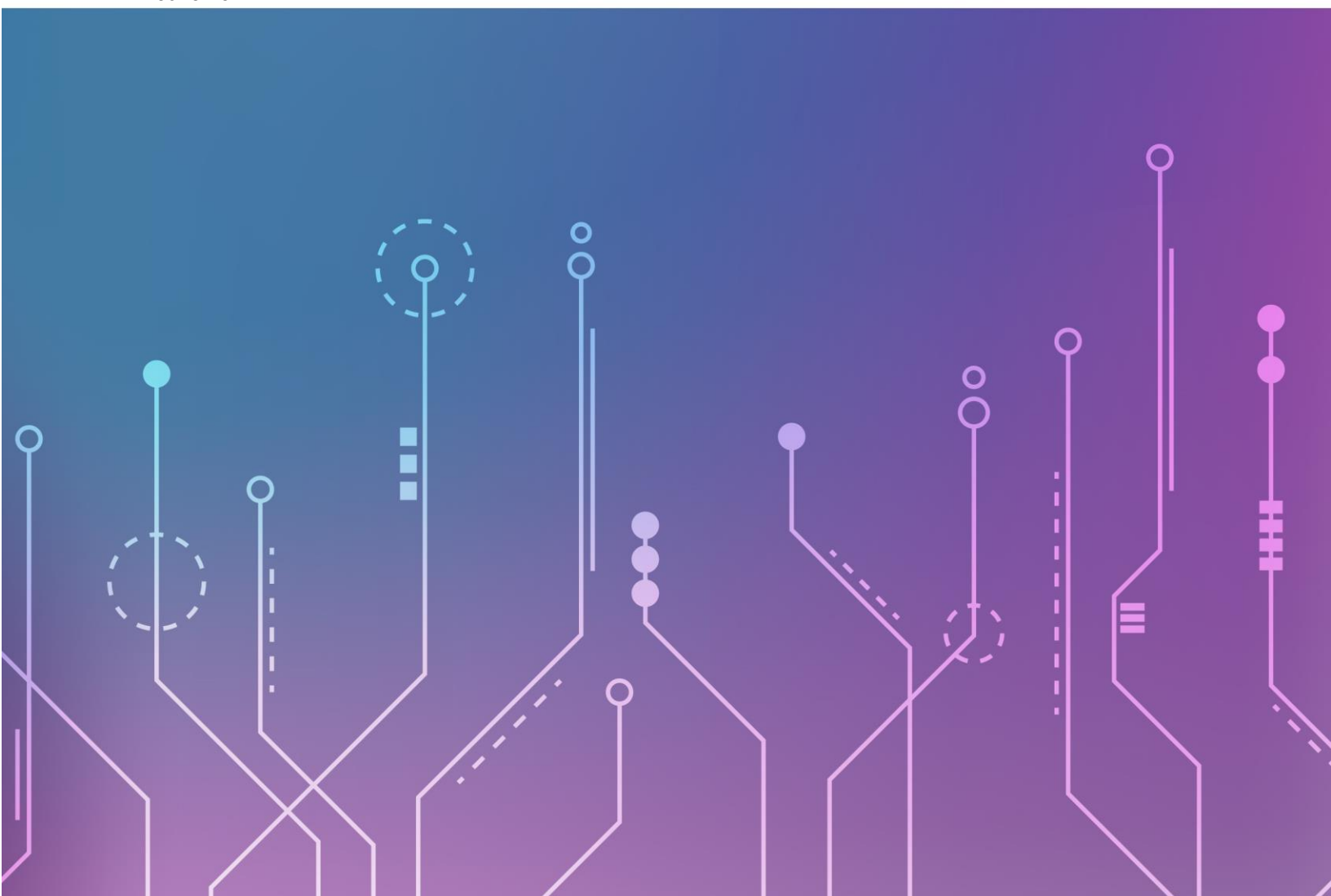


Call for Scientific Research & Technology Development (SR&TD) Projects on Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Cybersecurity of relevance to the Public Administration

GUIDE FOR PEER REVIEWERS

June 2024



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1. About FCT

FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) is the Portuguese public agency under the responsibility of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education that supports science, technology, and innovation, in all scientific domains.

