

Vice Presidency of Sectors and Knowledge Research Department Institutions for Development Department

Trust Measures and Interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean

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. 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 research network that is the subject of this call for proposals seeks to explore the underlying determinants of trust and transparency in Latin America. Testing interventions in lab settings, the project intends to generate evidence that contributes to policies aimed at improving apparently low levels of trust in the region.

The studies should help us better characterize trust in LAC, contribute to our understanding of its determinants (such as identity, inequality and discrimination, among other possibilities) and test mechanisms through which trusting relationships can be improved. Our intention is to compare these results in at least five cities in the region to capture and analyze differences across trusting relationships in these different cities.

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