

Queries and responses on the request for research proposals

Detecting and countering illicit financial flows

Last updated: 5 March 2021

Q.1 Can the funds be transferred to the administering university of the researcher or can they be allocated to the individual researcher?

A.1 The RFRP, proposals from individuals (or groups of individuals) as well as non-profit organizations are welcome. Upon submission there are three submission forms to select from: one for individuals, another for groups of individuals, and a third for non-profit organizations. If the contract is planned to be administered by a non-profit organization/university, the form for non-profit organization should be selected during the submission process..

Q.2 Can more than one proposal be financed?

A.2 Yes, if the quality is sufficient.

Q.3 Is your focus area limited to illicit financial flows or does it also include capital flight?

A.3 Capital flight is outside the focus of this call.

Q.4 Does UNU-WIDER / the UN play any role in facilitating connections with host governments for projects under the IFF call for proposals that make use of administrative data?

A.4 No.

Q.5 I am interested in submitting a proposal related to taxation of Local Governments in India. Is this topic suitable for this call?

A.5 This topic is outside the focus of this call.

Q.6 Do you consider country case studies?

A.6 Yes.

Q.7 Will you consider descriptive studies?

A.7 No. The study should be analytical.

Q.8 Is there a minimum or maximum size for a group of researchers?

A.8 No. But please note that the total research honorarium per selected proposal is in the range of US\$10,000 independent of the group size.

Q.9 Do PhD researchers qualify as applicants? If not, what about a joint submission by a PhD researcher and a senior academic?

A.9 Yes, to both questions. Quality is the key.

Q.10 Do randomized controlled trials (RCT) qualify as a methodology?

A.10 Yes

Q.11 What referencing system is preferred?

A.11 We use the Harvard-style in-text referencing rather than footnotes.

Q.12 Can an individual be part of more than one team submitting a proposal?

A.12 Yes

Q.13 Is there a methodological preference for this call?

A.13 There is no preference per se but there must be a sound methodological basis for the generation of new insights.

Q.14 Would you consider a proposal touching on the former Soviet states?

A.14 While the focus is on the Global South, we also welcome proposals on countries considered low-income economies, lower-middle-income economies, and upper-middle-income economies in the World Bank country classification list.

Q.15 What outlets are being considered for the publication of the manuscripts? Is there a possibility that the papers will be published as a book volume, or is there an aim to publish in a journal?

A.15 The aim is that these papers will be published in high-quality journals after publication in the WIDER Working paper series with UNU-WIDER retaining the copyright. After publication in the WIDER Working Paper series, authors are encouraged to submit their papers to high quality journals such as leading field journals. At this stage, the authors can request copyright to be returned to them, if that is their preference, or they may choose to publish under UNU-WIDER copyright.

Q.16 Can graduate students apply?

A.16 Yes.

Q.17 Would you consider a proposal on cash smuggling and refugees as cash couriers?

A.17 Examples of potential research topics are included in the RFRP document available on the UNU-WIDER website. Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit, relevance to the RFRP topic and feasibility. Therefore, it is recommended that researchers submit a proposal if they assess that the subject is relevant to the scope of the RFRP.

Q.18 Can post-text references be included as an addendum or in addition to the five-page proposal?

A.18 Yes.

Q.19 Is trade misinvoicing within the scope of this call?

A.19 Yes.

Q.20 Is analysing the impact of profit-shifting behaviors of the Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) within the scope of this call?

A.20 Yes.

Q.21 What font style is required in the proposal?

A.21 There is no font style requirement, however we recommend using a style that is accessible for most readers, for example Times New Roman, size 12.

Q.22 How many proposals will receive funding at this time?

A.22 The final number of accepted proposals will be determined after the review process has taken place.

Q.23 Will the honorarium be paid in more than one disbursement?

A.23 Yes.

Q.24 Does UNU-WIDER regulate journal submissions after a paper has been published in the WIDER Working paper series?

A.24 After publication in the WIDER Working Paper Series, authors are encouraged to submit their papers to high quality journals such as leading field journals. At this stage, the authors can request copyright to be returned to them, if that is their preference, or they may choose to publish under UNU-WIDER copyright.

Q.25 What is the indicative due date for submitting papers?

A.25 The target date for submission of first drafts is 30 July 2021, and 15 November 2021 for the submission of final papers.

Q.26 Are theoretical papers fit for your call?

A.26 Yes.

Q.27 Is a justification of expenses needed to receive the honorarium?

A.27 No.

Q.28 Is the legal procedure in processing remittance services within the scope of this call?

A.28 This topic is outside the focus of this call.

Q.29 Is examining the sources of illicit financial flows through channeling retailers within the scope of this call?

A.29 Examples of potential research topics are included in the RFRP document available on the UNU-WIDER website. Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit, relevance to the RFRP topic and feasibility. Therefore, it is recommended that researchers submit a proposal if they assess that the subject is relevant to the scope of the RFRP.

Q.30 Are you looking for proposals from a particular discipline?

A.30 Yes, this is an economics research project.

Q.31 Is it possible to propose a research topic related to the effects of taxes on IFFs based on data from European countries?

A.31 While the focus is on the Global South, we also welcome proposals on countries considered low-income economies, lower-middle-income economies, and upper-middle-income economies in the World Bank country classification list. We will assess the relevance to the Global South in the review process.

Q.32 Is someone with a BSc degree qualified to apply?

A.32 Yes.

Q.33 We aim to measure IFFs via commodity trade mispricing. Is this topic within the scope of the call?

A.33 Yes.

Q.34 Can I submit a proposal as a lawyer and not as a researcher?

A.34 Yes. However, we will review each proposal for scientific merit.

Q.35 Can I use other sources than those provided in the Request for research proposals?

A.35 Yes.

Q.36 Is the use of data desirable or essential? Some topics might be short on data.

A.36 The use of data is important.