



Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica - CONICYT

GUIDELINES FOR THE SIXTH NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR RESEARCH CENTERS IN PRIORITY AREAS – FONDAP

CONICYT and FONDECYT's Superior Councils for Science and Technological Development announce a National Competition for Research Centers in Priority Areas (FONDAP).

I. OBJECTIVE

To encourage in Chile the development of scientific Research Centers of excellence and high impact under the framework of priority areas that address a highly relevant issue for the country or a special opportunity. These are Centers whose focus, structure and size allow for the development of a type of scientific research that goes beyond that which can be reached with other conventional funding sources. Projects must have a multidisciplinary approach and must contribute with research of excellence in the priority area they deal with, in association with national and foreign researchers in Research Centers that become international benchmarks. The Centers must achieve a high level of development, join recognized global networks, have a significant number of researchers with demonstrated productivity, and make an important scientific contribution to one of the applicable priority areas.

II. PRIORITY AREAS

The Centers must be in line with one of the priority areas that address relevant issues for the country, as defined by FONDECYT's Superior Councils. Said definition will be approved through an administrative act by CONICYT, which will complement the present competition guidelines.

III. BACKGROUND FOR PROPOSALS

Projects submitted to this competition must present an associative and multidisciplinary research proposal to create, operate and/or consolidate a Research Center, under the auspices of one or two sponsoring institutions. The Center must justify the relevance of the proposal in the context of the priority area to which it is applying and must include a concrete strategy for the development of collaborative research with at least one international scientific center or network with demonstrated expertise in the topic.

In order to facilitate their proper evaluation, proposals must contain all of the technical and financial information requested in these guidelines and in the form dictated in accordance with them, which will be available on the www.conicyt.cl/fondap website from the moment the call for proposals opens for this competition.

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the proposals, these will simultaneously apply for the FONDECYT Superior Councils for Science and Technological Development.

According to the definitions set forth in Annex N° 1 of these guidelines, the Center's proposal must include the following aspects:

1. Overview of the Center: Name, keywords, areas and region of the application, priority area, members and positions, sponsoring institution(s), associate institution(s), collaborators and foreign participating or associate institutions.
2. Background information of the researchers, curricula vitae and description of their roles in the center.
3. Description of the Center Proposal: The project description must explicitly relate to the objectives, work plan, activities, milestones and quality and impact indicators.
 - a. Scientific proposal: The Center Project must address one of the priority areas defined by FONDECYT's Superior Councils. The proposal must:
 - i. Describe the general scientific problem(s), general objective and specific objectives that will be addressed, justifying their relevance in the context of the issue of relevance for the country and the multidisciplinary strategy to develop the research. It must specify which topics of this problem will be addressed.
 - ii. Clearly establish the scientific progress expected to be obtained, beyond the state of knowledge in research already carried out by members of the Center, and the advantages of their associative action.
 - iii. Develop research activities in a coordinated and associative manner that contribute, as a whole, to address a common issue(s) or objective(s).
 - b. Scientific Productivity: A baseline of the current scientific productivity of the members of the Center must be submitted and the additional expected productivity must be specified, as well as the characteristics of the publications that result from the Center including their number, degree of multidisciplinary and/or improvement in the level of the publications (for example, measured by their impact index). See section III.5 of these guidelines.
 - c. Association: It is necessary to describe the new approaches to the scientific problem(s) to be addressed and the actions that will lead to the association of the team of principal investigators in order to address common objectives. It must also describe the effective interaction of the Center's national and foreign researchers, postdoctoral researchers, incorporated scientists and visiting scientists regarding the research conducted by the Center, all of this with the aim of generating research of greater quality and impact. Research groups must explain how they will be enriched with the participation of researchers in different stages of professional development and with the early incorporation, before the end of the Center's third execution year, of at least one foreign high-level scientist.
 - d. Collaboration: It is necessary to describe national and international collaboration actions that will enable the generation of generating networks and the integration of foreign top-level scientists to the Center for a period of at least six months in Chile. Proposals must include the participation of a foreign institution with proven expertise and high level in research of excellence by associating with the Center during its first year.

- e. Development of human resources: The project must describe the strategy to train professionals in the area and in other academic disciplines related to the Center's work at the undergraduate, master, doctorate and postdoctoral researcher levels. An estimate should be provided of the number of master and doctorate students and postdoctoral researchers that the Center expects to hire as new researchers, who are not already part of the principal investigators and visiting researchers.
 - f. Outreach and dissemination of results: Both the activities aimed at the national and international scientific community as well as those aimed at society at large must be described.
4. Work plan: The general work plan to execute the Center's program must be described, including goals and activities that will allow the achievement of general and specific objectives. It must include indicators, time frames and impacts expected by the Center in terms of its scientific proposal, association, collaboration, development of human resources and outreach.
 5. Organization and Management of the Center: The proposal must lay out the structure of the Center, including an organizational chart, the job descriptions for principal investigators and the activities committed in the program, as well as the management and procedures considered for the Center's operation. The experience of the Director and researchers in managing projects must be explicitly stated.
 6. Indicators: The project must establish quantitative and qualitative indicators that will allow for the evaluation of the development of objectives, the progress of activities, and the quality and impact of the Center's operation. A baseline and a projection of evolution of the proposed indicators must be included.
 7. Budget to operate the Center for five years: It must include the amounts allocated to each item being funded, as well as the sources of funding. It should also specify the resources committed by the sponsoring institution(s) and, if applicable, by the associate institution(s) for the Center's operation and consolidation, which must be made official through commitment letters duly signed by the authorities of those institutions.
 8. Institutional Commitments: The Center may have up to a total of two Sponsoring Institutions, which -along with the Associate Institution(s), if applicable- must make a minimum annual contribution to co-fund the Center's creation and development. This co-funding may include new hires, operating expenses, upgrading infrastructure or any other incremental resource contribution that will help consolidate the Center, as long as it meets the following conditions:
 - ✓ The Sponsoring Institution(s) -along with the Associate Institution(s), if applicable- must make annual contributions equal to at least 8% of the total annual funds requested from CONICYT, if they are in cash, and at least 2% of the total annual funds requested from CONICYT, if in kind.
 - ✓ The annual cash contribution of each Associate Institution(s), if applicable, must be higher or equal to 1% of the total annual budget requested from CONICYT.
 - ✓ Salaries of researcher(s) who are already hired by the Sponsoring Institution(s) or the Associate Institution(s), and who are part of the team of researchers at any of the phases of the Center, will not be considered cash contributions.
 - ✓ The following can be included as committed in-kind contribution: Resources for infrastructure, equipment, services or other similar expenses, that exceed the

amount that CONICYT will allocate to the Center for administration expenses, indicated in section VI.m of these guidelines.

9. Annexes: These must include the bioethical and biosecurity certifications, permits and others, if appropriate, as well as the affidavits of the principal investigators, the accreditation certifications of the doctorate programs associated to the proposal and the commitment or intention letters from the Foreign Institution(s).

Projects that do not comply with all of the provisions established in these guidelines will be declared non-compliant and will not be able to continue in this competition.

In the event that one or more projects is(are) declared non-compliant with the guidelines, this circumstance will be notified by FONDAP via certified mail and the affected applicant(s) will have a deadline of five business days since the reception of the letter to appeal the administrative act, in accordance to what is dictated by Law N° 19.880, which establishes the Guidelines for Administrative Procedures that regulate the activities of the Administrative Institutions of the State.

