

## New PEP Call for Expressions of Interest

PEP launches a new initiative to support and strengthen Impact Evaluation Capacities for governments in East and West Africa.

PEP believes that generating rigorous scientific evidence aimed at informing policymaking is essential to promote fair and sustainable development. Further, it believes that this process should be led by local government officers – in collaboration with local researchers – to take full advantage of their knowledge of local contexts and their ongoing presence on the ground. Supporting its mission to encourage evidence-based policymaking, the Hewlett Foundation is partnering with PEP to launch a new program, designed to develop and strengthen high quality Impact Evaluation research capacities among governments in East and West African countries.

The *Impact Evaluation Mentoring for Governments in East and West Africa* program is designed to foster a culture of experimental evaluation, strengthen the capacity of governments to commission Impact Evaluations, and facilitate the use of evidence in policymaking. Selected teams will receive practical training in Impact Evaluation coupled with beginning-to-end technical assistance and mentoring, with a view to evaluating a policy initiative of their own choosing.

Applicant teams must present a new or existing policy initiative that has not been evaluated in the past, for which high quality evidence about program effectiveness is absent. Teams must be comprised of government officers and researchers with a long-term commitment to policy evaluation, who are willing to undergo training sessions and acquire practical knowledge on Impact Evaluation.

Find out more [about the program](#). You may also [download the flyer](#) for this call, for circulation in your network(s).

## Requirements

### *Policy Initiative for Impact Evaluation*

Applicant teams must present a new or existing policy initiative that can be evaluated through the use of experimental evaluation techniques (see <https://www.pep-net.org/about-pieri>). Expressions of Interest (EOI) might consist of a new policy yet to be implemented, or an existing policy initiative that can be further extended.

The EOI must address an issue that is noticeably relevant to the country in terms of socioeconomic needs, political context and timing. Policy initiatives whose impact has not yet been evaluated in similar contexts will be favored (see <http://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence-hub/impact-evaluation-repository> for an index of policy Impact Evaluations in low-income countries).

In order to be considered, applicant teams are REQUIRED to submit their EOI using the [PEP EOI template](#).

### *Nationality of applicants*

Applicant teams must be comprised of government officers, in collaboration with local researchers, who are nationals of and will reside during the full course of the project in one of the following countries:

- *West Africa:* Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Saint Helena, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.
- *East Africa:* British Indian Ocean Territory, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, French Southern Territories, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Réunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### *Team composition*

Applicant teams must be composed of:

- One (1) senior government official with a proven capacity to decide on the implementation of the program proposed for evaluation. The relevance of this representative in informing key decisions must be ensured. There is no gender preference for this role.
- Between four (4) and six (6) government officers motivated to learn about Impact Evaluation and committed to work on the evaluation of the proposed project.
  - One person must be appointed as team leader, who will be responsible for uploading the required documents to the PEP website (see "Application details and procedure" below) and communicating with PEP mentors.
  - Participating government officers must be able to allocate the equivalent of at least one day per week to the project throughout its duration.

- Two (2) to four (4) locally-based researchers.
- At least one team member must have a doctoral degree in economics (or equivalent) with proven expertise in Impact Evaluation research and at least three others should present sufficient academic and/or professional background in economics research/policy analysis. In particular, having a Master's degree/diploma or currently being enrolled in a Master's program is considered a minimum requirement.
- Female members must make up at least 50% of the whole team.
- For the purpose of this expression of interest, proponents are encouraged to propose candidates for the research team. If no or an insufficient number of researchers are proposed and the expression of interest is selected, PEP will assist the team in trying to identify suitable local researchers

## Support and Funding

After the evaluation of the EOIs, 3-4 shortlisted teams will be invited to complete the following activities:

- At least four members of the team must successfully complete a two-week online training mini-course in experimental methods used in Impact Evaluation studies.
- All members of the team must participate in a series of online meetings with PEP mentors to develop a full draft final proposal.
- Two members will be invited to present a draft final proposal at the 2019 PEP Annual General Meeting to be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Following the 2019 PEP Annual General Meeting, two proposals will be selected for support. After the final round of evaluation of proposals, grantees will be invited to:

- Participate in an intensive, instructor-led, five-day, on-site training course on practical aspects of the implementation of Impact Evaluations. The design of the Impact Evaluation project proposed by the team will be specifically discussed in a practical session during the course.
- Take an active role at all stages of the Impact Evaluation process, in close collaboration with PEP mentors.

Each selected team will be provided with:

- Funding for the evaluation project up to \$US 87K, including a \$US 22K research (cash) grant, a \$US 25K data collection grant and up to \$40K in various subsidies, such as for participation in PEP meetings and study visits, for publications in peer-reviewed journals, for presentations in international conferences, and for the organization of national policy conferences, etc.
- Ongoing technical assistance by the local researchers who are members of the team. Costs of their professional assistance will be covered by PEP.

## Application details and procedure

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS MARCH 11, 2019**

Applications must be submitted via the PEP intranet system, before March 11, 2019 (23:59 EST). Here are the steps to follow:

1. ALL MEMBERS of the applicant team (including the Senior Government Official and Researcher(s), if applicable) must register on the PEP website BEFORE submitting the EOI. To register, click [Register](#) (see also the top right corner of the PEP website header, next to "Login") and follow the instructions.
2. Once registered, each member will receive a username and password by email, normally within minutes, and your profile will be activated within 24 hours. Access your PEP intranet file by clicking on the [Login](#) button (also top right corner, as above) and entering the username and password received. Note that you can change your password yourself, through your personal intranet profile, at any time.
3. ALL MEMBERS of the applicant team (including the Senior Government Official and the Researcher(s), if applicable) must complete their PEP intranet profile, including their personal CV, birthday, highest diploma, a photo and short professional bio. To do this, each member should log in to the PEP website and then select "Profile" (and then "Upload CV", "Upload photo", etc.).
4. To then submit the EOI, the TEAM LEADER must log in, click to open the "My workspace" menu, click on "Submit New Proposal", then fill out the required information and upload all required documentation using the mandatory [PEP EOI template](#).
5. Once finished, to make sure that the EOI has been successfully submitted to PEP, simply return to your PEP intranet file and click on "My Projects".

## Important dates

Download the [schedule of Important Dates](#) for more information.

## Further requirements

PEP encourages applicant teams to submit EOIs in English, but also welcomes EOIs (including all supporting documents) that are submitted in French.

PLAGIARISM is strictly unacceptable - more information about the definition of plagiarism and related instructions for citing sources can be found at <https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>. PEP uses a software program to detect cases of plagiarism.