Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia

RESTART PROGRAMME – 3rd Edition

EVALUATION GUIDE

June 2025

REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA
EDUCAÇÃO, CIÊNCIA
E INOVAÇÃO

This **Evaluation Guide** sets out the details of the evaluation process and the procedures adopted for the RESTART Programme 3rd Edition Call announced by FCT. It complements the legal documents establishing the rules of this Call, namely the *Aviso de Abertura* (Call for Applications, available only in Portuguese), *Regulamento de Apoios Especiais* (Special Support Regulation, available only in Portuguese), the Application Guide, and the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide.

The 3rd Edition of the RESTART Programme entails a Call for Applications outlining the required requisites for application, the evaluation criteria and the budgetary envelope.

The period for submission of applications to the current Call is from June 2 to July 16, 2025.

Contents

1. FCT FUNDING OVERVIEW 4

2. RESTART PROGRAMME 4

2.1. Objectives and budgetary envelope 4

2.2. Components of the Application available for the evaluation panels 5

2.3. Eligibility criteria 6

2.4. Non-discrimination policy and equality of opportunities 7

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA 7

3.1. Criterion A – Research Plan 8

3.2. Criterion B – Applicant 8

3.3. Criterion C –Impact 11

4. SCORING SYSTEM 11

5. EVALUATION PROCESS 13

5.1. Constitution of the Evaluation Panels 13

5.2. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest 14

5.2.1. Confidentiality Statement 14

5.2.2. Conflicts of Interest (CoI) 14

Disqualifying conflicts of interest 14

Potential conflicts of interest 15

5.3. Evaluation stages and methodology 16

5.3.1. Applications assignment 16

5.3.2. Evaluation stages 16

Individual Stage 17

Consensus Stage 18

Final Panel Meeting 19

5.4. Feedback to applicants 19

5.5. Selection of Applications for Funding 20

5.6. Preliminary Hearings 21

6. APPENDIX I – SCIENTIFIC AREAS AND EVALUATION PANELS 22

Exact Sciences and Engineering Panel 22

Life and Health Sciences Panel 25

Natural and Environmental Sciences Panel 27

Social Sciences and Humanities Panel 29

1. FCT FUNDING OVERVIEW

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, is the Portuguese public Agency that funds and supports Science and Technology in all areas of knowledge. FCT promotes research talent through advanced training and consolidation of scientific careers, supports Research Units/Centres, fosters international competitiveness and visibility of Research and Innovation carried out in Portugal, facilitates access to state-of-the-art Research Infrastructures, and encourages knowledge transfer.

Through competitive Calls with peer review, FCT funds people (by awarding doctoral scholarships and scientific employment contracts for PhD holders), ideas (through R&D Project grants), institutions (Research Units, Associate Laboratories[1], Collaborative Laboratories[2], Research Infrastructures and Clinical Academic Centres), as well as International Cooperation.

2. RESTART PROGRAMME

2.1. Objectives and budgetary envelope

The RESTART programme is a FCT funding instrument for researchers who have recently benefited from parental leave (including by adoption), designed to, through competitive funding of individual R&D projects in all scientific areas, enable a competitive return to research activities under new circumstances, while promoting gender equality and equal opportunities. Aligned with national and international public policies in this area, the RESTART also covers, with specific eligibility conditions, cases of shared parental leave, which privilege equality in the provision of care and the sharing of family responsibilities and the period of leave.

This funding instrument is also in line with the concerns and recommendations of several international bodies, namely the Council of the European Union and the OECD, which aim to promote a better conciliation of professional and family life for those engaged in R&D activities.

[1] Composed of one or more R&D Units, the Associate Laboratories are formally consulted by the Government on the national scientific and technological policy and contribute for public policies on societal challenges according to their areas of activity, among other objectives.

[2] Consortia between Academia and private Companies, as well as other non-Academic entities, oriented for the promotion of qualified employment and generation of social and economic value.

The current Call will support researchers in the pursuit and development of an original and innovative research idea, with the possibility of associating other human and/or material resources to it, according to the funding made available (up to 50.000€ per project) and the execution time foreseen (up to 18 months). For this 3rd edition of the RESTART Call, there is a budgetary envelope of €1,6 Million.

The Application Guide and other documents on this Call are available from RESTART Programme 3rd Edition's website.

