

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

### Experimental Research in Entrepreneurship: the Impact of Policy Reforms

**Jointly sponsored by the World Bank Group  
and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation**

#### OVERVIEW:

Entrepreneurship is important for the continued dynamism of the modern economy and contributes to economic growth worldwide. Yet many countries put in place regulations that make it more difficult to start and operate a new firm. These regulations can affect the creation of new firms, the average size of firms, and the dynamism of incumbent firms. Because of onerous regulations, many firms might choose to stay small and informal and might be unable to realize their full growth potential. The *2007 World Bank Group Entrepreneurship Database*, which includes measures of entrepreneurial activity in eighty-four developing and industrial countries from 2003 to 2005, finds significant relationships between entrepreneurial activity and the quality and governance of the legal and regulatory environment.

To better understand the factors that encourage entrepreneurship, the World Bank Group and the Kauffman Foundation are jointly offering funding of up to US\$35,000 for research projects that will study what contributes to greater entrepreneurship and formal sector participation, and the impact of related policy reforms. We are particularly interested in “experimental” field work to study the impact of policy reforms on firm entry, performance, and survival. The experimental designs can range from collecting and analyzing detailed data before and after a government reform, to simulating a particular reform with targeted or randomized interventions. While submissions from a wide range of perspectives and topics are welcome, we invite papers on the following:

- The causal effects of institutional, regulatory, and fiscal reforms on entrepreneurial activity;
- The impact of reforms to encourage greater transitioning from the informal to the formal sector, and the impact of formal sector registration on firm borrowing and growth;
- The effects of financial, operational, and management constraints on entrepreneurship and policies that help alleviate these constraints.

Research findings will be disseminated at a conference planned for 2009. The conference will bring together policymakers and researchers who study entrepreneurship and self-employment in an international context. The aim is to draw lessons learned from current research and to propose future research.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Interested authors are encouraged to submit a research proposal that includes:

- An abstract of the intended paper;
- A brief description of the contribution to current literature;
- An outline of the methodologies to be used;
- An itemized budget, including additional sources of funding; and
- A brief statement about the current state of the research project.

Research proposals of no more than 10 pages are to be submitted electronically (in either a .PDF or Word file) by February 1, 2008 to:

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Authors will be notified of acceptance by March 15, 2008. A pre-conference is scheduled for fall 2008 and the formal conference will take place in 2009. Authors of accepted papers will be reimbursed for economy transportation expenses for both the pre-conference and conference.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Leora Klapper, World Bank  
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## FURTHER INFORMATION:

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The *World Bank Group Entrepreneurship Database* is available at:  
[www.ifc.org/ifcext/sme.nsf/Content/Entrepreneurship+Database](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/sme.nsf/Content/Entrepreneurship+Database).

To learn more about the Kauffman Foundation's research initiatives, visit  
[www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org).