IV. STRUCTURE OF THE CENTER

The Center must have the following basic structure:

- 1) A Director who will be in charge of the scientific leadership and management of the Center.
- 2) A Deputy Director, who must be one of the principal investigators and have equal capacities and characteristics to those of the Director. The Deputy Director will take over the Center's leadership in the event that the Director is temporarily absent or unable to perform his/her duties and will exercise the same authority as the Director under these circumstances, as established in the respective grant agreement.
- 3) At least four principal investigators, including the Director and the Deputy Director.
- 4) Associate researchers.
- 5) An Academic Council made up of the principal investigators and presided over by the Director of the Center. This Council will be responsible for issuing regulations on how to run and operate the Center.
- 6) A Center Advisory Council, which will establish external links for the Center and will recommend strategies for connecting its work with public sector institutions, government representatives, private sector organizations and society at large. This Council must include the participation of the Director of the Center, the Director of the FONDAP Program and at least four members related to the issue of relevance for the country being addressed by the Center. The Center Advisory Council must meet at least every semester, issuing minutes of the topics discussed. This Council shall be constituted during the first year of execution of the Project.
- 7) A Scientific Committee, which will be in charge of recommending to the Center its general and strategic guidelines, suggesting new research activities or modifying or eliminating others, and evaluating the progress in research and in other activities of the

Center within the framework of the Project approved by CONICYT. This Council shall be made up of at least three foreign experts in the Center's fields of study. The Scientific Committee must meet at least once a year, issuing a report.

- 8) A research network composed of at least one foreign institution, with recognized expertise in research of excellence on the topic that is an integral part of the Project, which will participate in the project in formal association with the Center through the development of a collaborative research program. This research network must also include other national institutions.

V. PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE CENTER'S OPERATIONS

a. Duration: The project will have a five-year period and during that time it will execute the work plan presented in the proposal, a deadline that starts to run from the date when the administrative act in approving the corresponding agreement has been fully finalized. The execution of the project will be subject to the approval of annual evaluations. The achievement of objectives will be measured through the indicators defined in the proposal. The indicators must show the qualitative and quantitative contribution to high-quality scientific production and its impact on the area, as well as the development of associative activities, development of advanced human resources (preferably postdoctoral researchers), effective knowledge transfer, creation of national and international networks, collaboration and knowledge exchange with visiting scientists and other researchers, dissemination and activities carried out to establish links with the community. The evaluation will consider the activities carried out, the milestones and the achievement of objectives, all of which will be evaluated through indicators and according to the schedule proposed by the researcher(s). For more information, please see section V.f.

This grant may be renewed for another five years, only once, depending on the result of an exhaustive evaluation which will be performed during the second semester of the fifth year of execution, in accordance with what is set forth under section V.f. of these guidelines, and which will consider at least the fulfillment of the objectives, goals and indicators, as well as the presentation of a new work plan and schedule for the following period. This extension will depend on CONICYT's budget availability.

The recruitment, retention and incorporation of new researcher(s), as well as the effectiveness and quality of internationalization actions, will be evaluated -especially during the fifth year of operation- as a condition for renewing the commitments acquired by CONICYT with the corresponding FONDAP Center.

b. Agreement: An agreement must be signed by CONICYT, the legal representative(s) of the sponsoring institution(s) and the Director of the Center. This agreement will at least cover the following aspects:

- 1) The distribution of funds that constitute both CONICYT's contribution and that of institutions and third parties for the first year of the Center's operation, as well as the estimates for the following years of operation (years 2 to 5 and the possible sixth year to which section V.e. of these guidelines refers to).
- 2) The obligation of the sponsoring institution(s) to retribute to CONICYT any funding that has not been used for the purposes for which it was originally allocated, except for re-itemizations authorized by CONICYT.

It is expressly stated that, at the time of signing the corresponding agreement, none of the principal investigator(s) participating in the project can have unfulfilled contractual

obligations with CONICYT. If that should be the case, his/her participation in the project will not be effective and the Director of the FONDAP will notify the Director of the Center, within a period of 10 days since the situation was detected, and the Center will be forced to replace this person with one of similar expertise and experience in the tasks to be carried out at the Center, within a period of no more than 30 days. After this deadline, the Director of the FONDAP must, within a period of 10 days, communicate the acceptance of the proposed name or its rejection, in which case the early termination of the corresponding agreement may be sanctioned.

Therefore, researchers with pending academic reports or statements of expenses owed to CONICYT at the time of signing the corresponding agreement are expressly excluded from participating in the execution of a project approved in this competition.

c. Length of Stay of Researcher(s) in Chile: The Director of the Center and principal investigator(s) must remain in the country for at least six months of each year of the project's execution. It is the Director of the Center's responsibility to coordinate foreign travel of Center members in order to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives. As an exception, CONICYT will be able to expressly authorize absences for more than six months during a year of the project's execution.

d. Substitution of the Director of the Center: In the case of the Director of the Center's temporary absence or impediment, the Deputy Director will take over his or her functions.

Any changes in any of the project's principal investigator(s) or of the Director of the Center must be previously authorized in writing by CONICYT.

e. Disbursement of Funds: Funds are allocated in Chilean pesos and will be paid in at least one installment per year of the Center's operation. The amount of these installments may vary in accordance with the annual activities program, in compliance with the corresponding agreement.

CONICYT will be able to modify the amount of the funds budgeted for any of the operation years of the FONDAP CENTER, and their disbursement will be strictly subject to the existence and availability of CONICYT's budget, to the approval of the annual academic report and to the approval of the statements of expenses of the resources already disbursed.

The statement of expenses may be compartmentalized. However, the Center's full statement of expenses for the executed resources is a necessary condition for the disbursement of the following payment.

Nevertheless, the first disbursement will be considered as an advanced payment and, consequently, the corresponding reports will not be required. From the second year onwards, if the amount of funds provided is reduced by CONICYT due to budget availability, the Director of the Center, along with the Center's Academic Council, will be able to propose changes to the execution of the program originally presented, in order to adjust to this availability. These changes will be evaluated by CONICYT and may be accepted or rejected. If this new proposal is rejected, the Center must submit, within a period of 10 days, a new proposal that includes the changes requested by CONICYT. CONICYT must accept or reject this new proposal within a period of 10 days. If rejected, the agreement will be terminated, giving a one-year grace period to relocate students, thesis fellows, and scientists hired temporarily by the Center in similar or related projects. During this period, the operation and disbursement of funds specifically allocated to that end by CONICYT will be authorized, but

these shall not exceed 20% of the budget allocated for the first year of execution of the agreement signed by CONICYT and the Sponsoring Institution(s).

Each disbursement will be made upon prior submission of an immediately effective insurance policy, an on-demand performance bond or an endorsable promissory note equal to 100% of the transfer of funds disbursed in order to guarantee the faithful compliance with the use of the funds during the current year of execution. The validity of the insurance policy or performance bond must be at least 180 days longer than the execution period of the corresponding installment. For the last installment for the project, this guarantee must be valid for more than 240 days.

In the case of public organizations, there is no obligation within the Public Administration to guarantee and ensure the compliance of the commitments acquired through the signed agreements, therefore it is not necessary for said public organizations to provide instruments to guarantee the faithful compliance of the agreed obligations.

If the Center is a private organization, it will be mandatory for it to have a bank checking account exclusively for the management of the total amount of the resources transferred by CONICYT within the framework of the agreement.

If it is a public organization, it will be mandatory to request authorization from the Office of the General Comptroller of the Republic to open an exclusive bank checking account for the management of the total amount of the resources transferred by CONICYT within the framework of the agreement. The terms of the request must be approved by CONICYT before it is sent to the aforementioned Control Institution.

It is strictly forbidden for the Center to invest the funds transferred for the development of the Project in Investments in Financial Instruments (be they short or long term, of fixed or variable return), and the unilateral termination of the project by CONICYT will be sanctioned if the Center incurs in any such type of operations.