FCT's mission is to continuously promote the advancement of knowledge in science and technology in Portugal, following high international standards in quality and competitiveness, and encourage its dissemination and contribution to society and to economic growth.

FCT pursues its mission by funding, through competitive calls with peer review, fellowships, studentships and research contracts for scientists, research projects, research centres and infrastructures. FCT ensures Portugal's participation in international scientific organisations, fosters the participation of the scientific community in international projects and promotes knowledge transfer between Research and Development (R&D) centres and industry. Working closely with international organisations, FCT coordinates public policy for the Information and Knowledge Society in Portugal and ensures the development of national scientific computing resources.

The results of FCT accomplishments are, the outcome of the work carried out by individual scientists, research groups and institutions funded by FCT.

2. Call for SR&TD Projects: Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Cybersecurity of relevance to the Public Administration

This call will be fully funded by the PRR in alignment with the objectives of Component 5 - "Investment and Innovation", within the scope of "RE-C05-i08 – More Digital Science", measure "RE-C05-i08.M04 – "a programme of R&I projects geared towards the development and implementation of advanced cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data science systems in the Public Administration". Regarding local administration, we seek to promote projects aligned with the "National Strategy for Smart Territories", particularly those that impact smart governance and territorial sustainability.

This initiative has the following objectives:

- Consolidation and strengthening of the National Science and Technology System (SNCT), simultaneously contributing to increasing the national and international competitiveness of science and technology, as well as the ability to innovate and to promote bidirectional transfer of knowledge between SNCT and Public Administration entities;

- Promote a greater approach between development strategies of different governmental powers, including the reinforcement of priority elements for the country's strategic autonomy;
- Lead to continuous improvement of services provided by different Public Administration entities, to optimize resources and combat fraud and error.

This will operationalise measure RE-C05-i08.M04 through support for research, development, testing and implementation activities of relevance to Public Administration entities, including local public administration (municipalities and intermunicipal entities), in the form of scientific research and technological development projects, in all phases, from exploratory activities to proofs of concept, covering the following thematic axes:

- I. Artificial intelligence and data science, including (but not limited to): analysing large volumes of data; predictive analytics, natural language processing, pattern analysis, machine learning;
- II. Interaction design and design of digital and physical systems, from an interdisciplinary and citizen-centred perspective;
- III. Cybersecurity, including (among others): prevention, detection, analysis and the ability to learn and respond to threats, risks and incidents that jeopardise the protection of infrastructures, data and people;
- IV. Artificial Intelligence Governance: research and study/planning activities, including legal aspects, with a view to establishing a future national structure or organisation dedicated to the implementation of artificial intelligence technologies in light of the “AI Act”.

Projects can combine the thematic axes described above.

For projects on the artificial intelligence field and data science and user interaction and interface systems, it is intended, in itself, that this initiative will result in concepts, algorithms, data analysis models and applications implemented in functional prototypes, which allow for their demonstration and experimental use by the Public Administration entities, including local public administration (municipalities and intermunicipal entities), for which they are intended to, as well as (when appropriate) by citizens and the general public .

In order to maximise the value of services, products and the reuse of generated data within the scope of this call, procedures aligned with the best international practices in open data and security, namely through the development of Data Management Plans for each project shall be adopted. It is also intended to adopt procedures aligned with the future EU Regulation on Artificial Intelligence (“AI Act”).

Projects within cybersecurity domain, the aim is to achieve an impact on the capacity to respond to crises and on strengthening the resilience and preparedness of Public Administration entities, with a

view to aligning with the future EU Regulation for cyber-resilience (“EU Cyber Resilience Act) and complying with national and European legislation (namely the NIS2 Directive) on cybersecurity.

