Fundação
para a Ciência
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Call for R&D Projects in All Scientific Domains 2025

Announcement for Proposal Submissions

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This Announcement for Proposal Submissions is intended for R&D project applications in all scientific domains, submitted through a competitive procedure as announced on https://www.fct.pt/, and prepared in accordance with the Regulation for Projects Funded Exclusively by National Funds, hereinafter referred to as the FCT Projects Regulation, published in Regulation No. 999/2016 of 31 October, in its current version, *i.e.*, amended and republished by Regulation No. 5/2024, and corrected by the Declaration of Rectification No. 366/2024/2, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, No. 100, of 23 May 2024.

1. Objective and Scope

The consolidation and reinforcement of the National System of Science and Technology (NSST) constitute a priority of the national policy for science and technology. It aims to increase national and international competitiveness in science and technology and its contribution to innovation, transfer of knowledge and at complying to the global aspirations defined in the 2030 Agenda: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, it is particularly relevant the promotion and strengthening of the scientific and technological institutions, through the participation of research teams in Projects. Considering these objectives, FCT is launching this Call, which aims to fund projects across all scientific domains.

2. Supported entities

Eligible beneficiaries, either individually or in co-promotion, are non-business entities of the Research and Innovation (R&I) System, namely:

i. Higher education institutions, their institutes and R&D units.
ii. State, international or associated Laboratories with head offices in Portugal.
iii. Non-profit private institutions whose main purpose is R&D activities, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Centres for Technology and Innovation (CTI).
iv. Other non-profit private and public institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

3. Type and Modalities of Projects to be Supported

The Call aims to support R&D projects in all scientific domains, organised according to the list of scientific areas, subareas and evaluation panels (Annex I), which fall under one of the following types:

a. **Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (SR&TD)** aimed at original and relevant scientific questions or concepts, using international standards as a reference, which make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and which result in indicators of the achievement of scientific production during the course of the project.

In this type, projects may be submitted individually, by a single beneficiary, or in co-promotion, by two or more beneficiaries. Co-promotion projects must be led by one of the entities listed in Section 2.

The maximum project duration is **36 months**, extendable by up to 12 months in duly justified cases.

The maximum funding per project is **€ 250.000,00** (two hundred and fifty thousand euros).

b. **Exploratory Research Projects (PEX)** focusing on original ideas for early-career researchers, or on ideas or concepts with a high degree of novelty that demonstrate disruptive potential compared to previous work, for more experienced researchers.

   In this type, projects must be submitted individually, by a single beneficiary.

   The maximum project duration is **18 months**, extendable by up to 6 months in duly justified cases.

   The maximum funding per project is **€ 60.000,00** (sixty thousand euros).

4. Payment Methodology

Projects are fully funded by national funds through the FCT budget.

The funding to be granted under this Call shall be non-reimbursable, applying the simplified cost option in the form of fixed amount (lump sum). The contribution is paid upon the presentation of evidence and results demonstrating the effective implementation of the project, as contractually agreed.

SR&TD Projects

The initial advance payment for the project is 30% of the approved funding. Intermediate reimbursement payments, which must be requested at a minimum semi-annual interval, are made based solely on tasks that have reached a 100% completion rate, corresponding to 65% of the value of the executed tasks. The remaining amount, up to the total approved funding for each project, will be paid after the closure of the scientific and financial components of the project, through a final reimbursement payment.

The sum of all payments made prior to the project's closure shall not exceed 95% of the total approved funding, or of the amount calculated according to the project's degree of implementation, including the initial advance payment.

PEX Projects

The initial advance payment for the project is 75% of the approved funding. The remaining amount, up to the total approved funding for each project, will be paid after the closure of the scientific and financial components of the project, through a final reimbursement payment.

Within the scope of this Call, the indirect costs are a fixed rate of 25% of all estimated eligible direct costs. The expenses for the adaptation of buildings and facilities are limited to a maximum of 10% of the project's total eligible costs.

For budget definition purposes, the terms defined in the Methodology for Applying Simplified Costs – Lump Sums, as well as Articles 8 (eligible costs) and 9 (ineligible costs) of the FCT Projects Regulation, shall be applied.

5. Budget allocation

The budget allocation for this Call is **€ 80 million** for the SR&TD project type and **€ 24 million** for the PEX project type.

6. Projects and Beneficiaries Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility conditions for projects and beneficiaries are those indicated in the FCT Projects Regulation, namely in articles Nº. 5 and 6.