The Sponsoring Institution(s) must submit, in attachment to the agreement, a Registration Certificate from the Registry of Collaborators of the State and Municipalities. This is a mandatory requirement for CONICYT to be able to transfer the resources, as established in Law N° 19.862, dated February 8, 2003, when applicable.

f. Evaluation and Follow-Up: Within the 30 days following the conclusion of the execution year, the Center must provide an annual academic report, detailing the progress of the indicators and milestones in relation to the schedule proposed by the Center's researchers and the activities carried out to achieve specific objectives. This report must include results of ongoing research, of the development of activities to establish associations and to create national and international networks, activities for the development of advanced human resources, exchange with other researchers and/or similar centers -both national and international-, knowledge and technology transfer activities to the national community, dissemination and outreach activities, and a financial summary of expenses. The report must also include a summary of the period's most relevant scientific milestones, written in a style that is accessible to society at large through the media and that may be published by CONICYT. Each year, the Directors and/or principal investigators of the Centers may be invited to present their scientific progress in a meeting open to the public. The FONDAP Program will provide the guidelines for the presentation of the progress and final reports (See Annex N° 7 of the Agreement.)

the Director of the FONDAP Program must communicate to the FONDAP Center the acceptance or rejection of the annual progress report, within the 20 days following the reception of the annual evaluation report prepared by the foreign experts, giving the Director of the Center a period of 10 days to rectify the detected deficiencies. The Director of the FONDAP Program will have a period of 30 days to manifest his/her approval or rejection of the new report. If the document with the rectified deficiencies is not received or is not considered to satisfy the requests, the Director of the FONDAP Program may sanction the early termination of the corresponding agreement.

After the first two years of funding, the Center will be subject to an evaluation of its objectives and goals by a panel of external evaluators, previously selected by CONICYT, whose members may visit the Center and interact with its participants. This evaluation will consider the achievement of the stated goals and objectives. If these have been insufficient, CONICYT will proceed to terminate the agreement.

During the first 30 days of the second semester of the fifth year of execution of the project, the Center must submit a Final Report, which must show the fulfillment of the objectives originally proposed in the project and the achievements obtained during the nine semesters of project execution in the areas of research, association, human resource development, national and international collaboration, development of the Center as an international benchmark, information exchange and knowledge transfer to other institutions, professionals and specialists in other areas and the community at large.

The annual reports, the second-year evaluation report and the final report will be assessed by national and/or foreign experts who will be appointed by CONICYT. A set of evaluation guidelines, predefined by the FONDAP Program, will be used for these evaluations (Annex N° 8 of the Agreement). This evaluation process will not exceed a period of 60 days, starting on the date the documents are sent to the experts. The FONDECYT Superior Councils will be in charge of approving, making observations or rejecting the annual reports, the second-year evaluation, and the final report.

If the FONDECYT Superior Councils consider, according to the information provided by the evaluation panel, that the goals and objectives have been achieved, the Center will be able to present goals, objectives and projections for a second five-year period, as well as the distribution of funding required for their fulfillment. This information will be submitted by the Center in the form of a new work plan, which will include specific objectives, activities, milestones and a schedule, taking the Center's level of development during the first period of the project's execution as the baseline scenario. The plan will be assessed by a panel of external national and/or foreign evaluators appointed by CONICYT. The evaluation panel will be able to make suggestions or modifications to the plan presented by the Center, which will be evaluated by CONICYT. The Director of the Center will have 30 days to submit a new plan incorporating the suggested changes. If the new plan is not submitted within the given time period, the Center's funding will not be renewed.

If the evaluation panel finds that the new plan is in line with the purposes of the Center, CONICYT will proceed to renew it for a new five-year period.

If the above-mentioned evaluation determines that the achievement of goals and objectives has been insufficient, the agreement will be renewed for a one-year period granted as a grace period for the relocation of students, thesis fellows and scientists with temporary contracts in similar or related projects. During this period, the operation and transfer of a budget specifically defined by CONICYT for those purposes will be allowed, without

exceeding 20% of the budget allocated for the first year of execution of the agreement signed by CONICYT and the Sponsoring Institution(s).

Within 90 days of the end of execution of the second five-year period of the project, the Center must provide a Final Report, which must show the fulfillment of the objectives originally proposed in this second stage of the project and the achievements obtained during the five years of project execution in the areas of research, human resource development, national and international collaboration, development of the Center as an international benchmark, information exchange, and knowledge transfer to other institutions, professionals and specialists in other areas, including elementary and high school education, and the community at large. The final report will be submitted for evaluation by national and/or foreign experts to be appointed by CONICYT. A set of evaluation guidelines, predefined by the FONDAP Program, will be used for these evaluations (Annex N° 8 of the Agreement). This evaluation process will not exceed a period of 60 days, starting on the date the documents are sent to the experts.

If CONICYT does not have budget availability for funding the FONDAP Center, the time frame for the FONDAP Center may be reduced by proposal from either the Director of the FONDAP Program or the Director of the FONDAP Center.

g. Statements of expenses, Reports and Budgeting Plans: If the Sponsoring Institution(s) and/or the Associate Institution(s), if applicable, is (are) a public organization(s), the Center must submit statements of expenses on a monthly basis, as required by Resolution N° 759/03 of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic, during the five business days following the corresponding month. If the Sponsoring Institution(s) and/or Associate Institution(s), if applicable, is (are) a private institution(s), the Center must submit statements of expenses every three months. It is the Center's obligation to maintain supporting original documentation to prove that these declarations are up to date for tax purposes and for audits carried out by CONICYT or the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic. If the Sponsoring Institution(s) and/or Associate Institution(s) is (are) a private institution(s), the original documentation must be sent. The statement of expenses is a necessary condition to approve the disbursement of the following transfer of funds. In the event that a supporting document is partially and/or totally rendered and/or declared for more than one project and/or CONICYT Program, the projects concerned will be immediately terminated and relevant actions for the total reimbursement of funds provided will be initiated.

CONICYT will be able to review the monthly statements of expenses submitted by public institutions, grouping the statements provided into up to three months.

CONICYT must review the statements of expenses within a maximum period of 30 days since their reception. In the event that CONICYT objects to the declaration of some expense, the Center will have 15 days to send the corresponding clarifications to the FONDAP Program, starting on the date of the notification of the observation made.

CONICYT will decide if these clarifications are accepted or rejected within a period of ten days. If clarifications are rejected, the Center must reimburse to CONICYT, within a period of 20 days, the funds of the questioned expenses and CONICYT could sanction the early termination of the corresponding agreement.

CONICYT and the FONDECYT Superior Councils are responsible for the control and supervision of the transferred resources. CONICYT may conduct field inspections of the Center's inventory, that is, the Capital Assets funded by CONICYT, and could request the

Center to present bank statements of the checking account in order to ensure the correct use of the disbursed funds.

For the second and subsequent years, the Center will need to submit, within 30 days before the start of each new year of operation, a detailed budget for the corresponding period to be approved by the FONDECYT Superior Councils. The budget must include information about resource allocation to different items, both for contributions by CONICYT as well as by Sponsoring Institution(s) and Associate Institution(s). The latter only if they exist.

Academic reports and statements of expenses must be approved by CONICYT. The reports will be submitted in the respective forms, which will be made available to the Director of the Center or to the representative of the legal entity that has signed the agreement.

h. Certifications - Authorizations: FONDAP project researchers must comply with current regulations and standards that regulate scientific activity in the areas of the project.

Projects that involve studies in/with:

- i. Humans, human biological material and/or communities and native peoples (“Pueblos Originarios”)
- ii. Animals, animal samples and/or biological material,
- iii. Material that presents a biosafety risk,
- iv. Archaeological sites, paleontological material,
- v. Protected species, protected areas, introduction of species,
- vi. Files and/or databases containing sensitive information.