The **beneficiary entities** can apply **individually** or in **co-promotion** and must be a legal entity belonging to the non-business entities of the R&D System, namely: higher education institutions, their institutes, and R&D units; state, international or associated laboratories with a head office in Portugal; non-profit private institutions whose main object is R&D activity, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Centres for Technology and Innovation (CTI); other non-profit public and private institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

For this call, 8.375 million euros are available to fund research projects that must meet the following requirements:

- The maximum duration of the grant is **12 months**.
- The maximum funding for project is **125.000,00 euros**.

All proposals, written in English, are submitted online via **myFCT** web platform (detailed information in Annex I).

The call is open from 24 June to 31 July 2024.

Each applicant can only submit one application as PI.

A **maximum of up to 4 Core CVs** can be presented: for the **PI** and **3 other team members** (researchers considered as more relevant for the project).

Evaluators should **only** use the **PI Narrative CV** and the **Team CV Synopsis** to assess the scientific merit of the team. Any detailed information provided in the attached CIENCIAVITAE CVs is to be used as a complement.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the application will focus on the relevance and quality of following criteria:

- A. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project – **40%**;
- B. Scientific merit of the research team – **30%**;
- C. Relevance and impact of the work plan to the Entity(ies) of the Public Administration – **30%**.

3.1 Criterion A (40%)

This criterion aims to assess the scientific merit and innovative nature of the project, among other considerations, the following:

- Dully substantiated relevance, originality of the objectives and of the study's object based on the state of the art of the scientific area, and innovative nature of the proposed project.
- Potential contribution of the research project to the advancement of scientific knowledge and potential innovations brought by the applications of that knowledge.
- Expected deliverables, such as algorithms, prototypes or services.
- Potential impacts of the project results on the societal, economic and technological dimensions, namely for the improvement of public administration services, cyber-resilience and decision-making processes.

3.2 Criterion B (30%)

The present criterion is intended to evaluate the scientific merit of the research team, through the following dimensions:

- Merit of the scientific and professional career of the proponents of the project (PI, co-PI and team members), valuing the different components that support a curriculum of scientific merit: participation in research projects; scientific publications; leadership/organization/participation in networks and conferences; participation in activities of scientific training and management;
- Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project in the specific area of this call, considering the team's configuration, the availability and commitment of its members (and other entities, when applicable) and the PI's qualifications regarding the project's challenges, both at the scientific and management level, as well as the ability to engage young researchers in training;
- Relevant outcomes of previous projects and their contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to knowledge-based applications, assessed through the qualitative appraisal of publications or other professional and scientific works and actions considered as the most representative of the scientific/professional career of the PI, co-PI and other team members;

The scientific merit of the Principal Investigator, his/her contributions to science and society, and the research team profiles should be evaluated using the information provided in the Narrative CV and Team CV synopsis fields (the CIÊNCIAVITAE CV, written in English, should only be used to confirm the information provided in those fields).

According to the FCT's commitment to The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, as set out by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), evaluation panels are advised not to use metrics as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual outputs and applicant's contributions.

When assessing this criterion, the evaluation panel should also consider the information provided by the applicant in terms of their quality, relevance, and impact, rather than in a quantitative way and its specificities in terms of the scientific area(s) and subarea(s) of each application.

3.3 Criterion C (30%)

This criterion is intended to evaluate the feasibility of the work plan and reasonability of the budget, considering the following aspects:

- Quality (clarity, consistency and adequacy) of the proposed scientific approach, taking into consideration the theoretical framework, the adopted methodology for the development of the project, the work plan proposed, the project outcomes, and the applicability of the results to the Public Administration entities which are either part of the consortium or which are intended targets of those results;
- Clear identification of the activities to be developed, their structure and their adequacy to the established methods and objectives;
- If applicable, analysis of the risks associated to the different stages of the project, with special focus on the identification of the critical points and the corresponding contingency plan to be adopted, namely in what pertains to the adoption of the results by Public Administration entities;
- Adequacy of available datasets for the project's objective and appropriate mechanisms to safeguard legal and ethical implications of data usage;
- Likelihood of uptake of possible results (prototypes, products, services, etc.) by Public Administration entities, namely by including in the consortium entities from academia, industry and end-users, in view of promoting technology transfer and the support along the life-cycle of possible solutions.
- Likelihood of the adoption of potential outcomes in the development or implementation of public policies or legislation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity.