6.1 Projects

a) Applications submitted, whether fully or partially, in any language other than English will not be accepted.
b) Applications that have already been selected for funding by FCT or other funding agencies are not accepted.
c) Multiple applications of the same project are not accepted:
   - In the present call.
   - In different calls where there is temporal overlap in the application submission periods.
   - In the case of applications submitted to calls with different thematic scopes and which take place in different application submission periods, the recommendation for funding in one of them implies the exclusion from the decision process for the others.
d) Related proposals from the same team, submitted to FCT or to other funding agencies, must be declared in the application.

"Multiple applications" are proposals that fully or partially share the work plan.

6.2 Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator (PI) of the application must meet the following conditions:

a) Have physical allocation to the project.
b) Hold a doctoral degree by the closing date of the call. Documentary evidence of the doctoral degree must be submitted at the time of the Acceptance Document.
c) Have, or will have, an employment contract or a grant contract with the Principal Contractor

by the time of submission of the Acceptance Document. In the absence of such link at the time of submission of the Acceptance Document, a written agreement between the PI and the Principal Contractor must be provided, according to point c) of item 1 of Article 6 of the FCT´s Projects Regulation. This agreement may only involve institutions located within national territory.

d) Submit no more than one application as PI in the current call.
e) May participate as a team member in no more than one other application in the current call.
f) May not act as PI in projects whose final scientific report was rejected, for reasons attributable to the PI, within the two years prior to the opening date of the current call.
g) Must not be in a situation of unjustified non-fulfilment of the regulatory requirements regarding the presentation of reports on scientific execution of projects concluded, funded or co-funded by FCT, in which they acted as PI.

6.3 Research Team Member

Each researcher (who is not the PI of an application) may participate as a team member in a **maximum of two applications** within this call.

6.4 Principal Contractor

The Principal Contractor of the project must be one of the entities listed in Section 2.

Applications from Principal Contractors that are in a situation of unjustified non-compliance regarding the return of funds previously transferred to the institution for projects with the same PI will not be accepted.

7. Selection Methodology

The evaluation is carried out by panels of independent experts affiliated with foreign institutions, organised by scientific domain, scientific area, and scientific subarea (corresponding to an adaptation of the OECD's revised Field of Science and Technology (FOS) classification in the Frascati Manual), as listed in Annex I.

Each application is assessed by the evaluation panel corresponding to the combination of the main scientific area and subarea selected by the PI in the application form. **An application** will be considered **non-assessable** if the selected area and subarea do not correspond to the scientific content of the project.

The methodology for the selection and ranking of applications is based on the Merit of the Project (MP) indicator, which relies on the following evaluation criteria, further detailed and expanded in the Guide for Peer Reviewers:

SR&TD Projects

A. Scientific merit (A1) and innovative nature (A2) of the project from an international standpoint.
B. Scientific merit of the PI (B1) and the research team (B2).
C. Feasibility of the workplan (including its planning) and the expected indicators, as well as the budget adequacy.

PEX Projects

A. Scientific merit (A1) and innovative nature (A2) of the project from an international standpoint.
B. Scientific merit of the PI, including the impact of the project's execution on the PI's career development and/or research (B1) and the research team (B2).
C. Feasibility of the workplan (including its planning) and the expected indicators, as well as the budget adequacy.

The Merit of the Project (MP) is obtained, for both types, through the following formula:

$$\mathbf{MP = 0.40\ (0.50\ A1 + 0.50\ A2) + 0.30\ (0.60\ B1 + 0.40\ B2) + 0.30\ C}$$

Each criterion is 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.

If the information provided in the application does not allow for evaluating a given criterion, then the respective criterion will receive a score of 1.0 (one).

For selection and decision-making regarding funding, projects that obtain a final MP score equal to or higher than 5.00 are considered eligible and subject to ranking.

The evaluated projects will be ranked in descending order according to the MP score obtained in the review process, within each evaluation panel. As a tiebreaker between applications with the same MP score, the classifications assigned to criteria A2, B1, A1, B2 and C will be used successively and in descending order to provide the final ranking of the projects.

For each evaluation panel, a percentage of the total budget allocated to the call is calculated according to the total amount of funding requested by the eligible applications assigned to that panel.

The PIs that obtain an MP score lower than 5.00 are not allowed to submit a new application as PI in the next edition of the call for projects in all scientific domains.

