



Generation and communication of *knowledge* in *social sciences*



The Social Observatory of the "la Caixa" Foundation

A space for analysis, debate and reflection that studies current issues and the changes occurring in society, and communicates knowledge of the social sciences in Spain and Portugal.

Mission:

To generate rigorous and current knowledge about society and communicate it to help enrich the informed debate.

Vision:

To support research and reflection with the aim of becoming a reference point in the transfer of relevant knowledge.

1. Research

Generation of science-based knowledge on social issues through:

A. Competitive calls:

- Social Research
- Flash
- Connect

B. Own studies together with other organisations and in collaboration with the areas of the "la Caixa Foundation

2. Communication

Communication of the knowledge that it generates through:

A. Publications in different formats:

- Dossiers
- Articles
- Reports

B. Activities for reflection and debate at CaixaForum centres

C. The Social Observatory Cafe

- Video interviews
- Podcast format reports

3. Community

Encouraging points of contact between our collaborators through:

A. Events

B. Gatherings

C. Training

Social Research Call

Support for research in *social sciences*



In Spain:

Since 2019:

8.6 million

euros in grants for projects

163

projects funded

Since 2016:

217

publications

In Portugal:

Since 2020:

1.8 million

euros in grants for projects

43

projects funded

Since 2021:

25

publications

Research projects that generate knowledge regarding phenomena of social interest, based on quantitative methodologies.

In Portugal it has the collaboration of the **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia** (FCT) which offers a match-fund for Portuguese research projects.

Launch: January

Territorial scope: Spain and Portugal

Topics: any social sciences topic

Budget per project: up to 115,000 euros

Duration of projects: up to 24 months

Aims:

- Fund outstanding projects because of their excellence and innovative nature.
- Identify the new challenges for society.

Selection process:

- Anonymous. The focus is on the proposal, not the candidate, in order to guarantee equal opportunities.
- Geared towards social impact.
- Evaluation of written proposals and interview with panel of experts.

Assessors:

- National and international academics and professionals from social sector.

Since 2019 in Spain and 2020 in Portugal:

70 projects funded

6.8 million euros awarded

Flash Calls

Impetus for
social research



Calls to support social science research projects in the form of a quantitative survey.

Launch: March

Launch: September

Territorial scope: Spain and Portugal

Topics: specific social topics

Budget per project: up to 35,000 euros

Duration of projects: up to 12 months

Aims:

- Identify new trends and knowledge gaps.
- Contribute to the body of studies based on quantitative surveys.
- Promote rapid research.

Selection process:

- Anonymous. The focus is on the proposal, not the candidate, in order to guarantee equal opportunities.
- Evaluation of written proposals during two remote phases.

Assessors:

- National and international academic experts in the field.

**Since 2019
in Spain:**

15 calls

91 projects funded

1.8 million euros awarded

**Since 2020
in Portugal:**

7 calls

33 projects funded

0.9 million euros awarded

Connect Call

Support for
applied social research



Joint research between a research centre and a third sector organisation or the public administration.

Launch: November

Territorial scope: Spain

Topics: any social sciences topic

Budget per project: up to 90,000 euros

Duration of projects: up to 24 months

Aims:

- Promote relations and joint work between the field of research and that of practice.
- Boost applied research in social sciences.
- Help research to provide answers to the real needs of the third sector.

Selection process:

- Geared towards social impact.
- Evaluation of written proposals and interview with panel of experts.

Assessors:

- National academics and professionals from social sector.

Since 2022:

12 projects funded

0.85 million euros awarded

Publications

Rigorous content to promote a better-informed society

The Social Observatory produces issue-specific dossiers, reports and in-depth articles based on knowledge from experts in different social areas to contribute towards a more open and global society.

These publications put forward scientifically backed ideas and results that enrich public debate.

**Since 2016
in Spain:**

**11 dossiers
172 articles
34 reports**

**Since 2021
in Portugal:**

**1 dossier
24 articles**

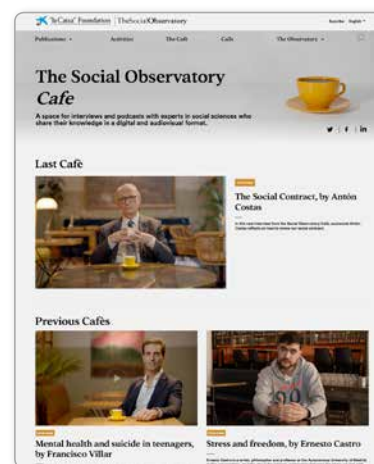


The Social Observatory Cafe

Video and podcast platform featuring experts

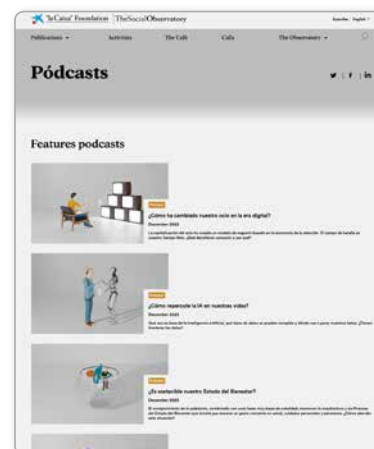
Dissemination of knowledge on social phenomena and current affairs issues adapted to the new digital context.

Two audiovisual products accessible for all audiences.



**Interviews in
video format**

**Since 2022:
8 interviews**



**Podcast format
reports**

**Since 2023:
7 podcasts**

Activities

Series of seminars for promoting informed debate

The Social Observatory organises a line of activities for debate and reflection on social issues that are held at the CaixaForum centres in collaboration with different organisations.

They address issues related with the social subject areas of the main programmes of the "la Caixa" Foundation, as well as lines of interest of the Social Observatory.

Topics:

- Technology
- The environment
- Mental health and well-being
- Education
- Demographic changes
- Geopolitics
- Human rights
- European School of Humanities

Difusió digital

Communication of contents via:

Two websites:

Spain:
elobservatoriosocial.fundacionlacaixa.org

Portugal:
oobservatoriosocial.fundacaolacaixa.pt



Newsletters

- for subscribers
- for social sciences researchers



Events

Conferences to encourage exchange and debate between experts

Forum360:

Offering a global view of the current state of social sciences in Spain.

The aim of this annual conference is to reflect on what we have learned in the last year in social research.



Seminars

Conferences on a topic approached from various social perspectives.

Gatherings

Spaces to *network* with experts from the academic and social fields

Workshops between social science researchers and third sector entities to facilitate the exchange of knowledge aimed at improving care services for people.

Training

Courses focusing on social research

Aimed at researchers and third sector entities that have benefitted from the Social Observatory calls.





"la Caixa" Foundation

It's only progress if we all progress