

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE CALL FOR R&D PROJECTS IN ALL SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS**

The present Announcement for Call for Proposals (ACP) is intended for R&D projects in all scientific domains, submitted under a call for proposals, with terms disseminated at the [www.fct.pt](http://www.fct.pt), prepared under the terms set by the Regulations for Projects Exclusively Funded by National Funds, hereinafter designated by [FCT Projects Regulation](#), published by Regulation No. 999/2016, of 31 October.

### **1. AIMS AND PRIORITIES**

The consolidation and reinforcement of the National System of Science and Technology (NSST) constitute priorities of national policy for science and technology that aims to increase the national and international competitiveness of science and technology, and its contribution to innovation and transfer of knowledge, as well as to the achievement of the general ambitions defined in the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. 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 goals FCT launches this call for funding projects in all scientific domains.

### **2. BENEFICIARIES ENTITIES**

The following Portuguese entities are individual or co-promotion beneficiaries:

#### **2.1. Non-entrepreneurial entities of the R&I system, namely:**

- a.** Higher education institutions, their institutes and R&D units;
- b.** State or international laboratories with head office in Portugal;
- c.** Non-profit private institutions whose main object is R&D activity;
- d.** Other non-profit public and private institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

#### **2.2. 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.**

### **3. PROJECTS TYPE**

The call aims to support R&D projects in all scientific domains, arranged according to scientific areas and evaluation panels listed attached, framed into one of the following types:

- a. **Scientific Research and Technological Development (SR&TD)** projects address scientifically relevant and original issues, with reference to international standards, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and producing identified outcomes, within the duration of the project.

Projects may be presented “individually” (only one beneficiary) or in “co-promotion” (two or more beneficiaries). Projects in co-promotion must be led by an entity listed in 2.1.

The project shall have a maximum duration of **36 months**, renewable for a maximum of 12 months, in duly justified cases.

The maximum funding per project is **250 thousand euros**.

- b. **Exploratory Research Projects (PeX)** are scientific or technological research projects that explore ideas or concepts with significant originality and/or innovative potential.

Projects can only be presented “individually” (only one beneficiary).

The project shall have a maximum duration of **18 months**, renewable for a maximum of 6 months, in duly justified cases.

The maximum funding per project is **50 thousand euros**.

#### 4. FORM OF SUPPORT AND FUNDING RATE

Supports to be granted are non-refundable.

Projects will be funded by national funds through the FCT budget.

Payments made to the beneficiaries companies, as co-promoters, cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the company shareholding, and in the case of non-fulfilment of the thresholds applicable to Minimis Aids, they must meet the conditions set out in Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014, of 16 June (General Block Exemption Regulation, RGIC) for the exemption of notice foreseen in no. 3 of article 108 of the Treaty to be present.

#### 5. BUDGET ALLOCATION

The budget allocation for this call is of **55 million euros** for projects of SR&TD type and **20 million euros** for PeX projects. The budget allocation may be strengthened by FCT if justified.

## 6. PROJECTS AND BENEFICIARIES ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria for projects and beneficiaries are those indicated in the [FCT Projects Regulation](#), articles no. 5 and 6:

### 6.1. Project

- Applications which have been submitted in previous editions of the same call with an ongoing decision process are not allowed to apply;
- Multiple applications of the same projects are not accepted:
  - In different scientific areas of the same call;
  - In different calls in which there is temporal overlap within the submission of applications;
  - In the case of applications to calls with different theme scopes, and which take place in different periods of application submission, the funding recommendation within one of them is a condition for exclusion from the decision process of the remaining ones.

### 6.2. Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator (PI):

- Must identify a co-responsible for the project, the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), that will replace the PI when he/she is unable to fulfil his/her duties
- Can only submit one proposal as PI in this call;
- Cannot apply as Co-PI of a proposal, in this call;
- Cannot be PI of a project approved in the previous edition of the “Call for R&D Projects in All Scientific Domains”;
- Cannot be PI of a proposal submitted in the previous edition of the “Call for R&D Projects in All Scientific Domains” awarded with a MP < 5,00;
- Shall have at least 35% of working time dedicated to the project;
- Should also have an employment contract or grant contract with the Principal Contractor. In the absence of such a link, at the time of the Acceptance Document a written agreement between the parties must be submitted, according to point c) of item 1 of Article 6 of of [FCT Project Regulations](#);
- Who have a final scientific report rejected within two years before the opening of the call, for

reasons attributable to them, is not allowed to submit an application;

- Cannot be in a situation of unjustified non-fulfilment of the regulatory requirements regarding the presentation of reports on scientific execution of projects concluded and financed through FCT and in which acted as PI.

