidentiality and conflicts of interest.

The evaluation process consists of the following stages:

1. **Eligibility.** ANII will conduct an eligibility review of proposals based on compliance with formal requirements (timely and complete submission, including endorsement letters signed by the representative of the lead organization). Proposals that do not meet the formal requirements outlined in these guidelines by the application deadline will be deemed ineligible, will not proceed to further stages of evaluation, and applicants will be notified accordingly.
2. **Relevance and Prioritization.** Fundación Ceibal will assess the relevance of proposals and prioritize them based on the following criteria:
 - a. Project relevance, considering the thematic focus of the call and any sub-themes outlined in the Concept Note.
 - b. Track record, capabilities, and institutional capacity of the lead organization.

Prior to the technical evaluation stage, selected projects may be invited to a virtual meeting to clarify specific aspects of the submitted proposal. At least the Project Lead and, where applicable, representatives of partner organizations must attend.

At this stage, up to 30 projects will be shortlisted for evaluation by the Committee.

3. **Technical Evaluation.** The Committee will conduct its review based on the evaluation criteria outlined below. It will prepare a reasoned, consensus-based report, including a final list of projects recommended for funding.
4. **Funding Decision.** Fundación Ceibal, based on the Committee’s consensus report and taking into account the diversity of countries, types of organizations, and types of projects, will submit a proposal for funding to the Board of ANII for approval. Fundación Ceibal may recommend partial funding of projects where duly justified.

The Evaluation Committee will carry out the technical evaluation based on the following criteria:

Technical Evaluation Criteria
1. Conceptual clarity, feasibility, and innovation of the proposal (40%)
2. Budget and other resources (20%)
3. Team capacity (20%)
4. Work plan (20%)

9. MONITORING AND DISBURSEMENTS

Project funding will be formalized through a contract between ANII and the lead organization.

Fundación Ceibal and ANII will be responsible for technical and financial monitoring, in accordance with the approved work plans and milestones. Technical monitoring will include the submission of

progress reports in a format to be provided by ANII. In addition, ANII may request interim reports—both technical and financial—at any time. Fundación Ceibal will also support the implementation of the selected projects and may request additional information or organize exchange meetings with project leads during execution.

With regard to disbursements, an initial advance payment will be made, followed by a second disbursement midway through project implementation, in accordance with the financial execution schedule approved by ANII. Ten percent (10%) of the total grant amount will be withheld until the final and audit reports have been approved. Any expenses charged against this 10% must be included in the final financial report. All project-related expenses must be incurred within the project implementation period. Expenses incurred prior to the project start date will not be eligible.

In exceptional cases, projects may be completed within a period not exceeding three (3) months after the contractual end date.

10. RESULTS AND OUTPUTS

The results of the research will be published on the website of the project *Fortalecimiento de las Capacidades Locales para Generar una Transformación Digital Educativa Sostenible y de Impacto en América Latina y el Caribe* (Strengthening Local Capacity to Drive Sustainable, High-Impact Digital Transformation in Education in Latin America and the Caribbean), led by Fundación Ceibal, and will be incorporated into the resource base of the *Red Latinoamericana por la Transformación Digital Educativa (Red LATE)*. These results will also be compiled into a final technical report, which will be published in [REDI](#), ANII's open-access institutional repository. All outputs resulting from the selected projects must be reported in this final report and deposited in Fundación Ceibal's repository and ANII's institutional repository (REDI). They may also be deposited in the open-access digital repository of the lead organization.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property rights, whether related to industrial property or copyright, that may arise as a result of the execution of the funded project will be governed by the applicable Uruguayan legal framework.

12. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

By submitting an application, applicants authorize ANII and Fundación Ceibal to communicate and disseminate, through various channels (website, press, etc.), without time limit and within the scope of their legal mandates, identifying information about the applicant(s) (individual or legal entity), as well as information related to the call and the project—such as funding amount, ANII's contribution, other sources of funding, publishable summary, and associated individuals or institutions—and any other personal data necessary to ensure transparency in the fulfillment of ANII's legal responsibilities, unless such information is expressly classified as confidential.

ANII will process data in accordance with its [privacy policy and terms of use](#).

13. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

By submitting an application, applicants fully accept these guidelines. Fundación Ceibal, IDRC (Canada), and ANII reserve the right to decide on any circumstances not expressly provided for in these guidelines, without any right to appeal by applicants.

ANII operates under [Law No. 18,084](#).

ANNEX I

Information on Potential Project Outputs:

A. Context-based and context-responsive training models for the pedagogical use of digital technologies

Training pathways that prepare teachers to take on one or more of the following roles:

- Critical selection of digital tools and content to strengthen learning outcomes.
- Adaptation of the pedagogical use of technologies to different social and cultural contexts.
- Integration of individual and collective learning. Support and personalization of learning pathways through digital technologies.

B. Research focused on teacher training for the pedagogical use of digital technologies

- Comparative studies and innovations implemented and analyzed using treatment and control group designs, enabling the identification of institutional and systemic conditions that facilitate or hinder effective teacher training for the pedagogical use of digital technologies.
- Impact evaluations and monitoring of teacher training for the pedagogical use of digital technologies.

C. Mechanisms for teacher participation in the pedagogical use of digital technologies

- Communities of practice and collaborative learning networks for sharing context-based experiences in the pedagogical use of digital technologies.
- Mechanisms for teacher participation in the design of digital tools and platforms for pedagogical use.

D. Strategic systems and methodologies to strengthen the pedagogical use of digital technologies

- Systems and methodologies to institutionalize the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of teacher training programs in digital technologies, analyzing their real impact on student learning and on the transformation of pedagogical practice¹.
- Dissemination and access methodologies that directly connect teachers with platforms, resources, and tools, and generate evidence on which strategies are most effective in promoting their adoption and pedagogical use across different institutional contexts.

¹ Unlike Section B.II, this does not refer to one or more one-off evaluations, but rather to the consolidation of a monitoring and evaluation system for the impact of teacher training on the pedagogical use of technologies and on learning outcomes.

ANNEX II

Timeline

- Call opens: April 29, 2026
- Q&A webinar: May 12, 2026 – 14:00 (UYT / GMT-3)
- Submission period: from April 29, 2026 to June 11, 2026 at 14:00 (UYT / GMT-3)
- Notification of selected proposals: September 2026
- Start of project implementation: October 2026