

Call for PhD Studentships – 2018

Scientific Coordination Group

Meeting Report

Lisbon, 1 August 2018

1. Composition of the Scientific Coordination Group

The Scientific Coordination Group (SCG) met for 1 day at FCT facilities in Lisbon and is composed by 3 members with non-Portuguese affiliation.

PARTICIPANTS	INSTITUTION
Luis Sanz Menéndez (Chair)	Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Spain
Edward Ziarko	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (Belspo), Belgium
Melita Kovačević	Zagreb University, Croatia

2. Identification of conflict of interests and their resolution

No conflict of interests was identified.

3. Working methodology

3.1. Starting points considered by the Scientific Coordination Group (SCG)

- Full respect of the evaluation rankings provided by the single Evaluation Panels.
- According to the call announced by FCT, 950 PhD studentships will be financed.
- Acknowledgement that the allocation of the PhD studentship should also be in accordance with the national Higher Education, Research and Innovation (HE&R&I) policy priorities, besides the market driven dynamics.
- To identify the main scientific fields, the SCG has considered the strategic policy document (Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Portugal, Perspectives for 2030) and took into account the need to support government policies aiming at increasing the contribution of R&D in the private sector up to 2% of GDP by 2030.
- Introduction of an incremental approach to the implementation of the HE&R&I policy priorities.

3.2. Practical steps adopted by the Scientific Coordination Group

The SCG has proposed to split the 950 PhD studentships into two tracks: 80% of studentships will be allocated on the basis of the previously established FCT criteria (market driven allocation of studentships as a proportion of applications evaluated) and 20% PhD studentships attributed according to newly introduced criteria based on HE&R&I policy priorities.

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As a consequence, SCG proposes that the minimum level of applications success rate for every single Evaluation Panel should be 30%.

In order to boost the private sector research, to harness Portuguese knowledge development and to provide and diversify opportunities for employment of future doctorate holders the SCG identified the Main Scientific Fields needed to be further emphasized and awarded a premium: "Exact and Natural Sciences", "Engineering and Technology", "Medical and Health Sciences" and "Agricultural Sciences".

These four main scientific fields did receive the additional 20% of the total PhD studentships, which were allocated according to the proportion of applications for each Evaluation Panel.

As an outcome of the deliberations, the SCG agrees on the following distribution of the 950 studentship as presented in the Annex I.


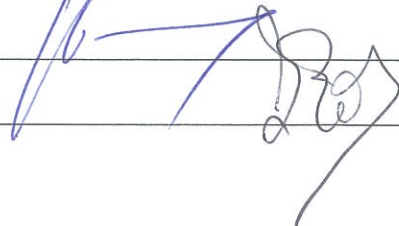
4. Recommendations for future calls

- To increase in the coming years the proportion of 20% of PhD studentships allocated on the basis of HE&R&I policy priorities.
- To announce in the annual call the number of PhD studentships allocated on the basis of the HE&R&I policy priorities.
- To publish HE&R&I policy priorities in advance and in a transparent way.
- To reduce the number of Evaluation Panels in order to increase the efficiency of the whole evaluation process.
- To consider the ranking of the results as being more informative than the scores, in the light of the fact that cross comparisons of the scores among panels is not possible.
- To establish a reserve list in every panel in order to preserve a smooth close of the process.

5. Closure of the meeting

On 1 August at 18:15 hrs, the coordinator declared the closure of the meeting after the working methodology have been discussed and agreed by all the group members.

Lisbon, 1 August 2018

Name	Signature
Luis Sanz Menéndez (Chair)	
Melita Kovačević	
Edward Ziarko	

Annex I - Scientific Coordination Group Allocation Proposal by Evaluation Panel

	Evaluation Panel	Total allocation SCG
1	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	18
2	Anthropology	7
3	Arts	27
4	Bioengineering and Biotechnology	53
5	Experimental Biology and Biochemistry	46
6	Biomedicine	53
7	Science Animal and Veterinary Sciences	12
8	Biological Sciences	47
9	Computation and Information Sciences	47
10	Communication and Information Sciences	21
11	Educational Sciences	28
12	Earth Sciences	19
13	Environmental Sciences	32
14	Political Sciences	13
15	Design, Architecture and Urbanism	29
16	Law	13
17	Economics and Management	25
18	Civil Engineering	32
19	Environmental Engineering	21
20	Materials Engineering and Nano-technologies	35
21	Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering	46
22	Mechanical Engineering	30
23	Chemical Engineering	15
24	Literature Studies and Culture Studies	15
25	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	6
26	Physics	16
27	Economic and Social Geography	8
28	History and Archaeology	29
29	Linguistics	4
30	Mathematics	8
31	Clinical Medicine and Health Sciences	58
32	Museology and Art History	11
33	Psychology	36
34	Chemistry	47
35	Sociology	17
36	Agricultural and Food Technologies	26
	Total	950