



GUIDE FOR PEER REVIEWERS

INVESTIMENTO C19-I08 TERRITÓRIOS INTELIGENTES ESTRATÉGIA NACIONAL DOS TERRITÓRIOS INTELIGENTES

Call for Research Projects  
DigitalTwins4SmartTerritories (DT4ST):  
*Gémeos digitais para Territórios Inteligentes*

MARCH 2025



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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 Education, Science and Innovation that supports science, technology, and innovation, in all scientific domains.

FCT's mission is to drive the advancement of knowledge in science and technology in Portugal, following high international standards in quality and competitiveness. It aims to foster the dissemination of knowledge, promoting its impact on society and its contribution to the economic growth.

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

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

## 2. Call for Research Projects for DigitalTwins4SmartTerritories (DT4ST): *Gémeos Digitais para Territórios Inteligentes*

The consolidation and reinforcement of the National System of Science and Technology (NSST) are key priorities of the national science and technology policy. These efforts aim to enhance national and international competitiveness in science and technology, foster innovation, and facilitate knowledge transfer. In this context, promoting and strengthening scientific and technological institutions through the active participation of research teams in projects is particularly significant.

Considering these goals, FCT within the scope of the Protocol between the FCT and the Agency for Administrative Modernization, I.P. (AMA), launches the Call for DigitalTwins4SmartTerritories (DT4ST): *Gémeos Digitais para Territórios Inteligentes*. This initiative aims to select consortia led by entities from the National Scientific and Technological System (STCN) for the development of digital twins, with the potential to be reused at a later stage and to support the development of public policies and decision-making. These digital twins will become a fundamental pillar of the operational strategy and planning of public entities.

The projects submitted to the call should focus on thematic areas within the framework of the National Strategy for Smart Territories (ENTI), such as:

- Agriculture
- Climate Resilience
- Civil Protection
- Decarbonization
- Energy
- Health
- Mobility
- Tourism
- Water

Digital twins must be integrated into the data layer, reflecting the current state of operations of a given process or phenomenon, and must be tested and demonstrated in an operational environment. The developed digital twins should be made available in open formats, allowing their reuse in different contexts, without any cost or limitation for the user.

**One proposal per thematic area will be recommended for funding, as long as its score is higher than 6.00 points.**

The following deliverables must be clearly identified in the proposal and included as part of the project's execution:

- a) Report on what is intended to be achieved with the digital twin and its respective use case(s).
- b) Analytical models developed for the creation of the digital twin and the corresponding documentation.
- c) Source code of the developed digital twin for reuse, including the corresponding documentation, and a demonstration of the digital twin.
- d) Final execution report, which should contain a description of the development of each use case and guidelines for its reuse in different contexts.
- e) Report with recommendations for future developments.

For this call, **8.668 million euros** are available to fund research projects that must meet the following requirements:

- The maximum duration of the grant is until 31 March 2026, with eligible expenses incurred from the date of publication of the notice until June 30, 2026;

- The maximum funding for project is **1.500.000,00** euros.

The funding for the projects will be contracted with AMA within the scope of the TD - C19-i08 "Smart Territories" investment of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR). The monitoring of these projects will be the sole responsibility of AMA, and the respective conditions will be established at the time of the financing contract, according to the regime provided for in the Public Procurement Code (CCP).

The **beneficiary entities** must apply in **consortium** 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. Additionally, companies of any type and under any legal form if included in SR&TD projects led by non-entrepreneurial entities from the R&I system, can participate, benefiting from 100% funding.

The project **consortia** must include, **as a requirement**, at least **one public entity** that represents the needs of the end user of the digital twin. This public entity can be from Central Public Administration (AP), Local Public Administration (municipalities and intermunicipal entities), public business entities (EPE), or a public entity in a consortium with a private company. The inclusion of this public entity ensures that the interests of the potential final recipient of the digital twin are properly represented.

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

The call is open from **26 February** to **26 March 2025**.

**Each applicant can only submit one application as PI.**

A **maximum of 4 Core CVs** must be presented: for **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. The synopsis should focus on the **last 5 effective years of scientific activity**.

The CIÊNCIAVITAE CVs should **only be used as a complement to verify the information** provided in the previously mentioned sections.

The participation of the public entity(ies) representing the needs of the final user of the digital twin collaboration must be formalized through the submission of a **"Collaboration Letter"** in the application.

### 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, as well as its suitability to the national context, considering the priority thematic areas of this call – **40%**;
- B. Scientific merit of the PI and the research team – **35%**;
- C. Feasibility of the workplan, considering the collaboration of entities that represent the end user's needs for the digital twin and the potential reach of the digital twin, as well as the budget adequacy – **25%**.

