

## Go Public! Fund Further and Higher Education and Research

### Background paper

#### Call for proposals

From 24 to 26 October 2023, Education International will hold its 12<sup>th</sup> International Further and Higher Education and Research Conference (IFHERC) in Mexico City, Mexico. Every two years, the conference brings together Education International's member organisations representing workers in the Further and Higher Education and Research sectors. Under the theme ***Go Public! Leading further and higher education and research for the common good***, the 2023 conference will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences, analyse key issues and emerging trends impacting the workforce in the sector and discuss ways to address these, in the frame of the EI global campaign [Go Public!](#)

On the first day of the conference, participants will specifically examine and discuss the current landscape of public financing for further and higher education and research, and the impact of privatisation and commercialisation in the sector, as well as campaigning activities at national, regional and international levels for increased public investment in FHER. This paper will serve as a basis for discussion, by providing **a comprehensive analysis of the financing landscape of the sector in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular shedding light on evolutions/trends concerning the share of public financing in the sector compared to other sources, and related impact for staff in the sector.**

#### [Objectives of the research](#)

The paper should:

- a) **provide a comprehensive analysis of ongoing and emerging trends in relation to funding of Further and Higher Education and Research, in the context of post-pandemic recovery and current macroeconomic conditions, with a focus on evolutions/trends concerning the share of public financing in the sector compared to other sources.**

For the related period (2019-2020 academic year onwards), the research may compile and analyse available data concerning:

- Tertiary education expenditure:
  - o As a percentage of GDP / of total education expenditure
  - o Spending per student
  - o Disaggregated analysis by 'sector': Further vs. Higher education
  - o Disaggregated analysis according to sources: public vs. private expenditure (incl. tuition fees), international vs. domestic student expenditure
- Research funding:
  - o as a percentage of GDP, and if possible, including disaggregated analysis per source (private vs. public funding)
  - o Evolutions relating to different types of funding (core public funding, project-based funding, etc.)
- Staff to student ratio in Further and Higher Education
- Investments relating to digitalisation/digital technologies in FHER
- Impact of inflation on financing in the sector
- Expenditures on staff/salaries

**b) specifically discuss the impact of these evolutions/trends on employment in the sector**

In particular, the research may explore how the current financing landscape, as analysed under a) is impacting:

- Share of permanent employment in the sector
- Share and characteristics of temporary employment in the sector
- Emergence of new forms of employment
- Salaries and other types of compensations (if possible, in relation to a “living wage” for all categories of staff)
- Social protection and pension rights
- The enjoyment of academic freedom, institutional autonomy and collegial governance
- Female staff and staff from other equity seeking groups specifically
- Different categories of staff: academic vs non-academic staff
- Attraction/retention of staff in the sector
- Working conditions in the sector

In so far as possible, the analysis should consider possible and/or effective differential impact on various categories of staff: academic vs. non-academic staff, female vs. male staff and staff from equity seeking groups.

**c) identify existing financing targets for Further and/or Higher Education and/or Research at national, regional and international levels (e.g. EU target of 3% GDP for research) and in so far as possible, analyse above-mentioned trends against these targets.**

[Suggested methodology](#)

The exact scope of the research may be discussed with the EI Secretariat, based on the proposal submitted by the applicant(s).

In principle, the research will mostly rely on a desk-based review of available literature and data at international, regional and national levels. Interviews with key informants may be used to complement the data and consolidate the analysis, including with representatives of EI member organisations (such interviews may be facilitated by the Secretariat).

Considering the limited availability of internationally comparable data for the related period/indicators, it is suggested to consider including an analysis of a sample of five national systems from different regions. The countries would be agreed in discussion with the EI secretariat, taking into account the presence of affiliated organisations and possibly including:

- largest FHER systems worldwide (e.g. based on student population, scientific publications)
- at least one country in each of the following EI regions: Latin America, Africa, Asia Pacific.

[Outcomes of the research](#)

- Background paper of max. 5000 words including main findings and recommendations for future research.
- Oral presentation of key findings/discussion points/research recommendations at the 12<sup>th</sup> IFHERC (max 20 minutes) and interaction with conference participants throughout the day (24 October 2023). Education International will cover travel and accommodation costs.
- 1-2 page article summarising key findings to be published on EI's [Worlds of Education](#).

[Suggested timeline](#)

15 July 2023	Deadline for applications
19 July 2023	Proposal approved and decision communicated to all applicants
8 October 2023	Paper outline shared with the Secretariat
20 October 2023	Draft paper shared with the Secretariat
24 October 2023	Presentation at IFHERC and inputs from participants collected
24 November 2023	Final paper and article for <i>Worlds of Education</i> submitted

### Proposed budget

The total budget available for this research is a maximum of 15,000 EUR.

Education International will bear the costs related to copyediting, layout and the launch of the paper.

### Schedule of Payments

1/3 upon signature of the contract (July 2023)

1/3 upon receipt of the draft paper (October 2023)

1/3 upon receipt of the final paper (November 2023)

### Terms of the Contract

The contract should run for up to four months. The contractor will liaise with EI on the progress of the research. The research will remain confidential to EI and the contractor until the publication of the research.

### Application

Applications should include:

- The researcher(s)' up-to-date curriculum vitae(s);
- A concept note stating the research methodology, the scope and scale of the project as well as detailing how applicants' qualifications and experience make them suitable for the assignment;
- Overall cost of the assignment including a breakdown of expenses and consultancy fees.

Interested researchers should submit their applications via email to [sonia.grigt@ei-ie.org](mailto:sonia.grigt@ei-ie.org) no later than July 15.