



CALL FOR PAPERS

Introduction

The field of social protection in the twenty-first century poses enormous challenges. Unemployment, especially among young people, and the informal labor market, have both worsened in the wake of the global economic crisis of 2008. Education and worker training have yet to fully integrate the needs of the labor market.

Social inequalities are currently accompanied by a growing demand for resources to serve an increasingly aging population. Additionally, the costs of care for chronic noncommunicable diseases have reached unsustainable levels. In the Americas, these diseases are the cause of 11 years of productive life being lost due to premature death and disability. Should current trends continue over the next 20 years, life expectancy in the region could be reduced by up to 3.8 years. To a large extent, these diseases are linked to lifestyle and are, therefore, in large degree preventable.

The global population is aging. Pensions and retirement benefits, in some cases, are insufficient to meet the growing number of older adults with costly preventable diseases. In other instances, pensions are nonexistent because no retirement benefits exist. In Latin America, six out of ten people do not save for retirement, and many pensions do not exceed US\$10 per day.

The future of social protection has become one of the pillars of our collective destiny. The problem is that emerging costs demand additional budget that taxpayers cannot afford. Therefore, it is necessary to promote multi-entity, dynamic and flexible public policies, with the understanding that most of the social, economic and medical disciplines are closely related to the viability of social protection.

The participation of institutions, governments, academics, researchers, NGOs, and other stakeholders is critical to generating public policy proposals that include a *preventive approach*. In other words, it is critical to develop public policy vis-à-vis a vision that anticipates problems and identifies the most efficient use of resources. A preventive approach also includes a multi-entity approach to governance and includes evaluation mechanisms in order to promote a paradigm shift for an inclusive and sustainable social protection in terms of financing.

In this sense, the Inter-American Conference on Social Security and the Inter-American Development Bank recognize the need to promote the development and implementation of public policies resulting from assessments to identify their effectiveness.

Through the Inter-American Award for Research in the Field of Social Protection, the CISS and IDB seek to promote and drive research on the subjects of employment, pensions, education, housing, healthcare and other related materials to meet social protection challenges.

The Award is designed to promote research and study in the field of social protection within the Americas through innovative evaluation mechanisms that represent a timely and valuable contribution to the field of public policy design.

Award amounts and entry deadlines

Will be awarded the three most relevant works:

<i>1st place:</i>	<i>US\$7,000 and diploma.</i>
<i>2nd place:</i>	<i>US\$3,000 and diploma.</i>
<i>3rd place:</i>	<i>US\$2,000 and diploma.</i>

Total of Award Amounts: US\$12,000.00

* The Call for Papers begins February 02 2015.

Paper proposals must be sent by mail, no later than 6 PM on 30 June 2015 (Mexico City hour), to: award@ciss.net. All entries must include the following text in the email subject line: **Inter-American Award for Research in the Field of Social Protection**.

The Review Committee will evaluate the papers during September 2015 and announce its final decision during October 2015.

The authors of winning entries, as well as those worthy of other mention, will be notified via email.

The winning entries, as well as those that the Evaluation Committee shall consider outstanding, may be published by the CISS and the IDB in print, electronically or online, as it deems fit.

Submission requirements. (Minimum entry requirements).

1. All submissions must comprise theoretical or empirical research on social protection issues and must be limited to, in terms of geographical scope, the Americas. Said papers must contribute to development within, and progress of, the field of social protection.

2. It is also recommended that papers offer new ideas that take into account current realities, and contribute to the design of public policy in the field of social protection. It is recommended said contributions be conducive to evaluation and contain effects which can be measured using traditional research methods.

3. Finally, it is recommended that papers address social protection and the formulation of public policies aimed at creating synergies between government entities or between academic specialties; synergies which promote social participation, as well as the involvement of civil society and the productive sectors.

4. The Call for Papers will utilize the following eligibility requirements:

- Papers may be submitted, either on an individual or collective basis, by any authors who are nationals or residents of any CISS member-nation institution.

- Eligible entries shall include papers that: (i) have not been previously submitted and awarded in other competitions; (ii) have been completed and already made available to the field via the sponsorship of an academic or research institution; and (iii) have been submitted for publication or have been published after January 2014.