4. Scoring System

The scoring system uses a **9-point scale, using 0.1 increments**. The maximum score is 9 and the minimum is 1, as presented in Table I.

Table I – Qualitative descriptors associated to the 9-point scale

Evaluation	Score	Strengths & Weaknesses
Excellent	9	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses
Very good	8	Very strong with some negligible weaknesses
	7	Strong with some minor weaknesses
Good	6	Some strengths with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Some strengths but with at least one moderate weakness
Adequate	4	Few strengths with several minor weaknesses
	3	Few strengths and major weaknesses
Poor	2	Very few strengths and serious weaknesses
	1	Cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

The Merit of the Project (MP) is given by:

$$MP = 0.40*A + 0.30*B + 0.30*C$$

Criteria A, B and C are scored using a 9-point scale system (1 – minimum; 9 – maximum) with **decimal numbers**. The final score of MP is rounded to two-decimal places.

In cases where the information provided in the application does not allow a sustained score for a specific evaluation criterion, a score of 1.0 (one) will be assigned.

For a proposal to be eligible for funding, it is necessary that the final MP score is equal or above 5.00 and that the score of Criterion C is equal or above 5.00.

Eligible applications will be ranked by the evaluation panel **by decreasing order** of the **MP score**.

In case of ties (projects with the same MP score), the **ratings assigned criteria C, A and B** will be used **sequentially and by decreasing order** to provide the final ranking of the projects.

