

## **Increasing Trust in Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **A Project of the Latin American and Caribbean Research Network**

Trust, a person's belief that another person or institution will act consistently with their expectations of positive behavior (OECD, 2017), is low and falling in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). According to the Latinobarómetro survey, citizens' interpersonal trust decreased from 21% in 2009 to 14% in 2018. This contrasts notably with Europe and Southeast Asia, where interpersonal trust is 44% and 32%, respectively. In addition, over the past decade, the region saw reductions of 51% and 46%, respectively, in trust in the government and trust that institutions work to improve citizens' welfare.

The main questions guiding the research network that is the subject of this call for proposals is how to improve citizens' welfare by increasing trust, social capital and collective action. The project is intended to generate evidence on mechanisms that increase trust through field and natural experiments.

The studies should contribute to our understanding of the determinants of trust in LAC and the mechanisms that promote or discourage interpersonal trust and/or trust in government, politicians and public officials, and/or social cohesion and collective action. We plan to commission 5 research papers in total and give priority to studies that utilize field experiments to increase trust, and that suggest the most policy-relevant, scalable interventions.

### **Coordinating Team:**

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