In the aforementioned situations, the applicants are required to attach specific certifications and/or authorizations, according to what is set forth in Annex 3 of these guidelines, which is an integral part of them.

It is the responsibility of the Director to attach, in non-protected/non-encrypted PDF format, the corresponding approving certifications and/or authorizations to the online application within the established deadlines. However, applicants who do not have them at the moment this call for proposals is closed will have a period to attach them to their online application, as indicated in the call for proposals. The lack of this information will constitute grounds for the project to be considered inadmissible. The Councils reserve the right to expand the deadline for applicants to attach the respective certifications to the proposal.

The Ethical and Bioethical Institutional Committees will be in charge of auditing, at least once during the execution of the project, the compliance with all of the regulations and protocols defined for it and approved by the FONDECYT Bioethical Advisory Committee. The auditing reports of these committees must be submitted along with the progress or final reports of the project.

The Councils will request the FONDECYT Bioethical Advisory Committee, if deemed necessary, a report on the ethical and/or bioethical aspects of the projects. Likewise, they may request independent ethical/bioethical or biosafety evaluations, if appropriate.

Projects that include studies in the Antarctic territory and/or have interest in receiving logistics support from the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH by its acronym in Spanish) for the development of their activities in that area, must attach to the application a “Pre-Evaluation of their Compliance with Environmental Regulation” and a “Logistics Feasibility Letter” provided by the Institute. Therefore, up to five days prior to the deadline for the

Directors to send their proposals to be signed by the Sponsoring Institution(s) and Associate Institution(s), if they exist (Section XII.e of these guidelines), it will be necessary to send to the INACH email proyectos@inach.cl the following forms: Operational-Logistics Requirements and Environmental Compliance (available in the call for proposals of this competition: Guidelines and Documents). The documents provided by the INACH must state that if the project is approved by the FONDAP it will receive logistics support from the Institute.

The INACH, in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement signed with CONICYT dated February 5, 2013, and its amendments, commits, depending on budget availability, to providing logistics support for the projects applying in the area of Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Science. This support will consist of: Funding of point-to-point transportation from Punta Arenas-Antarctic Territory-Punta Arenas; transportation within Antarctica; lodging at the INACH bases and camps; arrangements to allow the team to stay in other bases and camps; and food supplies during their permanence in the Antarctic continent. Depending on the logistics support requested, it may be co-funded by the Center.

Applicants will have a period up to the deadline set in the call for proposals to attach the indicated certifications to their online application.

i. Legal Entity: In the event that the Center notifies that it has obtained legal entity status, it will become the new recipient of funds and will also take over each and every one of the administrative and financial rights and obligations committed by the Sponsoring Institution(s). In order to make this change effective, the agreement signed by CONICYT and the Center must be modified, establishing all of the rights and obligations for each party. All of the parties involved must be present for this modification.

j. Truthfulness: Both the representative of the Sponsoring Institution(s) and the Director of the Center are responsible for the truthfulness of the information included in the application form. They are also the guarantors and are responsible for ensuring the activities carried out by the Center comply with bioethical and biosafety regulations. They must also be able to provide all supporting information required by CONICYT, as well as any other information deemed necessary by CONICYT during the application process and/or project execution.

The Director of the Center must also adhere to the Singapore Statement, contained in CONICYT'S Exempt Resolution N° 157 of January 24, 2013 as a global guide for responsible conduct in research, prior to initiating the process of sending the application to be signed by the Sponsoring Institution(s). The text of this document is available on the following website www.conicyt.cl/fondap, and there is also a direct link to said document on the online application system.

VI. ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONICYT FUNDING

The funds obtained through this competition can be allocated to all activities contributing to the achievement of project objectives. The amount requested must strictly cover real project needs and must be rigorously justified as this will be considered in the project's evaluation. Items eligible for funding with resources from CONICYT are:

a. Personnel: Funding may be requested for the professional fees of the Director of the Center, principal investigators, associate researchers and other researchers, postdoctoral researchers, support personnel and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate thesis fellows.

The resources allocated for the different categories of researchers (the Director, the Deputy Director, principal investigators and associate researchers) must be consistent with the information in their Curricula Vitae, their activities, and time dedication to the Center. The time dedication of each member of the Center must be expressly defined in the commitment documents to be signed by them, which should be attached to the project submission. Any type of indemnity is to be expressly excluded.

Resources for professional fees must be allocated using as a reference the following table of maximum annual amounts per person, for a full-time job, that can be covered with FONDAP funds.

Category	Maximum Annual Amount per Person (UF*)
Director	1,750
Deputy Director	1,450
Principal Investigator	1,450
Associate Researcher	1,250
Other Researchers	1,250
Visiting Researchers	2,250
Incorporated Researchers	2,250
Postdoctoral Researchers	1,180
Doctoral Students (Scholarship)	800
Master's Degree Students (Scholarship)	470
Undergraduate Thesis Fellows (Scholarship)	115
Support Staff	1,500

* **Translator's note:** The Unidad de Fomento (UF) is an indexed unit of account; a money analogue that can be used to price items for sale or to specify amounts to be repaid in the future.

New Hires: Whenever new researchers are hired, their selection will be made according to the standards and procedures used by the Sponsoring Institution(s) or Associate Institution(s), if applicable, for hiring academic personnel. As a basic requirement, these researchers must have a doctoral degree and, preferably, accredited postdoctoral training. The Center will be able to cover up to 100% of their professional fees for the first three years. After that period, these researchers will be funded by the institution they belong to. In case of pregnancy, hired female researchers will have the right to pre-natal and post-natal maternity leaves, maintaining the same amount of monthly pay established by the Director of the Center. In order to have access to this benefit, the researcher must present a medical certificate accrediting her condition to the Center, along with a schedule to reprogram her activities.

- **Postdoctoral Researchers:** The Center will be able to fund postdoctoral researchers for up to three years. This funding is incompatible with projects of the postdoctoral, initiation and regular competitions funded by FONDECYT. The postdoctoral researcher positions must be filled through a public competition.

In case of pregnancy, female postdoctoral researchers can extend their funding period and request pre-natal and post-natal maternity leaves, maintaining the same amount of monthly pay established by the Director of the Center. In order to have access to this benefit, the postdoctoral researcher must present a medical certificate accrediting her condition to the Center, along with a schedule to reprogram her activities.

- **Postgraduate Students:** Postgraduate students may only be funded by the Center as research assistants with resources requested from the FONDAP Program. These funds may only be used to cover up to 20% of the number of postgraduate students that participate in the Center. The benefits and duration of the scholarship must be equivalent to that established by CONICYT'S Advanced Human Capital Program.

Funds provided by the FONDAP Program are incompatible with scholarships funded with other public sector resources granted for the purpose of obtaining the same academic degree (master or doctorate). However, postgraduate students of a FONDAP Center will be able to apply for and receive additional benefits to be able to obtain their academic degree, such as: scholarships for events and short-term courses that complement the training of doctorate students.

- **Undergraduate Thesis Fellows:** The Center may fund scholarships for undergraduate thesis fellows for a maximum time frame of 12 months. The scholarship for each thesis fellow may not exceed the amount established in the table of maximum annual amounts per person and per category for each year of execution. A thesis fellow will be considered as such when he or she is enrolled in a Program at a Higher Education Institution. Funds provided by the FONDAP Program are incompatible with scholarships funded with other public sector funds.
- **Support Personnel:** Resources for support personnel (technical personnel and/or professionals) will only be allocated when their functions are clearly defined and justified.

All personnel payments are subject to taxation in accordance with current regulations.