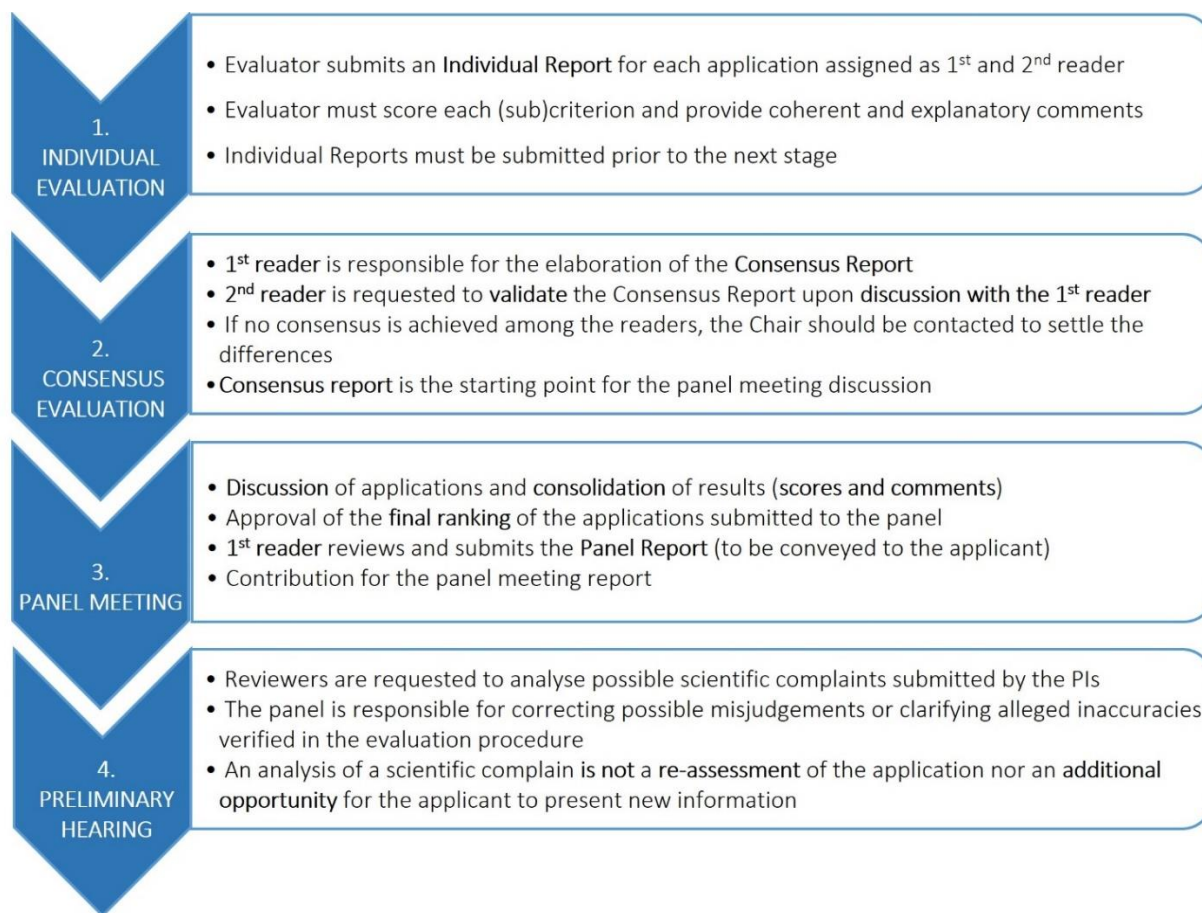
5. Evaluation Process

5.1 Constitution of the Evaluation Panel

- The evaluation panel is constituted by experts mainly affiliated with foreign institutions, independent and of recognized merit, considering the number and the scientific areas of the applications, an adequate gender balance and a fair geographic and institutional distribution of evaluators.
- The panel has a **Chair** who is **responsible for the following tasks:**
 - Ensure that the evaluation process is carried out transparently, independently and fairly.
 - Assign each application to two panel members (1st and 2nd readers), considering any declared **Conflict of Interest (Col)**, as well as the **matching of scientific expertise** within the topic of the application.
 - Keep the evaluation process within the defined timeframe and contact panel members in case of any delay.
 - Support the FCT team with the resolution of any Col identified during the evaluation process.
 - If necessary, assist FCT with the constitution of the panel by suggesting possible reviewers to be invited.
 - Suggest external reviewers to be invited by FCT to provide an assessment of an application, whenever a specific expertise is not covered by the panel.
 - Assure the quality of the reviewers' reports (particularly the Consensus and the Panel Reports) and alert them whenever not complying with the following: comments should be coherent with scores, considering the descriptors of the scoring system (see section 4), provide substantive arguments and identify both strengths and weaknesses for each evaluation (sub)criterion.
 - Moderate the Panel Meeting.
 - Prepare the panel meeting report that should address work methodology, conflicts of interest and final ranking.
 - Coordinate the support to be given to FCT and panel members during the period of preliminary hearings, if necessary.

5.1 Evaluation Stages

The evaluation process comprises **4 stages**:



5.2 Evaluation Timeline

The evaluation timeline is established by FCT's Board of Directors and conveyed to the evaluation panel Chair and members. The date of the final videoconference panel meeting of the panel is established in advance by FCT.

5.3 Feedback to be communicated to applicants

All the reviewers should comply with the following additional guidelines in the elaboration of the evaluation reports.

Each report must include:

- Score and comments for each evaluation criteria, including strengths and weaknesses.
- A comment on the proposed budget; suggested changes in the budget must be justified.
- A comment concerning ethical issues, if applicable.
- Confidential comments to the evaluation panel and /or FCT, if necessary.

Comments must:

- Be coherent with the scores considering the descriptors presented in Table I (section 4).
- Be clear and consistent, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the application for each (sub)criterion.
- Use dispassionate and analytical language, avoiding dismissive statements about the applicant, the proposed science, or the scientific field.
- Be impeccably polite.
- Address the proposed work plan and not the work the reviewers consider should have been planned.

