APPLICATION FOR THE CREATION OF

BEAT

Barcelona Economic Analysis Team

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA
INDEX

1. NAME AND MISSION
2. BACKGROUND
   2.1 International background
   2.2 Background within the University of Barcelona
3. THE NEED FOR A NEW BEAT
4. RESEARCH LINES
   4.1 Behavior, Markets and Games
   4.2 Macroeconomics, Development and Trade
   4.3 Environment, Sustainability and Well-Being
   4.4 Connections and potential synergies across the lines
5. ACTIVITIES PLAN
   5.1 Basic programmes
   5.2 Incremental steps
   5.3 Commitment to gender equality in research
6. ECONOMIC PLAN
   6.1 Funding
   6.2 Infrastructure requirements
7. STRUCTURE
   7.1 The Governing Board
   7.2 The Executive Committee
   7.3 The International Advisory Board
8. LIST OF MEMBERS
1.- NAME AND MISSION

BEAT - Barcelona Economic Analysis Team

BEAT wants to convey with its very own name its goal of occupying a central position (the “heart”) in the economics research undertaken at the University of Barcelona, in order to set a new pace in the research of major economic issues and nourish society with its output.

BEAT is the natural culmination of a process of critical mass gathering within the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Barcelona. It unites researchers from three different departments but with clearly related interests and shared goals in order to facilitate and foster durable synergies among them.

BEAT combines six consolidated research groups: Centre d’Analisi Economica i de les Politiques Socials (CAEPS), Centre de Recerca en Economia del Benestar (CREB), Economy, Energy and Environmental Pressures (EEEP), Història i Desenvolupament Econòmic (HDE), Optimització i Jocs Dinamics en Economia i Finances (ODEF), i Teoria de Jocs i Mercats d’Assignació (TJMA).

BEAT will develop its activities along three research lines that build on the strengths of these groups and integrate the efforts of their members. These lines are Behavior, Markets and Games (BMG), Macroeconomics, Development and Trade (MDT) and Environment, Sustainability and Well-Being (ESWB).

BEAT represents an unambiguous commitment to the production of excellent research along these three lines. Quality will be of paramount importance because quality is the necessary condition to achieve scientific excellence, academic recognition and societal impact.

BEAT is an energetic response to the latest developments in the organization of scientific research worldwide, which is moving fast in the direction of bigger, better integrated and more flexible teams capable of competing for funds internationally.

BEAT aims to become a significant and well-recognized player within Southern European Economics in order to attract high-quality students and the best scientific talent worldwide. It will employ and share the already numerous international connections of its research groups.

BEAT has an unambiguous commitment to social responsibility. It will strive to produce excellently trained graduate students, to become a centre of reference for both the private and the public sector in its areas of research, and to inform the public debate about economic issues related to them.
2.- BACKGROUND

2.1 International background

Academic research in general, and in Economics in particular, is experiencing deep and fast changes. The recent financial crisis has imposed additional financial pressures on research funding, both within Spain and across Europe. In addition, there is a growing demand by public bodies and citizens of a clear social return of their investments in research. This for instance can be seen in the recent 2013 Research Excellence Framework assessment of British universities, which explicitly contemplated an “Impact” dimension evaluating the societal influence of research. In the context of our discipline, the crisis has also raised severe criticism against economists for its alleged failure in predicting the recession and the alleged lack of reality of their models. Finally, the global integration of the academic markets also implies that institutions worldwide are now competing for the best new emerging talents.

These three factors, among others, are pushing research-oriented higher-education institutions to coalesce and build critical mass. Critical mass, and the synergies and visibilities that come with it, are crucial in this new environment. Bigger centres can gain better international recognition, from academics and from public and private bodies. Better integrated institutions are in better position to create and exploit synergies and to produce higher quality and more interdisciplinary research. More flexible teams of researchers can produce more effective answers to the societal demand for relevant and useful research.

As a result, Europe is witnessing a period in which previously scattered centres, departments and universities are taking long strides in this integration process. In Barcelona, the Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREI), the Institut d’Analisi Economica (IAE), the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) joined forces in 2006 to create the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (BGSE). In Scotland, eight universities scattered across the territory coalesced in 2007 into the Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (SIRE). Similarly, all the research centres in Economics in the University of Paris I and six centres of the CNRS united into the Paris School of Economics in 2006. The outstanding success of these centres in attracting funding, researchers and in producing excellent research speaks for itself.