#### 3.1 Criterion A (40%)

This criterion is intended to evaluate the scientific merit of the proposal, considering the following dimensions, in an integrated manner:

- Relevance and clear identification of the project objectives and challenges addressed based on the state-of-the-art in a determined scientific area and previous work done by the proposing team.
- Thematic alignment of the proposal with the topics referred in section 2, ensuring relevance to the national context and priority areas of the call.
- Potential contribution of the research project to the advancement of knowledge.
- Potential impact of the project's outcomes on the economic, technological, and societal dimensions.
- Methodological innovation and replication potential.

#### 3.2 Criterion B (35%)

The criterion B evaluates the scientific merit of the Principal Investigator and the research team, analysing their curricula in an integrated way and valuing the quality of their research achievements.

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), considering the following parameters:

- Career profile of the PI (education, key qualifications, professional path and periods of leave from research, such as parental leave, long-term absence due to illness, volunteering, etc.).
- Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge, including 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, including project participation, leadership or management, supervision of students, collaborative initiatives, and team support.
- Contributions to the research community and the broader society.
- Scientific experience, productivity and skills of the research team to adequately execute the proposed project in its specific area, **focusing on the last 5 years of activities**, and considering the team's configuration and the availability and commitment of its members.

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 (25%)

This criterion evaluates the feasibility of the workplan in the following dimensions:

- Feasibility of the research project, including the collaboration with entities representing the end user's needs for the digital twin, the digital twin's potential reach, the proposed research methodology and innovation, and the planned tasks and deliverables.
- Integration and operational validation of the digital twin, assessing the extent to which the digital twin is effectively integrated into the data layer, accurately reflects real-time operational states, is tested in an operational environment, and is made available in open formats to ensure its reuse without restrictions.
- Clear identification of the proposed activities and timelines, institutional and management resources of the Principal Contractor, and PI's and team members commitment to the project.
- An analysis of the risks associated to the different stages of the project should be considered, with special focus on the identified critical points and the corresponding contingency plan.
- The adequacy of the estimated costs in relation to the activities and deliverables outlined in the workplan.

**Note:** AMA's contribution will be disbursed according to the presentation of the deliverables listed:

- 35% upon delivery of deliverable:
  - Report on what is intended to be achieved with the digital twin and its respective use case(s).
- 35% upon delivery of deliverables:
  - Analytical models developed for the creation of the digital twin and the corresponding documentation;
  - Source code of the developed digital twin for reuse, including the corresponding documentation.
- 30% upon delivery of deliverables:
  - Demonstration of the digital twin;
  - Final execution report, which should contain a description of the development of each use case and guidelines for its reuse in different contexts.
  - Report with recommendations for future developments.

## 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:

$$MP = 0.40 A + 0.35 B + 0.25 C$$

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, the following **minimum score** is required:

- **MP ≥ 6.00 points**

The **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 to sub-criteria A, B, and C** will be used **sequentially and by decreasing order** to provide the final ranking of the projects.

After the ranking of the proposals, the selection process for funding will follow the criteria below:

1. For each thematic area, the highest-ranked proposal will be recommended for funding, as long as it meets the minimum score of 6.00.
2. The remaining proposals to be funded will be chosen exclusively according to the MP ranking order.

The aim is to ensure that the selected set of proposals for recommend for funding includes at least one eligible proposal from each of the nine thematic areas.

