

## **2013 FCT Calls for Proposals**

### **(May-December)**

#### **1. CURRENT CONTEXT**

The following circumstances ensue from the fact that 2013 and 2014 represent a transition period between the current National Strategic Reference Framework (QREN 2007-2013) and the EU Strategic Framework (2014-2020):

- The timetable for completion of the National Strategic Reference Framework (QREN) requires full execution of FEDER (European Regional Development Fund) and POPH (Human Potential Operating Programme) funds by the end of 2015;
- The financial envelope for Science and Technology (S&T) for 2014-2020 is under discussion in the European Commission. As such, member States do not yet have final information regarding the amount of EU funds that will be available for this period.

Thus, presently, it is fundamental to concurrently:

- Execute the total amount of EU funds available for S&T obtained at the time of the 2012 reprogramming of QREN, by the end of 2015 at the latest, as stipulated in the regulations;
- Take particular care with respect to multiannual financial commitments by FCT while negotiation of EU funds for Portugal is not complete, especially those that will impact on 2014 and onwards.

#### **2. CALENDAR OF FCT CALLS FOR PROPOSALS IN 2013**

Given the above-mentioned circumstances, FCT plans to launch the following calls in 2013:

<b>Funding schemes</b>	<b>Call</b>	<b>Launch date</b>
Research Projects	Exploratory Research Projects in all scientific domains	30 May
	EIT Preparation projects	10 July
	Transnational Projects	May-December
	Partnerships - MIT, CMU, HMS e UTA	June-December
Advanced Training	Individual PhD and Post-Doctoral Fellowships	July
	Clinical Research Fellowships for Interns with a PhD	July
	FCT PhD Programmes	November
Career Development	FCT Investigator	July
Institutions	Evaluation and Funding of R&D Units	9 July
Infrastructures	National Roadmap of R&D Infrastructures	July

## **Exploratory research projects in all scientific domains**

Exploratory research projects are 1 year projects, of €50000 maximum funding, for the investigation of ideas or concepts considered to be original and/or with innovation potential. This call is specifically targeted at principal investigators (PIs) with between 4 and 10 years experience after obtaining their PhD, and who do not lead any FCT-funded project as of 1st January 2014.

## **Preparation Projects for the EIT**

This call aims to support admission of Portuguese teams to the EIT (European Institute of Technology) through the creation of co-location centres in the country. The call will **support the preparation of a national application for each of the KIC** (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) to be set up by the EIT in 2014. Applications should involve institutions of the three vertices of the knowledge triangle - innovation, education and research (companies, SMEs, universities and research institutes) - and should focus particularly on mobility, entrepreneurship and the market. The call will encompass the following areas:

- Innovation for a healthy life and active ageing
- Food for the future
- Raw-materials

## **Transnational projects**

Calls for transnational projects to stimulate internationalisation and joint activities within ERA-Nets, Joint Programming Initiatives and Joint Technology Initiatives in the following areas: Energy, Nanotechnology, Nanotoxicology, Nano-electronics, Industrial Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology, Manufacturing, Mineral Resources and Industrial Applications, Materials Science and Engineering, Water, Marine Science, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Rare Diseases, Cancer and disease, Neurodegenerative diseases, Mental disorders, HIV / AIDS and Infectious Diseases in humans.

## **MIT, CMU HMS and UTA Partnerships**

Calls for national and international research projects to be launched following the renewal of the partnership agreements between the Portuguese Government and the American Universities of Austin-Texas, Carnegie Mellon and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and also the ongoing partnership with Harvard Medical School.

## **Doctoral and Post-doctoral Fellowships**

The vast majority of work plans and activities of PhD students and post-doctoral fellows are integrated into research projects funded by FCT. The gradual convergences of FCT funding schemes, as well as the current financial constraints, recommend a review of both the number and schedule of the traditional centralised calls for individual PhD studentships and post-doctoral fellowships. In fact, the prevailing view is that PhD studentships should, as a rule, be incorporated into doctoral programmes and post-doc fellowships should be incorporated into research projects. Principal Investigators on projects funded in the 2012 call have been

informed of the possibility of reviewing budgets, in order to cover costs of human resources, including post-doctoral fellowships.

Nevertheless, FCT considers that smaller national calls should be maintained in order to support the best candidates whose research plans or training do not adequately fit into funded doctoral programmes or ongoing research projects.

### **Advanced Training in Clinical Research for interns holding a PhD**

In order to prepare a new generation of highly qualified medical doctors who may contribute to a more rational clinical practice, more competitive research and more demanding teaching, a monthly allowance will be awarded to interns who wish to attend PhD clinical research programmes, according to the conditions under which universities award PhD degrees. This call is expected to be launched at the same time as the call for individual PhD studentships, covering the scientific areas indicated in the Ministerial Order No. 4813/2013 of 8 April 2013.

### **PhD Programmes**

PhD programmes funded by FCT aim to promote graduate training of excellence, based on internationally competitive research, joining higher education institutions, R&D institutions and companies. The first edition of the FCT PhD Programmes (2012 call) funded 51 programmes and 1406 PhD scholarships for a four-year period.

### **FCT Investigator**

To continue the programme that aims at encouraging researchers to stay in Portugal and also attract the most talented international researchers, FCT will launch the second edition of FCT Investigator programme in June. The new regulations of this call take into account the suggestions and contributions received during the public consultation period of this programme's regulations.

### **Evaluation and Funding of R&D Units**

As announced in 2012, and after discussion with the scientific community following the public consultation, FCT will launch a call for evaluation and funding of research units, following international standards.

This evaluation exercise also aims to promote more effective models of organisation of the national science and technology system, a more rational use of resources and of infrastructures as well as improved synergies between production and use of knowledge, thus improving the competitiveness of Portugal within the European Research Area.

### **National Roadmap of R&D Infrastructures**

This call intends to create a national roadmap of research infrastructures, aligned with a national smart specialisation strategy, to strengthen the matrix that supports the science and technology system, in areas of strategic importance both at national and European levels. The infrastructures selected to be included in the national roadmap may receive specific financial support.

The infrastructures in the national roadmap should belong to the following areas:

Life Sciences and Health

- Environmental and Marine Sciences
- Physical Sciences and Engineering
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Energy
- Materials and Analytical Sciences
- Digital Infrastructures

### **3. FCT CURRENT FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

At present, FCT financially supports 3267 research projects in various scientific areas, involving a global commitment of €428 million. Taking into consideration the duration of projects in each call and current levels of execution of projects by research teams, more than €290 million in funded projects is available to the scientific community for the next two and a half years. In addition, FCT funds more than 9400 scholarships at present, which include around 6500 PhD scholarships and 2500 post-doctoral fellowships, with an estimated annual commitment of €176 million. Furthermore, as of the 2013/14 academic year, FCT will fund 1406 PhD Scholarships within the 2013 FCT PhD Programmes, which corresponds to a further commitment of €88 million until 2020.