**BEAT** is born as the response of the Faculty of Economic and Business of the University of Barcelona to this unstoppable process. Its members recognize the need for creating a critical mass capable of producing excellent and relevant research, of increasing their visibility, obtaining additional external and international funding,- e.g. ERC grants- and hiring new talent in this increasingly competitive global arena.
2.2 Background within the University of Barcelona

The University of Barcelona as a whole is the top Spanish university in most international rankings (Shangai, QS, URAP, CWTS, Leiden, CWUR World University Rankings) and it is the only Spanish university within the League of European Research Universities (LERU) comprised by 21 European universities producing research of the highest calibre. However, due to historical reasons, research in Economics within the University has lagged behind other academic units within the University and other faculties of Economics in the Barcelona area. The Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Barcelona has suffered an excessive fragmentation from its very inception. Researchers were scattered across several departments, often subdivided in further subunits, with very little interaction among them and frequently specialized in too narrow and niche topics.

Despite these unfavourable initial conditions, the Faculty has made enormous progresses in improving its position in the last few years. Its departments have opened their doors to the best talent worldwide. They have increased their research power considerably. Their researchers have now a firmly-established presence in the international academic scene. Publications in international journals have skyrocketed, international workshops are organized within the Faculty in a yearly basis, and hiring of recent PhD graduates is made in the international market. The year 2011 witnessed the creation of UB Economics. This is an institutional initiative whose main goals are the coordination of activities within the Faculty and the management and improvement of the joint MSc and PhD programme encompassing its six Economics departments. The first inter-department seminar series, the Behaviour, Incentives and Games (BIG) series, started in 2012 under the umbrella of UB Economics with the aim of bringing together those new and senior members within the Faculty interested in topics broadly related to microeconomics. Finally, in 2015, the principal of the University green-lighted an ambitious merger plan which will be completed in 2016 by which the number of Economics departments in the Faculty is to be reduced from six to three (Economics; Econometrics, Statistics and Applied Economics; and Economical, Financial and Insurance Mathematics) plus an interdisciplinary department (Economic History and Institutional Economics).

BEAT represents the logical next step in this integration process. This increasingly and favourable institutional context can boost the excellence and impact of research in our Faculty. The Institute will encompass researchers from three departments and six consolidated research groups: CAEPS, CREB, EEEP, HDE, ODEF and TJAM. It is also important to note that the main researchers within each of the groups are all relatively young and are well integrated in international research networks. BEAT’s members acknowledge that the creation of critical mass is the best and only realistic way to attain their shared goals, to maintain the important achievements obtained so far and to reach new and more ambitious milestones in the future.
3.- THE NEED FOR A NEW BEAT

The description above highlights that research in Economics at the University of Barcelona is at a critical juncture. The international situation, the increased competition for talent and funding, and the societal demands for relevant research has convinced the members of the six research groups represented in this proposal that time is ripe to make a new stride:

To be bold, to bring together the best talent from around the world and produce top-quality research.

Unfortunately, current conditions to pursue this goal are far from optimal. A new “Big Push” is needed to enhance the quality, visibility and impact of the research carried out within the Faculty. This new beat, this new rhythm, requires new institutional conditions. Attaining such conditions is also the goal of BEAT.

1. **BEAT** will foster the relationship, synergies and dialogue between the existing research groups. It will overcome the still excessive fragmentation of research lines within the Faculty and create substantial critical mass.

2. **BEAT** will produce more integrative research. Members of the Institute employ different methodologies and have complementary approaches to their shared research interests. An institute such as the one proposed here will facilitate an integration of efforts and the production of research enriched by this diversity.

3. **BEAT** will produce excellent research. The six groups represented in this proposal are already producing a substantial research output. But the current fragmentation in different groups can lead to a miscoordination of efforts. Fragmentation is also detrimental to the quality of research output by reducing its scope and ambition. It is time to step-up and produce top-quality research, which demands critical mass and shared goals.

4. **BEAT** will help to attract high-quality graduate students by providing them with funding and by facilitating the coordination between potential supervisors now belonging to different departments and research groups. This will consolidate the growing success of the Faculty’s PhD programme in Economics.

5. **BEAT** will hire the best and the brightest from around the world. The Institute will facilitate a unified hiring programme where the goals of the entire Faculty rather than of each particular research group are heard. In addition, the Institute wants to become an attractor for researchers with outstanding research records, both through funding programmes (e.g. ICREA, Ramon y Cajal and Juan de la Cierva), and by establishing a visitors’ programme.

6. **BEAT** has a clear international vocation, stated already by its very name. It wants to establish itself in the global academic arena. Members of the six groups have already strong international connections that will provide visibility to the Institute. Some of them will belong to its International Advisory Board (see Section 7) who will provide guidance on hiring, activities and strategic direction.
7. **BEAT** will provide adequate logistical and material support to its members. The six research groups often meet too many obstacles in terms of research and lack of administrative support. Beyond the daily tasks associated with the running and maintenance of an institute, administrative support is key because it ensures and facilitates three very important set of activities:
   
a. **Applications for funding:** Research proposals at the highest levels, e.g. ERC grants, are complex and require substantial effort and time. Once obtained, research grants require management. Administrative support plays a decisive role in the elaboration and management of these applications.
   
b. **Event organization:** International presence in the academic arena and societal impact require organizing events and fora where academics and practitioners discuss their findings and applications. The organization of these events is very time-consuming. High-quality administrative support is thus essential.
   
c. **Media presence:** Any public research-oriented body has a social responsibility to disseminate its activities and inform public debate. Administrative support should also ensure a fluid relationship between the Institute and media, both traditional and social, and the maintenance and update of any associated web site.

