

**Referência da candidatura:** LA/P/0051/2020

**Designação:** Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa

**Acrónimo:** ICS-ULisboa

**Coordenador do LA:** Karin Elizabeth Wall Gago

**Nº Investigadores Doutorados Integrados:** 122

**Instituição de Gestão Principal:** Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa

**Instituição Proponente:** Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa (ICS-ULisboa)

**Outras Unidades de I&D:** -

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## **CRITERION A**

### **Technological capacity to sustainably support and promote the response of public policies**

**Rating:** 5

#### **Comments:**

ICS is a LA already existent so that it is possible to form an idea about its capacity to direct research to the support of public policies. Based on the information of the document annex to the application, the examples of project supporting public policies are more than sufficient to regard the ICS as having a high potentiality for developing projects in support of public policies in several domains of social and sustainability policies. In the past five years its action was very relevant and with a wide scope in support of public policies. A special mention should be made to the leading position of ICS in the project PASSDA (Production and Archive of Social Science Data, an infrastructural program for archive and dissemination of social and political data). In what concerns the future till 2030 the strategic plan ISP (Public Policy Strategic Plan) shows a clear intention of reinforcing the orientation of the activity of the ICS in the support of public policies. The five objectives of the plan are from this point of view ambitious and adequate and they are to be pursued along four thematic lines (sustainability, citizenship, inclusion and vulnerabilities memory and legacy). These thematic lines define multidisciplinary approaches to well defined subjects, and are well centred in national and international (EU, UN) priorities. They are supported by strong, well- staffed "infrastructure drivers" (data collection, experimental and survey research, expertise in policy monitoring, data processing and open access to data and metadata), and by a culture of outreach and engaging with society. However it should be mentioned that the objectives (and so also the thematic lines) are very demanding in what concerns multidisciplinary work, something that is usually difficult to organize with efficiency. It is true that past experience shows that the ICS is quite capable of organizing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity, having currently as mentioned in the document annex to the application resources in 8 disciplines (anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, social psychology, sociology) but if this type of work is to be reinforced in the future we cant ignore that this may bring new challenges that will probably make necessary some adaptations in what concerns governance. The governance structures are in general adequate and follow an already tested structure of the past activity of the ICS. A special important service is the Board for University

Extension that addresses dissemination of knowledge and implementation of public policies. Unfortunately no details are provided on the functions of this board. However as said new challenges may arise. And one of the challenges will probably be related to the relations of thematic lines and research groups. At the level of the implementation of the thematic lines - level that is essential to attain the objectives of the ISP - are mentioned 7 research groups with an interdisciplinary character. It is also mentioned that the research groups have as objectives produce and disseminate knowledge but it is not clear the responsibility of the research group in choosing the projects that are to be developed in each thematic line. On the other hand it is not clear who is responsible for capturing new projects. The international funding officer mentioned at page 41, the research groups or the individuals that are encouraged to do so? Probably the three possibilities apply and rightly so. However some coordination should be provided if the objectives of the ISP and some equilibrium between thematic lines are to be met. Not recommending an excessive bureaucratization that obviously would be counterproductive it is arguable that a few simple rules to ease the relations between individual, research groups and thematic lines would reduce the risk of discoordination

#### **CRITERION B**

##### **Promotion of scientific or technical careers at doctoral level & Attraction of Talent**

**Rating: 4**

##### **Comments:**

ICS has an impressive track-record in attracting international talent, either PhD researchers (25% of total) and PhD students (47% of total). These participate in a large number of PhD programmes that are very well related with their thematic lines. They have also a large number of researchers on fixed-term contracts working in projects (21% of the total PhD researchers). These researchers are well supported in their careers by well-developed policies, which cover very diverse aspects (such as helping in writing grant applications, developing data-gathering skills). ICS public research career positions are a strong point when compared with most other University-based Associate Laboratories, which have access only to teaching permanent positions. But it may be a disadvantage when defining, for example, criteria of promotion and compensation for outstanding achievements. In what concerns internal regulations it is important to emphasize that capacity to attract funding and engage in international networks are considered along other criteria important for career progression. The objectives regarding scientific employment for the period 2021-2025 represent an important effort since the total number of PhD researchers will increase by 8% till 2025 and the number of PhDs hired on a permanent or open-ended basis will increase by 50%. The proportion of this last category of researchers in the total number of PhD researcher will increase from 21% to 30% in 2025. However In the proposal, it was not well explained how the purpose of increasing the number of permanent researchers was consistent with the proposed recruitment of 12 new researchers "at the start of their careers", as Assistant Researchers. The profile of each of these new positions is not defined, except in a general way for the first four, who will be hired mainly in a support role (Science communicator, Social Survey,..). As ICS has a large number of researchers in fixed-term contracts, it is expectable that many of those will apply to the new positions, if indeed they are meant to be permanent ones. But then, why not preview also positions as Principal Researcher or Research Professor? It is not

mentioned any substantial modification of the governance model to secure careers and employment for PhDs and to attract talent. The obvious inference is that in general the present model will be followed. The truth is that there is no compelling reason to change a model that was successful in the recent past. Probably most of the needed changes are beyond the capacity of the ICS since they imply revision of general public regulations

### **CRITERION C**

#### **International projection & Securing diversified funding**

**Rating:** 5

**Comments:**

The proposal presents a very good track-record of obtaining funding from external sources, including a growing share of European projects, in various modalities (ERC grants, projects, networks), although the European-based funding could still be improved. The proponents show outstanding scientific capacity to be able to improve the success in European funded projects, while maintaining the national funding. The strength of their programmes in the four thematic lines and the high national and international profile maintained by most researchers allows to predict an improvement of their capacity to secure an even more diverse funding in the future. The governance model is adequate to leverage international prominence and secure funding but given the capacity of ICS the objective for international funding could be more ambitious raising additional international funds if not European funds. In fact the objective for international funding in the period 2015-2019 is not overambitious, since it represents a decline from 23% to 20% of total funding.

### **Overall**

**Rating:** 90

**Recommended annual funding:** 519 985,79 €

**Comments:**

According to the comments above, the Panel recommends the award of the title of Laboratório Associado for the period of ten years. The Panel recommends complementary funding, as annual average for the period 2021-2025, of 519,985.79 .