Acceptance Agreement or Acceptance Document (terms of acceptance)- once the notification of the funding decision has been sent to the Proponent Institution and to the project coordinator, the acceptance agreement must be signed by someone legally authorized to bind the Proponent Institution or main contractor, as well as by the coordinator and returned to the FCT within 30 working days. If the duly signed acceptance agreement is not returned to the FCT by the deadline above referred for reasons imputable to the Proponent Institution, the decision to award the funding shall expire. FCT may request the original document at a later date.

AKDN Institution - Founded and guided by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) brings together a number of development agencies, institutions, and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of Asia and Africa. A central feature of the AKDN’s approach to development is to design and implement strategies in which its different agencies participate in particular settings to help those in need achieve a level of self-reliance and improve the quality of life. AKDN agencies and institutions can be found at the following link: https://www.akdn.org/agencies/aga-khan-fund-economic-development

Declaration of Commitment - in accordance with the template provided for that purpose, the Declaration of Commitment must be submitted to FCT as an annex to the proposal or, in case of impossibility, no later than 10 working days after the call is closed. The Declaration of Commitment must be signed and initialed by someone who is legally authorized to bind the Proponent Institution as well as by the Coordinator and must include the seal or stamp of the corresponding institution.

External Experts - The external experts are individual reviewers that will remotely review the proposals at Stage 1 of the evaluation process, and rate the proposals according to the criteria and scores presented in the call text.

Joint Implementation Committee of the Protocol (JIC) – the JIC consists of representatives of the Joint Call Partner Organization’s (JCP) - the FCT and the AKDN. The JIC members will decide on the composition of the Joint Research Assessment Committee (JRAC), responsible for evaluating the proposals submitted in response to this joint call. Based on the final ranking list established by the JRAC, the JIC will decide which proposals will be funded.

Joint Research Assessment Committee for Collaborative Research (JRAC) – the JRAC is the Committee responsible for evaluating the proposals submitted in response to this joint call. The JRAC composition is decided by the JIC. The JRAC members are internationally recognized scientists chosen for their expertise in the priority areas defined in the Protocol of Co-operation between the MCTES and the Ismaili Imamat.

Principal Investigator (Project Coordinator) – each project must have a coordinator. He/she will be co-responsible for the proposal and management of the project and for the fulfillment of the proposed objectives and the compliance with the regulations governing the funding award. Only one application per coordinator is allowed.

Proponent Institution (PI) – It is a Portuguese entity that proposes and leads the project. In addition to coordinating the project, the Portuguese PI is responsible for communicating with the FCT on behalf of all
the partners. The PI is the institution that will receive the approved funding if the project is supported, and will be responsible to transfer the corresponding amounts to partner institutions. The PI must have a NIPC (Identity Number that uniquely identifies the institution relative to Social Security and Finances), and their denomination when applying must perfectly match the one associated to that NIPC.

**Protocol of Collaboration** – It must be submitted as an Annex of the Acceptance document, and must be signed by all the participating institutions (including the PI). This procedure requires the signatories to be associated under the terms of the protocol of collaboration. In the Protocol of Collaboration, the following aspects must be mentioned: explanation of the cooperation scope of the entities involved; identification of the beneficiary entities and the responsible researcher; joint responsibility of partners; specific responsibilities of each partner in terms of linking to the work plan tasks, if applicable, issues related to confidentiality, intellectual or industrial property and the end ownership of goods and products acquired and developed during the project’s execution.