PROYECTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN INTERNOS SIN FINANCIAMIENTO O AUTOGESTIONADOS
ANEXO 2 – DETALLES DE LA PROPUESTA

Investigación Básica ☐   Investigación Aplicada ☒

DEPARTAMENTO(S) Y/O INSTITUTO(S):
1. Departamento de Cuantitativa

LINEA(S) DE INVESTIGACIÓN:
1. Economía del Bienestar

DISCIPLINA CIENTÍFICA *(Marque X, solamente una opción)*	
Ciencias Naturales y Exactas;	
Ingeniería y Tecnologías;	
Ciencias Médicas;	
Ciencias Agrícolas;	
Ciencias Sociales;	X
Humanidades	

OBJETIVO SOCIOECONÓMICO *(Marque X, solamente una opción)*	
Exploración y explotación del medio terrestre;	
Ambiente;	
Exploración y Explotación del espacio;	
Transporte, telecomunicaciones y otras infraestructuras;	
Energía;	
Producción y tecnología industrial;	
Salud;	
Agricultura;	
Educación;	
Cultura, ocio, religión y medios de comunicación;	
Sistemas políticos y sociales, estructuras y procesos;	X
Defensa;	
Avance general del conocimiento: I+D financiada con los Fondos Generales de Universidades (FGU);	
Avance general del conocimiento: I+D financiados con otras fuentes.	

1	**Proyecto de Investigación**

Título:

Where to go? Drivers of Venezuelan asylum-seekers

Resumen del proyecto

       This study seeks to understand the determinant factors of the Venezuelan asylum-seeker's choice of country of refuge. The focus is on asylum seekers because, by definition, an asylum-seeker is *forced to leave* its origin country and so its choice of destination country is significantly different from that of an economic migrant. Moreover, the focus is on Venezuelan population because of Venezuela's current political and socio-economic situation that have led to the outflow of more than 3.4 M refugees and migrants from it, which has already become the largest in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. Indeed, Venezuelan economic collapse has turned into a humanitarian crisis because of the scarcity of food and medicines.

       In this paper, we aim to respond the following question: what drivers can explain the Venezuelan asylum-seeker's choice of country of refuge? To do so, we propose to estimate a longitudinal regression using data about country-specific aggregate numbers of Venezuelan asylum-seekers together with economic, demographic, geographical, cultural, political and institutional variables.

       As the economic situation is one of the main triggers of the Venezuelan crisis, we expect the economic characteristics of the destination country to matter the most in the choice of destination country of the Venezuelan asylum seekers. Notwithstanding, the *forced to leave* inherent feature of asylum seekers might matter also resulting in some unexpected interesting dynamics.

Palabras clave (4-6):

       Venezuela, asylum-seekers, Venezuelan migration, Venezuelan exodus.

2	**Objetivos, relevancia, productos y resultados esperados de esta propuesta de investigación**

2.1 Objetivos

2.1.1 Objetivo General
- To understand the determinant factors of the Venezuelan asylum-seeker's choice of country of refuge.

2.1.2 Objetivos Específicos
    a. To identify the theoretical determinants of asylum seekers' choice of destination country.
    b. To analyze whether or not the movement pattern of Venezuelan asylum seekers adjusts to the theoretical drivers.
    c. To account for at least two sets of theoretical candidate determinants of refuges' migration patterns, namely, (i) origin and destination country interconnection characteristics and (ii) destination country characteristics.
    d. To identify empirically which characteristics matter for explaining the movement patterns of Venezuelan asylum-seekers.

2.2 Detalle de los resultados esperados (con relación a los objetivos)
    a. By definition, an asylum-seeker's choice of destination country is significantly different from that of an economic migrant because the former is forced to leave (Neumayer, 2005). Therefore, after a thorough literature review, we expect to be able to identify most of the theoretical determinants regarding exclusively to the refugee population.
    b. We expect the movement pattern of Venezuelan asylum seekers not to fully adjust to the theoretical drivers because of the particularities of the Venezuelan current situation. Indeed, Venezuelan economic collapse has turned into a humanitarian crisis because of the scarcity of food and medicines (Casey, 2016; M. McCarthy, 2017). Hence, it is very likely that Venezuelan refuges' choice of destination country differs from theory presenting interesting new characteristics.

c. We expect to be able to analyze the movement patterns of Venezuelan asylum seekers by including an extensive set of determinants. We expect to include not only origin and destination characteristics –such as, the existing linguistic and cultural similarities between countries and the physical distance between Venezuela and the host country (Havinga & Böcker, 1999; Mayda, 2010)– but also destination country characteristics –such as, expected real pecuniary income and social care rights (Norredam, Mygind, & Krasnik, 2006), visa requirements (Valenta & Thorshaug, 2012).

d. As the economic situation is one of the main triggers of the Venezuelan crisis, we expect the economic characteristics of the destination country to matter the most in the choice of destination country of the Venezuelan asylum seekers.