2.2. Components of the Application available for the evaluation panels

The application comprises the following evaluation components:

APPLICANT INFORMATION
- Applicant
  - Information imported from CIENCIA ID
  - (Name, Email, Gender, Nationality, ORCID)
- CIENCIAVITAE
  - Upload of CIENCIAVITAE CV in PDF
- Host Institution
  - Host Institution
  - Beneficiary Institution

NARRATIVE CV
- Career Profile (max. 4.000 characters)
- Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge (max. 5.000 characters)
- Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams (max. 3.000 characters)
- Contributions to the research community and the broader society (max. 3.000 characters)
- Further details on selected scientific outputs and/or activities (max. of 5 single outputs/activities and max. 5.000 characters altogether)

RESEARCH PLAN
- General description
  - Title
  - Abstract (max. 2.500 characters)

- Keywords (min. 5, max. 8)
- Scientific domain
- Scientific area
- Scientific subarea

Research Plan

- Description (max. 10.000 characters)
- References (optional) (max. 1.500 characters)

Ethical issues

- Ethical issues (if applicable) (max. 2.000 characters)

Funding

- Requested amount (€)
- Brief description and justification of the requested funding (max. 1.500 characters)

CAREER IMPACT

Timeliness of the RESTART grant

- Why would this RESTART grant be timely for me at this point in my career path? (max. 3.000 characters)

Hosting conditions

- Research plan and career development hosting conditions (Host Institution's Statement of support and commitment)

Only plain text and required attachments are allowed in the application. **Any link or other form of presenting information should be disregarded** except for DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

Applicants are responsible for identifying their Host Institution and for submitting a Host Institution Statement of support and commitment describing how the institution will i) promote the development of the proposed research plan and ii) contribute to the applicant's career development.

2.3. Eligibility criteria

FCT is responsible for verifying the eligibility of the submitted applications according to the binding criteria described in the Call for Applications. While this verification process takes place after the end of the submission period, an application can be declared ineligible at any stage of the evaluation. If, during the evaluation, a panel member detects any element that may raise doubts on the eligibility of the application, the Panel Chair and FCT should be informed.

Applicants may be national, foreign, and stateless researchers with a committed host institution who meet the following requirements by the deadline for submission of applications:

i. Hold a doctoral degree;
ii. Be an integrated member of an R&D Unit funded by FCT, or have a contractual relation with a State Laboratory;
iii. Have taken a parental leave, including adoption leave, for 120 days or more, or have taken a shared parental leave, including adoption leave, for 72 days or more, between April 10, 2024, inclusive, and the opening day of the Call, inclusive. The minimum number of days required for each type of license (120 or 72 days) must be reached within the reference period, regardless of its beginning or end.
iv. To be supported by a Host Institution that is either a R&D Unit funded by FCT, an Associate Laboratory (which are composed by one or several R&D Units) or a State Laboratory.

Panel members should communicate to FCT any suspicions of plagiarism, applications with similar research plans or false declarations, since these situations lead to exclusion of the respective applicant from the Call.

2.4. Non-discrimination policy and equality of opportunities

FCT promotes a non-discrimination policy and equal opportunities. The current Call ensures that candidates with a degree of disability equal to or higher than 60% and under 90%, or equal to or higher than 90%, will have their scores increased by 10% and 20%, respectively, on the Criterion B (Merit of the applicant and adequacy of the profile to the proposed research plan).

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria, and their relative weight, are the following:

A. Scientific quality, innovative nature and feasibility of the proposed research plan **(45%)**

B. Merit of the applicant, and adequacy of the applicant's profile to the proposed research plan **(25%)**

C. Impact of the research plan execution on the researcher's career development **(30%)**

3.1. Criterion A – Research Plan

The assessment of the **Scientific quality, innovative nature and feasibility of the proposed research plan** will account for **45%** of the final score, and should consider the following aspects:

- *Scientific quality, relevance and innovative nature of the research plan*, based on the methodology, goals and expected outcomes, and breakthrough potential beyond the current state of the art;
- *Feasibility of the research plan*, given the (i) proposed methodology, (ii) plan's timeframe, (iii) expected outcomes, (iv) justification of material or other budgeted resources, and, if applicable, (v) any specific conditions provided by the Host institution with a positive impact on the feasibility of the research plan, as described in the Statement of support and commitment;
- When existing, if ethical issues are identified and properly addressed, according to the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide.

In what concerns the assessment of the proposed budget/expenses, please consider that:

a) the description and justification of the budget are subordinate to the scientific proposal presented, in its various specificities, such as scientific area, proposed objectives, methodology, planning, timetable, among other relevant factors for the execution and fulfilment of the science proposed in the research plan. Therefore, insufficient justification of the essential costs of carrying out the plan should have an impact on the evaluation;

b) Flat rates for overheads should **not** be included in the research plan budget, although there may be basic operating costs necessary to carry out the plan.

3.2. Criterion B – Applicant

The assessment of the **Merit of the applicant and adequacy of the applicant's profile to the proposed research plan** will account for **25%** of the final score. It should focus on the information provided in the RESTART *Narrative CV*.