Regarding this call for proposals, it is expressly stated that CONICYT is not hiring any work or service, but providing a State subsidy for the promotion of scientific and/or technological activities to be developed by third parties who are awarded these grants, in accordance to the legal and regulatory requirements that govern CONICYT's functions. Therefore, there is no subordination and dependency of CONICYT for the principal investigator(s), associate researcher(s) or any other personnel that is hired by or provides services for the Sponsoring Institution(s) and/or Associate Institution(s), if applicable. Likewise, there are no employment contracts with them –neither principal nor accessory- and, consequently, they are not governed by current legal regulations.

b. Travel Tickets and Per Diem Expenses: Expenses for travel and transfers directly related to the project's execution and the presentation of the Center's research results in international presentations and congresses must be included. Only economy-class travel tickets will be funded. Per diem expenses should be equivalent to the reference amounts established by FONDECYT (www.conicyt.cl/fondecyt).

c. Internationalization: This item should include expenses such as travel tickets and lodging for foreign scientists that participate in the Center, fees of foreign researcher(s) and postdoctoral researchers, organization of international congresses and workshops carried out in Chile, and any other expenses related to the Center's internationalization.

d. Operating Costs: These are costs derived from the project's execution, such as supplies, fungible material, laboratory material and analysis, equipment and physical space rental, computer services, training courses, related to the Center's research activities for non-administrative personnel, and costs associated to the design, editing and publication of printed and/or digital material for publicity, public relations and dissemination of the Center's progress, and additional expenses that must be undertaken in order to be able to use the donated equipment at its final destination, among others.

e. Capital Assets: This item may include equipment or instruments required for the project's execution. The amounts allocated must include expenses such as transportation, storage, clearing customs, installation, and all accessories required for the Center's operation.

The availability of appropriate equipment must be guaranteed to all members of the Center.

f. Infrastructure: This encompasses exclusively of costs incurred in infrastructural work, such as upgrading physical spaces, facilitating the installation of new equipment, preparation of blueprints and models and any other specific purposes of the project. Up to 10% of the total funds allocated to the project by CONICYT may be used to cover this item.

g. General Project Expenses: These correspond to the costs of utilities and other services (such as water, electric power, telephone, Internet, among others) associated to the project. This amount must not exceed 7% of the annual total allocated by CONICYT.

h. Administrative Staff: Fees for administrative staff (administration, accounting, secretaries and others) with dedication to the Center will be allocated only when their functions are clearly defined and justified. The budget for administrative staff funded by CONICYT must not exceed 5% of the total annual budget. These payments will be carried out in direct relation to the percentage of hours dedicated by the employees.

i. Expenses Incurred in Obtaining Legal Entity Status: The project covers all expenses related to obtaining legal entity status, which should be charged to this item when applicable.

j. Publications and Subscriptions: Funding for publications generated by the Center's research activities and accepted for publication in mainstream (ISI) journals and other journals with impact in the field of study may be included, as well as expenses resulting from subscriptions to journals relevant for the Center's research.

k. Insurance Policy or Guarantee Bond Expenses: These are expenses the Center must cover to obtain insurance policies or performance bonds for the purpose of guaranteeing the faithful use of the funds disbursed by CONICYT.

l. Consultancies: This item includes the costs of hiring external consultancies, when duly justified, required and relevant for the project's development, and for which the Center does not have internal capacities.

m. Administrative Expenses (Overhead): These correspond to expenses of the institutions, whether sponsoring or associate, directly related to the project, for use of infrastructure, equipment, services or others. These may not exceed 5% of the total annual funds allocated to the Center by CONICYT.

n. Unforeseen Expenses: These include all expenses which were not programmed and are essential to develop the research. Their amount must not exceed 10% of the annual total allocated by CONICYT.

VII. RESTRICTIONS TO APPLICATIONS

a. The simultaneous participation of the Director and/or principal investigators in two or more applications will constitute grounds for immediate elimination from the competition of all applications concerned.

b. The Director of the Center must have full-time dedication (44 hours per week) to managing and developing Center activities, in accordance with the commitment document that he or she must sign and submit during the project application stage. This full-time schedule may include lecturing, acting as the responsible researcher of a Regular FONDECYT project and other activities that contribute to the Center's objectives. Principal investigators must dedicate a minimum of 26 hours per week, while associate researchers will need to dedicate a minimum of 6 hours per week.

c. Proposals will be excluded from the selection process if at the time of application the proposed Director is also acting as Director or Main Researcher, Associate Researcher or Principal Investigator of Centers funded by the Basal Funds Program, Millennium Institutes, Centers for Advanced Research in Education and FONDAP Centers of Excellence that extend beyond September 30, 2015.

d. Proposals will be excluded from the selection process if at the time of the application the proposed Principal Investigator(s), is (are) also acting as Main Researcher(s) of a Center funded by the Basal Funds Program, Associate Researcher(s) of a Millennium Institute or Principal Investigator(s) of a Center for Advanced Research in Education or a FONDAP Center of Excellence that extend beyond September 30, 2015.

VIII. PROJECT EVALUATION

1. Submitted projects that meet the application requirements in these guidelines and in the application form will continue on to the following stages of evaluation:

- i. Distance Evaluation by International Panels for each Priority Area: The FONDECYT Superior Councils will nominate up to five international peer evaluators for each of the eligible priority areas. These experts will form the International Panel for that priority area. The members of the International Panels will perform distance evaluations of all projects within their priority area, based on the evaluation criteria specified under section VIII.2.1 of these guidelines. Their distance grading will be averaged. The International Panel's average evaluation will weigh 37.5% of the total score assigned to each proposal.

Only those proposals with an average score of at least three points in each of the criteria evaluated in this stage will go on to the next phase of evaluation.

- ii. Evaluation by International Panels through Interviews: The FONDECYT Superior Councils will nominate panels formed by members of the distance evaluation panels. Once the scores for the distance evaluation have been received, these panels will review the distance scores for each of the proposals and interview the researcher(s) whose proposals received average scores of at least three points in each criterion

under evaluation. The International Panel will assign a score to each of the proposals for which researchers were interviewed, based on the evaluation criteria specified under section VIII.2.1 of these guidelines. The Panel will then issue a Panel Grading that will weigh 37.5% of the total score assigned to each proposal. The Panel will prepare a consensus report on the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal and a list of priority proposals to be funded.

- iii. Evaluation by the FONDECYT Superior Councils: Considering the information gathered, the FONDECYT Superior Councils will review the proposals of the researcher(s) interviewed, and the evaluations of the International Panels of the Priority Areas. The assessment by the FONDECYT Superior Councils will be based on the evaluation criteria specified in section VIII.3 of these guidelines and will weigh 25% of the total score assigned to each proposal.
 - iv. Priority Listing and Competition Results: Based on the provisions included in the aforementioned points i, ii, and iii, the proposals submitted will be arranged in a priority listing and those with higher scores will be the ones selected for funding by this competition. Proposals will be funded in some of the priority areas, according to the priority listing and to CONICYT's budget availability. Only one proposal will be funded per priority area.
2. Evaluation Criteria for the International Panels in each priority area:

2.1 Distance Evaluation:

- i. Scientific Proposal: Quality, pertinence and relevance of the proposal in the context of the issue of relevance for the country; the proposed multidisciplinary strategy; the advantages of its associative action; and the feasibility for the Center to become an international benchmark (35%);
- ii. Scientific competences of the Director of the Center and the principal investigator(s) proposed for the Center: This will consider their scientific productivity and the impact of their publications. For the Director of the Center and the Deputy Director, their capacities to obtain and lead research projects with national or international sources will be considered (25%);
- iii. Association: Quality, pertinence and feasibility of the interaction of national and foreign researcher(s), postdoctoral researchers, and incorporated and visiting scientist(s), to generate research of higher quality and impact (10%);
- iv. Collaboration: Quality, pertinence and effective integration of the national and international collaboration strategy (10%);
- v. Training: Quality and quantity of the development of advanced level researcher(s) in the priority area being addressed (10%);
- vi. Outreach: Coverage and effectiveness of the dissemination actions of the proposed strategy, including those at a society level (10%).

