

CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS 2018 LUXEMBURG CORE PROGRAMME

ESTABLISHED UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FCT) AND THE FONDOS NACIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE LUXEMBOURG (FNR) OF APRIL 2017

1. General Information

The [Foundation for Science and Technology](#) (FCT) and the [Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg](#) (FNR), hereby launch a call for joint scientific and technological research projects between research teams from Portugal and Luxembourg. This call falls within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 5th April 2017 signed between the FCT and the FNR signed on the 5th April 2017 aimed to foster collaboration in science and to found joint research project conducted by teams from both states.

Bilateral projects under the lead agency agreements celebrated between the FNR and 6 different countries (including Portugal), must comply with the rules of the CORE programme, the FNR multi-annual thematic research programme aiming to strengthen the scientific quality of research in the priority research domains. FCT, under the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding, will participate in the 2018 CORE call - for more information please consult <https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/fct/>.

Under this collaboration agreement, a bilateral proposal between Portuguese and Luxembourgian research teams have to be submitted to the CORE programme and will be assessed based on the international Principles for Scientific Merit Review. Both agencies will base their funding decision on the results of one single evaluation procedure, the so called 'Lead Agency' principle. The FNR will be the lead-agency in this bilateral cooperation, ensuring the process of submission and evaluation. On the basis of the evaluation results and panel's recommendation, FCT will decide on the projects to support and inform FNR on its decision. FNR will communicate the final results.

The related documents of the CORE 2018 call are available in <https://www.fnr.lu/funding-instruments/core/>

Tentative Schedule

- Launch of the CORE Programme 2018 Call – 11 December 2017
- Deadline for the submission of proposals – 18^h April 2018 14:00 (CET)
- Funding decision communicated to the applicants – End October 2018
- Latest start of the project – 1 September 2019

2. Call Topics

The CORE programme intends to support innovative research projects of high scientific quality within the 5 thematic priority research areas: Innovation in Services; Sustainable Resource Management; New Functional and Intelligent Materials and Surfaces and New Sensing Applications; Biomedical and Health Sciences; Societal Challenges. All five CORE domains are eligible for projects in collaboration with Luxembourgian teams.

3. Funding

The overall amount of funding available for the Portuguese proponents amounts to a maximum of 200.000 € (two hundred thousand euros). FCT will fund the Portuguese research teams with national funds and FNR will ensure the funding of Luxembourgian teams. The maximum duration of projects will be 36 months. National candidates approved for funding will be formally invited to submit the respective project and budget to the FCT.

For Portuguese Institutions National regulations apply, namely the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#).

4. Criteria of the beneficiaries and Projects eligibility

The organisations established within Portugal are eligible for financial support from the FCT under the scope of the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#), foreseen in articles 3, 5 and 6.

In the case of transnational cooperation projects, all participating Portuguese institutions are individually interlocutors from FCT, I.P, foreseen in point 6 of Article 3 of the Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds.

5. Form of support

The form of financing laid down in article 7 of the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#).

6. Eligible and non-eligible expenses

Eligible and non-eligible expenses are described in articles 8 and 9 of the [Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds](#), with the following exceptions:

- Expenses with PhD Studentships will not be eligible;
- Expenses with Visiting scientist fellowships are only eligible for a maximum duration of one year.

7. Submission of applications

Joint project proposals must be submitted in electronic format using the FNR online submission system available at [FNR website](#). All proposals have to be written in English.

8. Verification of eligibility of applications

Prior to the peer-review process, applications undergo an administrative check based on the formal requirements. The eligibility check shall be carried out by FCT and FNR. Proposals not meeting the formal criteria will be rejected. Proposals passing the formal check of eligibility will be forwarded to the reviewers for evaluation.

9. Evaluation

The selection process is based on a Peer Review process that guarantees an independent state-of-the-art evaluation with the objective to select those research projects that reflect the highest scientific quality. Submitted full proposals will be peer-reviewed by independent, international experts. An expert panel will rank the proposals and propose a recommendation for funding. The FNR will assume, for this call, the role of leading Agency, ensuring the process of evaluation. The funding recommendation as result of this process will be shared with FCT for consideration and final approval. The detailed description of the review process and the selection criteria can be found in the publication [CORE Peer Review Guidelines](#) available on the FNR webpage.

The scientific merit of the proposal is assessed based on: innovativeness of idea and scientific relevance; appropriateness of the approach; feasibility (competence of the Project's Coordinator and applicant team; research plan; institutional infrastructure, research environment); expected outcome and impact of results.

10. Decision

On the basis of the evaluation results and panel's recommendation, FCT will decide on the projects to support and inform FNR on its decision. FNR will communicate the final results.

11. Acceptance document and start date of projects

In the case of a positive funding decision, all Portuguese applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application.

After the funding decision notice has been sent to the Researcher in Charge (RC) of each national participant institution in each individual project, the RC and his home institution must sign the Acceptance Document and return it to FCT, I.P. within 30 business days.

12. Documentation to be presented

For the Portuguese teams / researchers, the following documents must be jointly submitted with the application:

- Declaration of Commitment duly signed by the Portuguese RC and the Portuguese Institution (PI), dated and stamped. A template will be made available in FCT website
- Declaration on the regulatory framework for State Aid
- A prove that the RC has or shall have at the time of signing the project's acceptance document a labour bound or that he/she holds a post-doctoral grant with the PI or, in case there is no such situation, a written agreement between the parties;

13. Contacts and Technical Support

Any other information relating to this call may be requested to mariajoao.pinto@fct.pt.