Narrative CV

Aiming at more broadly assess the quality of researchers' *curricula* and contributions to science, scientific community and society, the RESTART Narrative CV follows the recommendations and model proposed by the Royal Society (UK) in collaboration with DORA, and ongoing experiences of the Joint Funders Group.

As part of 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[3] as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual outputs and applicant's contributions**.

The assessment of the **Merit of the applicant** should consider, in an integrated manner, the following aspects of the Narrative CV:

- *Career profile*. This includes the education and employment history of the applicant, and secondments, volunteering or career breaks the applicant may have.
- *Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge*. These include publications, key data sets, software, intellectual property (patents, licences, trademarks, copyrights, novel assays and reagents), conference presentations, research and policy publications, or other scientific, technological, cultural or artistic achievements.
- *Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams*. These include teaching activities; workshops; supervision; mentoring or other contributions to the success of a team or advancement of colleagues; leadership (as a principal investigator) of funded projects; management of science, technology and innovation programmes or projects; involvement in collaborations/networks from an organisational to international level.
- *Contributions to the research community and the broader society*. These include contributions to research community outreach/engagement; editing, reviewing, and refereeing responsibilities; organisation of events that have benefited the research community, or improved research culture; dissemination of knowledge, outreach

[3] Example of metrics not to be used include, but are not limited to: Journal impact factors, h-index, H-index, i10-index, G-index, HG-index, Q2-index, AR-index, M-quotient, M-index, W-index, E-index, A-index.

activities, and other type of engagement with the public, private, or non-profit sectors, as well as the broader society.

- *Further details on selected scientific outputs and/or activities,* provided by the applicants on a maximum of 5 single scientific outputs and/or activities and the role they played in each one.

The Evaluation Panels must avoid an additive perspective of the various curricular elements, as if corresponding in their entirety to a single ideal profile, adopting instead an integrated approach that considers and values different researcher profiles.

When assessing these contributions, the Evaluation Panels should also consider:

a) The information provided by the applicant in terms of their quality, relevance, and impact, rather than in a quantitative way;

b) The specificities of the scientific area(s) and subarea(s) of each application;

c) The applicant's current career stage;

d) The impact of any career interruptions justified by the applicant in the "Career profile" section.

The assessment of the **adequacy of the applicant's profile to the proposed research plan** the Evaluation Panels should consider how the applicant's scientific profile will allow them to successfully implement the research plan proposed under this Call.

Although being part of the Applicant Information section, the CIÊNCIAVITAE[4] *curriculum*, which includes the full research track record, should only be used to confirm the information provided in the RESTART Narrative CV.

[4] The CIÊNCIAVITAE platform for researchers' *curricula* was designed by FCT, and implemented in 2018, as a new platform that replaced the former FCT web platforms for CV information of researchers working in Portugal.

3.3. Criterion C – Impact

The assessment of the **Impact of the research plan execution on the researcher's career development** will account for **30%** of the final score and should take into consideration the information provided by the applicant in the *Career Impact* section, including: a) *Timeliness of the grant*, and b) *Hosting Conditions*, in what regards the applicant's career development.

This is the criterion that most distinguishes the RESTART Programme. The evaluation of this criterion **must consider**:

- the applicant's current career stage;
- this grant's timeliness and career development potential in areas such as scientific production and dissemination, team and project leadership, and the ability to enable future research and to attract funding or other resources;
- any conditions provided by the Host Institution that could favourably impact the **applicant's career development**, as described in the Statement of support and commitment.

Please note that the evaluation of Criterion C should not take into consideration any specific favourable conditions provided by the Host Institution to the feasibility of the research plan, as these are already assessed under criterion A.

4. SCORING SYSTEM

The assessment of each criterion uses a 10-point scale**, using 0.5 increments**. The maximum score is 10.0 and the minimum is 1.0, as presented in Table I and Table II.

- When assessing **Criteria A** and **B**, consider the following descriptors in Table I:

Table I – Qualitative descriptors associated to the 10-point scale for criteria A and B

Score	Strengths / Weaknesses (guidance for criteria evaluation)
10	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses.
9.0	Extremely strong with one/some negligible weakness(es).
8.0	Strong with minor weakness(es).
7.0	Strong with at least one moderate weakness.
6.0	Strong with several moderate weaknesses.
5.0	Some strengths with significant weaknesses.
4.0	Some strengths with few major weaknesses.
3.0	Few strengths and major weaknesses.
2.0	Very few strengths and serious weaknesses.
1.0	No strengths and serious weaknesses.