### **6.3. Co-Principal Investigator**

The Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI):

- Cannot apply as PI of a proposal to the present call;
- Can only submit one proposal, to the present call, as Co-PI;
- Shall have at least 25% of working time dedicated to the project;
- Who have been PI of projects with a final scientific report rejected within two years before the opening of the call, for reasons attributable to them, is not allowed to submit an application.

### **6.4. Principal Contractor**

- The Principal Contractor of the project must be one of the non-entrepreneurial entities of the R&I system listed in 2.1;
- Applications will not be accepted if the Principal Contractor is in unjustified situation regarding the return of funding transferred to the Principal Contractor in previous projects with the same Principal Investigator.

### **6.5. Beneficiaries Companies**

For projects including companies shareholdings as co-promoters, the following requirements must also be met:

- Ensure that companies, as beneficiaries, do not hold eligible expenditure higher than 30% of the project's total;
- Ensure that there are no direct aids to the companied involved, being that they must fulfil one of the conditions predicted in points i) and ii) from item b) from the point 2 of article 6 of [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

## **7. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

The following expenses are eligible:

a) Direct Costs:

- i. **Human resources** dedicated or related to the development of R&D activities regarding the project's execution in all mandatory components by the applicable labour legislation, including expenses with grant holders directly supported by the beneficiaries;
- ii. Expenses with **missions** in Portugal and abroad, directly attributable to the project, fulfil the legal regulations that rules public expenditure, namely the Decree-Law No.106/98 of April 24th and the Decree-Law No. 192/95 of July 28th, in its current wording;
- iii. **Acquisition of scientific and technical tools and equipment**, indispensable to the project if within its useful lifetime;
- iv. **Amortization of scientific and technical tools and equipment** indispensable to the project and of which the useful lifetime falls within the execution period but does not end within that period;
- v. **Subcontracts** directly related to the project scientific task's execution;
- vi. Expenses related to the national and international record of **patents, copyrights**, open-access publications, **utility models and designs, national models** or **trademarks** when associated with other forms of intellectual protection, namely fees, state-of-the-art searches and consulting expenses;
- vii. Expenses with the **demonstration, promotion, and disclosure of project's outputs**, for dissemination actions of public knowledge and public disclosure of the results, namely publication fees in compliance with the national policies for the Open Access;
- viii. **Adaptation of buildings and facilities** when indispensable to the project execution for environmental and safety reasons, limited to a maximum of 10% from the total eligible expenses of the project;
- ix. **Acquisition of other goods and services** directly related to the project execution, including costs with consultants that do not establish subcontracts.

b) **Indirect Costs** for Portuguese institutions, with a fixed rate of 25% of direct eligible costs with the exclusion of subcontracting.

Non-eligible expenses for Portuguese institutions are indicated in Article 9 of [FCT Projects Regulation](#).

The conditions of eligibility indicated in point 2 of the [Budget Execution Norms](#) should also be taken into consideration.

## 8. PAYMENTS AND EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION

- **SR&TD Projects**

The advance payment will be 15% of the funding approved.

For each list of proven expenditure, payments will be made as refunds, in a proportion equivalent to 90% of the amount of eligible expenditure, up to 95% of the global funding approved or established based on the project execution progress, including the advance payment.

The remaining amount, until the approved funding for each project, will be paid after the scientific and financial components of the project are closed and by means of a final refund payment.

The expenditure justification should be made via electronic submission of the identifying lists of expenses paid, and in a specific form provided through FCT "[Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia](#)", and each payment request must refer to a minimum amount of expenses paid, equal or greater than 10% of the global funding of the project.

The period between requests for payment should not exceed six months.

- **PeX Projects**

The advance payment will be 75% of the funding approved.

The remaining amount, until the approved funding for each project, will be paid after the scientific and financial components of the project are closed and by means of a final refund payment.

