

Call for Research Proposals: Promoting the Integration of Digital Technologies to Strengthen the Educational Pathways of Socioeconomically Vulnerable Populations in Latin America and the Caribbean

2025 GUIDELINES

1. BACKGROUND

Fundación Ceibal and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have signed an agreement effective from 2025 to 2027, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of public policy leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for the appropriate and sustainable use of educational technologies aligned with the pedagogical objectives of each country, thereby promoting inclusive and equitable education.

One of the specific objectives of the agreement is to generate evidence on the current state of educational technology integration in the countries of the region. Within this framework, this call for research proposals will be launched to address critical challenges in the region related to Educational Digital Transformation (EDT). This call is supported by the National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII).

2. OBJECTIVE

This call is aimed at funding applied research **projects that promote the integration of digital technologies to strengthen the educational pathways of socioeconomically vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**. The call seeks to support the development of studies, models, methodologies, and digital tools focused on data-driven educational management; strengthening learning; designing and implementing comprehensive, context-based support mechanisms; using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accompany educational pathways; and providing families with information to strengthen these trajectories. Research projects must address one or more of the topics listed in the Concept Note.

Projects are expected to generate evidence and input that contribute to educational policy planning, producing innovative, high-quality outputs developed by strong and effective research teams.

Examples of possible project outputs can be found in [Annex I](#). The full timeline with the relevant dates for this call is available in [Annex II](#).

3. BENEFICIARIES

This call is open to research teams belonging to research centers, organizations, and universities in LAC countries.

Private consulting firms specializing in educational research, public policy, or digital transformation may also qualify as beneficiary organizations, provided they have proven experience in applied research projects and the operational capacity to carry them out.

4. REQUIREMENTS

At the time of application:

- Each project must have a principal investigator and, if applicable, a co-principal investigator.

- Each project must have a proponent organization and, if applicable, partner organizations. The proponent organization may submit more than one project under the same call.
- The project must have the endorsement of the proponent organization and any partner organizations (if applicable).
- The submission of curriculum vitae (CVs) for all project participants is mandatory¹.
- Individuals who, as of the closing date, are noncompliant with ANII requirements in any of its programs (for example, overdue technical progress reports, final reports, financial statements, or surveys) will not be eligible to apply.
- The project must include proof of submission to an Ethics Committee, if applicable.
- All documents required must be attached to the application form.

For approved projects:

- The project must begin its activities in April 2026.
- In all instances where the project and its outputs are presented, its results disseminated in various formats, or any related activity carried out, it must be stated that the project is part of the initiative Strengthening Local Capacities to Foster a Sustainable and Impactful Educational Digital Transformation 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 National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII, Uruguay). The project must be identified by its official code and comply with the branding guidelines of Fundación Ceibal, IDRC, and ANII.
- Where applicable, the signing of the contract will be subject to final approval by the Ethics Committee.

5. DURATION AND FUNDING AMOUNT

Projects lasting between 6 and 12 months will be eligible for funding.

Up to 100% of the total project cost may be financed, for a maximum amount of USD 100,000 (one hundred thousand U.S. dollars).

A total of USD 200,000 will be distributed under this call.

6. ELIGIBLE EXPENSE CATEGORIES

The following categories may be financed for project implementation:

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

¹ Applicants who serve as principal investigators, co-principal investigators, or researchers and are affiliated with Uruguayan institutions may submit their CVs in the [CVUy](#) format by the call's closing date.

- Services
- Minor building infrastructure adaptations
- Bibliographic material
- Software
- Intellectual property protection
- Promotion and dissemination: Participation in national and international conferences, presentations, or symposia; publication of peer-reviewed academic articles.
- Outreach: Expenses related to activities aimed at communicating the knowledge generated to a broad, non-specialized audience will be eligible. Efforts should focus on accessible communication formats and styles for those unfamiliar with the specific topic, with a view to promoting dialogue across different social sectors and contributing to the democratization and social appropriation of knowledge.
- Administrative expenses: up to 5% of the total project budget.
- Contingencies: up to 5% of the total project budget.
- Technical staff: Funding will cover incremental costs related to researchers' time dedicated to the project or the incorporation of new researchers to achieve project objectives. Fees for technical or support staff will only be accepted when their participation is clearly defined and justified in relation to the project's objectives and work plan (maximum 70% of the total project budget).
- Travel and accommodation: Expenses for meals, accommodation, and local transportation for team members and visiting professors will be covered only when related to project implementation or presentation of results. Expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the ANII Guide for Budgeting Travel Expenses for R&D Projects and Scholarships.
- Visiting professors: Fees corresponding to the days of stay in the country will be recognized together with the research team.
- Travel expenses

All expenses must be directly associated with project activities. The purchase of vehicles or land will not be financed.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to exclude from funding any budget item deemed irrelevant or inappropriate.

7. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The call is administered under the form of competitive funds.

Proposals must be submitted using the online application form provided by ANII for this purpose.

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

The application form may be completed in Spanish or English.

8. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

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

At the start of the process, all participants involved in the evaluation must sign a document establishing the ethical principles of confidentiality and conflict of interest.

The evaluation process consists of the following stages:

1. **Eligibility.** ANII will verify the eligibility of proposals based on formal compliance (submission on time, including endorsement letters signed by the head of the organization²). Proposals that fail to meet the formal requirements detailed in these guidelines by the submission deadline will be deemed ineligible, excluded from the evaluation process, and the applicants will be notified accordingly.
2. **Relevance and prioritization** Fundación Ceibal will assess project relevance and prioritize them according to the following criteria:
 - a. Relevance of the project to the call's main focus and the potential subtopics outlined in the Concept Note.
 - b. Track record, capacities, and reliability of the proponent organization.