- When assessing **Criterion C**, consider the following descriptors in Table II:

Table II – Qualitative descriptors associated to the 10-point scale for criterion C

Score range	Level of expected impact
10	Exceptionally strong impact in all assessed areas
9.0	Very strong impact in all assessed areas
8.0	Very strong impact in some assessed areas
7.0	Strong impact in all or most assessed areas
6.0	Strong impact in some assessed areas
5.0	Medium impact in all or most assessed areas
4.0	Medium impact in some assessed areas
3.0	Low impact in most assessed areas
2.0	Low impact in all assessed areas
1.0	No impact

The final score (FS) is given by the following formula:

FS = 0.45 A + 0.25 B + 0.30 C

The final score (FS) will be presented with two decimal places.

In case of ties in the final score, the criteria for **tie-breaking** will be, in this order:

I. score awarded in criterion C;
II. score awarded in criterion A;
III. score awarded in criterion B.

Additionally, an application can be considered **non-assessable** when it strays considerably **outside the scope of the panel** (not applicable to multi/interdisciplinary applications) or is **not submitted in English.**

5. EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process is fully remote and the meetings will take place online.

5.1. Constitution of the Evaluation Panels

The selection of applications for funding will be based on a peer review process carried out by four international Evaluation Panels covering all scientific areas and subareas (see Appendix I for details), and matching FCT Scientific Councils:

A. Exact Sciences and Engineering
B. Life and Health Sciences
C. Natural and Environmental Sciences
D. Social Sciences and Humanities

Evaluation Panels are composed by a Chairperson and Panel Members of international affiliation appointed by the Board of Directors of FCT. All Panel Members are of recognized merit in the scientific domains of the applications under evaluation and cannot be affiliated with any Portuguese R&D Institution.

The composition of the Evaluation Panels takes into consideration, as much as possible, the scientific nature of submitted applications, Panel Members' gender balance and a balanced geographical and institutional distribution. If a specific scientific or technical expertise is missing in a Panel, the Chairperson may require External Reviewers to provide additional assessments on specific applications. Panel Members can also act as External Reviewers for a different Evaluation Panel of the Call.

The Panels' composition will be announced on the FCT website upon publication of the provisional results.

5.2. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

5.2.1. Confidentiality Statement

All Panel Members and External Reviewers are requested to agree with a statement of confidentiality in what concerns the applications' contents, the evaluation process and the evaluation results. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are obliged not to copy, quote, or otherwise use material from the applications.

5.2.2. Conflicts of Interest (CoI)

Researchers who applied to the present Call cannot participate in the evaluation process as a reviewer. Those with first-degree relationships, domestic partnership or married to an applicant are also hindered from being a member of a Panel to which the application was submitted**.**

Any CoI of the Chairperson or a Panel member must be declared prior to the evaluation process, based on limited information on the applicant's identification, current affiliation and host institution. In case the Chairperson or Panel Member declares a CoI, they will not have access to the full content of the application, or to any evaluation produced. If any additional CoI is detected upon contact with the full application, it should be immediately reported to FCT and the Panel Chairperson.

Disqualifying conflicts of interest

Disqualifying CoI include, but are not limited to:

1. Personal or financial interest in the application's success;
2. Current or planned close scientific cooperation with the applicant;

3. Research cooperation with the applicant (*e.g.*, joint publications) within the last 3 years before the opening date of the Call;
4. Supervisory relationship with the applicant (*e.g.*, teacher-student relationship up to and including the post-doctoral phase), within the last 3 years before the opening date of the Call;
5. Dependent employment relationship with the Host Institution or the Beneficiary Institution within the last 3 years before the opening date of the Call;
6. Affiliation, or pending transfer, to any Institution involved in the application;
7. Be an active member in a Council or similar Supervisory Board of the Department, Institution or Research Centre to which the applicant has been affiliated to within the last 3 years or will be connected to in the scope of the application.

If a **disqualifying CoI** is declared, the reviewer:

i. is prevented from evaluating that application and will not have access to the evaluation reports;
ii. will not participate in the discussion of that application during the panel meeting.

Potential conflicts of interest

Potential conflict of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Relationships other than first-degree, marriage or domestic partnership; other personal ties or conflicts;
2. Professional relationships, other than those listed above;
3. Participation in Academic Bodies other than those listed under no. 7, *e.g.*, Scientific Advisory Committees;
4. Involvement in a Project with a closely related research topic (competition issues);
5. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s);
6. Any other circumstances the reviewer feels that they may not be impartial.

If a **potential CoI** is identified, the reviewer must immediately notify FCT, which will analyse and decide if an unbiased evaluation may be carried out or if the conflict is considered disqualifying.

The Panel meeting minutes will list all declared CoIs.

No direct contact between applicants and any member of the Evaluation Panels is allowed under penalty of exclusion from the Call.

5.3. Evaluation stages and methodology

The evaluation of the RESTART Programme applications will take place entirely via the *myFCT* website (https://myfct.fct.pt/), which is also the platform where the applications are submitted.

