

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0037)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 2 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the ATE funded by IAPMEI with reference 56 Co-financed by Component 5 - Capitalization and Business Innovation, integrated in the Resilience Dimension of the Recovery and Resilience Plan within the scope of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (MRR) of the European Union (EU), framed in the Next Generation EU, for the period 2021 - 2026.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea: Programming, Computer Systems, Informatics

Area of Work: Distributed Systems

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2025-03-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Fábio André Coelho

Workplace: INESC TEC, Braga , Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 601,12, [according to the table of monthly maintenance stipend for FCT grants](#) , paid via bank transfer. Grant holders may be awarded potential supplements, according to a quarterly evaluation process (Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and Annex II), up to a maximum limit of 50% of the monthly maintenance stipend.

INESC TEC supports costs with registration, enrolment or tuition fees, during the grant duration, under the terms established in the internal document: "[Payment of Tuition fees to grant holders](#)".

The grant holder will benefit from health insurance, supported by INESC TEC.

2. OBJECTIVES:

This grant is provided in the scope of the project "Aliança para a transição Energética" - (Alliance for the Energy Transition) where a multi-tenant, cloud-based solution to enable an integrated set of cross-domain, interoperable digital services with data from several domains will be design, while allowing a simple instantiation for distinct stakeholders along the energy value-chain.

The work to be carried out in this grant explores the concept of data spaces for interoperable data exchange between organisations. The work focuses on the analysis of the architecture and development and test of applications compatible with the connectors, namely in the deployment automation . It has the following objectives:

- Test several data spaces reference implementations, namely the EDC – Eclipse Data Space Connector;
- Test and implement automation and orchestration of services needed to support a data space;
- Design and implementation of customizable data planes for processing of several data classes, within the data spaces concept for interoperable data exchange;
- Test the applicability of data apps that are run in the context of the dataspace connector;
- Produce an architectural and technical report of the work.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- Identify the methodologies, reference architectures and prototypes currently in use within the concept of data spaces;

- Deployment of operational tests with several data space reference implementations available and available data apps, particularly in EDC's reference implementation;
- Design of a customizable data plane for processing of several data classes;
- Explore deployment mechanisms and options to fully automate the deployment and management of the data space components, including Kubernetes, Ansible or other;
- Write a report with the results of the work done in the context of this grant.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Currently enrolled in a MSc programme in Computer Engineering.

The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:

- Knowledge Docker, Kubernetes and Ansible;
- Experience of the EDC data space reference implementation;
- Experience with RESTFull interfaces and web development.

Minimum requirements:

- Starting Knowledge in Distributed Systems;
- Knowledge and use of database systems (relational, NoSQL);
- Starting knowledge with the data spaces concept (interoperability connectors);
- Fluency in English and Portuguese (spoken and written).

5. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection criteria and corresponding valuation: the first phase comprises the Academic Evaluation (AC), based on the criteria referred to in Article 12 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#), while the second phase comprehends the Individual Interview (EI). All factors are evaluated on a scale of 0 to 100, taking into account the applicants' merit, suitability and conformity with the preference factors.

The weight of the AC factors are as follows: Academic Qualifications (FA, 55%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 25%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 10%).

Candidates who score less than 50 points in the AC average will be considered excluded on absolute merit. The top five candidates approved on absolute merit will be qualified for the individual interview. The Final Grade (CF) is obtained by the weighted average of AC (90%) and EI (10%).

DISABILITY INCENTIVE

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will benefit from an incentive (20) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90% will also benefit from an incentive (10) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Said score may, in these cases, exceed 100 points.

Candidates must demonstrate the degree of disability during the application, namely through the submission of the Multi-Purpose Medical Certificate of Disability, issued in accordance with Decree-Law no. 202/96, of October 23 - currently in effect.

Candidates must declare, in the application form, the type of disability used throughout the selection process, in order to proceed with the required adaptations.

The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: Fábio André Coelho

Full member: Tânia Conceição Araújo

Full member: João Tiago Paulo

Substitute member: António Luís Sousa

Release of results and prior hearing: the results of the selection process, as well as the terms and procedures for prior hearing, will be released to the applicants by email, under the terms referred to in Article 13 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of INESC TEC.

6. FORMALISATION OF APPLICATIONS:

Application Documents:

1. Motivation letter;
2. Curriculum Vitae (must include the list of previous fellowships, their type, beginning and end dates, funding entities and host institutions);
3. Certificate or diploma degree;
4. Proof of enrollment in a degree awarding study cycle or in a non degree awarding Higher Education program.
 - The proof of enrollment may be presented just during the grant hiring stage.
5. Signed declaration stating not having benefited from any other research fellowship (Article 5, no. 5)
6. Documental evidence to support the country of residence, residence permit or other legally equivalent document, in cases where the applicant is a foreigner or non-resident in Portugal - valid until the beginning of the grant.
7. Other supporting documents relevant to the final assessment.

Failure to deliver the required documents within the 90-day period after the date of the notice of the conditional awarding of the grant implies its cancellation.

Application period: From 2025-01-30 to 2025-02-12

Submission of applications: the application will be formalised by submitting the form available in the *Work With Us* section of INESC TEC website.

7. BINDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The hiring process shall comply with the current legislation regarding the Research Grant Holder Statute, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, as well as by the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and for [FCT Grants Regulation in force](#).

For more information, please check the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and relevant annexes at www.inesctec.pt/bolsas