On the other hand, modern economic research demands increasing technical support. This is needed to put together and analyse databases, for instance. Currently, each group is making its own specific efforts in attracting such research support. There are clear economies of scale here; an institute will make a more effective use of this support.

8. **BEAT** will become a reference point for private and public bodies who want to inform their practice with research. The Institute will strive to provide policy-makers and opinion-formers with the highest quality, policy-relevant research output. Members of the six research groups integrating the Institute have already engaged in numerous knowledge transfer activities. Integrating these efforts into a single entity will strengthen and further develop the social role of our Faculty and of the University of Barcelona.

9. **BEAT** will have proper facilities to develop its activities. The organization of international events, seminar series, workshops or practitioner fora require them. Such facilities are not available at the moment within our Faculty. Whereas building up these facilities for each separate group or department makes little cost-benefit sense, doing that for a research institute is a much more sensible and cost-effective strategy.

In sum, **BEAT** will contribute to sustain the University of Barcelona’s international reputation for excellence by developing its research in major fields of Economics, building around and beyond the existing strengths within the Faculty of Economics and Business. This will enable the University to compete effectively in the global academic marketplace and to exert a significant positive impact on society by producing top-quality research.
4.- RESEARCH LINES

**BEAT** will organize its activities along three research lines that reflect the strengths of its members and research groups, but also encompass areas of strategic interest for the future development of the Institute. These are very relevant topics in Economics where **BEAT** aims to produce excellent research with societal impact. New investments and greater coherency in these three areas will make the University of Barcelona a significant international player in economics research.

Next, let us summarize these three lines, including a non-exhaustive discussion of the specific topics covered by each of them, members of the Institute working in each line, projected societal impact, and potential connections with other research lines of **BEAT**.

### 4.1 Behaviour, Markets and Games (BMG)

This line covers the broad field of microeconomics: the analysis of behaviour, both individual and strategic, theoretical and empirical; the design of market regulations and efficient rules of assignment, cost-sharing mechanisms and cooperative solutions to societal problems. Although all this may sound abstract, there is a wide range of applications, from marriage and divorce to bankruptcy law; from media and online markets to the design of spectrum licences auctions; from the study of the gender wage gap to the analysis of saving and retirement decisions and the study of voting rules in the European Parliament.

#### 4.1.1 Object

To analyse individual decision-making and group conduct, strategic behaviour, competition and cooperation between economic agents in markets, organizations and societies.

1. One important focus of the BMG line will be the analysis of mechanisms that can lead agents to behave efficiently and to efficient allocations of goods and rights. The emphasis is placed not only on the normative properties of market mechanisms but also on the strategic incentives they induce on agents. This can inform the design of policies aimed at increase market performance and social welfare. The mechanisms which can be studied here include auctions, voting procedures, matching mechanisms, market regulations, rationing rules, and cost-sharing schemes. Topics addressed in this area can cover a wide range of fields, which can in turn be broadened to include issues previously unexplored by the members of the Institute, such as assignments of students to educational institutions, the regulation of online retailers and cooperative decision-making in international environmental cooperation. These are topics of interest to members of **BEAT** currently integrated in the TJAM research group.
2. Perhaps one of the most important developments in modern microeconomics has been the so-called “behavioural revolution”. This has materialized in the substantial use of laboratory and field experiments to test and to further suggest new implications of economic models. In addition to robust experimental findings, microeconomics can also be enriched from the introduction of new concepts coming from psychology, as the Nobel Prize recently awarded to Daniel Kahneman recognizes. These concepts encompass from biases in individual decision-making and bounded rationality to the use of heuristics in strategic interactions. It is also possible to explore the existence of individual differences in behaviour, such as gender differences in risk-aversion, strategic sophistication or social preferences. These are the areas of expertise of some members of BEAT currently affiliated to the CREB research group.

3. The aforementioned “behavioural revolution” has also highlighted that individuals value future payments in ways that differ substantially from those typically considered in standard microeconomic theory. Economic agents are often much more impatient when evaluating the short-term than when thinking about the long-term. This has profound implications in consumption, investment and saving decisions. At a larger scale, this also has an impact on the assessment of the future consequences of present policies, such as environmental policies or financial regulations. Members of BEAT currently ascribed to the ODEF research group are expert on this topic and will explore the numerous potential synergies that exist with other research lines of the Institute.

