

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking)

Goals

The aim of the CAT initiative is to foster **networks of excellent early-career researchers** dedicated to devising new ideas to understand and to tackle current or emerging **societal challenges**. Although the programme has a strong focus on the societal relevance of the projects, it is entirely **blue sky**, bottom-up and non-thematic. CAT encourages a **collaboration with stakeholders outside academia** (industry, policymakers, NGOs...) who are willing to support or engage in innovative research initiatives.

In order to engage in fruitful discussions and mature their ideas, the groups will be given the opportunity to **meet for short stays** in different participating institutes, and to be **put in contact with the institutes' fellows and local research communities**.

With few guidelines and a very light application process, CAT is designed to maximize the creativity of research groups. This call has been incubated in the **Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NETIAS)** and also involves institutes beyond the network. The collaboration between twelve different institutes in different countries aims at giving these groups access to a great variety of high-level thinkers and researchers in order to **go beyond the current frontiers of knowledge** and to develop highly innovative ideas on how to address very complex societal issues.

Support

CAT will provide teams of **early-career researchers** (three to five persons, possibly including a stakeholder) time and space for thought and discussion in the best research environments Europe has to offer. During a period of up to three years, teams will benefit from a series of short stays (i.e. between one and two weeks, two to three times a year, for a maximum of six stays) in institutes participating in the 2021 call (**see list below**). Online meetings and digital research stays at the institutes are possible alternatives to onsite stays and can complete the work and time plan of CAT groups.

CAT will cover travel and accommodation expenses for the team meetings/short work stays in the participating institutes. CAT will not fund salaries or research related expenses.

The participating institutes will support the teams by connecting them with the most knowledgeable and experienced researchers onsite as well as digitally, and by helping them valorise the obtained results through their legitimating channels. During their stay, CAT teams will benefit from the institutes' amenities and conviviality for work and exchanges. Discussions at the institutes will provide a unique sounding board for innovative ideas and will give valuable feedback.

Obligations for CAT groups

Given the rapidly changing circumstances of the global COVID-19 pandemic, future rescheduling of the planned onsite meetings and extensions of the project duration are not encouraged. The selected groups will be asked to hold at least one onsite meeting and hold all planned meetings within three years. i.e. 2022-2025.

At mid-term, the continuation of the team's work will be subject to approval after evaluation of a short progress report. At the end of their project, in addition to the organization of (a) final meeting(s) presenting the results, the CAT teams will be expected to produce a final report in the form of a text, video, website or other media, that will be made public.

In keeping with the policies of the participating institutes, the researchers retain the intellectual property rights to their work.

Eligibility criteria

- Your project must address emergent societal issues.
- The **Principal Investigator** (team leader) must have a stable research position in a European (EU as well as UK and associated countries) higher education and/or research institution for the entire duration of the project.
- S/he must have obtained a PhD between January 2012 and December 2020.
- No team member should have obtained his/her PhD before January 2012. Doctoral researchers may also participate.
- There is no specific requirement for representatives of stakeholder organizations.
- Each team should include participants from at least **two different countries** (current workplace, including non-European countries; any nationality).
- The team of 3 to 5 persons (stakeholders included) must be **fully constituted, with CVs** of all members named in the proposal.

Applications

Please submit your application documents in English as PDF files. Applications should include the following materials:

- (1) a 300-word **abstract**;
- (2) a 3000-word max project proposal (references not included in the count) OR a video of 15 min max (in this case, please include the web link in the abstract), describing the team's **research question** and how it plans to address it. The team's motivation as well as the societal issues addressed and the interdisciplinary aspects of the project should be specified;
- (3) a **work plan** for the whole project duration, including meetings (tentative dates and possibly preferred hosting IAS) and activities with an indicative calendar;
- (4) a **short description** of the team
- (5) a PDF file with **CVs** for each participant and an indication of where they will travel from to the meetings;

- (6) **letters of support:** at least two from academic researchers; additional letters from extra-academic stakeholders outside academia are encouraged.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit proposals via [the online application platform](#).

Selection and evaluation process

The proposals will be examined by the participating institutes and peer-reviewed by experts. In the spirit of a bottom-up and open call, the way the teams understand the call and design their proposal is one assessment criterion. Other criteria include academic quality and interdisciplinarity of the proposal and its societal relevance, the quality of the team, the organization and feasibility of the work plan and the innovativeness of the approach to the issue at stake.

The CAT selection committee will allocate stays of teams to the various participating institutes. Teams may suggest specific participating institutes, providing the reasons, but the final decision will be taken by the selection committee. Selected projects will be given a binding list of institutes that can host them. This list is non-negotiable.

The institutes will discuss the dates of planned meetings with the teams.

Non-selected projects will not receive feedback on the reasons for rejection.

More information is available online at: www.ias.ceu.edu/cat-202122 or at the web-pages of the participating institutions. Questions can be directed to Dr. Andrey Demidov via email: CAT2021@ceu.edu

Schedule

- **Deadline for applications : 1 September 2021, 15:00 CET`**
- Successful applications will be notified in December, 2021
- Invitations will be sent in early January 2022

Institutes Participating in the 2021 call for applications

Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies, Aarhus	 AIAS AARHUS INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
Institute for Advanced Study at CEU, Budapest	INSTITUTE FORANCED ADVSTUDY <small>CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY</small>

<p>Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem</p>	
<p>Madrid Institute for Advanced Study, Madrid</p>	
<p>Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions, Montpellier</p>	
<p>Paris Institute for Advanced Study, Paris</p>	
<p>Scienza Nuova, Torino</p>	
<p>Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala</p>	
<p>Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Bielefeld</p>	
<p>Zukunftskolleg, Konstanz</p>	