

Special PEP call for proposals

## PAGE round 3 – field experiments

In the context of the 3<sup>rd</sup> PAGE funding round ([find out more](#)<sup>1</sup>), PEP will select and support two projects of economic field experiments, to be implemented by teams of local researchers in developing countries.

Application deadline is **October 30, 2014**.

### Our motivation

Over the past decades, the field of experimental economics has undergone tremendous growth (Levitt and List, 2009). In accordance to its core mission, PEP now seeks to encourage and support researchers in developing countries to build their own/local capacity in design and implementation of such experiments.

Economic experiments are a useful tool to test key features of policy changes and programs, before they are implemented. Researchers use experiments to compare observed behaviour with theoretical predictions of policy changes, to explore the transmission channels of specific programs and to isolate causal effects. In developing countries, experiments have been adapted to study a variety of issues, such as the impact of leadership in the decision to cooperate (Alzùà et al., 2014), the effect of uncertainty on investment choices (Ssekandy et al., 2013), or the role of social networks on risk attitudes (Attanasio et al., 2012).

### The call

This call intends to select two (2) proposals of projects that aim to implement novel economic experiments in developing countries. The experiments should provide a controlled environment, suitable to study participants' behaviour in specific circumstances.

In this type of research, monetary and non-monetary incentives are generally used to encourage experimental subjects to think carefully about their decisions. See the related

<sup>1</sup> [www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/](http://www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/)



readings, at the end of this document, for further information about economic experiments and concrete examples.

## Your proposal

To be considered, proposals must be submitted using the "[Proposal template for field experiment project](#)". This template should be completed based on indications provided in the "[Guidelines to complete an experimental research proposal](#)"<sup>2</sup>, which presents detailed instructions/examples regarding the specific requirements in terms of project information sought by PEP for proposal evaluation/selection.

Both documents (template and guidelines) are also made available on the PEP website, here: [www.pep-net.org/funding/guides/](http://www.pep-net.org/funding/guides/)

All proposals include a brief motivation, the research question, its relevance and contribution. They should clearly state the following elements with respect to the experiment:

- Targeted population
- Recruitment protocol
- Expected sample size
- Experimental protocol (preliminary)
- Timeline
- Budget outline
- Bibliography



As these projects will be funded in the context of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the PEP initiative to support "[Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment](#)" (PAGE)<sup>3</sup> in developing countries, the research questions/issues must relate to either of the priority issues identified by PEP for this call. Find the [list of priority issues](#)<sup>4</sup> via the PEP website here: [www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/](http://www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/)

Moreover, in accordance to PEP's core mission, projects must comprise a "capacity building" component, that shall be thoroughly explained/justified in the final section of the proposal (see [template](#)).

A scientific committee will evaluate proposals competitively. The first round of proposal evaluation will be completed by **December 15, 2014**. All applicants will receive notification of rejection or pre-selection within the following few days.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call\\_for\\_proposal/Guides/PAGE-3\\_Field\\_experiments\\_Guide\\_to\\_prepare\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call_for_proposal/Guides/PAGE-3_Field_experiments_Guide_to_prepare_proposal.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.pep-net.org/themes/page/](http://www.pep-net.org/themes/page/)

<sup>4</sup> [www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call\\_for\\_proposal/PAGE/PAGE-3\\_Priority\\_issues.pdf](http://www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call_for_proposal/PAGE/PAGE-3_Priority_issues.pdf)

## The grant

In total, 2 research teams will be selected to benefit from the manifold PEP support program in the conduct of high quality field experiments, such as described above, in the context of the [3<sup>rd</sup> PAGE funding round](#)<sup>5</sup>. In addition to continual support from a PEP mentor (expert in the field), the PEP “Grant Plus” support program for these particular projects comprises a USD 30K research grant.

## Eligibility

- Applicant research teams should be composed of at least one senior researcher, leading several junior researchers. PEP also favours teams that include young researchers under 30 years old.
- The proposal should correspond to one or more of the [priority themes/issues](#) identified by PEP for the 3<sup>rd</sup> PAGE funding round.
- All team members must be developing country nationals and reside in a developing country during the full course of the project.
- University-level training in economics or equivalent experience is required.
- Priority will be given to teams from low-income countries (LIC), fragile and/or conflict states (see [list of targeted countries](#)<sup>6</sup>).
- Teams must be composed of at least 50% female researchers, with significant contributions to the project.

