
ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

1 – Research Projects and Other Activities.

During 2024, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Analysis, has developed the following research projects and activities:

- a) **Collaboration agreement signed on May 19, 2021, between IESE and the Foundation** for the development of research work on positive and normative aspects of information aggregation and acquisition in markets under the direction of Jordi Brandts and Xavier Vives (IESE). On June 3, an extension of the agreement was signed for an additional three years. In 2024, experiments were conducted at the University of Valencia to study how financial markets function and how communication between individuals and the source of the information they receive affects them. The results of this study were presented under the title: “Information Bias, Communication, and Financial Markets: An Experimental Study” at two international conferences.
- b) **Completion of the grant agreement between the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Foundation** signed in November 2023 on “Anticipating New Conflict: A three-year global risk assessment.” Within the framework of the project, predictions were made about the likelihood of armed conflicts between states over the next three years in more than 180 countries. The objective is to identify previously peaceful countries that show an increased risk and should be prioritized. The project introduced an important innovation: risk stages, based on the method of Mueller et al. (2024), and country profiles that clearly explain the factors contributing to the risk.
- c) **Continuation of the agreement signed with the Federal Foreign Office (FFO) of the German Government and the Foundation** in 2023 and until December 2024 on “Multidimensional measure of fragility,” for the development of two early warning systems to support the formulation of humanitarian policies. The two innovative systems predict autocratization events and global forced displacements one year

in advance. They use news, Google Trends data, and uncertainty intervals. The results have been published in a CEPR series and presented in Paris, shared in international forums, and collaborated with agencies such as UNHCR and UNDP to improve early warning and response to global fragility.

- d) **New agreement signed between the World Food Program (WFP) and the Foundation** in July 2024 for the development of a web application for Kenya, in collaboration with Kenyan partners such as INNODEMS, where local policymakers can view the population affected by conflict risk and other compounding factors such as poverty and agricultural failures. This application will be tested for six months and will provide information on how to use subnational forecasts for anticipatory actions. This tool will be piloted with the Kenya Red Cross and will facilitate the use of subnational forecasts to strengthen decision-making in anticipatory actions.
- e) **New grant agreement between the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Foundation** signed in October 2024 to develop a project on “Enhancing the regularity, granularity and impact assessment of conflict forecasts for policy makers.” This project will expand the publicly available subnational forecasts at conflictforecast.org. Specifically, global predictions of deaths (according to UCDP), riots, and sexual violence (according to ACLED) will be published at the district/municipality level and updated monthly, with forecasts at 3 and 12 months. An economic impact analysis will also be carried out, focusing on how UK trade and its dependence on certain essential products could be affected by conflict risks.
- f) **Continuation of the contract signed between the Foundation and CETAQUA** (<https://www.cetaqua.com/>) in December 2023 on “Methodologies for the economic impacts of climate change in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona” within the framework of the European project ICARIA (Improving Climate Resilience of Critical Assets, <https://www.icaria-project.eu/>) with a duration of two years. Within the project, macroeconomic impact models have been developed to assess droughts in the AMB and work is underway on the development of a methodology for the analysis of direct and indirect tangible damages caused by other climate risks (floods, heatwaves, forest fires, and winds), adapting it to the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

2 – Research Support Program

Foundation's own program in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Analysis agreed in 2024 for the implementation of activities aimed at promoting and facilitating excellence in economic research, under the scientific direction of IAE research staff, <http://www.fea.cat/cat/projectespropis.html>. The main objective of this project is to support the Bellaterra seminar cycle, the IDEA doctoral program, the hiring of postdoctoral research staff and predoctoral research support and training staff. Specifically, support has been provided to various research projects of IAE researchers.

More information and project documents on the Foundation's website:
<https://www.fea.cat/eng/ongoingprojects>