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Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA

Notice of Call for the 2013 Evaluation Exercise of R&D Units

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A. Scope and objectives of the evaluation exercise

In accordance with article 12 of Decree-Law 125/99 (20 April), and with paragraph f) of subsection 2 of article 3 of Decree-Law 55/2013 (17 April), which approved the Organic Law of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT I.P.), and paragraph h) of article 21 of Law 3/2004 (15 January), republished by Decree-Law 5/2012 (17 January), and amended by Decree-law n. 123/2012 (20 June), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT I.P.) will undertake the evaluation of national scientific research and technological development units, following the most rigorous international standards, including R&D units which, in conformity with Decree-Law n. 125/99 (20th April), benefit from the status of Associate Laboratory.

Within this evaluation exercise, diversity is accepted as a key factor for coherent development of the National Scientific and Technological System and effective organisational models are encouraged, ensuring a more rational use of resources and infrastructures and strengthening the competitiveness of Portugal within the European Research Area. For that purpose, units may choose to keep their current composition and organisation or reorganise their configuration to one best suited to achieve their strategic goals. This reorganisation may also include the creation of new research units, as well as the merger or closure of existing ones.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria of R&D units to be used in the present exercise are as follows:

- A.** Productivity and contribution to the National Scientific and Technological System;
- B.** Scientific and technological merit of the research team;
- C.** Scientific merit and innovative nature of the strategic programme;
- D.** Feasibility of work plan and reasonability of the requested budget;
- E.** Impact of the scientific, technological and cultural output.

R&D units to be funded should:

- Demonstrate internationally recognised scientific production of merit
- Present adequate critical mass to achieve their objectives
- Promote rational use of infrastructures, technical means and human resources
- Whenever appropriate, present a strategy that includes the contribution to differentiation, competitiveness and wealth creation in their region
- Contribute to the dissemination activities and knowledge and technology transfer.
- Demonstrate internationally recognised scientific production of merit

Application of the evaluation criteria is performed according to the Evaluation Guide, where parameters are set, as well as the relative weighting of each criterion and the grading scale, taking into account the specific profile of R&D Unit(s), namely the strands of basic or applied research / experimental development.

C. Evaluation phases and grading

The evaluation of R&D Units is performed by international evaluation panels organised by scientific domains and composed of experts of recognised merit and international expertise, from foreign institutions.

The evaluation process comprises two phases:

- Results of the first phase of evaluation award the ratings of “Good”, “Fair” and “Poor”, based on the consensus evaluation reports.
- Result of the second phase of evaluation, award the ratings of “Exceptional”, “Excellent”, “Very Good”, “Good”, “Fair” and “Poor”, based on the final evaluation reports.



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D. R&D Units to support

R&D units graded as "Good" or higher benefit from core funding, calculated in accordance to the Regulation. R&D units graded as "Exceptional", "Excellent" and "Very Good" may benefit from strategic funding according to the proposal of the evaluation panel based on the strategic programme that was submitted.

R&D units to support will be financed by national funds and, where applicable, by EU funds under the 2014-2020 Common Strategic Framework of the European Union.

E. Application submission procedure and evaluation

The application for evaluation involves the following moments:

1. Registration of the R&D unit on the FCT information system, with the possibility of:

- a) Keeping the R&D unit, without prejudice to changes in its scope or dimension;
- b) Creating new R&D units, including the merger of existing units or
- c) Extinguishing R&D unit, with the possible integration of researchers in existing units or participation in future units.

During registration, information about integrated members in the R&D unit research team will be requested.

2. Application form

After completion of R&D unit registration, access to the application form for the submission to evaluation is provided. The application form is filled out in English and organised in two parts:

- Part A, regarding the main results and performance outputs of R&D unit for the period 2008-2012.
- Part B, regarding the strategic programme of the R&D unit for 2015-2020, pointing out the objectives, implementation process, advanced training opportunities, internationalisation activities, knowledge transfer, expected outputs and duly justified budget proposal. Part B also includes the organisational structure, the composition and unit's objectives.



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F. Dissemination and information on deadlines

The registration of Units on PCT/FCT opens on 8th July 2013 and closes at 5 pm (Lisbon time), on 16th September 2013.

The form for submission of applications for evaluation and funding will be available on the same portal from 19th August 2013. After completion of the registration process of the unit, the application form must be locked by 5pm (Lisbon time), on 31st October 2013.

The Regulation and other support documents for the present evaluation exercise are available at: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/unidades/avaliacoes/2013> and on the PCT/FCT portal (<https://pct.fct.pt>).

Information on technical issues regarding the application forms may be addressed to the email: avalinstituicoes@fct.pt.

Queries on IT issues should be addressed to webmaster@fct.pt.



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