Each of the above evaluation criteria will be graded on a scale from 0 to 5 points, allowing for the assignment of half-points.

2.2. Evaluation by the International Panel:

The panels of international experts will assign a score on a scale from 0 to 5 points (allowing for the assignment of half-points) to each of the submitted proposals, based on the information provided during the interviews with the research team of the proposals evaluated and the criteria specified under section VIII 2.1 of these guidelines.

3. Evaluation by the FONDECYT Superior Councils. The FONDECYT Superior Councils will analyze:
 - i. Relevance and pertinence of the proposal for the development of science and the contribution to the knowledge of the country issue. Viability of the project (25%);
 - ii. Scientific competencies of the Director of the Center and the principal investigator(s) proposed for the Center: This will consider their scientific productivity, the impact of their publications and their relevance in the context of the priority area for which they apply. For the Director of the Center and the Deputy Director, their capacities to obtain and lead research projects with national or international sources will be considered (35%);
 - iii. Consistency between the requested resources, objectives and work plan (15%);
 - iv. Potential impact on the development and/or consolidation of research teams that will allow the country to produce top-level knowledge (10%);
 - v. Level of international association: Quality, relevance and effective integration of the international collaboration strategy (10%);
 - vi. Institutional commitment of the Sponsoring and Associate Institution(s) to establish, maintain and expand the Center (5%).

Each of the above evaluation criteria will be graded on a scale from 0 to 5 points, allowing for the assignment of half-points.

IX. COMPETITION RESULTS

Based on the evaluations of the Center proposals (sections VIII. 1, 2 and 3), the FONDECYT Superior Councils will select the projects to be funded through this competition. Should there be any relevant recommendations regarding academic and/or financial aspects, these must be modified before signing the agreement. If this requirement is not fulfilled, the agreement cannot be signed and the award will not be made effective.

CONICYT will award competition funds through the corresponding resolution issued by its President and the names of the approved projects will be listed on its website. The decision will be communicated through a letter sent by certified mail to the Directors of the awarded Centers.

If any awarded Center finds that the allocated budget affects the viability of the proposed program, it should notify the FONDECYT Superior Councils, in writing, within 15 days of the date the results were notified along with all of the necessary information to assess the situation. If the proponents consider that this will make the Center unviable, they must forfeit their right to funding, aside from any appeal they may file in accordance with the legal system.

Applicants who are not selected will be notified via certified mail of the result of their application, along with the scores and comments of the evaluations.

X. AGREEMENT SIGNATURE

Once the competition has been awarded, the corresponding grant agreements will be signed by CONICYT, the Sponsoring Institution(s) and the Director of the Center, within a time frame which cannot exceed 90 days from the date the decision is notified via certified mail. The agreement must set forth the rights and obligations of the parties, its duration and all clauses that safeguard the fulfillment of the program's purposes.

In the event that the agreement is not signed by the award recipient within the previously indicated time frame, the corresponding award will not be made effective.

XI. AUTHORITY OF THE FONDECYT SUPERIOR COUNCILS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

The FONDECYT Superior Councils will be able to disqualify proposals which do not meet the application requirements set forth in these guidelines or in the application form.

The FONDECYT Superior Councils will be able to request applicants to provide complementary background and information about the proposal as deemed necessary.

The FONDECYT Superior Councils will be able to request information about the work of the Center as deemed necessary.

As a result of follow-up and control activities, the FONDECYT Superior Councils, along with CONICYT, reserve the right to temporarily suspend the disbursement of funds for a maximum period of six months, due to a partial unfulfillment of the obligations established in the agreement or an unsatisfactory development of the project. Likewise, they can also sanction the early termination of the agreement, along with CONICYT, if the previously mentioned causes for suspension are not overcome by the Center during the time frame – which cannot exceed the aforementioned period of six months- determined to that end by the FONDECYT Superior Councils. In such an event, the total or partial restitution of the grant will be demanded, depending on whether or not the reason for early termination of the agreement can be attributed to the beneficiary.

The FONDECYT Superior Councils may freely and without limitations of any kind, mentioning the author when applicable, disseminate any non-confidential information about the Center and its activities received through progress and final reports. Likewise, they may use and disseminate anonymously any other data related to the project, for the purposes of maintaining and publishing statistical information about the projects in general.

The FONDECYT Superior Councils have the authority to define the sense and scope of this competition's guidelines, whether by their own initiative or at a party's request.

XII. RECEPTION OF PROPOSALS

- a. The call for proposals will be announced in a national circulation newspaper once all of the administrative acts required to approve these guidelines have been finalized and the applicable priority areas have been defined.
- b. The moment the call for proposals is open, its guidelines and instructions will be available on the CONICYT website, www.conicyt.cl/fondap, and at the Direction of FONDAP Program, located at Moneda 1375, Piso 9, Santiago Centro, under the name of "Sixth National Competition for Research Centers in Priority Areas – FONDAP".
- c. The application will be done through the online platform of the FONDAP website www.conicyt.cl/fondap. To that end, the Director will enter all of the information online and attach the files required for the application in unprotected PDF format.

In addition, the applicant will have to send to the FONDAP Program one (1) printed and bound original version of the proposal. This must include the original commitment letters, which will also be made available in copy through the online application system, once the institutions sponsor the proposal.

- d. Each section must be submitted in the languages indicated in the online application system.
- e. Closing dates for the applications through the online system:
- The Directors will have until the date established in the call for proposals to send their proposals to be signed by their Sponsoring or Associate Institution(s), if applicable.
 - The Sponsoring Institution(s) will have time to apply online until 10 business days after the date indicated in the previous paragraph.

In addition, the Directors will need to send an original bound printed version, identical to the version submitted on the online application, by the end of 14 business days after the closing date for Directors established in the call for proposals.

- f. Once the call for proposals has been closed, the deadline for the institutional sponsoring has passed, and the proposal has been received by CONICYT, it will not be possible to rectify, eliminate or include additional information to the proposal.

This situation does not apply to the certifications and/or authorizations expressly mentioned in the guidelines, until their indicated dates and times.

- g. Place of submission:
- a. Online application: FONDAP website, www.conicyt.cl/fondap, until the date and time set forth in the call for proposals.
 - b. Submission of the original printed version of the online sponsored proposal: FONDAP Program, located at Moneda 1375, Piso 9, Santiago. If the project is being sent via certified express mail or bus, CONICYT must be notified by electronic mail to fondap@conicyt.cl. The sending date must not be later than the closing date and time indicated in the call for proposals.
- h. Questions about the guidelines for this competition must be made through the website www.conicyt.cl/oirs.

Questions about the guidelines will only be received until five business days before the deadline for online application to CONICYT for sponsoring institutions announced in the call for proposals.

For technical questions about the online application system, please contact the Secretariat of the FONDAP Program at the following telephone number (56-02) 2435 4327 until the deadline for online application to CONICYT for sponsoring institutions.

The printed versions of the projects submitted for this competition will not be returned.

THE FOLLOWING ANNEXES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE GUIDELINES.