Comments must not:

- Give a description or a summary of the application.
- Make use of the first person or equivalent: "I think..." or "This reviewer finds..."; alternatively, panel members are advised to use expressions such as "The panel ..." or "It is considered...".
- Ask questions, as the applicant will not be able to answer them.
- Provide recommendations or advice for improving the application.
- Have contradicting statements.
- Mention quantitative details that can easily originate factual mistakes.

The quality of the comments to be communicated to the applicants is of paramount importance to the evaluation process, therefore being a crucial task of the evaluation panel.

4. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

6.1 Confidentiality Statement

The privacy and confidentiality must be fully protected and ensured at all times during the evaluation process. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are asked to be bound to the Terms of Reference.

Within the context of the call, a set of personal data are collected and the information regarding this are provided to the data supplier for compliance with the principles established in Regulation EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016 (GDPR) and the 58/2019 Law from August 8, in the Application Guide.

6.2 Conflict of Interest (Col)

Disqualifying Conflict of Interest

With the present Call

Researchers are hindered to participate as Chair, Panel member or External reviewer if they:

1. Have submitted any application as PI, team member or consultant;
2. Have first-degree relationships, domestic partnership or are married with a PI of an application.

With an application

Panel members cannot evaluate nor participate in the panel meeting discussion of an application in the following circumstances:

1. Personal or financial interest in the application's success.
2. Current or planned close scientific cooperation.
3. Research cooperation within the last three years before the opening date of the call, e.g., joint publications.
4. Dependent employment relationship or supervisory relationship (e.g., supervisor-student relationship up to and including the postdoctoral stage) within the three years before the opening date of the call.
5. Affiliation or pending transfer to any of the departments or research centres involved in the project.
6. Researchers who are active in a council or similar supervisory or advisory board of the applying institutions are excluded from participating in the review and decision-making process for applications involving these institutions.

Potential Conflict of Interest

The panel member should notify FCT and clarify if he/she is able to perform an unbiased evaluation or if the conflict should rather be considered as disqualifying. A potential conflict of interest exists in the following circumstances:

7. Relationships other than first-degree, marriage or domestic partnership; other personal ties or conflicts.
8. Participation in university bodies other than those listed under no. 6, e.g., in scientific advisory committees in the research environment.
9. Preparation of an application or implementation of a project with a closely related research topic (competition).

10. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s).

In case a conflict of interest is detected during the evaluation process, the reviewer is required to inform the panel Chair and the FCT team of this situation, so that the application may be swiftly reassigned. Depending on its nature, this information will be presented in the panel meeting report.

Annex I – Components of the Application

Applications must be written in English and are submitted online via a dedicated FCT Web Platform ([MyFCT](#)).

Multiple applications of the same project are not allowed. New applications grounded on a previous project should contain substantial modification and update.

Each application comprises the following sections:

General Data

Project Description

- Project Title (PT/EN) (**max. 255 characters**)
- Project acronym (**max. 15 characters**)
- Keywords (PT/EN) (**max. 4 keywords**)
- Thematic area
- Justification of the thematic area (**max. 1000 characters**)
- Main scientific area (Scientific Domain / Scientific Area / Scientific subarea)
- Timetable (start date and duration)

Institutions

Principal contractor

- Institution
- Research unit (**max. 3**)
- Institution description and its competencies for the development of the project (**max. 1500 characters**)

Participating institutions

- Institution
- Research unit (**max. 3**)
- Institution description and its competencies for the development of the project (**max. 1500 characters**)

Collaborative Institutions

- Country
- Institution Name
- Institution description and its competencies for the development of the project (**max. 1500 characters**)

Research team

Principal Investigator

- Ciência ID
- Name
- Institution to which the PI is associated in the scope of the research project

- Total cost (in euros) (if applicable)
- Employment relationship (if applicable)
- *Curriculum Vitae* (CIÊNCIAVITAE platform)