3	**Relevancia de la propuesta de investigación y su relación con la(s) líneas de investigación**

To understand the determinant factors of the Venezuelan asylum-seeker's choice of country of refuge appears to be relevant for the wellbeing economics because of the magnitude of the Venezuelan migratory phenomenon. Indeed, the current political and socio-economic events in Venezuela have led to the outflow of more than 3.4 M refugees and migrants from it, which has already become the largest in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNHCR, 2019). Moreover, Venezuelan economic collapse has turned into a humanitarian crisis because of the scarcity of food and medicines. By 2007, around 10 million Venezuelan ate only one or two meals per day (Benzaquen, 2017) and National Guard troops had to patrol supermarkets to prevent disturbances caused by scarce food supplies (M. McCarthy, 2017). Moreover, infant and maternal mortality is rising in Venezuela due to the degradation of the medical system related with the lack of medical supplies (Casey, 2016). Because of the scarcity of basic goods and services, violent crime has raised in Venezuela: according to the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime, Venezuelan homicides rate was 91.8 (111.19) per 100 000 individuals by 2017 (2018). In fact, Caracas (Venezuela's capital city) has been catalogued as one of the three most violent cities in the world (BBC, 2018).

Such a local humanitarian crisis becomes a regional one as Venezuelans flee in even larger numbers, looking for refuge in neighbouring and nearby countries. The resulting refugee crisis challenges the receiving countries which, according to Gedan (2018), seems not being prepared. According to the World Bank, by 2019, Ecuador have received around 221k Venezuelan refugees. Why they decide to move to Ecuador instead of any other country? This question is embedded into the general objective of this investigation. The relevance of understanding the reason of this choice is linked to welfare issues not only for the Venezuelan population but also for the destination country citizens.

4	**Productos esperados (marcar con una "X" al menos uno de los productos no señalados)**

Tipo de Producto:	Marcar con una "X"
a. Disertación a la Comunidad Politécnica (obligatorio);	X
b. Presentación de un artículo en formato de la Revista Politécnica (obligatorio)	X
c. Proyecto de Titulación;	
d. Aplicación tecnológica construida o implementada;	
e. Patente presentada;	
f. Perfil de proyecto de mayor impacto científico, técnico, pedagógico o de innovación.	
g. Publicaciones científicas indexada en SCIMAGO-SCOPUS/WoS/SCIELO/Latindex Catálogo o un artículo en congreso indexado en SCOPUS.	

5	Descripción y metodología y diseño del proyecto

5.1 Descripción, metodología y diseño del proyecto

Our empirical modelling approach relies on the estimation of a longitudinal regression as formally represented by relation (1). The retained longitudinal dataset covers the period 2014-2017. According to the specification tests, the best fit for our data is obtained by setting country random effects and time fixed effects as follows:

$$ln(AS_{it}) = \alpha + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \beta_k X_{kit} + T_t + \xi_{it} + u_{it} \tag{1}$$

where:

$ln(AS_{it})$ is a linear function of the number of Venezuelan asylum-seekers which depends on K explicative variables in the country of destination i in the year t;

α is the constant term;

X_{kit} includes the set of variables representing the candidate determinants of asylum-seekers choice of destination country;

β_k is a vector of parameters associated with the set of variables included in X_{kit};

T_t stands for the year fix effect;

ξ_{it} is the random effect; and,

u_i is the stochastic error term of the model.

Our dependent variable, $ln(AS_{it})$, is the logarithm of the annual number of Venezuelan asylum seekers (AS) by country of destination over the period 2014-2017, as published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2001). According to the UNHCR, *asylum-seekers* are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined, irrespective of when they may have been lodged. The reported asylum applications generally refer to the number of applicants or persons, rather than the number of applications or families, and exclude repeat or appeal applications.

