**Research&Exchanges Team**

**2016/2017 Rural Policy Research Grants**

Version 0 Date: November 29, 2016

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

Basing on the 2016/2017 workplan, the RPLC Research & Exchanges Rural Policy Grants is issuing a call for application for Rural Policy Research Grants.

*What:* Rural Policy Grants are RPLC supported research projects on rural policy. Projects should be carried out by RPLC partners researchers and students in collaboration with faculty members, in a relatively short/medium-term, with a comparative dimension and exchanges of students and researchers between institutions. Proposals can be related to wider research activities that the researchers or students are working on (i.e. Ph.D. or master thesis or core research of faculty members).

*Aims:* Proposed research projects must be related to topics addressed by RPLC Policy Theme Teams and should aim to develop an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. The inclusion of mobility within the proposal is requested. Clear outputs (as publications) should be identified and developed in line with RPLC purposes. Collaboration with other partners from the RLPC network is mandatory. For further details please refer to eligibility criteria.

*Eligibility criteria* for project proposal evaluation:

* **Number of involved participants and institutions** per proposal: minimum 2 participants (we recommend 4) from at least 2 different RPLC institutions;
* **Eligible participants**: proposals may be submitted by early stage postdoctoral fellows (up to two years from the end of their PhD), PhD and Master students; faculty members from the involved institutions should be included to ensure support and supervisions, but proposals involving only faculties members will not be considered as eligible;
* **Topic**: proposals must cover topics related to one and preferably more RPLC Policy Theme Teams; interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged;
* **Field research & exchanges**: the proposal must foresee at least one period of field research (i.e. to collect data, carry out interviews, etc.) at another RPLC network institution and/or mobility and exchanges between the applicants’ institution and another RPLC institution; minimum duration of single research & exchange periods is 3 months;
* **Research methodology**: 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 output of the grant should be a scientific paper based on the results from the research and exchange activities, and a presentation of the work on the RPLC Website (e.g. a contribution on RPLC blog, an RPLC webinar, or similar). Participation to conferences and other dissemination activities will represent an additional value;
* **Co-financing** of the research projects by one or more of the involved RPLC institution will represent an additional value; in-kind contribution as Faculty time/salary or Institution facilities are not eligible co-financing, since these are expected to be provided as basic resources;
* **Duration**: projects must be finalised within 12 months from their start date;
* **Budget criteria**:
* *Maximum budget*: $8,000 per proposal; $10,000 if oversea mobility is foreseen;
* *Eligible costs for staff involved in the research project:* travels and accommodations (up to 100% for researchers and students; up to 50% for faculty members); database access, publication costs.
* *Ineligible costs*: staff costs (e.g. salaries or scholarships).

*How:* proposals must be submitted using the attached form and sending it via email to:

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

*When:* the call will be open by the 15th of December, 2016; **deadline for proposal submission is 15th of January 2017**.

Successful proposals should be announced by 15th of February 2017.

**Research projects should start in March 2017 and end by February 28, 2018.**

**Application Form**

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| **Title** |
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| **Names, current position, and institution of involved participants**  |
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| **Names, current position, and institution of involved faculty members** |
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| **RPLC Topic addressed***Please identify covered topics that are relevant for RPLC Policy Team themes (max. 250 words)* |
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| **Description of the proposal***Please insert an abstract of your research proposal (max. 1500 words). It should include: general and specific goals; the approach and methodology you plan to apply; the connection of outputs and outcomes with RPLC* |
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| **Overall Duration and Period of implementation***Please indicate expected start and end date* |
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| **Mobility period(s)** *Please describe the planned field research & exchanges period(s): duration, destination, relation with the objective of the research proposal (max. 500 words)* |
|  |
| **Estimated budget** *Please use the following table to detail expected costs based on described activities, assumed unit cost, requested total and co-financed total.*  |
| *Description* | *Amount* | *Unit cost* | *Requested* | *Co-financed* |
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