

DATA PROTECTION

# 2024 Call for Exploratory Research Projects Under the MIT Portugal Program

NOVEMBER 2024

**MIT** Portugal



## Data Protection

In the context of the 2024 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the MIT Portugal Program, personal data is collected and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), approved by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of April 27, 2016, regarding the protection of individuals concerning the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, effective as of May 25, 2018, repealing Directive 95/46/EC of October 24, 1995. Additionally, processing follows the provisions of Law No. 58/2019 of August 8, which ensures GDPR enforcement in the national legal framework.

The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) acts as the funding body for projects, being responsible for launching, evaluating, and managing the funding process. In collaboration with the CMU Portugal, MIT Portugal, and UT Austin Portugal Programs, with which it has agreements, FCT promotes and defines the program calls' strategic lines, thus assuming responsibility for the collection and processing of personal data within this project, in compliance with the GDPR.

As the data controller, FCT has designated a Data Protection Officer, who can be contacted directly at the email address [dpo@fct.pt](mailto:dpo@fct.pt) for all matters related to personal data.

Personal data is collected exclusively for the purpose of managing funding and co-funding programs. Processing for this purpose is deemed lawful as it is necessary for fulfilling legal obligations and for the exercise of public interest functions by FCT, as per Article 6(1)(c) and (e) of the GDPR, and in accordance with applicable legislation governing public project funding.

The collection of personal data within the scope of the 2024 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the MIT Portugal Program is carried out: a) Directly from the data subjects, through application forms and online platforms, such as the myFCT platform, where the application, evaluation, and approval process is submitted and managed within an integrated system. Other platforms, such as CIÊNCIA ID and CIÊNCIAVITAE, centralize relevant information on curricula and institution data, allowing for more efficient management of the process. b) Indirectly, through data provided by beneficiary entities concerning applicants and their teams.

The personal data processed in this context includes: a) Data subject categories: Representatives of higher education institutions, laboratories, non-profit research institutions, companies participating in projects, principal investigators and their teams, as well as national and international evaluators. b) Categories of personal data: General data such as civil identification, contact details, academic and professional history, access credentials, and financial information, and, when necessary, sensitive data such as health information related to the project's implementation phase.

In this context, the sharing of personal data only occurs when strictly necessary for the execution and management of funding and co-funding programs. Data may be shared with partner entities and institutional collaborators involved in the process, including the MIT Portugal Program, always in strict compliance with applicable legal provisions. To ensure the security and confidentiality of shared personal data, FCT implements rigorous security measures, including secure transmission protocols, restricted access control, and data protection policies aligned with the GDPR. These practices ensure that data is treated confidentially and that its integrity is maintained throughout the entire process of handling and sharing.

Personal data may also be subject to international transfer, not only within European Union countries but also to countries outside the EU, particularly regarding the external evaluation phase. In these cases, FCT transfers data with appropriate guarantees and ensures data security by using the most suitable international data transfer tools.

FCT will retain personal data for the period necessary to fulfill the purposes of managing the funding programs, in compliance with applicable legal and regulatory obligations. Additionally, FCT may process personal data for purposes of archiving in the public interest, scientific or historical research, or statistical purposes, always in line with the data minimization principle.

Data subjects have the right to request from FCT access to their personal data, as well as its rectification or erasure, the restriction of processing, and data portability, where technically feasible. At any time, they may also withdraw consent, where applicable, or file a complaint directly with the National Data Protection Commission ([www.cnpd.pt/](http://www.cnpd.pt/)), using the contact details provided by this entity.

For more information on how FCT processes personal data, please consult the Privacy and Data Protection Policy in effect, available at <https://www.fct.pt/politica-de-privacidade/>.



**fct**

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