Call for Proposals – addressing the research needs of civil society organizations

The Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration (CERC Migration) aims to produce innovative and usable knowledge exploring the challenges and opportunities involved in processes of settlement and integration of newcomers in Canada. For the purposes of its research, the CERC Migration sets up a Data and Methods Lab the aim of which includes serving the research needs of civil society stakeholders. The Lab gathers and generates quantitative and qualitative data to map the new realities of global migration and contributes to answering relevant policy questions.

THEMATIC AREAS

We are **inviting interested stakeholder organizations to submit specific research questions that arise from their work by 30 June 2020. The research question should broadly relate to the following thematic areas**:

1. **The use of pre- and post-arrival settlement services by newcomers to Canada** (either as permanent residents, as temporary migrants, or their transition to permanent status), **and the impact of service usage on migrants' employment and overall integration trajectories in Canada.** We welcome research questions that focus specifically on women, youth, families, education, language, training and employment. We also welcome research that refers to specific provinces or cities.

   The CERC team will seek to answer research questions using online surveys, interviews/focus groups, and the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) – Settlement Services Module[1].

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[1] The IMDB covers all permanent and non-permanent migrants admitted to Canada since 1980. This data is linked to annual tax files since 1982. This provides a longitudinal view of income and employment status. The settlement services modules integrated into the IMDB + tax files merges information on person- or service provider-level language assessment, language training, employment-related services, needs assessment and referrals, community connections, information and orientation, Resettlement Assistance Program, pre-arrival needs and referrals, pre-arrival community connections, pre-arrival information and orientation since 2013. This data resource can support service providers by providing access to up-to-date information on high-level service delivery outcomes, gaps and benchmarks. This data resource can contribute to a better understanding of the outcomes (such as earnings, labour force participation, and knowledge of language) post engagement with settlement services (such as language training and employment services). It can further identify gaps in service delivery and where expected outcomes are not being met. Finally, it can provide a benchmark to individual service providers in assessing their own impact on the community.

2. **Social media use among newcomers upon arrival to Canada**, during the first five years of their residence and its implications**. Social media use among stakeholder organizations and lessons learned from social media data on the processes of settlement and integration of newcomers to Canada.** We welcome specific research questions that relate to labour market insertion and entrepreneurship, information sharing, building networks and overall socio-cultural integration, or issues of political participation, whether in Canadian or homeland politics.

The CERC migration Data and Methods Lab is implementing advanced techniques of collection and analysis of social media data for the purposes of studying migrant integration and political participation processes.

CONDITIONS

Eligibility
Proposals from non-profit and non-government organizations in Canada are eligible for consideration in this call for proposals. We encourage organizations that directly or indirectly serve permanent and non-permanent migrants to submit a research project of interest. Note that organizations that do not exclusively serve migrants are also encouraged to submit a research project.

Criteria
Addressing a knowledge gap – 5 points
The proposed research questions must address a *knowledge gap*. Their organization should clearly demonstrate that the knowledge gained addresses a strategic or operational need, what is currently known, and what the applicant needs to find out.
Impact – 5 points
The proposed project addresses a societal need that is of general relevance for the work of civil society organizations and service providers in the field of immigration and settlement.
Feasibility – 5 points
The proposed research question can be addressed within a period of 6 to 8 months.

Timeline
Launch of Call:	15 April 2020
Deadline for Submission of proposals	30 June 2020
Remote Evaluation	10 July – 20 August 2020
Panel Evaluation	20 August – 10 September 2020
Announcement of Results	10 September 2020
Research starts	1 October 2020
Workshop with selected Proposals	November 2020
Expected Completion	April – June 2021

Concluding Workshop June or September 2021

EVALUATION PROCESS

A Panel of six experts will evaluate the proposals remotely:
- Two members of the CERC Research Team
- Two members of the CERC Steering Committee
- Two members of the CERC Stakeholder Advisory Board

Conflict of Interest: We will ensure that none of the Committee members has a direct or indirect connection with any of the applicant organizations.

The evaluators will meet as a Panel chaired by Professor Anna Triandafyllidou to build a ranking of the submitted proposals. The three highest ranked proposals will be retained for implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

1. Selected proposals meet with the CERC migration researchers to identify the best course of action to address the questions raised (October-November 2020)
2. The CERC Migration researchers carry out the research and present preliminary findings (November 2020-March 2021)
3. Preliminary findings are discussed with the proponent organization and other stakeholders (March-April 2021)
4. Final Report including a video-presentation of the results, and Workshop for all three Projects (April-June 2021)

Research Costs

The research projects will utilize the data resources, staff and researchers available to the CERC Migration program. Research projects are not expected to incur any additional costs.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted by email by 30th June 2020, 4pm Eastern time, to cerc.migration@ryerson.ca

APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Details	
Project title:	
Organization Name:	
Principal Name:	
Address:	
Contact phone:	
Contact email:	
Project Details	
Background/Introduction	<300-400 words. What are the limitations or gaps that the project seeks to address?>
Research Questions	<500 words. Please state what are the main research questions that you would like to address.>
Scope of Work	<300-400 words. Please explain how answering the stated research question significantly improves the organization's strategic goals or operational practices?>