5.3.1. Applications assignment

Each application will be **individually assessed by three Panel Members**, one lead reviewer of the application (1st reader and *rapporteur*) and two second (2nd) readers. The allocation of the applications to Panel Members (and, if applicable, to External Reviewers) is made by the Chairperson and will necessarily take into consideration the declaration of CoI and the matching of scientific expertise of the Panel Members with the topic of the application's research plan. As much as possible, there will be a balanced distribution of applications amongst panel members.

5.3.2. Evaluation stages

After the assignment of applications to Panel Members, the evaluation phase comprises three stages:

1. Individual stage
2. Consensus stage
3. Final Panel meeting

External Reviewers only contribute during the individual stage.

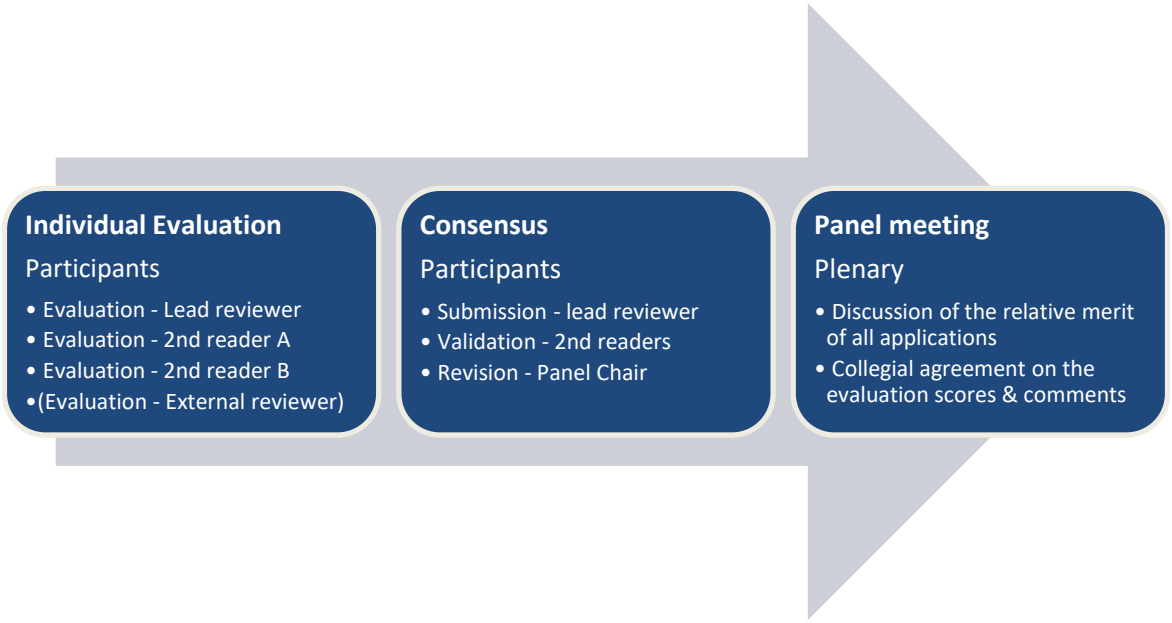

Figure 1 – Diagram of the Evaluation stages for the RESTART Programme

Panel Briefing

Prior to the start of the individual evaluation, Panel Members will have the opportunity to (i) get acquainted with the Panel's FCT Scientific Officer, and (ii) clarify this Guide's orientations and the evaluation methodology in a briefing session with FCT.

Individual Stage

Prior to the assessment, Panel Members must declare for all applications whether or not a CoI is identified, in accordance with the rules mentioned in Section 5.2.2.

Panel Members must submit an individual report with their assessment for each application assigned to them. This report includes:

- Substantive comments, for each evaluation criterion, including strengths and weaknesses. Comments should be converted into scores for each criterion considering the descriptors of the scoring system (table I and table II, section 4);
- Comments concerning any ethical issues identified by the reviewer, if applicable;
- Confidential comments to the Evaluation Panel and/or FCT (optional).

During the individual stage, Panel Members should not interact with each other.

Only the information provided and included in the application should be considered by Panel Members while performing their assessments.

Panel Members must submit their individual evaluation within the established deadline and prior to the beginning of the consensus stage. External Reviewers should also respect this deadline unless they join the evaluation process at a later stage.

Consensus Stage

The Panel member appointed as *rapporteur* will prepare a consensus report for the application based on the three individual reviews, and, when existing, the external expert's assessment. The *rapporteur* will submit the consensus report for validation to the 2nd readers. During this stage, the readers of each application **should interact** and reach a consensual assessment, incorporating, as much as possible, the perspectives from all the readers.