In order to avoid biased estimations, resulting from a variable omission, we include a broader set of variables, X_{kit}, representing the candidate determinants of asylum-seekers choice of destination country. The variables included in X_{kit}, and detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Variables included in the empirical model as candidate determinants
of the patterns of destination for Venezuelan asylum-seekers

Determinant	Variables	Data Source
(A) Origin and destination country interconnection		
(A1) Linguistic and cultural similarity	Common language as in the origin	CEPII
(A2) Physical distance between origin and the host countries (transportation cost, transport accessibility, existence of a direct flight and arranging travel agency)	Distance between Venezuela and the host country measured in kilometers.	CEPII
(B) Characteristics of the Destination Country		
(B1) Expected real pecuniary income	The GDP per capita of the country i in year t at 2010 prices	The World Bank.
(B2) Visa requirements	Dummy variable set to 1 if the destination country has visa requirements	Several sources
(B3) Corruption perception	Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International.
(B4) Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism	Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism Index	The World Bank.
(B5) Expected price stability	Inflation rate	The World Bank.
(B6) Possibility of landing a job	Unemployment rate	The World Bank.
(B7) Ease of starting business	Ease of doing business index.	The World Bank.

Table 1 associates each observable variable, included in X_{kit}, with its respective candidate determinant and details the data sources. More specifically, X_{kit} contains two sets of variables. The first set collects information about the interconnection between Venezuela and host countries – Section (A) in Table 1. Here, we have two variables: (i) a dummy variable that take the value of 1 if the host country has the same official language as Venezuela (Spanish) and 0 otherwise; and (ii) a continuous variable of the physical distance

between Venezuela and the country in which asylum is claimed and its quadratic form. These geodesic distances, measured in kilometres, are calculated following the great circle formula, which uses latitudes and longitudes of the most important cities/agglomerations in terms of population (CEPII, 2011). We expect a negative association between distance and asylum claims (Havinga & Böcker, 1999; Mayda, 2010; Neumayer, 2005).

The second set of variables – Section (B) in Table 1 – collects information about the characteristics of the specific country in which asylum claims of Venezuelans are presented. First, the logarithm of the GDP per capita in 2010 prices for each period t in country i is included. Clearly, we expect a positive relation between the number of asylum seekers and the volume of the economy (Mayda, 2010). GDP is measured in constant US dollars. Moreover, we capture the effect of visa requirements including a dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if country i requires visa for Venezuelans in year t and 0 otherwise. Further, we include the corruption perception index elaborated by Transparency International at a country level. We expect that the higher the corruption perception in country i in year t, the lower the number of Venezuelan asylum seekers. Additionally, as asserted by (Neumayer, 2005), political stability and absence of violence and or/terrorism are determinant when choosing for a country for asylum application; therefore, we include the logarithm of the index that captures this information which is elaborated by the World Bank, yearly. In addition, we believe that economic dimension, beyond GDP, may be a deterrence factor in the asylum selection process. Thus, we capture the incidence of this dimension including three additional controls in our specification: the logarithms of inflation rate, unemployment rate and easy to start business index in year t in country i. Finally, it is important to mention that we have taken logarithms of some variables due to their heterogeneity.

Lastly, time effects control for what happens in Venezuela during each year since, we believe, that they capture socio-economic circumstances in home that could work as triggers for asylum seekers. Moreover, the parameters associated to these year controls are significant in all possible specifications which indicates that we have to keep them into the final model.

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6	Infraestructura, equipos y fondos adicionales.

6.1 Infraestructura y equipos

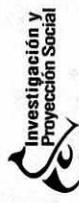| Infraestructura	Equipos	
	Nombre del Equipo	**Ubicación del Equipo**
Oficinas profesores DEC	Computadores de Escritorio	Oficinas Profesores DEC

6.2 Breve justificación del equipo requerido
La búsqueda de información, estimaciones econométricas, redacción y difusión de resultados requieren de computadores con paquetes econométricos y acceso a internet.