4.1.2 Impact

The ubiquity of issues related to the study of markets, strategic interactions and the determinants of economic behaviour has the potential to generate considerable interest from, and interaction with, a wide range of user groups extending well beyond the usual academic networks. Government, at all levels, is of course deeply concerned with competition and regulation questions. More specifically, members of BEAT working in this line have experience engaging with public bodies in order to advise them on effective cost-sharing and pricing mechanism. For instance, they have signed contracts with the Catalan University Libraries Consortium (CBUC). Researchers in this line have also engaged with international media (BBC, SkyNews, VoxEu), and informed debates on current economic issues.

4.2 Macroeconomics, Development and Trade (MDT)

There are a number of classical economic questions that in the current economic climate remain as pertinent as ever: What policies may be adopted to boost an economy’s secular and long-run growth? What are the long-run determinants of growth? What policies can be implemented in order to reduce inefficient fluctuations in economic activity over the business cycle? How do patterns and frictions of international trade affect economic growth?
All these questions are deeply interrelated. Growth can be seen as the output of a process where a number of input factors, e.g., human capital, are combined. The productivity of these inputs is affected by technological change and international competition, among other factors. Growth also results in a distribution of output which can be more or less unequal. This distribution has its own impact on economic activity, and further determines economic growth.

4.2.1 Object

The aim is to provide answers to the aforementioned questions through three distinct focuses:

1. Human capital has a first-order impact on economic growth and inequality. Education enhances labour productivity, impacts wages and thus contributes to determine the earnings distribution. Hence, the study of educational investments can shed light on the dynamics of both economic growth and income inequality. This includes the analysis of how labour market imperfections affect the returns of educational investments and how they can lead to overeducation. A related question is how such imperfections and families’ wealth composition affect human capital accumulation and parental investments in education. This can lead to a better understanding of the effects of labour market reforms on economic growth and inequality. Researchers of the Institute currently affiliated to the CREB research groups are specialists in this set of questions.

2. Another specific focus of this research line will be the dramatic increase in trade linkages between countries—globalisation—and its impact on within-country differences in development and economic activity. For instance, the economic integration in the EU has a differential impact on the economic growth of Spanish regions depending on their geographical situation and the degree of development of their input markets. This is the area of expertise of the members of BEAT now ascribed to the CAEPS research group.

3. The analysis of the long-run determinants of growth and inequality is becoming increasingly central within Economics. This analysis can provide insights on the substantial and secular differences in economic development both across and within countries. The analysis of the determinants of historical crises, economic booms, trade, the spatial location of economic activity, and of technology adoption can help to tackle current challenges by contributing to the design of feasible growth-enhancing economic policies. Members of the Institute within the HDE group can contribute to the study of these issues.
4.2.2 Impact

By its very nature, the study of the determinants of growth, development and trade has a high potential impact on economic policy. Members of BEAT working in growth and trade have already experience engaging in shared projects with public bodies. These have included the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Spanish Foreign Office and the PREDIT programme, a network of four French ministries devoted to the study of the impact of economic integration and immigration on the economic development and FDI flows of French provinces.

Related to the processes of wealth transmission and inequality, members of the Institute have participated in knowledge transfer activities with the Catalan Fiscal Authority related to the impact of income, wealth and inheritance taxes. Several members have spoken in Parliamentary Commissions on Regional Finance Reform; and some have been members of the Board of Internationalization Government Agencies, and of Regional Public Banks. In addition, members of BEAT ascribed to this line often engage with the public through media (TV, radio and press).

4.3 Environment, Sustainability and Well-Being (ESWB)

This line focuses on the environmental, economic and social factors that determine the present and future well-being of the population. It has two main focuses: The first is on the social policies that can help to promote personal well-being and the sustainability of the welfare state. The second focus is on environmental challenges such as climate change and pollution which have a large potential impact on economic output and personal well-being. These two focuses are intertwined since environmental quality directly affects well-being; pollution for instance increases the prevalence of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and even cognitive problems. The overarching goal of this line is to develop the potential synergies that clearly exist between members currently working on health, ecological and environmental economics and intergenerational transfers. Researchers in this area will interrogate large datasets, increasingly available from surveys and administrative entities, and apply quantitative methodologies to study the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of health, the sustainability of the pension system and the relationship between economic activity and environmental quality.

4.3.1 Object

To study the effect of welfare policies, socioeconomics and environmental variables on personal well-being and to design institutions and policies aimed to enhance it.

1. One of the principal components of both personal well-being and the welfare state is health. There exist persistent, and avoidable, inequalities in health and access to health services. The recent economic crisis has aggravated these inequalities
due to the increases in unemployment and poverty rates. A fair society requires policies and reforms designed to ensure the sustainability of the health system and an equitable access to it. Members of CAEPS and CREB have a well-established expertise in the study of these issues.