## Application procedures

The deadline to submit applications is October 31, 2014.

The proposal has to be submitted electronically using the PEP “intranet system”. Here are the steps to follow:

- All members of the applicant team must first register on the PEP website. To register, click on “[Register](#)” and follow the instructions.
- Registered members will receive a username and password by email, normally within minutes, which will allow you to access your PEP intranet file, by clicking on the log in button.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/](http://www.pep-net.org/funding/call-for-proposals/)

<sup>6</sup> [www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call\\_for\\_proposal/PAGE/PAGE-3\\_LICountry\\_list.pdf](http://www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call_for_proposal/PAGE/PAGE-3_LICountry_list.pdf)

- ALL members of the applicant team must post their personal CV in their PEP intranet file. To do this, each member should “[Log in](#)” to the PEP website and then select “Profile” and “Upload CV”. We also strongly encourage applicants to fill out their profile with as much detail as possible (including photo, short bio, etc.).
- To then submit the proposal, the team leader must log in, click on "Submit New Proposal" and fill out the required information, using the experimental proposal template provided above.
- When all is done, to make sure that the proposal has been successfully submitted to PEP, return to your PEP intranet file and click on "My Projects".

PEP encourages teams to submit proposals in English, but will accept proposals submitted in French or Spanish in cases of (justified) language barrier.

If you have difficulty completing the steps above, please consult our [FAQ page](#).

If you do not find your answer, contact us at [info@pep-net.org](mailto:info@pep-net.org) for assistance on the submission process.

### For specific inquiries regarding the field experiment proposals

Questions concerning this specific call for proposals (i.e. field experiments) can be addressed to PEP resource person Maria Adelaida Lopera Baena [maria.lopera.1@ulaval.ca](mailto:maria.lopera.1@ulaval.ca). You can expect a one-week delay for responses.

### Related readings

The following list of reference give an overview to the field of economic experiments and their implementation in developing countries. You can use them to complete and improve your proposal. You can also find inspiration reading the experiments referenced inside the “[Guidelines to complete an experimental research proposal](#)”.

Juan Camilo Cárdenas & Jeffrey Carpenter. 2008. "[Behavioural Development Economics: Lessons from Field Labs in the Developing World](#)", Journal of Development Studies, Taylor & Francis Journals, 44(3):311-338.

Levitt, Steven D., and List, John A. 2009. "[Field experiments in economics: The past, the present, and the future](#)", European Economic Review, Elsevier, 53(1):1-18.

Bandiera, Oriana, Iwan Barankay, and Imran Rasul. 2011. "[Field Experiments with Firms](#)", Journal of Economic Perspectives, 25(3): 63-82.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call\\_for\\_proposal/Guides/PAGE-3\\_Field\\_experiments\\_Guide\\_to\\_prepare\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.pep-net.org/fileadmin/medias/pdf/Call_for_proposal/Guides/PAGE-3_Field_experiments_Guide_to_prepare_proposal.pdf)

Jeff Carpenter, Glenn Harrison, and John List. 2005. "[Field experiments in economics: An introduction](#)", Artefactual Field Experiments 00034, The Field Experiments Website.

**Note:** All sources used in a proposal need to be documented. PEP treats cases of plagiarism very seriously because transparency and fairness are considered fundamental research values.

## References

Orazio Attanasio, Abigail Barr, Juan Camilo Cardenas, Garance Genicot, and Costas Meghir. 2012. "Risk Pooling, Risk Preferences, and Social Networks," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, American Economic Association, 4(2): 134-67.

Ssekandy, Juliet, Zigiti Zerida, Joloba, Daniel, Kachero, Benjamin, Galiwango, Samuel. 2013. "Beyond Technical Skills Training: The impact of Credit Counselling on Entrepreneurial Behavior of Ugandan Youth. PEP-Revised Proposal.