

## Research&Exchanges Service 2018 Rural Policy Research Grants

Date: April 2018

### **Rural Policy Research Grants - Call for Proposals**

Basing on the Research and Exchange work-plan, the RPLC Research & Exchanges is issuing a call for application for Rural Policy Research Grants.

#### *What:*

Rural Policy Grants are RPLC supported research projects on rural policy. Such projects should be carried out by students/junior researchers from RPLC partner institutions with the involvement of RPLC faculty members. The project should foresee a strong comparative approach, exchanges or mobilities of students/junior researchers between institutions, and have a relatively short/medium-term. The proposals can be related to wider research activities the applicants are working on (i.e. Ph.D. or master thesis or core research of junior researchers).

#### *Aim:*

Proposed research projects should be related to topics addressed by RPLC Policy Theme Networks and should aim to develop an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. Thus, the inclusion of a mobility period within the proposal is mandatory. Clear outputs (please read carefully within eligibility criteria and the Research and Exchange Post mobility period instructions) should be identified and developed in line with RPLC purposes. Collaboration with other partners (from the RPLC network or external ones, i.e. policy makers, stakeholders) are also mandatory.

*Eligibility criteria* are the following for project proposals evaluation:

- **Number of involved institutions:** minimum 2 different institutions (at least a RPLC institution must be involved, please see Annex 1 with the criteria for eligible country/institution);
- **Eligible participants:** proposals must be submitted by Master and PhD students, and early stage postdoctoral fellows (up to two years from the end of their PhD).  
Faculty members from involved institutions should be included in the research to ensure support and supervisions, but they cannot apply for the grant;
- **Ineligible proposals:** proposals involving exclusively faculties members are not eligible;
- **Topic:** the proposal should cover topics related to one or more RPLC Policy Theme Networks; interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged;
- **Field research & exchanges:** the proposal must foresee a period of field research (i.e. to collect data, carry out interviews, etc.) and/or mobility and exchanges: eligible and preferred destinations depend on the institution of origin; please check the table in Annex 1;
- **Methods:** a comparative approach between countries or regions is strongly recommended and will represent a key criteria in the selection of the proposals;

- **Tangible outputs:** the main requested outputs of the grant are: a two-page summary about the research topic and thesis, a brief and engaging abstract about the exchange period for RPLC; a short video (of a couple of minutes) during the period of the exchange (the last two outputs are contributions for RPLC blog and RPLC webinars). The participation to conferences and other dissemination activities will represent an additional value. More details will be provided to selected students within the Research and Exchange Post mobility period instructions.
- **Co-financing** of the research projects by one of the involved RPLC institution will represent additional value. In-kind contribution as faculty time/salary or facilities are not considered co-financing, since these are expected to be provided as basic resources.
- **Duration:** projects must be finalised within 12 months from their start date; the minimum continuous duration of single research & exchange periods is 3 months;
- **Budget criteria:**
  - *eligible costs for applicants involved in the research project* include: travels, accommodation, database access, publication costs, host support student cost (i.e. a small reimbursement for a student from the hosting institution who is providing support and guidance to the winner of the grant), field work costs (for the applicant and/or support student). For costs covered by the faculties members involved in the project, a maximum reimbursement of 50% only for travel and accommodation is allowed. For more details about costs, please read carefully the Grant Guidelines.
  - *ineligible costs* include staff costs (e.g. salaries, scholarships for the applicant, workhours of the applicant).

A required project proposal format is developed and circulated with calls for proposals as Annex 2.

*When:*

Deadline **for proposal submission is 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2018**. Successful proposals will be announced by the end of June 2018. **Research projects could start from September 2018 until March 2019** and can last maximum one year.

Two or three grants per call will be issued, the exact number depends on the amount of the grant requests.

*Budget:*

Maximum CAN 7,500 per proposal (CAN 9,000 in case of overseas mobility, i.e. EU to US/CAN or viceversa).

Please consider a buffer budget in case of currency conversion from euro, US dollar to Canadian dollar. More details are available in the RPLC Research and Exchange grant guidelines

*How:*

Proposals must be submitted using the attached form and sending it via email to:

Francesca Regoli ([francesca.regoli@unibo.it](mailto:francesca.regoli@unibo.it)) and Fabio De Menna ([fabio.demenna2@unibo.it](mailto:fabio.demenna2@unibo.it)).



### Annex 1 - Criteria for eligible country/institution

Applicants are categorized according to institution and country of origin and institution and country of destination.

Among applicants coming FROM RPLC partner institutions, priority will be given to those moving to RPLC destinations, then to NON RPLC Canadians destinations, and finally to NON RPLC Non Canadian destinations.

Applicants coming from NON RPLC institutions can only move to RPLC Canadian institutions. Those from NON RPLC Canadian institutions have priority over NON Canadian ones. In both cases, applicants from NON RPLC institutions will have two extra requirements for the application:

- a formal letter of invitation undersigned by the RPLC Canadian hosting institution;
- a statement in the proposal about the value of the proposed research to RPLC topics addressed by RPLC Policy Theme Networks.

Furthermore, grant will be transferred to the RPLC Canadian hosting institution, which will then proceed to anticipation/reimbursement of grantee expenses.

|      |                       | TO            |                   |                   |                       |
|------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
|      |                       | RPLC Canadian | RPLC Non Canadian | NON RPLC Canadian | NON RPLC Non Canadian |
| FROM | RPLC                  | +++++         | +++++             | ++++              | +++                   |
|      | NON RPLC Canadian     | ++            | NO                | NO                | NO                    |
|      | NON RPLC Non Canadian | +             | NO                | NO                | NO                    |

Note:

+++++ it is the most preferred among eligible proposals;

+ it is the least preferred solution for eligibility.



**Annex 2 - Application Form**

Please fill the following form (blank cells)

|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|--|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Title of the proposal</b>   |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Name, current position (i.e. or PhD student, research fellow), and institution of involved applicant(s)</b><br><i>Please indicate whether institution is part of RPLC Network</i>   |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Names, current position, and institution of involved faculty members</b>  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>E-mail address of the applicant</b>   |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>RPLC Topic addressed</b><br><i>Please identify covered topics that are relevant for RPLC Policy Team themes (max. 250 words)</i>  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Description of the proposal</b><br><i>Please provide a description of your research proposal (max. 1500 words). It must include: general and specific goals; the approach and methodology you plan to apply; expected outputs and outcomes and their relevance for RPLC</i> |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Overall Duration and Period of implementation</b><br><i>Please indicate expected start and end date</i>   |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Mobility period(s)</b><br><i>Please describe the planned field research &amp; exchanges period(s): duration, destination, relation with the objective of the research proposal (max. 500 words). Minimum eligible continuous duration is 3 months.</i>                      |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Previously received RPLC funds (y/n)</b>  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <b>Estimated budget</b><br><i>Please use the following table to detail expected costs based on described activities, assumed unit cost, requested total and co-financed total. <b>Please report the costs in Canadian dollar.</b></i>  |               |                  |                  |                    |
| <i>Description</i>   | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Unit cost</i> | <i>Requested</i> | <i>Co-financed</i> |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |
|  |               |                  |                  |                    |