2. At present, it is imperative to evaluate the relationship between economic activity and environmental pressures. There exist important differences, both within and across countries, determined by technologies and the level and structure of consumption. Globalisation requires new perspectives on the analysis of responsibilities of different households and countries in environmental pressures. The debate is particularly strong in the case of carbon emissions and it is also relevant for local gases. Additionally, a historical perspective on use of natural resources and environmental impacts is important. A better understanding of these mappings is key in the design of immediate mitigation policies such as energy and emissions taxation or “green” subsidies for the adoption of cleaner technologies. This is the expertise of the members of the Institute currently ascribed to the EEEP and the HDE research groups.

3. Both globalisation and the current demographic trends pose serious challenges to the sustainability of the welfare state, public pension systems especially. There is an intergenerational equity dimension at stake also, since different generations are net contributors or beneficiaries of these intergenerational transfers. This demands the development of indicators of the sustainability of the system and of a proper intergenerational accounting system. Such accounting requires a proper intertemporal discounting and evaluation of future rents, which in turn also affects citizens contributing to pension schemes. Researchers in both CAEPS and ODEF will join forces to tackle these important challenges.

4.3.2 Impact

Topics under the umbrella of ESWB are of obvious interest to policy-makers and society in general if we are to ensure a sustainable welfare state and a safe and clean environment for us and the future generations. Members of the Institute working in this line have already engaged with practitioners and public bodies in order to provide them with tools that can assist their decisions. Some of them are part of the Health Status and Living Conditions Network; others are independent advisors to the European Commission on social policies. Researchers working in this line have already signed contracts with the public sector (Catalan Ministry for Environmental Issues, the Spanish Institute of Fiscal Studies, the Badalona Health Authority and the Catalan Ministry of Health) on topics such as water delivery, waste disposal management, emissions accounting and the health effects of the economic crisis. They have been invited as experts to be members of Catalan parliamentary commissions. They have published general audience books, they have given seminars for public administration (Idescat, Barcelona Activa) and general interest
conferences (Societat Catalana d’Economia, Ateneu Barcelonés). They have been regularly present in popular press and TV, specialized media edited by government agencies (Revista Idees, Cuadernos de la Fundacion General CSIC), NGOs (Fuhem Ecosocial) and specialized internet outlets (“Nada es gratis”).

4.4 Connections and potential synergies across the lines

Because microeconomic analysis permeates all economic thinking, there are connections between the Behavior, Markets and Games (BMG) line and the other two research lines, Growth, Trade and Inequality (MDT) and Environment, Sustainability and Well-Being (ESWB).

Regarding the first, there are at least two areas of potential synergies between the BMG line and the MDT line. The analysis of the best assignment mechanisms between students to schools that can be tackled under the BGM line has a clear relation with the enhancements in the productivity of human capital, the equality of educational opportunities, and therefore on the future distribution of earnings. On the other hand, recent advances in macroeconomics have focused on the effect of non-competitive commodity markets on economic growth. So another area of potential synergies between the MDT and the BMG lines is the study of the relationship between the operational costs of firms on the one hand, monopolistic markets and endogenous and semi-endogenous growth.

There are also two areas of intersection between the BMG and the ESWB research line. Environmental problems have a strong temporal dimension. Mitigation policies undertaken immediately will need decades to have an effect on greenhouse gasses concentrations. The ethical implications of present decisions and the heterogeneity in time preferences across actors (e.g. firms/consumers, developing/developed nations) complicates the evaluation of the future costs and benefits of environmental policies. Members of the Institute working on intertemporal decision making within the BMG line can contribute to the study of this issue. Members in the BMG research line can also contribute to the analysis of the international dimension of environmental problems, namely, the enactment of supranational treaties under limited enforcement. The signature of these treaties can be envisioned as process of group formation; member states must negotiate, cooperate and achieve fair and effective cost sharing mechanisms.

In addition, the ESWB line has three areas of potential synergies with the MDT line.

Firstly, there exist great inequalities in the distribution of responsibility in greenhouse gas emissions across countries. Those mostly affected (small coastal states or island states) have an insignificant impact on climate change. Moreover the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) foresees that poorer countries will be much more affected than richer countries. These inequalities in development lead to differences in preferences, which in turn hinder the enacting of international
environmental agreements. In addition, there is a clear connection between trade and emissions, both in terms of the effectiveness of national environmental policies, e.g. subsidies or taxes to green/polluting imports, and in terms of issue linkages when negotiating international treaties.

Secondly, the historical analysis of economic development can provide new insights on the incidence of poverty and the living conditions in previous centuries, including the study of anthropometric measures (e.g. height, weight) closely related with health. This opens the door to the study of the long-run persistence of health inequalities.