The consensus report, similar in structure to the individual reports, will be the starting point for the discussion during the final Panel meeting. Comments **must include strengths and weaknesses** for each evaluation criterion and be converted into scores (according to Tables I and II, section 4).

Upon validation request, if at least one of the 2nd readers reject the submitted consensus proposal, the *rapporteur* should amend the consensus report taking into account the comments of the other reader(s), as much as possible.

If the *rapporteur* **is unable to propose a consensus report based on the individual reviews**, the Chair should be informed and contribute to solve the differences, preferably in advance of the Panel meeting.

Information regarding any cases where there was disagreement from at least one of the second readers with the submitted consensus, will be available for all Panel Members at the Panel meeting discussion.

Final Panel Meeting

The final Panel meeting will be coordinated by the respective Panel Chairperson assisted by the FCT scientific officer, and will focus on the following activities:

- Ensuring a fair judgement and an appropriate discussion of the merits of each application;
- Guaranteeing that the adopted assessment criteria are coherent across applications;
- Settling the final evaluation comments to be conveyed to the applicants – in accordance with the collegial decisions of the Panel – for each criterion, ensuring **the scores reflect the Panel comments.**
- Revision and submission of the final comments in the "Panel report" form by the *rapporteur* (according to the guidelines specified in section 6);
- Agreeing on the final ranked list of all applications;
- Approval of the Panel Meeting Minutes including reported Conflicts of Interest and the ranked list of the Panel's applications, with the final and partial scores (criteria A, B and C).
- Discussing recommendations to the FCT on the different aspects of the evaluation process that may help improving procedures in future Calls.

5.4. Feedback to applicants

The quality of the comments to be transmitted to the applicants is of paramount importance and highly relevant to the outcome of the evaluation process.

Panel Members should comply with the following guidelines in the elaboration of the reports in each stage.

Comments must:

- Include strengths and weaknesses of the application for each criterion.
- Be coherently reflected in the marks according to the scoring descriptors (Chapter 4).
- Be clear and consistent (check for any contradicting statements).
- Consider the researcher career moment.

- Use dispassionate and analytical language.
- Avoid dismissive statements about the applicant, the proposed science, or the concerned scientific field.
- Be polite.
- Address the submitted research plan and not the plan Panel Members may consider that should have been proposed.

What should be avoided:

- Giving quantitative information in the form of indexes, amounts of publications or others, even if presented by the applicant. As mentioned in section 3 – criterion B, journal and publication metrics, such as impact factors and research performance metrics, should not be used as a surrogate measure of the quality of scientific outputs and contributions, and should also not be mentioned by the applicants in their Narrative CV.
- Presenting a description or a summary of the application.
- The use of the first person or equivalent (*e.g.*, "I think…", "This reviewer finds…"). Instead, use expressions such as "The panel…".
- Giving recommendations or advice for improving the application.
- Providing comments not related to the criterion under evaluation, that are too short or too long or use inappropriate or vague language.
- Presenting categorical statements that have not been properly verified.
- Scoring mismatching the descriptors and the evaluation comments.
- Marking down a proposal for the same critical aspect under two different criteria.

5.5. Selection of Applications for Funding

The RESTART Call budget will be distributed by the four Evaluation Panels in proportion to the total amount requested by all eligible applications in each of them. This distribution will be set by the Board of Directors of FCT, following the ranking order decided by the Evaluation Panels, and up to the available budget.

5.6. Preliminary Hearings

Once the ranked list of the evaluation results is communicated, applicants may use their right to dispute them during the preliminary hearing phase. The applicants must submit their comments in English and address the Panel in a polite, dispassionate, and analytical language.

After the reception of the candidates' claims, Panel Members will be asked to analyse and answer to the comments of scientific nature. The Evaluation Panels are responsible for correcting any possible errors or clarifying alleged inaccuracies. The FCT scientific officers will assist the Panel Chairs in the quality control of Panels' responses to the applicants.

The analysis of the preliminary hearings is **neither a second assessment of the application nor an additional opportunity for the applicant to present new information**. It should only serve to identify any error that may have occurred during the evaluation and that is addressed by the applicant in their claim. **Any identified error should be acknowledged by the Panel** and, depending on its nature, the score of the respective evaluation criterion may be changed accordingly or remain the same.

The evaluation process will only be completed upon the final decision that follows the preliminary hearings period.

6. APPENDIX I – Scientific Areas and Evaluation Panels

This Appendix lists the scientific domains, areas and sub-areas adapted from the OECD´s revised Field of Science and Technology Classification - FOS, as well as the respective Evaluation Panels. Each Evaluation Panel is responsible for the applications from a set of scientific subareas.