Before the technical evaluation process begins, a virtual meeting may be held with project teams to clarify specific aspects of their proposals. At least the project leader and, as applicable, the representative(s) of any participating organization(s) must attend this meeting.

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

3. **Technical evaluation** The Committee will conduct its work based on the evaluation criteria and guidelines set out below. It will prepare a substantiated consensus report, including a final list of projects recommended for funding.
4. **Funding decision** Based on the substantiated consensus report prepared by the Committee—and taking into account the diversity of countries, types of organizations, and project types—Fundación Ceibal will submit the list of proposed projects for funding to the ANII Board of Directors for approval.

The Evaluation Committee will carry out the technical evaluation according to the following criteria:

Technical evaluation
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 the signing of a contract between ANII and the proponent organization.

² Endorsement letters must bear a handwritten or digitally certified signature recognized in the relevant country.

Fundación Ceibal and ANII will oversee the technical and financial monitoring of the projects, according to the activity plans and milestones defined. Technical monitoring will include the submission of progress reports, using a format provided by ANII. ANII may request additional interim reports, whether technical or financial. In addition, Fundación Ceibal will accompany the implementation of the selected projects and may request further information or organize exchanges with project leads during implementation.

Regarding disbursements, an initial advance payment will be made, followed by a second disbursement midway through project implementation, according to the financial timeline approved by ANII. Ten percent (10%) of the total grant amount will be withheld until the approval of both the final report and the audit report. Expenses covered by this 10% must be included in the project's final financial report. All project expenses should be within the implementation period. All project-related expenses must fall within the approved implementation period.

Exceptionally, projects may complete their implementation within up to three months after the official closing date stated in the contract.

10. RESULTS AND OUTPUTS

Research findings will be published on the website of the project *Strengthening Local Capacities to Foster a Sustainable and Impactful Educational Digital Transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean*, led by Fundación Ceibal, and integrated into the resource base of the Latin American Network for Educational Digital Transformation (Red LATE). These results will also be compiled in a final technical report to be published in [REDI](#), ANII's institutional open access repository. All works resulting from the selected projects must be included in this final report and deposited both in the Fundación Ceibal Collection and in REDI, ANII's institutional repository. They may also be deposited in the open-access digital repository of the lead organization responsible for the project.

11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property rights—whether industrial property or copyright—arising from the implementation of the funded projects will be governed by Uruguayan law in force on the subject.

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 limitation and within the framework of their legal mandates, identifying information about the applicant(s) (individuals or legal entities), as well as information about the call and the project—such as amount awarded, ANII's contribution, other contributions, publishable summary, associated persons or institutions, and other information or personal data required to ensure transparency in compliance with ANII's legal obligations—unless such information has been expressly classified as confidential.

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

13. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Submitting an application implies full acceptance of these guidelines. Fundación Ceibal, IDRC Canada, and ANII reserve the right to resolve any matter not expressly covered herein, without any right to claim on the part of applicants.

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

ANNEX I

Examples of possible project outputs include:

Analytical reports and diagnostics

- Comparative studies on the maturity of Educational Digital Transformation (EDT) across countries, focusing on one or more areas (devices, connectivity, platforms, school infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum updating, administrative processes).
- Studies of best practices, case studies around one or more areas of EDT.
- Maps of key stakeholders and analyses of digital education governance (processes, structures, and decisions regulating how digital technologies are planned, implemented, and evaluated in education systems).
- Participatory diagnostics at the local or national level, including perceptions from students, families, teachers, and leadership teams.
- Studies on the legal and policy frameworks—laws, regulations, and policies—guiding the use of technologies in education.
- Studies on data infrastructure: Information systems, interoperability and protection of personal data.
- Studies focusing on institutional capacities for educational digital transformation: digital leadership, technical team development, and operational sustainability.

Visualizations and interactive tools

- Regional heatmaps or dashboards showing indicators of educational digital maturity.
- Online self-assessment tools for educational institutions, adaptable to different levels and contexts.
- Open repositories of best practices, featuring relevant cases organized by theme or country.
- Digital resource repositories.

Transferable models, frameworks and methodologies

- Methodological proposals to assess digital education maturity using comparable criteria.
- Scalable implementation models for sustainable digital transformation processes.
- Practical guides to support digital planning processes in schools, department offices, and ministries of education.
- Practical guides for various education system stakeholders.
- Training proposals for teachers and school leadership teams at different education levels.

 Multimedia and communication products

- Testimonial videos compiling inspiring local experiences.
- Infographics or animated capsules explaining key findings in accessible formats (e.g., audiovisual content on digital well-being for families or students).
- Short documentaries showcasing change processes in different communities through digital transformation initiatives.

 Academic publications and policy briefs

- Policy briefs aimed at policymakers, providing clear and contextualized recommendations.
- Technical notes on implemented instruments or methodologies and preliminary findings.

 Innovative digital tools for educational transformation

Focused on educational management:

- Platforms for school management processes.
- Early Warning Systems to identify students at risk of dropping out.

Focused on pedagogical innovation:

- Online learning or formative assessment platforms.
- AI-assisted tutoring systems.
- Educational games (Applied games).

ANNEX II.

Timeline

- Opening of the call: November 12, 2025
- Applicant Q&A webinar: November 25, 2025 – 2pm (UYT / GMT-3)
- Proposal submission period: From November 12, 2025, to December 10, 2025, at 2pm (UYT / GMT-3)
- Notification of selected proposals: February 2026
- Start of selected project implementation: April 2026