

Call for Applications – CEsa Internal Funding for Small Projects - 2024

Context and presentation

The call for applications is open until 23.59 on the 31st July 2024 for CEsa grants for small research projects carried out by members of this research centre. The total amount of funding available for this purpose is twelve thousand euros (€12,000.00), to be divided between different projects, each of which may receive a maximum grant of four thousand euros (€4,000.00).

Projects on any topic within CEsa's research areas are eligible for a grant, namely in the context of: Economics, Development and International Cooperation, and/or History, Cultures and Identities, as long as the principal researcher is a member of CEsa and that the project's outputs are wholly presented as being CEsa's scientific production.

The fundamental aim of this initiative for the financial support of small projects is to enhance the research activities of CEsa and its members and, in particular, to create the necessary conditions for increasing both the number and quality of the Centre's publications in indexed journals and the number of potentially successful applications for larger-scale external funding. Consequently, the evaluation of all the applications (by a panel mainly composed of non-members of CEsa's Board) will especially take into account the prospects of the advancement of these small projects resulting directly from publications and/or successful applications for larger-scale funding, in addition to the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposals itself.

The Rules and Regulations for this Call are reproduced in full below.

Call for Applications – CEsA Internal Funding for Small Projects - 2024

Rules and Regulations

1. Context

With a view to reinforcing the research activities of CEsA and its members, following on from the last General Assembly, CEsA's Board has decided that a total amount of twelve thousand euros (€12,000.00) is to be made available for the funding, in whole or in part, of small research projects. The maximum grant for each selected project is four thousand euros (€4,000.00).

The main objective of this initiative is to strengthen CEsA's scientific production by supporting research activities that directly lead to the publishing of scientific papers in indexed journals and other relevant outputs and/or successful applications for larger-scale funding.

2. Who can apply?

This competition is exclusively intended for projects presented by members of CEsA (be they integrated researchers or collaborating researchers) whose principal researchers are also members of CEsA. The participation in the project by members of other national or international research centres is permitted, however external researchers cannot be the project leader. All outputs resulting from the projects must be explicitly presented as being CEsA's scientific production. The following are not eligible to compete for this Call: i) current members of CEsA's Board; ii) current members of CEsA's Secretariat; and iii) members of the evaluation panel for this Call.

3. Characteristics of the projects

The proposals presented must be compatible with CEsA's research topics, and, in particular, must comply with one of the Centre's two lines of research, namely: (i) Economics, Development and International Cooperation; and (ii) History, Cultures and Identities. The projects must be fully completed by the 31st July, 2025.

4. Financing

The total amount allocated by CEsA for this funding line is twelve thousand euros (€12,000.00). The winning proposals will receive a maximum funding of four thousand euros (€4,000.00) per project, which may correspond to the whole or part of the total project budget. For those projects awarded an average final score greater than 10 (see Point 7, below), the projects with the highest scores will be eligible for funding up to the limit of the available funding. If the last eligible project implies exceeding the available twelve thousand euros (€12,000.00), then that project may be financed in part, as agreed between CEsA's Board and the principal researcher of that project.

5. Deadline and instructions for submitting applications

The deadline for submitting applications for this Call is 23.59 on the 31st July, 2024 (Lisbon time). Applications must be submitted by email to ***cesa@cesa.iseg.ulisboa.pt***, cc ***comunicacao@cesa.iseg.ulisboa.pt***.

6. Documents to be included in the applications

Applications should not exceed four (4) pages and must be written in English.

They should consist of a clear and succinct description of the research project to be developed, structured in accordance with the following points:

1. Project title
2. Name of the Principal Researcher and, if applicable, the names of the remaining members of the project team
3. Context, theoretical framework, and objectives
4. Methodology and description of planned activities
5. Expected results, particularly in terms of publications (described as specifically as possible) and of intended future applications for other sources of funding (described as specifically as possible)
6. An indicative schedule
7. An indicative budget (should the total amount exceed four thousand euros (€4,000.00), this budget must include an indication of the expected source of the outstanding funding requirement)

7. Selection criteria

The evaluation criteria are intended to promote an objective evaluation of the projects and their potential to contribute to CEsa's scientific production. The contest's panel will be comprised of three CEsa researchers (Alice Sindzingre, Jessica Falconi, and Kamila Krakowska), each of whom will independently evaluate all proposals according to the following criteria:

7.1. (1 to 5 points): Absolute Scientific Merit: How relevant, innovative, theoretically grounded and methodologically solid is the project?

7.2. (1 to 5 points): Feasibility: How viable is the proposal in terms of the probability of achieving the stated objectives and expected results, considering the budget, schedule, available human resources, and planned activities?

7.3. (1 to 10 points): Impact: What is the probability, as explicitly demonstrated in the application, that the project will directly result in publications that are relevant to CEsa's mission in terms of their number and quality (especially papers published in international indexed scientific journals and books or book chapters) and/or in future applications that have a strong probability of being successful in obtaining larger-scale funding?

The total score assigned by each evaluator will be the sum of the scores assigned for the three criteria.

8. Evaluation and announcement of the results

The final score of each application will be the simple arithmetic average of the scores assigned by each of the three evaluators. The ranking of all the evaluated projects for financing purposes will be made based on this final score. In the case of a tie, the "Impact" criterion shall prevail. The evaluators' panel is sovereign, as is its final decision on the selected projects.

The results of this Call, including the publication of the full list and score of all projects submitted, will be announced via CEsa's website and will also be communicated by email to all those researchers who submitted applications. The results of the Call will be announced by the 15th September, 2024.

9. Disbursement of the funds

The funds allocated to each project will be made available after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the principal researcher and CEsa, and this amount must be fully spent by the 31st July, 2025. This funding may cover any expenses that contribute to the implementation of the project and which are considered eligible by FCT, such as: travel, accommodation, purchase of books or databases, payments to survey enumerators or research assistants (external to CEsa), consultants' fees (external to CEsa), registration for events, etc. The payment of fees to CEsa researchers is not eligible for funding under this Call, insofar as it is not eligible for FCT.

All payments will be made by CEsa, on presentation of relevant invoices or reimbursement of receipts, as long as these contain CEsa's fiscal number. Alternatively, whenever feasible, CEsa will directly purchase and pay for the services in question (e.g., travel). For reasons related with CEsa's budget programming, at least 60% of the total amount of funding allocated to each project must be used by the 31st December, 2024. The remaining part may be used by the 31st July, 2025. Any amount not spent by the 31st July, 2025 will be forfeited.

10. Final report

The principal researcher of every funded project must present a final report by the 30th September, 2025, detailing the activities carried out, the objectives achieved/not achieved, and the outputs produced/in production. Unjustified material deviations from those indicated in the original application will result in the researcher in question not being eligible for future funding from CEsa.

11. Matters not provided in these Rules and Regulations

Any other issues or matters not provided for under these Rules and Regulations shall be decided upon by CEsa's Board.