Papers published before December 31, 2013 shall be deemed ineligible. Under no circumstances shall the CISS and/or the IDB be held liable for any contractual obligations related to the publication of any submission, whereas said liabilities are solely the responsibility of the submitting author(s).

An author may participate in the submission of as many entries as they so desire.

Officials, paid consultants and interns currently on staff at the CISS and IDB may not submit entries. Review Committee members are also excluded from participating in the Call.

5. Entries must be written in Spanish, English or Portuguese and limited to between 8,000 and 12,000 words. Each paper must be submitted electronically in Word format and may contain graphics and other supporting materials. Each paper must include an abstract of 300-450 words.

6. Authors must also submit a résumé containing 250 words or less which must include, inter alia, the following:

- a) Full name*
- b) Nationality and country of residence*
- c) Institutional affiliation(s)*
- d) Education and academic degrees earned*
- e) List of major publications
- f) Occupation*
- g) Principal contributions made to their field

*Mandatory information.

Participants will receive an email confirming receipt of their work and a registration number. Said registration number is essential to ensuring an entry's participation in the Call.

Topics

Papers must address the issue of social protection in the following areas: pensions, healthcare, employment, housing, family allowances and other social benefits. Other relevant topics include the issues of human rights and inclusion (older adults, disabled individuals, gender and vulnerable groups, inter alia).

Special attention will be paid to papers that achieve the following: address the use of preventive approaches in the field of public policy formulation; offer sustainable funding options; take into account multi-entity management systems; propose institutional coordination mechanisms as well as mechanisms for the evaluation public policy implementation; and, facilitate synergies in order to promote participation of all economic, political and social agents.

Evaluation process

The Evaluation Committee shall consist of the Review Committee in addition to between three and five academics and/or officials from entities and organizations in the field of social protection. A standardized evaluation form, listing relevant criteria, which be used. The

Evaluation Committee will be composed of an odd number of members in order to expedite decision-making processes.

1. Papers received within the established time limits will undergo three stages of evaluation in which officials from the IDB and CISS will participate.

During the first stage, entries will be assessed vis-à-vis their overall conformance to Call criteria. This stage will be conducted expressly by Conference and IDB staff.

During the second stage, papers will be reviewed and evaluated by the members of the Evaluation Committee, which will be composed of officials from the CISS and IDB, as well as other subject-matter experts. Said committee shall employ the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Identification of a problem
- b) Theoretical value of same
- c) Empirical value
- d) Hypothesis formulation
- e) Methodology employed to formulate hypothesis
- f) Identification strategy (in the case of empirical studies)
- g) Control of bias for effects unrelated to hypothesis
- h) Contrasting the hypothesis
- i) Use of information sources
- j) Bibliography
- k) Definition of relevant variables (if any)
- l) Appropriate use of statistical methods (if any)
- m) Validity and significance of results
- n) Interpretation and discussion of results
- o) Handling of tables and figures (if any)
- p) Clarity of writing style
- q) Relevance to public policy formulation
- r) Importance and contribution study makes to field of social protection
- s) *Preventive approach*
- t) Level of innovation contained in proposals

In the third and final stage of evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will rule on and name the winners of the awards and commendations.

2. The Evaluation Committee may declare any or all awards null and void if they conclude that no submission satisfactorily complies with the submission requirements of this Call. Said Committee may also award honorable mentions and declare ties as it deems fit. Said decisions, as well as decisions regarding the winners of awards and commendations, shall be final.
3. If a winning paper has been nominated by an active member of the Conference, said Member shall receive two (2), full-ride (100%) scholarships, in addition to those stipulated in Articles 22 and 23 of the CISS Financial Regulations, and may be awarded during 2016.
4. Any unforeseen situations arising during the course of the Call shall be ruled on by the Evaluation Committee as necessary.

For further information regarding this Call for Papers:

Visit our web site: www.ciss.net

CISS Technical Secretariat: (52) 55-5377-4730

E-mail address: award@ciss.net