Finally, the study of the long-run determinants of growth is also closely related with the study of its environmental impact (e.g. farming practices, industrialisation), and the use and depletion of natural resources. This creates an additional potential synergy between MDT and the ESWB line.
5. - ACTIVITIES PLAN

**BEAT** will follow an incrementalist approach. It will be undertaking new programmes and activities as it becomes capable of obtaining and generating funding. Therefore, its activity plan is contingent to securing different degrees of funding. Next, we differentiate between initiatives and programmes that will be launched with immediate effect and those which will start only after the necessary funding has been granted.

5.1 Basic programmes

These programmes build on each other and will be implemented within the first six months after the creation of the Institute.

1. **Travel bursaries**: Members of **BEAT** will be awarded an annual travel bursary to cover travel expenses, accommodation costs and fees associated to contributions to academic conferences. The amount of these bursaries will vary depending on the nature of the conference (national, 600€; European, 800€; transcontinental, 1200€). Eligibility to the programme requires the publication of a working paper in the **BEAT** series during the year (see point 6 below). In case funds must be rationed, priority will be given to junior researchers and to international conferences.

2. **Administrative support**: An initiative such as **BEAT** needs efficient administrative support. It is of paramount importance. The administrative staff must be fully proficient in English and must be acquainted with the academic environment. This administrative staff will be capable of providing technical support to the organization of the activities outlined in points 4, 5 and 6 below.

3. **Annual international workshops**: **BEAT** will organize annually international workshops on their lines of research. These workshops will gather world-known experts on these areas. Members of the research groups can submit their proposals, including a draft budget and a list of potential participants. The objective will be to organize an “Annual **BEAT** Forum” where simultaneous workshops will showcase research in different areas covered by the Institute. This will help to heighten the visibility of the Institute and will provide an opportunity for the fullest interaction among its members. If funding is limited, the Institute will give priority to proposals with a distinct commitment to excellence and covering topics connecting several of its research areas. Administrative staff will be involved in the logistical organization of these meetings.

4. **Website and social media**: It is needless to say that an initiative such as **BEAT** requires a modern, updated and running website to ensure the visibility and impact of its activities. This website will contain a presentation of the Institute,
its mission, its members and links to the working paper series and the brief papers series (see point 7 below). A presence in social media is becoming increasingly important to disseminate activities and research outputs. Administrative staff with experience in social media will be in charge of improving and keeping the website up to date, and of managing the presence of the Institute in social media.

5. **Funding proposals:** *BEAT* will strive to obtain funds from the widest possible variety of sources. This will include academic grants at the highest levels (e.g. Horizon 2020, ERC), but also knowledge transfer projects (Fundación Ramon Areces, FIPROS, FGCSIC). The funding obtained will be key in consolidating and expanding its activities according to the plan detailed in point 5.2. The administrative staff of the Institute will provide such technical assistance to its members and will in addition flag up any grant calls where the Institute can participate.

6. **Working paper series:** *BEAT* will have a differentiated working paper series within the UB Economics series. Researchers within the Institute will be encouraged to submit their papers to the series, which in turn will help to disseminate their research. Integrating the *BEAT* Working papers into the UB Economics working paper series presents two advantages: 1) This series is already included in RePEc, the largest worldwide repository for working paper series; and 2) it has already a process of quality review. This quality filter is important because working papers will be the basis for the travel bursaries programme.

7. **Brief papers:** This series of short articles will provide a digest of recent and ongoing research activities and outputs. These pieces will be less technically-oriented than working papers and will be included in the Institute’s website in order to foster the societal impact of the research undertaken by *BEAT*. These pieces can be also used by the Institute and its members to participate in international platforms (such as VoxEu) and as the basis of press releases to be made available to traditional and web media.

8. **BEAT launch event:** Once the Institute is up and running, there will be a scientific event design to provide an opportunity to academics, stakeholders, policy-makers practitioners and media to meet with members of *BEAT* and see them in action. Members of the International Advisory Board (see section 7.3) will be invited. Three research seminars will be given by leading researchers from each of the Institute’s thematic research areas plus a keynote lecture to be delivered by a most distinguished international researcher.

### 5.2 Incremental steps
As mentioned above, **BEAT** will expand its activities as it consolidates and secures additional funding. Next, we detail these incremental steps.

1. **Publication incentives programme**: **BEAT** wants to be instrumental in the quality leap that the research output in our Faculty must experience. One of the best ways of achieving this leap is by incentivising publication in the best journals. To this end, the Institute will follow the steps of other institutions within the Barcelona area such as the Barcelona Graduate School in Economics which have similar incentive programmes in place.

2. **Co-funding of hiring**: **BEAT** and its members will apply to hiring initiatives such as Ramon y Cajal, Beatriu de Pinós, Juan de la Cierva and Marie Curie in order to attract talent in areas considered to be of strategic relevance for the Institute. When obtained, the wages associated to these positions must be often co-funded by the host institution. Part of the future income revenues of the Institute will be devoted to fund such positions.