ANNEXES

ANNEX N° 1: DEFINITIONS

a. FONDAP Program: Its purpose is to promote in Chile the development of scientific Research Centers of excellence and high impact in priority areas that address an issue of great relevance for the country and are aimed at creating and consolidating multidisciplinary research teams that have a significant number of researchers with demonstrated productivity.

b. Director of the FONDAP Program of Research Centers of Excellence in Priority Areas: Referred to, hereinafter, as the Director of the FONDAP, is the one individual authority with the prerogative to act on the functions and responsibilities expressly identified in these guidelines, and expressly given to him or her by the FONDECYT Superior Councils. At the same time, he/she will be the link between CONICYT, the Sponsoring Institution(s) and the Director of the FONDAP Center.

c. Project: A project will be understood as the scientific research proposal that meets the requirements set forth in these guidelines, in terms of involved personnel, requested budget and technical proposal. The project(s) must be executed in Chile.

d. Center: It is the functional unit formed by a team of researchers dedicated to research activities within the priority area to which it is applying, and having one (or two) national sponsoring institution(s). Its functions will be to:

1. Develop research of excellence;
2. Promote associative research;
3. Develop advanced human resources;
4. Establish national and international collaboration networks; and
5. Disseminate the results to the scientific community and society.

e. Director of the Center: Academic authority in charge of the scientific leadership and management of the Center. He or she must be a scientific leader, with proven capacity to manage research projects, renowned national and international expertise, and demonstrated experience in postgraduate education, which will be verified through his or her Curriculum Vitae. This Director must work for the sponsoring institution(s) and have a full-time dedication (44 hours per week) to manage and develop the Center's activities. This full-time schedule may include lecturing, acting as the researcher responsible for a regular FONDECYT project and other activities that contribute to the Center's objective. The Director of the Center must also be a Principal Investigator of the Center. The Director must reside in Chile at the moment when the project begins.

f. Principal Investigator: Researcher with prominent experience in research supported by publications, by the recognition of his/her national and foreign peers and by demonstrated experience in research, which will be verified through his or her Curriculum Vitae. He or she must dedicate at least 26 hours per week to the different activities of the Center. The principal investigator(s) must reside in Chile at the moment when the project begins. The principal investigator(s) must belong to the sponsoring institution(s) or one of the Center's associate institution(s), if applicable. It is expected that the principal investigator(s), including the Director of the Center, will have led, in the last six years, at least two Regular

FONDECYT Projects or equivalent national or international projects (such as principal investigator of a FONDAP Center, associate researcher of a Millennium Institute or Nucleus, or researcher of a Team Grant Project).

g. Associate Researcher: Researcher, with prominent experience in research backed by publications and by the recognition of his/her national peers, who will support the principal investigators in the Center's research activities. He or she must have a dedication of at least six hours per week to the different activities of the Center.

h. Other researcher(s): These correspond to researcher(s) participating in the Center with a part-time or occasional position and who will support the Center's research activities. This category includes collaborators and experts, among others.

i. Visiting researcher(s): These correspond to Chilean or foreign researcher(s) residing abroad who will visit the Center and remain working in it for at least three months.

j. Incorporated researcher(s): These correspond to Chilean or foreign researcher(s) residing abroad, who will be incorporated into the center, with residence in Chile.

k. New Hires: In the case of new researchers, their selection and hiring will be made according to the standards and procedures used by the sponsoring institution(s) or associate institution(s), if applicable, for hiring academic personnel. As a basic requirement, these researchers must have a doctoral degree and, preferably, accredited postdoctoral training.

l. Postdoctoral researchers: Professionals who have obtained their doctorate degree during the last five years and who are actively conducting scientific research, generally led by a researcher with more experience. The postdoctoral researcher positions will be filled through a public competition and will be approved by the Academic Committee. The Center must host these people, as a part of its objective to train young researcher(s).

m. Postgraduate students: Postgraduate students (doctorate or master) whose research must be related to the activities of the Center. The Center must host these people as part of its contribution to the development of advanced human resources set forth in these guidelines.

n. Undergraduate thesis fellows: Undergraduate students who are in the final stage of their degree, preparing their thesis on topics related to the activities of the Center.

o. Support staff: This includes professionals, technicians, specialists or research assistants who participate in the activities of the Center, supporting the work of researcher(s).

p. Sponsoring institution: It is the Institution that receives the funds allocated exclusively and directly to the development of the project and which provides the physical space and service support to the team of researcher(s) who submit the scientific research proposal. It will act as CONICYT's counterpart and be responsible for the project's execution. The projects may have up to two sponsoring institutions.

q. Associate Institution(s): These are all national research institutions that may participate in the Center contributing with infrastructure, researcher(s), resources, and/or funding. At the moment of application, the proposal must include the commitment letters stating this co-funding. In addition, the institutions that participate and contribute to the Center's operation, and to which at least one of the Center's principal investigators belongs to, must also be considered as Associate Institutions.

r. International Institutions/Centers: These are all foreign institutions of renowned experience and high-level research of excellence that may participate in the Center as associates or collaborators. At the time of application, the proposal must include the intention or commitment letters which indicate their participation at the institutional level.

s. Academic Council: Council formed by the Director of the FONDAP Center and the principal investigator(s) and presided over by the Director of the Center, who will be responsible of imparting the guidelines for the Center's functioning and operation. This Council must be created during the first year of execution.

t. Advisory Council: Council that establishes external links for the Center and recommends strategies to connect its work with public sector institutions, government representatives, private sector organizations and society at large. This Council will be made up of the Director of the Center, the Director of the FONDAP Program and at least four members related to the country issue being addressed by the Center. The Center Advisory Council will meet at least every semester, keeping minutes of the topics discussed. This Council must be created during the first year of execution.

u. Scientific Committee: Committee in charge of recommending general and strategic guidelines to the Center, suggesting new research activities or modifying or eliminating others, evaluating the progress in the research and other activities of the Center within the framework of the Project approved by CONICYT. This Council will be made up of at least three international experts in the fields of study of the Center. The Scientific Committee must meet at least once a year, issuing a report. This Committee must be created during the first year of execution.

v. Dialogue: It is understood as the active communication aimed at providing feedback between the Center and stakeholders of the public sector, private sector and civil society.

w. Dissemination: It is understood to encompass all dissemination activities aimed at the external community, beyond the academic scope, with the aim of informing about the Center's partial progress and/or research results.

x. Transfer: It is understood as the transfer of knowledge, competencies and/or technologies from the Center to the private and/or public sector.

y. Days: For all intents and purposes, whenever the word "days" is mentioned in these guidelines it must be understood as business days, unless it is expressly specified that they are calendar days.

ANNEX N° 2: ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

National institutions that comply with each of the following requirements are eligible to act as sponsoring institutions:

1. To be a non-profit legal institution. Public or private universities, public or private independent academic centers, public or private research institutes, corporations and foundations may participate as sponsoring institutions.
2. To have demonstrated experience in scientific research and participation in the training of doctoral fellows with current accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission (CNA by its acronym in Spanish).

3. To have a legal existence of at least three years prior to the time of application.
4. To have and/or commit adequate physical infrastructure for the research purposes.
5. To prove that the institution has the main affiliation of at least one of the principal investigator(s).
6. To commit to contributing with infrastructure, researcher(s), resources and/or funding for the Center's operation.

ANNEX N° 3: CERTIFICATES, SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS, PERMITS AND OTHERS

The following certifications are required as part of this application form only in the cases applicable to them.

