

The Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB)

Open Call

4 RESEARCH GRANTS ON 'FISCAL FEDERALISM'

One of the aims of the **Research Program "Fiscal Federalism"** (Heads: **Prof. Albert Solé-Ollé & Prof. Núria Bosch-Roca**) at the IEB is to promote and disseminate research in this area.

We plan to fund **4 research projects, worth 5,000 euros** each. The IEB will decide on the allocation of the research grants after evaluation of applications received. Applicants must have documented research competence in the area. Graduate students may only apply for grants if the project leader is a researcher with a Ph.D. Applications will be evaluated by a research committee and ranked on the basis of established scientific criteria. The following criteria apply:

- (i) The project will concern research in the areas deemed most relevant to the program, which are:
 - Evaluation of decentralization and intergovernmental grants
 - Tax competition: horizontal, vertical and yardstick
 - Political economy of grant-allocation and inter-regional fiscal flows
 - Governance, corruption and efficiency in local governments
 - Fiscal federalism and sub-national public finance in general
- (ii) Priority will be given to applied research projects and/or projects oriented towards results that are relevant for policy-design
- (iii) IEB researchers are economists but our approach to 'Fiscal Federalism' places particular emphasis on political economy considerations. This means that we also welcome applications from other disciplines, especially by political scientists.
- (iv) A limited number of the research grants will be allocated to projects studying 'Fiscal Federalism' in Spain.

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2010. The research committee will announce its decision at the end of January 2010. 30 % of the grant will be paid in June upon the presentation of a progress report, and the rest in December 2009. Researchers must:

- (i) Submit a paper (no more than 50 pages) by the end of October 2010, which will be included in a new collection of Working Papers on Fiscal Federalism to be published by the IEB. This paper should be written in English. The work should be unpublished and the author should not have other sources of finance for this particular project.
- (ii) Submit a paper (no more than 20 pages) by the end of October 2010, which should explain in a non-technical way the main research results obtained and the relationship of the work to broader lines of research. This paper may be written either in English or Spanish and may be selected for publication in a new IEB report on the state of fiscal federalism, to be launched next year.

There is no application form. To apply, candidates should submit a document with less than 2500 words stating: 1) The aim of the paper, its general outline, its theoretical framework and empirical method as well as its relevance to other research in the area; 2) The researcher's competence in the area. The paper should be submitted with a CV of the project leader (PDF file) to ieb@ub.edu indicating in the title of the message '**Application for research grant**'.

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DECISION TO AWARD:

4 RESEARCH GRANTS ON 'FISCAL FEDERALISM'

The IEB received 36 applications for the Research Grants on 'Fiscal Federalism' advertised in its Open Call. Three of the applications corresponded to projects studying 'Fiscal Federalism in Spain'.

As a result, and in accordance with the conditions of the Open Call, the directors of the IEB's Research Program on Fiscal Federalism (Núria Bosch & Albert Solé-Ollé) decided to reserve one of the grants for a project focusing on Spain, and to award the remaining three to international projects.

In both cases, the projects awarded were selected on the basis of:

- The CVs of the researchers
- The scientific merit of the project
- The relevance for policy-design

The Spanish project selected by the directors of the research program was:

Spanish project

Francisco Pedraja Chaparro (University of Extremadura) and **José Manuel Cordero** (University of Extremadura): *Analysis of Alternative Proposals to Reform the Spanish Intergovernmental Transfers System for Municipalities*

In view of the number of high quality applications for the international projects, the selection was made by a committee comprising the directors of the research program and by one renowned expert in the field: Jorge Martinez-Vazquez (Georgia State University).

The three international projects awarded are:

International projects

Gilberto Turati (University of Turino), **Daniel Montolio** (University of Barcelona, IEB) and **Massimiliano Piacenza** (University of Turino): *Fiscal Decentralisation, Private School Funding, and Students' Achievements. A Tale From Two Roman Catholic Countries.*

Steve Mongrain (Simon Fraser University) and **Jay Wilson** (Michigan State University): *Tax Competition with Heterogeneous Capital Mobility*

Timothy J. Goodspeed (Hunter College and Graduate Center of CUNY): *Corruption in Decentralized Countries*

<http://www.ieb.ub.edu>

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- (iv) A limited number of the research grants will be allocated to projects studying 'Fiscal Federalism' in Spain.

The deadline for applications is 15 November 2010. The research committee will announce its decision by the end of December 2010. 30 % of the grant will be paid in May 2011 upon the presentation of a progress report, and the rest in October 2011. Researchers must:

- (i) Submit a paper (no more than 50 pages) by the end of July 2011, which will be included in a new collection of Working Papers on Fiscal Federalism to be published by the IEB. This paper should be written in English. The work should be unpublished and the author should not have other sources of finance for this particular project.
- (ii) Submit a paper (no more than 20 pages) by the end of July 2011, which should explain in a non-technical way the main research results obtained and the relationship of the work to broader lines of research. This paper may be written either in English or Spanish and may be selected for publication in a new IEB report on the state of fiscal federalism, to be launched next year.

To apply, candidates should fill the form below (word version available at www.ieb.ub.edu) and send it to ieb.calls@ub.edu indicating in the title of the message '**Application for research grant**'. Please note that any application form containing more than 2,500 words will not be accepted. Moreover, if you already have a draft of the paper, you can also attach it to the application.

<http://www.ieb.ub.edu>

September 15, 2010

IEB RESEARCH GRANTS 2010: APPLICATION FORM

PROJECT TITLE:
PROJECT LEADER:

SUMMARY

Brief and precise, outlining only the most relevant topic(s) and the proposed objectives

1. AIM OF THE PAPER

(800 words at most)

1.1. Brief description of the reasons why this research is considered to be relevant. That is, motivation of the paper. **Initial hypothesis** which serves as the basis of the paper.

(250 words at most)

1.2. Existing literature which backs the validity of the initial hypothesis.

(400 words at most)

1.3. Brief (but clear, precise and realistic) enumeration of the **specific aims** that the researcher seeks to achieve with this study. Novelty and relevance of the paper.

(150 words at most)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. METHODOLOGY AND WORK PLAN

(400 words at most)

3. POLICY RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH
(400 words at most)

4. RESEARCHER'S COMPETENCE IN THE AREA AND CV OF THE PROJECT LEADER