8. Submission of Applications

Applications must be submitted in **English**, between **27 November 2025 until 25 March 2026 at 5.00 p.m. (Lisbon time)**, through a specific electronic form available on myFCT platform.

The PI and the research team members must have an updated curriculum vitae in English on the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform.

The Statement of Commitment of the Principal Contractor will be available on the myFCT platform for agreement by the head of the Principal Contractor, or their designated representative, after the application submission deadline and until **5.00 p.m. (Lisbon time) on 9 April 2026**.

9. Publication of Results

Following approval by the Board of Directors, the preliminary ranking lists of applications approved for funding, by evaluation panel, will be published on the FCT website. Notification of the preliminary results will take place during October 2026.

10. Preliminary Hearing and Appeal

Following notification of the proposed decision by FCT, the PIs may submit their statements in a preliminary hearing within 10 working days from the date of notification.

Administrative or procedural aspects and scientific nature comments must be submitted simultaneously through the FCT portal. Comments in the preliminary hearing must be written in English. Administrative or procedural comments are analysed by FCT, while issues related to scientific merit are reviewed by the panel of experts that conducted the evaluation.

After notification of the final decision, an appeal may be submitted to the FCT Board of Directors within 15 working days, also via the FCT portal and in English. Administrative or procedural comments are analysed by FCT, whereas matters concerning scientific merit are reviewed by a second panel of independent experts, who recommend, with proper justification, whether to maintain or modify the decision.

11. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no applicant may be privileged, advantaged, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right, nor exempt from any duty, based on ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

12. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The call is governed by this Announcement, by the Regulation for Projects Funded Exclusively by National Funds, approved by Regulation No. 999/2016, of October 31, in its current wording, and by all other applicable national and EU legislation.

It is recommended that all supporting documentation available on the call's webpage be read in advance.

13. Personal Data Protection

In the context of this call, personal data are collected and processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (the "GDPR"). Additionally, data processing follows the provisions of Law No. 58/2019 of 8 August, which ensures the implementation of the GDPR in national law.

FCT acts as the controller of the personal data collected in this call. The personal data will be processed for the purpose of Programs Management and Funding Instruments.

The FCT personal data processing follows the principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency, and limitation of retention period. The legal basis for such processing, according to Article 6 of the GDPR, lies in points (b), (c), and (e), which stipulate that processing is necessary for the performance and execution of a contract, for compliance with legal obligations, and for the exercise of FCT's public interest functions.

For further information regarding the processing of personal data by FCT in the context of this call, please consult the Personal Data Protection and Privacy information.

14. Contacts

Information regarding the call should be requested via email at: concursoprojetos@fct.pt.

Madalena Alves

President of the Board of Directors of FCT, I.P.

Annex I – Scientific Areas and Evaluation Panels

This section lists the scientific domains, their areas and subareas, based on an adaptation of the FOS classification from the Frascati Manual (OECD's revised Field of Science and Technology Classification in the Frascati Manual), and the corresponding evaluation panels. Each panel is responsible for evaluating the applications submitted in its respective scientific areas.

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

Natural Sciences		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	Geosciences, Multidisciplinary	Earth Sciences and Engineering
	Mineralogy	
	Palaeontology	
	Geochemistry	
	Physical Geography	
	Geology	
	Volcanology	
	Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences	
	Climatic Research	
	Oceanography, Hydrology and Water Resources	
	Geophysics	
	Environmental Sciences	Environmental Sciences
Biological Sciences	Cell Biology	Experimental Biology and Biochemistry
	Biochemistry	
	Biochemical Research Methods	
	Microbiology	
	Molecular Biology	
	Biophysics	
	Genetics and Heredity	
	Reproductive Biology	
	Developmental Biology	
	Plant Sciences and Botany	Biological Sciences
	Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology	
	Marine Biology, Freshwater Biology and Limnology	
	Ecology	
	Biodiversity Conservation	
	Biology	
	Evolutionary Biology	
	Other Biological Topics	
	Behavioural Sciences Biology	
	Mycology	
	Virology	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection

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

Engineering and Technology		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Biotechnology and Engineering
	Geotechnics	Earth Sciences and Engineering
	Petroleum Engineering, Energy and Fuels	
	Remote Sensing	
	Mining and Mineral Processing	
	Geological Engineering	
	Marine Engineering	Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Systems
	Sea Vessels	
	Ocean Engineering	
Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Biotechnology and Engineering
	Bioremediation, Diagnostic Biotechnologies (DNA Chips and Biosensing Devices) in Environmental Management	
	Environmental Biotechnology related Ethics	
Industrial Biotechnology	Industrial Biotechnology	Bioengineering and Biotechnology
	Bioprocessing Technologies, Biocatalysis and Fermentation	
	Bioproducts, Biomaterials, Bioplastics, Biofuels, Bio-derived Bulk and Fine Chemicals and Bio-derived Novel Materials	
Nanotechnology	Nanomaterials	Nanotechnology
	Nanoprocesses	
	Nano-Optics and Nanophotonics	
	Modelling at Nanoscale	
Other Engineering and Technologies	Food and Beverages	Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Agro-Food Biotechnology

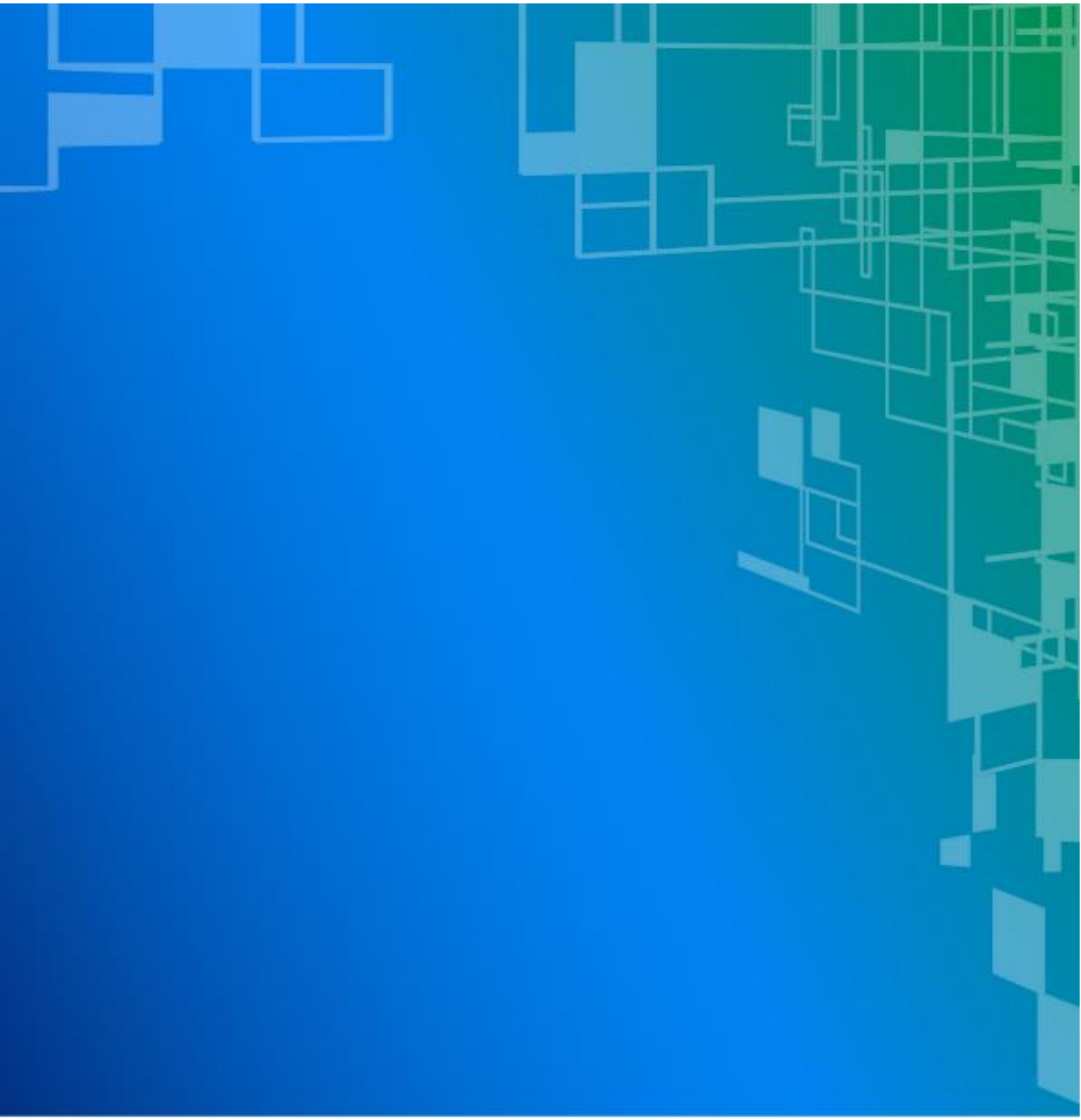
Medical and Health Sciences		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Basic Medicine	Immunology	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Neurosciences	Neurosciences
	Medicinal Chemistry	Chemistry
	Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Basic Medicine
	Anatomy and Morphology	
	Human Genetics	
	Toxicology	
	Physiology	
	Pathology	
	Oncobiology	
	Other Subareas of Basic Medicine	
Clinical Medicine	Andrology	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	
	Paediatrics	
	Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems	
	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 and Venereal Diseases	
	Allergy	
	Rheumatology	
	Endocrinology and Metabolism	
	Gastroenterology and Hepatology	
	Urology and Nephrology	
	Oncology	
	Ophthalmology	