Investigación y Proyección Social

ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA NACIONAL

Título del Proyecto:

AÑO 1

Nº	Actividad	M1·1	M1·2	M1·3	M1·4	M2·1	M2·2	M2·3	M2·4	M3·1	M3·2	M3·3	M3·4	M4·1	M4·2	M4·3	M4·4	M5·1	M5·2	M5·3	M5·4	M6·1	M6·2	M6·3	M6·4	M7·1	M7·2	M7·3	M7·4	M8·1	M8·2	M8·3	M8·4	M9·1	M9·2	M9·3	M9·4	M10·1	M10·2	M10·3	M10·4	M11·1	M11·2	M11·3	M11·4	M12·1	M12·2	M12·3	M12·4
Obj 1	To identify the theoretical determinants of asylum seekers' choice of destination country.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																																								
Act. 1.1	Comprehensive literature review on the subject.	X	X	X																																													
Act. 1.2	List of candidate determinants according to previous findings on related studies.					X	X	X																																									
Obj 2	To analyze whether or not the movement pattern of Venezuelan asylum seekers adjusts to the theoretical drivers.									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																																
Act. 2.1	Research on the particularities of the Venezuelan crisis.									X	X	X																																					
Act. 2.2	Summary on case specific socioeconomic features regarding the Venezuelan exodus.										X	X	X																																				
Act. 2.3	Depuration of the theoretical determinants identified in 1 by matching them with the particular features identified in objective 2.													X	X	X	X																																
Obj 3	To account for at least two sets of theoretical candidate determinants of refuges' migration patterns, namely, (i) origin and destination country interconnection characteristics and (ii) destination country characteristics.																	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X																								
Act. 3.1	Collect longitudinal data on variables representing the determinants selected in 2																	X	X	X																													
Act. 3.2	Build a longitudinal database including the collected information.																					X	X	X	X																								
Obj 4	To identify empirically which characteristics matter for explaining the movement patterns of Venezuelan asylum-seekers.																									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Act. 4.1	Perform a series of statistical test for identifying the empirical model that fits the data the best.																									X	X	X	X																				
Act. 4.2	Specify, estimate and validate the empirical models.																													X	X	X	X																
Act. 4.3	Interpret the obtained results by contrasting them with the theoretical candidate determinants identified in objectives 1 and 2.																																	X	X	X	X												
Act. 4.4	Discuss the results in line with the current Venezuelan situation.																																					X	X	X	X								
P1	Writing of the scientific paper attached to the project																																									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
P1	Proof-reading of the scientific paper																																													X	X	X	
P2	Disertation of the results																																														X	X	X

PROYECTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN INTERNOS SIN FINANCIAMIENTO O AUTOGESTIONADOS
ANEXO 4 - DECLARACIÓN

TIPO DE INVESTIGACIÓN

Investigación básica ☐	Investigación aplicada ☒

TÍTULO DEL PROYECTO

Where to go? Drivers of Venezuelan asylum-seekers

DECLARACIÓN DEL DIRECTOR DEL PROYECTO

El equipo de investigadores, representado por el Director del Proyecto declara lo siguiente:

- Que el presente proyecto es una creación original de mi autoría y del equipo de investigadores, y por tanto asumimos la completa responsabilidad legal en caso de que un tercero alegue la titularidad de los derechos intelectuales del proyecto, exonerando a la EPN de cualquier acción legal que se derive por esta causa.

- Que el presente proyecto no ha sido presentado en ninguna convocatoria de otra institución pública o privada. El incumplimiento será causal para que el proyecto no sea tomado en consideración.

- Que todos los bienes adquiridos en proyecto permanecerán bajo la custodia y responsabilidad del director de proyecto durante la ejecución del mismo.

- Que si el proyecto genera algún producto o procedimiento susceptible de obtener derechos de propiedad intelectual, de los cuales se deriven beneficios, aceptamos que éstos serán compartidos entre los investigadores y la institución o las instituciones participantes en el proyecto, conforme a lo establecido en el COESC.

- Que el equipo de investigadores y/o instituciones participantes se comprometen a mantener la confidencialidad de la información si ésta podría ser susceptible de protección por patentes, y solicitar la valoración de propiedad intelectual respectiva previa a cualquier publicación o difusión.

- Que para el caso de derechos de autor otorgamos una licencia de uso exclusivo con fines académicos para la o las instituciones participantes en el proyecto.

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ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA NACIONAL
VICERRECTORADO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y PROYECCIÓN SOCIAL
Dirección de Investigación y Proyección Social

Investigación y
Proyección Social

DECLARACIÓN DEL JEFE DE DEPARTAMENTO

Esta propuesta ha sido aprobada y avalada por el Consejo del Departamento de ………………….., en sesión del día …………………. mediante resolución No. ………..

Las instalaciones, incluyendo personal, edificios, equipo y recursos financieros están a disposición del proponente y sus colaboradores de acuerdo con las especificaciones que se encuentran en esta propuesta.

Nombre: Julio Medina
C.I.: