

Call for Research Proposals - June 2021**New firm-level evidence on the Impact of COVID-19, Innovation, Firm Performance and Gender (IFPG) in the Caribbean**

1. Call for Research Proposals

The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) invites individuals and/or research teams to submit research proposals that utilise our Innovation, Firm Performance and Gender firm-level dataset for the Caribbean (IFPG, 2021). The objective of this call is to stimulate original analytical pieces using internationally comparable firm-level data that is relevant for Caribbean policy makers in the post-COVID-19 era.

2. Eligibility

Research proposals should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1) The research proposed should be quantitative in nature and seek to address issues of relevance to private sector development in the Caribbean.
- 2) The research must utilise the entire dataset. Note: sub-regional grouping can be applied for comparative analyses (For Example: OECS versus non-OECS).
- 3) The research should include analysis of the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Caribbean firms as well as the inclusion of at least one crosscutting theme such as the environment, gender, or other social considerations.
- 4) The research can include data from other comparable datasets (i.e. WB Enterprise Surveys), PROTEqIN, LACES, LAIS, others.

3. Background

Firm-level surveys that capture data on the enablers and inhibitors of innovation and productivity are critical for the advancement of evidence-based policies that seek to support development. Until 2011, the Caribbean lacked a comprehensive firm-level, internationally comparable dataset that could be used to inform effective evidence-based policy formulation on issues related to innovation and productivity. In response to this challenge, in 2010 and 2014, CCPF funded the Latin America and Caribbean Enterprise Survey (LACES) and, the Productivity, Technology and Innovation Survey (PROTEqIN) respectively which were the first statistically representative surveys of their kind to be implemented for the Caribbean.

The new IFPG dataset builds on these previous efforts to generate knowledge into thematic research areas that are necessary for private sector development such as

innovation, energy, technology, and productive development policies (Grazzi & Pietrobelli, 2016¹; Crespi, Dohnert, and Maffioli, 2017²).

The IFPG was funded in conjunction with the Competitiveness, Technology, and Innovation Division (IFD/CTI) and the Caribbean Country Department (CCB) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as well as IDB Invest's Strategy and Development Department (DSP) for the purpose of generating up-to-date and internationally comparable data on the private sector for region on issues such productivity, innovation, gender, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond a closer examination of the negative impact that the pandemic has had on firm performance, preliminary evidence from the survey alerts us to some shifts in the perceptions of firm owners and managers as it relates to risks, obstacles, enablers, and the prospects for their firm's development. To best reposition the region and revitalise the private sector, the magnitude of this impact needs to be properly understood, taking in consideration both country and sector specific idiosyncrasies as well as to guide appropriate policy response amidst continuing health concerns for the region.

Moreover, the granularity of the IFPG will allow for further advancements in these research lines, addressing the validity of previous results in different contexts, improving our understanding of the relevance of policy frameworks, and exploring under-researched aspects related to private sector development.

4. Proposal content

Interested researchers should submit a research proposal that shall not exceed 2,500 words (excluding CVs, budgets, and references). The proposal shall follow the naming convention **LeadResearcherName_IFPG_2021_Proposal** and should include:

- An abstract posing a clear research question, a sound justification of why the proposed study is relevant to the Caribbean at this time and the likely implications for private sector development/evidence-based policymaking
- Relevant literature
- A description and justification of the proposed methodology
- A description of what IFPG data will be used in the study and how it will be used. Any complimentary data (for example, PROTEqIN/LACES/LAIS) or data gathering exercises should also be disclosed here.
- Background of the researcher(s) (indicating the team leader). Please attach CVs indicating current affiliation and publication record, highlighting any relevant publications to this Call. Maximum two pages per researcher.

In a separate file with naming convention (**LeadResearcherName_IFPG 2021_Budget**), the researcher(s) should indicate the resources that will be necessary to undertake this research. The proposed budget should distinguish between items financed by CCPF and those financed by the research team. **All proposals should be submitted in English.**

¹ Grazzi, M. and Pietrobelli, C., 2016. *Firm innovation and productivity in Latin America and the Caribbean: The engine of economic development* (p. 346). Springer Nature.

² Crespi, G., Dohnert, S., Maffioli, A., 2017. Exploring firm-level innovation and productivity in developing countries: The perspective of Caribbean small states. *Washington, DC: IDB.*

5. Selection of Proposals

A selection panel will review the applications and evaluate them based on the following criteria:

a) Technical (80% of Overall Score)

- i. Relevance and feasibility of the proposed research in understanding the impact of COVID-19, innovation, productivity, gender, and competitiveness for private sector development in the Caribbean (40% of technical score)
- ii. Strength of the proposed methodology and the significance of the expected results (30% of technical score)
- iii. Novelty of the research proposed (20% of technical score)
- iv. Tangible policy recommendations that can be derived from the research for post-COVID reactivation (10% of technical score).

b) Financial (20% of Overall Score)

- i. Reasonableness and level of detail provided on the key assumptions and their compatibility with the Technical Proposal (20%)

Deadline for submission of proposals: **Sunday 11th July 2021. 23:59:59 pm (Eastern Time Zone)**. Proposals should be sent by email to competecaribbean@iadb.org with copy to waynee@iadb.org with the following subject line: CCPF IFPG: “*Proposal’s title.*”

Research papers must follow the IDB Manual of Style for working papers. Studies that are of good quality will be considered for publication.



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Canada



Inter-American Development Bank
“Hythe”, Welches,
Maxwell Main Road, Christ Church,
Barbados BB17068

www.competecaribbean.org competecaribbean@iadb.org (246) 627-8500 (246) 629-8869

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The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) is a Private Sector Development Program that delivers innovative and practical solutions that stimulate Economic Growth, increase Productivity and foster Innovation and Competitiveness. We work in 13 countries across the Caribbean region.

CCPF is a partnership between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Government of Canada.