PI Narrative CV

- Career profile (max. 2000 characters)
- Contributions to Science and Society:
 - Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge (**max. 2000 characters**)
 - Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams (**max. 3000 characters**)
 - Contributions to the research community and the broader society (**max. 3000 characters**)
 - Selected outputs and/or activities (**max. 2500 characters**)

Members

- Name / Ciência ID
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project
- Role
- CV
- Total cost (in euros) (if applicable)
- Employment relationship (if applicable)
-

Hirings (if applicable)

- Type
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project
- Total cost (in euros)

Consultant (if applicable)

- Name / Ciência ID
- CV
- Framework of consultant's participation (**max. 1000 characters**)

Team CV Synopsis (**max. 6000 characters**)

- Research team CV synopsis – *Provides the framework and skills of the research team and their coherence with the proposed work plan. It should focus on the last 5 years of effective scientific activity of the research team, indicating the most relevant scientific achievements of the research team and demonstrating its competence and skills in the area of the proposed project.*

Work plan

Abstract

- Abstract in Portuguese (**max. 5000 characters**)
- Abstract in English (**max. 5000 characters**)
- Abstract for publication (PT/EN), if different (**max. 5000 characters**)

State of the art and Objectives (**max. 6000 characters**)

Research plan and methods

- Research plan and methods (**max. 10000 characters**)
- Identify whether the work plan requires advanced computer resources to be provided by FCT (Y/N)
- Identify whether the work plan requires space in a research data repository to be provided by the FCT (Y/N)

Bibliographic references (**max. 10000 characters**)

Past publications (the most representative 5 publications of the team's work under this proposal)

- Order
- Publication (**max. 600 characters**)
- URL

Tasks

- Task denomination (**max. 150 characters**)
- Task description and expected results (**max. 4000 characters**)
- Assigned to
- Person*month
- Start date
- Duration (months)

Project timeline and management

- Milestones list
 - Denomination
 - Milestone description (**max. 300 characters**)
 - Tasks
 - Date
- Timeline (attached file)
- Management (**max. 3000 characters**)

Ethical issues (if applicable)

Ethical Issues (when applicable) are properly identified and addressed, according to the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide

- Are there Ethics Issues identified in this project?
- Select the ethical declarations you consider appropriate (if applicable)
- Justification (if applicable) (**max. 3000 characters**)

Other projects

List of the submitted proposals or approved projects (led by PI) through peer-review and initiated in the last 5 years (concluded or running projects)

- Project reference
- PI in actual application
- Project status
- Project title (in English)
- Principal contractor
- Funding entity
- Total funding

- Start date
- Duration (months)
- Relation with the current proposal – *list of the main objectives of the project that you consider relevant for this application (max. 2000 characters)*

Attachments

- Control List DNSH – mandatory submission
- *If needed, the PI may attach the following documents to the proposal: support letters, formulas, schemes, diagrams, graphs or images. No other documents than the ones previously mentioned should be considered in this section.*

Indicators

Expected output indicators

- Description

Dissemination

- Dissemination actions of the scientific activity planned in the project (max. 3000 characters)

Budget (for detailed information about each item see Annex II)

Principal contractor

- Item
- Rationale for requested funding (max. 3000 characters)
- Year

Participating institutions

- Item
- Rationale for requested funding (max. 3000 characters)
- Year

Funding plan

- Global budget (automatic filling)
- Funding Plan (automatic filling)

Statement of Commitment of PI

Validate and submit

Annex II – Budget

Budget rationale for requested funding (max. 3000 characters / item) – the following items are eligible for funding:

a) Direct costs:

i. Human resources rationale:

Expenses with **Human Resources** dedicated or related to the development of R&D activities related to the project execution in all mandatory components by the applicable labour legislation, including charges with grant holders directly supported by the beneficiaries;

- With regard to employment contracts, human resources expenses are based on the costs incurred in carrying out the project, based on the monthly base salary declared for the social protection of the worker, which may be increased by the mandatory social food allowance and occupational accident insurance under legally defined terms. The basic salary shall be the set of all remunerations of a permanent nature subject to taxation and declared for the purpose of social protection of the worker;
- The research fellowships are tendered and contracted by the beneficiary entities in the context of the supported projects, which must comply with the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, in its present version) and FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships.