The expenditure justification should be made via electronic submission of the identifying lists of expenses paid, and in a specific form provided through FCT "[Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia](#)".

## 9. SELECTION METHODOLOGY

An international panel of independent reviewers, mainly affiliated to foreign institutions, will carry out the evaluation. The evaluation panels are constituted according to the identified scientific domain, main scientific area and subarea (in agreement with OECD's revised Field of Science and Technology - FOS, adapted to the call) as listed attached.

Each application will be assessed by the evaluation panel that corresponds to the scientific area and subarea selected by the Principal Investigator and **cannot be transposed to a different panel from the one selected.**

The selection and ranking of projects are based on a Project Merit Indicator (MP) using the following criteria, which are described in greater detail in the Guide for Peer Reviewers:

- A. Scientific merit (A1) and innovative nature (A2) of the project from an international standpoint;
- B. Scientific merit of the Principal Investigator (B1) and the research team (B2);

C. Quality and feasibility of the workplan, the expected indicators and the budget reasonability.

The Merit of the Project (MP) is given by:

$$MP = 0,40 (0,50 A1+ 0,50 A2) + 0,30 (0,50 B1+ 0,50 B2) + 0,30 C$$

The subcriteria A1, A2, B1 and B2 and criterion 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.

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

For a proposal to be eligible for funding, a minimum score of MP equal or higher than 7.00 points is required.

The eligible applications will be ranked by the evaluation panel, according with the type and by decreasing order of the MP score.

The total budget allocation to the call will be proportionally distributed for each evaluation panel and for each project type, based on the total amount of the solicited funding of the eligible proposals (MP  $\geq$  7.00) in each panel.

In case of ties (projects with the same MP score), the ratings assigned to criteria A2, B1, A1, B2 and C will be used sequentially and by decreasing order to provide the final ranking of the projects.

A PI whose application is scored with a MP lower than 5.00 will be hindered to apply as PI in the next edition of the Call for SR&TD Projects in all scientific domains.

## **10.SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be presented to FCT, in English, from February 8 to March 10, 2022, at 17:00 Lisbon time, using a specific on-line form and submitted through the FCT platform.

Applications are composed by the on-line form.

Team members must have an updated version of their CV in English on the [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) platform.

The Statement of Commitment of the applicants must be submitted through the FCT platform until 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 17:00, Lisbon time.

## **11.NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY**

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty. This includes ancestry, age,

sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

## **12. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

The call is governed by this Announcement, by the Regulation of Projects Financed Exclusively by National Funds, approved by Regulation No. 999/2016, of 16 October, and by other applicable national and community legislation.

FCT recommends a timely reading of all the documentation supporting the application, namely the *Guia de Apoio ao Preenchimento do Formulário de Candidatura*, the Guide for Peer Reviewers and the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide available at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/concursos/ICDT/>

## **13. CONTACT POINT**

For further information about the call please contact us at: [concursoprojetos@fct.pt](mailto:concursoprojetos@fct.pt).

Helena Pereira

President, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.



**ANNEX – LIST OF SCIENTIFIC AREAS AND EVALUATION PANELS**

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		
Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	Geosciences, Multidisciplinary	Earth Sciences and Engineering
	Mineralogy	
	Paleontology	
	Geochemistry	
	Physical Geography	
	Geology	
Volcanology		

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
	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	
Behavioral Sciences Biology		
Mycology	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection	
Virology		
Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering
	Architecture Engineering	
	Construction Engineering	
	Transport Engineering	
	Municipal and Structural Engineering	
Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering,	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
	Robotics	

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Information Engineering	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	
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		

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
	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
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 Gynecology	
	Pediatrics	

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Clinical Medicine	Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Peripheral Vascular Disease	
	Hematology	
	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	
	Otorhinolaryngology	
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	

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
	Social Biomedical Sciences	Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection
	Medical Ethics	
	Substance Abuse	
	Tropical Medicine	
	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
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	

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	Law and 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	
	History	History and Archaeology

Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	Evaluation Panel
History and Archaeology	Archaeology	
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	
	History and Philosophy of Science and Technology	
Arts	Arts	Arts
	Design and Architecture	
	Performing Arts Studies (Musicology, Theater Science, Dramaturgy)	
	Folklore Studies	
	Studies on Film, Radio and Television	
	Art History	
	Other Subareas of Arts	