3. **Visitors’ programme**: **BEAT** wants to offer international academics whose research relates to its areas of research the opportunity to visit the Institute. Visiting Fellows are invited to spend short (one to two weeks) and long periods (linked to sabbaticals) at the Faculty, interact with local researchers and graduate students and to contribute to its seminar series, courses or conferences. The programme will prioritise candidates for the programme based on academic excellence.

4. **PhD student grants**: The attraction of the best potential PhD students requires providing them with adequate funding. **BEAT** will seek to award scholarships to graduate students on a competitive basis. In a natural extension of point 2 in the previous section, graduate students in their last stages should also be eligible for travel bursaries so they can present their work at international conferences.

5. **BEAT Policy Forum**: As part of its commitment to social responsibility, **BEAT** wants to establish a Policy Forum jointly with local, regional and national authorities. Each Forum meeting will have a jointly agreed theme, with invited attendees comprising academic researchers and public officials with interests relevant to the meeting’s theme. There will be short presentations by both communities and plenty of opportunity for formal and informal discussion and subsequent follow up.

5.3 **Commitment to gender equality in research**
As part of its social responsibility, BEAT will be committed to gender equality in its activities and organisation. Gender equality is necessary to ensure relevant and well-balanced research and balanced decision-making. Fostering gender equality in research teams can also help to close the gaps in the participation of women in science and innovation. As such, promoting gender equality is explicitly acknowledged by the Spanish Ley de la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Innovación de 2011 and by international grant calls such as Horizon 2020 (see art. 33 of H2020 General Model Grant Agreement).

This commitment will be articulated along three lines:

First, to make sure that women are represented in all the organisational structures of BEAT (Governing Board, Executive Committee, International Advisory Board). The target is to reach the target of at least 40% of the underrepresented sex. This extends to teams of PhD students and research assistants.

Second, to make sure that women and men enjoy the same working conditions and have equally fulfilling careers. This implies that BEAT will take measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of all actions and all the activity programmes outlined in the previous two subsections. If same scores, gender balance in teams (and proposals that address gender topics) is a ranking factor.

Third, to make sure that gender dimension is integrated in the research carried by BEAT. Members of the Institute in fact develop their research activities in the field of Gender economics. The Institute is committed to make its research relevant to women’s needs as well as men’s. Gender-biased research is partial and potentially poorer than gender-neutral research.
6. ECONOMIC PLAN

6.1 Funding

**BEAT** aims to become a platform to produce high-quality policy-oriented research. To that end, it is essential that the Institute attains the maximum possible degree of financial autonomy. For the time being, the activities contained in Section 5.1 will be funded through the contributions of the six research groups.

Critical mass and a coherent research plan will be the assets of **BEAT** when participating in private and public funding calls, both national and international, e.g. ERC grants. The synergies created by the joined effort of its members plus the technical support envisioned in the activities plan will facilitate substantially the access and success of the Institute when applying for external funding.

One source of funding will be knowledge transfers activities. As outlined in Section 4, members of **BEAT** are very experienced in signing contracts with private and public entities and have also obtained numerous knowledge transfer projects. By placing the Institute’s research in the spotlight, the **BEAT** Policy Forum will contribute to foster the interaction between academics and policy makers and create additional opportunities for the financial autonomy of the Institute.

**BEAT** will also seek the sponsorship and donations of private foundations, individuals and enterprises to support particular needs, mostly related to infrastructure requirements (see section 7). The Institute will also entertain the possibility of launching crowdfunding initiatives in order to fund specific programmes and projects. The Faculty of Economics and Business has already successfully employed this method to fund some PhD scholarships through its “Alumni Wall.”

**BEAT** acknowledges itself as a natural next step in the progressive building up of critical mass of researchers experienced by the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Barcelona. Once it consolidates its position and becomes financially autonomous, the Institute will seek to join forces with the other two institutes already operating in the Faculty, the Institut de Recerca en Economia Aplicada (IREA) and the Institut d’Economia de Barcelona (IEB), in order to apply for grant calls aimed at funding excellence centres (e.g., Maria de Maetzu, Severo Ochoa), under the umbrella of the UB Economics unit.

6.2 Infrastructure requirement

Having adequate and well-equipped spaces is key to develop the activities plan outlined in section 5. Proper meeting and seminar rooms are also essential when engaging with practitioners and policy-makers.
The Faculty of Economics and Business has the required facilities. The Espais de Recerca de la Faculty of Economics and Business (ERE) have several seminar rooms which can be used for the activities of the Institute. In addition, the research groups in BEAT are letting three offices at ERE. These can be used to accommodate short and long term visitors. There are also additional seminar rooms at the 696 Building which have been recently refurbished. The Faculty also provides space and offices for PhD students.