ii. Missions, expenses with travel, accommodation, registration fees, etc., in Portugal and abroad, and directly attributable to the project.

iii. Scientific and technical tools and equipment (acquisition or amortization) indispensable to the project if used within the project during their useful lifetime.

iv. Patent registration, expenses related to the national and foreign record of **patents**, copyrights, usefulness models and drawings, national models or brands when related to other forms of intellectual protection, namely rates, research to the status of the technique and consulting expenses.

v. Demonstration, Promotion and Publication, expenses with the **demonstration, promotion and disclosure of the project's outputs**, namely dissemination fees within the fulfilment and pursuant to national policies of open access.

vi. Adaptation of buildings and facilities, when essential to the development of the project, namely for environmental and security reasons.

vii. Acquisition of other goods and services directly related to the project's execution, including costs with consultants that do not establish subcontracts.

b) Indirect costs (overheads), with a flat rate of 25% of eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting. The percentage bound in this item is automatically checked by the submission tool. Applications cannot be locked if this condition is not verified.

For the present Call, the **non-eligible costs** are the ones stated in the art. 9 of the [FCT Projects Regulation](#) in this current version.

Salaries of public servants are not funded under this call.

Annex III - Portuguese to English Translation and Explanations

Agregação = Aggregation. This is an academic title. It attests:

- i.) the quality of the academic, professional, scientific and pedagogical curriculum;
- ii.) the capacity to carry out research supervision;
- iii.) the capability to coordinate and carry out independent research work, issued to PhD holders with a research and academic path, after a public exam by a jury involving discussion of the CV, of a submitted curricular proposal and the presentation and discussion of a lecture.

Doutoramento = PhD, doctoral degree

Mestrado = Master's degree

Licenciatura = BA (3, 4 or 5 years graduate course)

Bolsa = Grant, fellowship

Bolseiro = Grant holder, fellow

BII = Bolsas de Iniciação à Investigação = Research Initiation Grants

- Research Initiation Grants are intended for students enrolled in a Higher Professional Education, a 1st cycle of a Higher Education institution, an Integrated Master or Master to initiate their scientific training, within research projects to be developed in national institutions;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants have a minimum duration of three months and may be renewable up to a maximum of one year.

BI = Bolsas de Investigação = Research Grants

- Research grants are intended for students enrolled in an Integrated Master, Master or Doctoral degree, for obtaining the respective scientific academic degree, through the development of scientific training integrated or not in R&D projects;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree or master, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;
- The grants may be renewable for additional periods up to:
 - One year, for grants awarded to graduated degree or master holders enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree;
 - Two years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in master's courses;

- Four years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in doctoral degrees;
- These grants may be national, mixed (in Portugal and abroad) or abroad, depending if the work plan occurs exclusively, partially or not at all in national institutions;
- For mixed research grants, the work plan performed in a foreign institution may not exceed 2 years.

BIPD= Bolsas de Investigação Pós-Doutoral = Postdoctoral Research Grants

- Postdoctoral Research Grants are intended for doctoral degree holders for the development of R&D activities;
- BIPDs are temporally restricted in order to stimulate the scientific employment and the use of researcher contracts as a rule instrument for their hiring, as well as to promote the development, in National Scientific and Technological System entities, of careers aiming at scientific research;
- BIPDs may only be granted provided that the following requirements are cumulatively met:
 - The doctoral degree has been obtained in the last three years before the submission date of the application grant;
 - The postdoctoral research is carried out in a host entity different than the one in which the research work was done to achieve the doctoral degree;
 - The research activities do not require post-doctoral experience;
 - The research activities have a development and execution period equal or less than three years.
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, renewable for up to a total of three years, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;
- Once the contract grant is finished, a new contract grant cannot be settled between the same host entity and the same fellow.