Exact Sciences and Engineering Panel

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Exact Sciences	**Mathematics**	Pure Mathematics	**Exact Sciences and Engineering**
		Applied Mathematics	
		Statistics and Probability	
		Other, please specify:	
	Computer and Information sciences	Computer Sciences	
		Information Sciences	
		Bioinformatics	
		Informatics	
		Other, please specify:	
	Physical Sciences	Atomic, Molecular and Chemical Physics	
		Condensed Matter Physics	
		Particles Physics	
		Nuclear Physics	
		Fluids and Plasma Physics	
		Optics	
		Acoustics	
		Astronomy	
		Other, please specify:	
	Chemical Sciences	Organic Chemistry	
		Inorganic Chemistry	
		Physical Chemistry	
		Polymer Science	
		Electrochemistry	
		Colloid Chemistry	
		Analytical Chemistry	
		Nuclear Chemistry	
		Medicinal Chemistry	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Engineering and Technology	**Civil Engineering**	Civil Engineering	**Exact Sciences and Engineering**
		Architecture Engineering	
		Construction Engineering	
		Transport Engineering	
		Municipal and Structural Engineering	
		Other, please specify:	
	Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	
		Robotics	
		Automation and Control Systems	
		Communication Engineering and Systems	
		Telecommunications	
		Computer Hardware and Architecture	
		Other, please specify:	
	Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering	
		Applied Mechanics	
		Thermodynamics	
		Aerospace Engineering	
		Nuclear Engineering	
		Audio Engineering and Reliability Analysis	
		Engineering Systems	
		Renewable Energies	
		Other, please specify:	
	Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering	
		Chemical Process Engineering	
		Other, please specify:	
	Materials Engineering	Materials Engineering	
		Ceramics	
		Coating and Films	
		Composites	
		Paper and Wood	
		Textiles	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Engineering and Technology	**Medical Engineering**	Medical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering	**Exact Sciences and Engineering**
		Laboratory Technology	
		Other, please specify:	
	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering	
		Geotechnics	
		Petroleum Engineering, Energy and Fuels	
		Remote Sensing	
		Mining and Mineral Processing	
		Geological Engineering	
		Marine Engineering, Sea Vessels	
		Ocean Engineering	
		Other, please specify:	
	Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Biotechnology	
		Bioremediation, Diagnostic Biotechnologies (DNA Chips and Biosensing Devices) in Environmental Management	
		Environmental Biotechnology related Ethics	
		Other, please specify:	
	Industrial Biotechnology	Industrial Biotechnology	
		Bioprocessing Technologies, Biocatalysis and Fermentation	
		Bioproducts, Biomaterials, Bioplastics, Biofuels, Bio-derived Bulk and Fine Chemicals and Bio-derived Novel Materials	
		Other, please specify:	
	Nanotechnology	Nanomaterials	
		Nanoprocesses	
		Nano-Optics and Nanophotonics	
		Modelling at Nanoscale	
		Other, please specify:	

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

Life and Health Sciences Panel

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Medical and Health Sciences	**Clinical Medicine**	Andrology	**Life and Health Sciences**
		Obstetrics and Gynecology	
		Paediatrics	
		Cardiac and Cardiovascular System	
		Peripheral Vascular Disease	
		Haematology	
		Respiratory Systems	
		Critical Care Medicine and Emergency Medicine	
		Anaesthesiology	
		Orthopaedics	
		Surgery	
		Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging	
		Transplantation	
		Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Medicine	
		Dermatology	
		Infectious Diseases	
		Allergology	
		Rheumatology	
		Endocrinology and Metabolism	
		Gastroenterology and Hepatology	
		Urology and Nephrology	
		Oncology	
		Ophthalmology	
		Otorhinolaryngology	
		Psychiatry	
		Clinical Neurology	
		Geriatrics and Gerontology	
		General and Family Medicine	
		Internal Medicine	
		Integrative and Complementary Medicine	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Medical and Health Sciences	**Health Sciences**	Health Care and Services	**Life and Health Sciences**
		Health Services and Policies	
		Nursing	
		Nutrition, Dietetics	
		Public Health and Environmental Health	
		Epidemiology	
		Occupational Health	
		Sport and Fitness Sciences	
		Social Biomedical Sciences	
		Medical Ethics	
		Addiction	
		Tropical Medicine	
		Parasitology	
		Other, please specify:	
	Medical Biotechnology	Health-related Biotechnology	
		Technologies involving the Manipulation of Cells, Tissues, Organs or the Whole Organisms	
		Gene-based Diagnose and Therapies	
		Biomaterials	
		Medical Biotechnology related Ethics	
		Other, please specify:	
		Laboratory Technology	
		Other, please specify:	
Medical and Health Sciences	**Basic Medicine**	Anatomy and Morphology	**Life and Health Sciences**
		Human Genetics	
		Immunology	
		Neurosciences	
		Pharmacology	
		Toxicology	
		Physiology	
		Pathology	
		Oncobiology	
		Other, please specify:	

