

Increasing Intra-EU Coordination in Africa-Europe Health Sciences Collaborations through RFI (A Portuguese perspective)

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Topics

- Introduction: What is FCT about?
- A Dedicated National Initiative to scientific collaborations, including health sciences, across the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries: the International Centre for Advanced Training of Scientists from Portuguese-Speaking Countries;
- 3 Dedicated Pilot Actions aiming at increasing human capacity, including in health sciences, through participation of African Portuguese-speaking countries and other African countries;
- Alignment with European initiatives: EDCTP and beyond;
- RFI and national and European initiatives: What RFI might be useful for?

Introduction

- *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (FCT) is Portugal's funding agency that supports science, technology and innovation in all scientific domains, under responsibility of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education;
- FCT funds fellowships, studentships and research contracts for scientists, research projects, internationally competitive research centres and state-of-the-art infrastructures, and ensures Portugal's participation in international organisations;
- FCT's budget encompasses funds from the Portuguese state budget and European structural funds;
- For 2015, FCT's budget for science funding was €460 million.

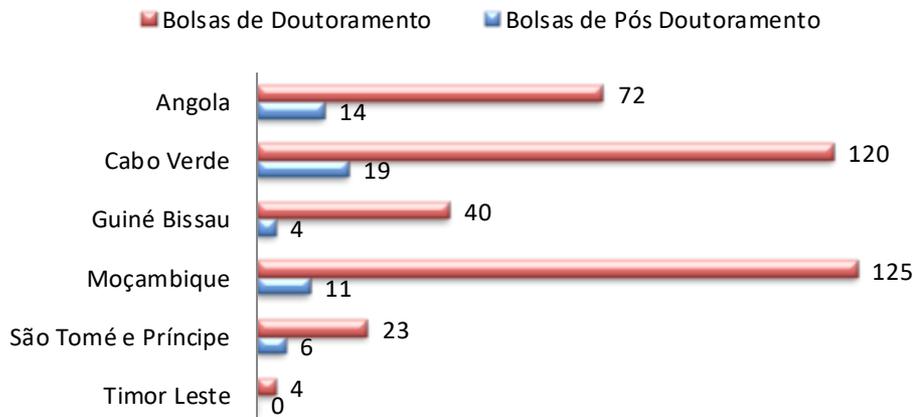
Dedicated National Initiative

- International Centre for Advanced Training of Scientists from Portuguese-Speaking Countries, under the auspices of the UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme (Category 2 UNESCO Centre), established in October 2015 (*Decreto-Lei n.º 231/2015*);
- Goals:
 - Accomplishment of UNESCO's goals on basic sciences;
 - Developing high-level scientific capabilities, including training of doctoral and post-doctoral young scientists, mobility and infra-structural improvement across Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP);
 - Engagement in national, regional and global networks of excellence;
 - Reduction of scientific brain drain in Africa;
 - Promotion of social responsibility of scientists vis-à-vis their communities.

Dedicated National Pilot Action (1)

- The Global Science doctoral and postdoctoral programme, established in 2009 thru 2015, in all scientific areas, open to all CPLP citizens (except Brazil and Portugal), funded by FCT;
- 438 applications generating 36 grants (27 doctoral grants e 9 postdoctoral);

Candidaturas por nacionalidade



Bolsas concedidas por área científica BD e BPD



Dedicated National Pilot Action (2)

- The Science for Development doctoral and postdoctoral programme, established in 2014, open to all CPLP citizens (except Brazil and Portugal), funded by FCT with support of CAPES (Brazil) and MESCI (Cape Verde), with 4 planned calls;
- Programme in life sciences, molecular biology, marine resources, plants and soil, **tropical diseases and public health**;
- Two-phase training: first phase in Cape Verde, and second phase in Brazil and Portugal.

Dedicated National Pilot Action (3)

- The TropiKMan – Tropical Knowledge and Management doctoral programme in agricultural, environmental, life and **health sciences**, economics, history and other social sciences;
- It pools together the Nova University of Lisbon (Nova School of Business and Economics, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Schools of Science and Technology and Social and Human Sciences), Cabo Verde University, Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique) and University of Pretoria (South Africa);
- FCT provides up to 18 doctoral grants to citizens of African Portuguese-Speaking countries and East Timor.

Alignment with European Initiatives

- Principles of participation in the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership:
 - Building on capital generated by the Portuguese scientific community throughout the last 20 years;
 - Collaborating with manifold partners with different capabilities (public and private, European and African);
 - Enhancing African participation, in terms of proactive engagement in common projects (research, capacity building...) and division of costs.
- Linkage to other European initiatives:
 - Representation at the High Level Policy Dialogue between the EU and AU;
 - Information exchange with African interlocutors under the auspices of the Joint Initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases Research (JPND, JPsustainD).

RFI: Opportunities to explore

- Improvement of policy tenets underlying national initiatives aimed at Africa in health sciences (and other domains);
- Monitoring of ongoing initiatives and designing future initiatives;
- Expanding/finding common ground amongst various research agendas and instruments;
- Brokering negotiations, attracting new partners, and enhancing mutual trust amongst potential partners.

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MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR

Thank you very much!

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