## 5. Evaluation Process

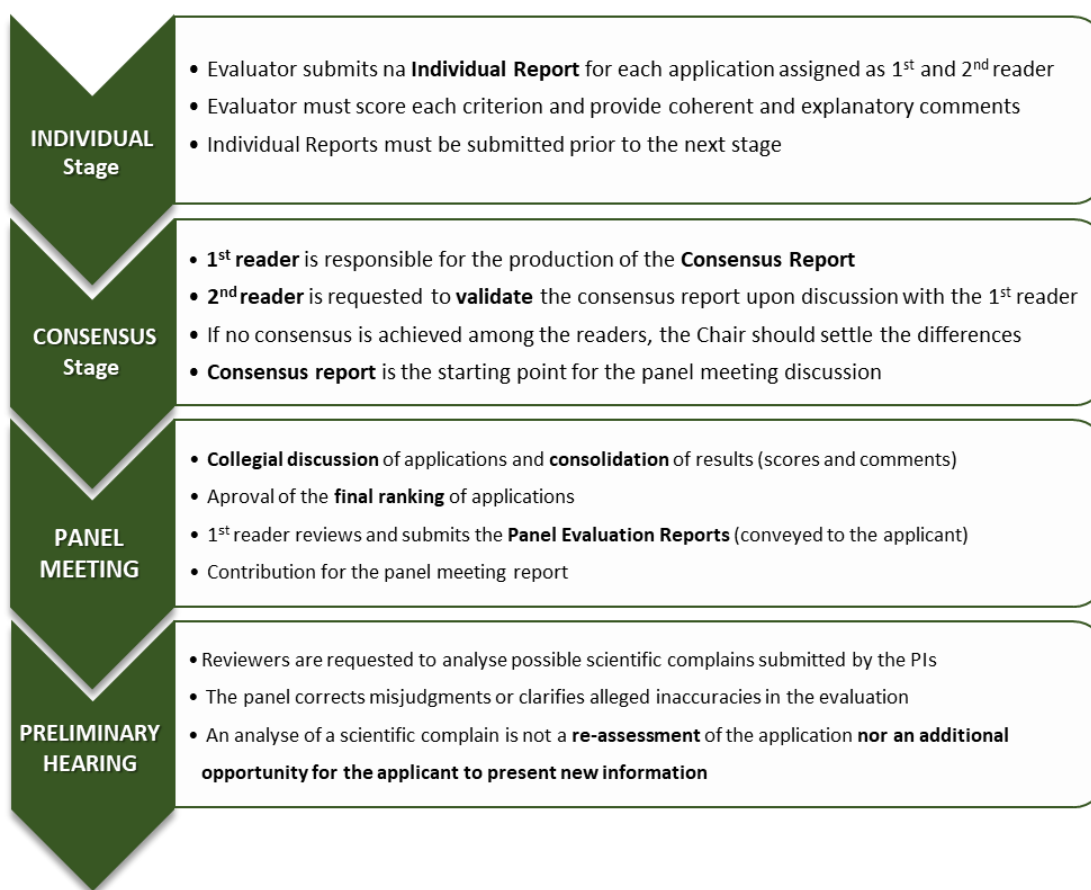
### 5.1 Constitution of the Evaluation Panel

- The evaluation panel is constituted by experts mainly affiliated with national 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## 5.2 Evaluation Stages

The evaluation process comprises **4 stages**:



### 5.3 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.

### 5.4 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:

- Provide 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.

## 6. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

### 6.1 Confidentiality Statement

The privacy and confidentiality of applications must be fully protected and always ensured 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. For more detailed information, please consult the Data Protection document in the call's webpage.

## 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 must promptly **inform the panel Chair and the FCT team of this situation** to facilitate swiftly reassigned of the application. Depending on the nature of the conflict, 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

- Institution to which the PI is associated in the scope of the research project
- PhD completion date
- CIÊNCIAVITAE CV permissions and upload
- Collaboration letter

#### 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

- Email
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project

#### Hirings (if applicable)

- Type
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project

#### Consultant (if applicable)

- Email
- Framework of consultant's participation (**max. 1000 characters**)

#### Team CV Synopsis

- Research team CV synopsis (**max. 6000 characters**)

#### 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**)

#### 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**)
- Assigned to
- Person\*month
- Start date



- Duration (months)
- Task description and expected results (**max. 4000 characters**)

#### Project timeline and management

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

#### Ethical issues (if applicable)

- 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

- Add project
  - Project reference
  - Project status
  - Project title (in English)
  - Principal contractor
  - Funding entity
    - Funding entity
    - Total funding
  - Timetable
    - Start date
    - Duration (months)
  - Relation with the current proposal
    - State the main objectives considered relevant for the application being submitted to the present R&D Projects Call (**max. 2000 characters**)

#### Attachments

- Consortium constitution – 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.*

#### Computing and data

- Advanced computing
  - The work plan requires advanced computer resources to be provided by FCT?
  - Do you have previous experience with High Performance Computing? (if applicable)
  - Refer previously used computational platforms (if applicable, max. 400 characters)
  - Which of the following amounts of resources (per year) is suitable for your project? (if applicable)
  - Brief justification for the requested computational resources (if applicable, **max. 400 characters**)

- Research data
  - You will be generating or collecting research data in the context of your project?
  - The work plan requires access to a research data repository provided by FCT? (if applicable)

### Indicators

- Expected output indicators
- Dissemination
  - Indicate the 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**)

### Participating institutions

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

### Funding plan

- Global budget (automatic fill
- 
- ling)
- 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.

**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. Subcontracts**, directly related to the project scientific tasks' execution.

**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. Purchase 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)**, without a fixed rate applied; however, basic operating costs necessary for the study's execution may be included. These needs must be justified, as an insufficient explanation of essential expenses for the study's implementation will impact on the application's evaluation.

## 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.

**CEECInd** = Individual Contract for Researchers

**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.