Natural and Environmental Sciences Panel

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Natural Sciences	**Earth and Related Environmental Sciences**	Geosciences, Multidisciplinary	**Natural and Environmental Sciences**
		Mineralogy	
		Palaeontology	
		Geochemistry	
		Geophysics	
		Geology	
		Physical Geography	
		Volcanology	
		Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences	
		Climatic Research	
		Oceanography	
		Hydrology and Water Resources	
		Climate Change	
		Environmental Management	
		Ecotoxicology	
		Environmental Monitoring and Impact	
		Natural Resources and Sustainability	
		Waste Management and Valorisation	
		Water and pollution	
		Other, please specify:	
	Biological Sciences	Cell Biology	
		Biochemistry	
		Biochemical Research Methods	
		Microbiology	
		Molecular Biology	
		Biophysics	
		Genetics and Heredity	
		Reproductive Biology	
		Virology	
		Developmental Biology	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Natural Sciences	**Biological Sciences**	Plant Sciences and Botany	**Natural and Environmental Sciences**
		Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology	
		Marine Biology, Freshwater Biology and Limnology	
		Ecology	
		Biodiversity Conservation	
		Biology (Theoretical, Mathematical)	
		Evolutionary Biology	
		Behavioural Sciences Biology	
		Mycology	
		Other, please specify:	
Agricultural Sciences	**Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**	Agriculture	**Natural and Environmental Sciences**
		Forestry	
		Fishery	
		Soil Science	
		Horticulture and Viticulture	
		Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Plant Protection	
		Other, please specify:	
	Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Dairy Science	
		Husbandry	
		Pets	
		Other, please specify:	
	Veterinary Science	Veterinary Science	
		Other, please specify:	
	Agricultural Biotechnology	Agricultural Biotechnology and Food Biotechnology	
		GM Technology (crops and livestock) and Livestock Cloning	
		Marker Assisted Selection	
		Diagnostics	
		Biomass Feedstock Production Technologies, Biopharming	
		Agricultural Biotechnology related Ethics	
		Other, please specify:	

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

Social Sciences and Humanities Panel

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Social Sciences	**Psychology**	Criminal Psychology	**Social Sciences and Humanities**
		Social and Organizational Psychology	
		Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology	
		Clinical Psychology	
		Psychology of Development and Learning	
		Educational Psychology	
		Community and Health Psychology	
		Other, please specify:	
	Economics and Business	Economics	
		Business and Management	
		Other, please specify:	
	Educational Sciences	General Education (including Training, Pedagogy, Didactics)	
		Special Education (to gifted persons, those with learning disabilities)	
		Other, please specify:	
	Sociology	Sociology	
		Demography	
		Anthropology	
		Ethnology	
		Social Topics (women´s and gender studies, social issues, family studies, social work)	
		Other, please specify:	
	Law	Public Law	
		Criminal Law	
		Private Law	
		European and International Law	
		Human Rights	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Social Sciences	**Political Sciences**	Political Science	**Social Sciences and Humanities**
		Military Sciences	
		Compared Politics	
		Political Theory	
		International Relations	
		Public Policy	
		European Studies	
		Other, please specify:	
	Social and Economic Geography	Environmental Sciences (social aspects)	
		Cultural and Economic Geography	
		Urban Studies (planning and development)	
		Transport Planning and Social Aspects of Transport	
		Other, please specify:	
	Media and Communications	Journalism and Media	
		Documental and Information Sciences	
		Other, please specify:	

Scientific Domain	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Humanities	**Arts**	Fine Arts	**Social Sciences and Humanities**
		Musicology	
		Visual Performative Arts (Cinema, Television, Drama, Dance, etc.)	
		Art History	
		Conservation and Restauration	
		Museology	
		Architecture	
		Urbanism	
		Design	
		Cultural Heritage	
		Other, please specify:	
	History and Archaeology	Ancient History	
		Medieval History	
		Modern History	
		Contemporary History	
		History of Science and Technology	
		Prehistory and Archaeology	
		Other, please specify:	
	Languages and Literature	Literature	
		Portuguese Studies	
		Romanic Studies	
		Anglophone Studies	
		Classical Studies	
		Asian and African Studies	
		Germanic Studies	
		Linguistics	
		Other, please specify:	
	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	Epistemology in Philosophy of Science	
		Methaphysics and Philosophical Anthropology	
		Philosophy of Art	
		Logic	
		History of Philosophy	
		Ethics and Political Philosophy	
		Theology and Religion Philosophy	
		Other, please specify:	