Medical and Health Sciences		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Clinical Medicine	Otorhinolaryngology	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Psychiatry	
	Clinical Neurology	
	Geriatrics and Gerontology	
	General and Internal Medicine	
	Other Clinical Medicine Subjects	
	Integrative and Complementary Medicine	
Health Sciences	Health Care Sciences and Services	Health and Sport Sciences
	Health Policy and Services	
	Nursing	
	Nutrition, Dietetics	
	Public and Environmental Health	
	Epidemiology	
	Occupational Health	
	Sport and Fitness Sciences	
	Social Biomedical Sciences	
	Medical Ethics	
	Substance Abuse	
	Tropical Medicine	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Parasitology	
	Infectious Diseases	
Medical Biotechnology	Health-related Biotechnology	Bioengineering and Biotechnology
	Technologies - Manipulation of Cells, Tissues, Organs or the Whole Organisms	
	Technologies - Identification of the Functioning of DNA, Proteins and Enzymes and its relation with the Disease	
	Biomaterials	
	Medical Biotechnology related Ethics	
Other Medical Sciences	Forensic Science	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection

Agricultural Sciences		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Agriculture	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Forestry	
	Fishery	
	Soil Science	
	Horticulture and Viticulture	
	Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Plant Protection	
Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Agro-Food Biotechnology
	Husbandry	
	Pets	
Veterinary Science	Veterinary Science	
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	

Social Sciences		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
Psychology	Psychology (including Human-Machine relations)	Psychology
	Psychology, Special (including Therapy for Learning, Speech, Hearing, Visual and other Physical and Mental Disabilities)	
Economics and Business	Economics, Econometrics	Economics and Business
	Industrial Relations	
	Business and Management	
Educational Sciences	Education, General (including Training, Pedagogy, Didactics)	Educational Sciences
	Education, Special (to Gifted Persons, those with Learning Disabilities)	
Sociology	Sociology	Sociology
	Demography	
	Anthropology	
	Ethnology	
	Social topics (Women's and Gender Studies; Social Issues; Family Studies, Social Work)	
Law	Law, Criminology, Penology	Law and Political Science
	Other Subareas of Law	
Political Science	Political Science	
	Public Administration	
	Organisation Theory	
Social and Economic Geography	Environmental Sciences (Social Aspects)	Social and Economic Geography
	Cultural and Economic Geography	
	Urban Studies (Planning and Development)	
	Transport Planning and Social Aspects of Transport	
	Other Subareas of Social and Economic Geography	
Media and Communications	Journalism	Media and Communication
	Information Science (Social Aspects)	
	Library Science	
	Media and Socio-Cultural Communication	
	Other Subareas of Media and Communications	

Humanities		
Scientific Area	**Scientific Subarea**	**Evaluation Panel**
History and Archaeology	History	History and Archaeology
	Archaeology	
	History of Science and Technology	
Languages and Literature	General Language Studies	Languages and Literature
	Specific Languages	
	General Literature Studies	
	Literary Theory	
	Specific Literatures	
	Linguistics	
	Other Subareas of Languages and Literature	
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	Philosophy	Philosophy
	Ethics	
	Theology	
	Religious Studies	
Arts	Arts	Arts
	Design and Architecture	
	Performing Arts Studies (Musicology, Theatre Science, Dramaturgy)	
	Folklore Studies	
	Studies on Film, Radio and Television	
	Art History	
	Other Subareas of Arts	



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