In the medium term it would be ideal to have equipped two seminar rooms at the 696 Building with adequate technological equipment. In addition, it would be ideal to have a larger room, with capacity for about 90 people. This could be used for keynote lectures, larger conferences and the Policy Forum. This infrastructure is cost-effective because the Faculty of Economic and Business needs and lacks at the moment a space of this nature, as only much larger or smaller rooms are available. The Faculty could also employ this room for PhD thesis defences, master thesis defences, public lectures and plenary lectures sponsored by student initiatives.
7. - STRUCTURE

BEAT will have a structure consistent with its aim of enhancing the quality of Economics research in the University of Barcelona. The composition of the key committees in BEAT’s governance structure (the Governing Board, the Executive Committee, and the International Advisory Board) is listed below.

7.1 The Governing Board

The formal Governing Board of BEAT comprises the leading researchers of each of the six consolidated research groups or their representatives, and one representative from the technical and management staff of the Institute. Members meet at least twice a year and whenever the director considers it necessary.

The functions of the Governing Board are:

1. To elect the director of BEAT according to the regulations of the University of Barcelona.
2. To approve the members of the International Advisory Board.
3. To propose changes in the mission and internal regulations of BEAT.
4. To propose research activities or initiatives along the research lines of the Institute.
5. To approve the annual budget and plan of the Institute and hiring and recruiting decisions.
6. To propose the inclusion of new members.
7. To evaluate the societal impact of the scientific activities carried by BEAT.

Any decisions, documents or proposals must be approved by majority voting.

7.2 The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, which reports to the Governing Board, takes more direct responsibility for articulating and driving the research strategy of BEAT, and oversees the management of its activities and programmes. The Committee is awarded the mandate to make executive decisions with a relatively short notice. The membership of the Executive Committee comprises the director of BEAT and the directors of each of the three research lines elected by the Governing Board.

The functions of the Executive Committee are:

1. To elaborate the annual budget and plan of the Institute.
2. To organize and develop the activities of BEAT along its annual research plan.
3. To evaluate the activity of the research lines and their members.
4. To allocate funds and space to the approved activities of the Institute and its members according to the rules of its programmes (see Section 5).
5. To propose members of the International Advisory Board.

6. To propose priorities for the hiring of academic personnel to the departments integrated in BEAT.

7. To coordinate grant applications and the research effort of the members of the Institute.

8. To design medium and long term strategies to guarantee that the Institute achieves its stated goals.

7.3 The International Advisory Board

The Executive Committee and the Governing Board will receive advice and guidance on BEAT’s hiring priorities, activities and strategic direction from the International Advisory Board. The International Advisory Board comprises four to six leading researchers from the international research community in Economics, whose interest span the three BEAT research lines. These members are proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the Governing Board.
8.- LIST OF MEMBERS

8.1 Faculty

1. Abió, Gemma
2. Álvarez, Mikel
3. Badia, Marc
4. Calleja, Pere
5. Calonge, Samuel
6. Calzada, Joan
7. Carreras, Anna
8. Espuelas, Sergio
9. Gil, Joan
10. Herranz, Alfonso
11. Izquierdo, Josep M
12. Jerbashian, Vahagn
13. Manna, Ester
14. Manresa, Antonio
15. Marín, Jesús
16. Martínez de Albeniz, Javier
17. Montes, Jesús
18. Navas, Jorge
19. Núñez, Marina
20. Paluzie, Elisenda
21. Patxot, Concepció
22. Prat, Marc
23. Rafels, Carles
24. Raurich, Xavier
25. Rodríguez, María Soledad
26. Roca, Jordi
27. Roch, Oriol
28. Sánchez, Fernando
29. Sánchez, Santiago
30. Serrano, Mònica
31. Stoyanova, Alexandrina
32. Teignier, Marc
33. Tello, Enric
34. Vilalta, Montserrat

8.2 –International Advisory Board (still waiting for more confirmations)

1. Alicia Adserà, Princeton University
2. Luis Cabral, New York University
3. Gabrielle Demange, Paris School of Economics
4. Oded Galor, Brown University
5. Matthew Jackson, Stanford University
6. Chris Meissner, University of California – Davis
8.3 – Research assistants and PhD Students (still incomplete)

1. Atay, Ata
2. Belda, Pau
3. Blanco, César
4. Garrido, José Luis
5. Hollstein, Till
6. Liu, Lijue
7. Marco, Inés
8. Michailidis, Gianko
9. Ortega, Mayra Janet
10. Padró, Roc
11. Papadomichelakis, Georgios
12. Papadopoulou, Natassa
13. Poitiers, Niclas
14. Raftopoulou, Athina
15. Robles, Francisco
16. Rocchi, Paola
17. Timoner, Pere