Projects that involve studies in/with:

a. Humans, human biological material and/or communities and native peoples ("Pueblos Originarios")

In the context of Law N° 20.120 on "Scientific Research on Humans, their Genome and which Prohibits Human Cloning" and current regulations, projects involving studies on or with humans (biomedical, pre-clinical, clinical and social, that include samples, personal data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc.) must submit:

- i. Favorable report (certificate), duly justified, issued by the Ethics/Bioethics Committee of the Sponsoring Institution (the Institution to which the Director of the Center belongs to) and of the institutions where research will be conducted. The report must explicitly consider in its ethical justification those situations that are ethically sensitive in research, such as: Social vulnerability, invasion of privacy, physical and mental integrity, among others. In addition, it will be required for applicants to submit a duly justified favorable report issued by the Ethics/Bioethics Committee(s) of the institution(s) where studies will be conducted, or where the inclusion of biological subjects and/or samples is considered, or a written authorization by the corresponding authority explicitly accepting the favorable report by the Ethics Committee of the Sponsoring Institution.

In the case of research with communities and/or native peoples ("Pueblos Originarios"), it is also necessary to demonstrate, to the extent possible, the authorization of the community or of the corresponding authority.

- ii. A copy in Spanish of the specific Informed Consent document(s) for the study, including the particular aspects of the protocol to which the study subjects will be incorporated. In addition, they will need to have the Informed Consent of parents or tutors and, whenever possible, the Informed Consent of the child/adolescent, if they are between eight years old and one day younger than 18 years old. These documents must be approved by the Ethics/Bioethics Committee which will issue the favorable report (see the FONDECYT website: <http://www.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/2012/10/31/bioetica>, Suggestions for Writing an Informed Consent for Studies on Human Subjects).
- iii. Standard letter from the Director(s) of the Facility(ies) or Institution(s) participating in the study.

Regarding the use of data collection instruments, it is essential to respect the ethical, legal, professional and training requirements necessary for the application of specialized tests (such as psychological tests). Likewise, it is recommended to verify that these tests have been validated in Chile for their use in the population or participants to which they will be administered. If that is not the case, the Responsible Researcher for the study must justify their application and explicitly describe the limitations this entails for the analysis and interpretation of results.

For the use of biological materials obtained from humans, it is necessary to review the UNESCO International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, available from the FONDECYT website: <http://www.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/2012/10/31/bioetica/>.

b. Animals, animal samples and/or biological material

Projects involving experiments on animals must submit: A duly justified Favorable Report (certificate) issued by the Bioethics Committee of the Sponsoring Institution and the institution(s) where experiments will be conducted, justifying the use of all species involved in the study, in accordance with the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement); Animal Handling Protocol (which must include details of animal species, all of the procedures to be performed, and analgesia, anesthesia, and euthanasia techniques, if applicable); Animal Care and Use Protocol (indicators to be evaluated periodically in order to ensure animal welfare), if necessary. Please see Suggestion for the Justification of Animal Bioethics Certification and Law N° 20.380 on "Animal Protection", available on the FONDECYT website <http://www.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/2012/10/31/bioetica/>.

c. Material that presents a biosafety risk

Projects that involve handling pathogens for humans, animals or plants, recombinant DNA and/or radioisotopes, wastes or other risk elements must have a certificate issued by a Biosafety Committee of the Sponsoring Institution and the institution(s) where experiments will be conducted, in accordance with the specifications contained in the "Biosafety Regulations Manual", edited by CONICYT version 2008, available on the FONDECYT website <http://www.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/2012/09/10/manual-de-normas-de-biosecuridad-2008/>. If there is no such certificate, a justified letter signed by the Dean or Research Director of the Sponsoring Institution may be attached, indicating which biosafety measures will be taken and the resources available for the Responsible Researcher to conduct the study according to the specifications in the Manual. In the event that the project does not include the appropriate measures, the FONDECYT Superior Councils may determine its rejection or condition its approval to the upgrading of infrastructure for the proposed experiments.

d. Archaeological sites or paleontological material

Projects that require conducting studies on collections must include formal authorizations from the institutions charged with safeguarding that heritage.

Projects requiring a certificate from the National Monuments Council must submit proof that the request has been received by the institution. The corresponding authorization must be submitted during the year of execution in which it is required.

e. Protected species, protected areas, introduction of species

Applicants will need to attach the authorization(s) or proof(s) that demonstrate that such authorization(s) has been requested to the corresponding institution(s): the National Livestock and Agriculture Service (SAG by its acronym in Spanish); the National Forestry Corporation of Chile (CONAF by its acronym in Spanish), the National System of State Protected Areas (SNASPE by its acronym in Spanish); the National Fisheries Service (SERNAPESCA by its acronym in Spanish); and the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH by its acronym in Spanish), among others. If the project is approved, the applicants will need to have the corresponding authorizations before it begins.

f. Files and/or databases (sensitive information)

Applicants must attach all authorizations issued by the corresponding institution(s) charged with safeguarding the information. They must also indicate what safety measures will be taken by the Responsible Researcher in order to protect the corresponding information.

g. Modifications

In the event that methodological modifications are made which involve bioethical and/or biosafety aspects, the project will need to be reevaluated and approved by the Ethics/Bioethics Committee of the Sponsoring Institution and/or the collaborating institution and this situation must be informed to the FONDAP.

If, at the time this call for proposals closes, the aforementioned documents are in the process of being obtained, the maximum deadline for attaching this information to the application will be that indicated in the call for proposals.

ANNEX N° 4: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

The submission of the following items and/or documents is mandatory; not submitting them will constitute grounds to exclude the proposal from the competition. Please indicate if they are attached to the proposal.

Application Form	(✓)
Submission of the proposal in English (name, priority area, research team, etc.)	
Name of the Center proposal	
Name of the Director of the Center	
Name of the Deputy Director of the Center	
Priority Area	
Keywords	
Application sector	

Application Region	
Name of the Sponsoring Institution(s)	
Name of the Associate Institution(s), if applicable	
Name of the foreign Associate Institution(s)	
Names of the Principal Investigators (at least four researchers)	
Names of the Associate Researchers, if applicable	
Background of researchers (Curricula Vitae)	
Curricula Vitae of all Principal Investigators	
Curricula Vitae of the Associate Researchers (Mandatory only when Associate Researchers have been included)	
Job Description of the Principal Investigators	
Research proposal	
Abstract	
Scientific Abstract in Spanish	
Scientific Abstract in English	
Outreach Summary in Spanish	
Outreach Summary in English	
Preparation of the Proposal:	
Project Description: It must contain the following information: Scientific proposal (description of the general scientific problem, general and specific objectives, establishment of the scientific progress expected to be attained, development of coordinated and associative research activities); scientific productivity; association; collaboration; development of human resources; outreach and dissemination of results.	
Collaboration strategy	
Bibliographic references	
Work Plan	
Organizational Chart (it must include everything indicated under section IV of the guidelines for this call for proposals)	
Background on the productivity of the Principal Investigator(s)	
Academic background	
Principal Investigator(s) and Functions	
Indicators	
Quantitative Indicators (beyond baseline)	
Other indicators (optional)	
Means of verification of the indicators (contribution beyond other projects)	
Object of study (optional)	

Budget in Spanish	
Requested budget	
Justification of the requested budget	
Justified personnel estimate	
Budget committed by the Sponsoring Institution(s)	
Commitment letter(s) of the Sponsoring Institution(s)	
Budget committed by the Associate Institution(s) (Mandatory only when Associate Institutions have been registered)	
Commitment letter(s) of the Associate Institution(s) (Mandatory only when Associate Institutions have been registered)	
Justification of the budget committed by the Sponsoring Institution(s) and Associate Institution(s), if applicable.	
Mandatory Annexes in Spanish	
Bioethical and Biosafety Certificates, Permits and others, if applicable	
Affidavits of the Director and Principal Investigator(s), and of the Associate Researcher(s), if applicable	
Accreditation Certificates of doctoral programs related to the proposal	
Letter of Commitment or intention of participating issued by the foreign institution	