

Call for Internal Projects at LEAF 2020 - 2023

1. Objectives

LEAF internal project call has as main objective to promote, develop and consolidate excellence in research activities and scientific output of the *Instituto Superior de Agronomia*, specifically within the different LEAF areas of Research. Furthermore, LEAF internal project call specifically aims **to develop research integration and synergies within the different laboratories and research areas of the Centre**, stimulating the transversal scope of the thematic lines.

LEAF's internal projects must result in:

- i) an increase of synergism within the Research Centre teams and of international collaborations
- ii) an increase in quantity and quality of productivity indexes (e.g. publications in peer reviewed international scientific journals of either general or specialized nature, and others).

LEAF Internal projects must also promote a dynamic advanced training and an increase in the capacity to secure externally funded projects at both Portuguese and European levels.

2. Project Characteristics

LEAF internal projects will have a maximum duration of 36 months. The budget for each project includes up to **100 k€** for running costs and missions. The projects must necessarily involve researchers from at least two of the three LEAF research groups based at ISA/ULISBOA (<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/research-groups>) and the subject must be under the umbrella of a thematic line, but this **is not mandatory**:

1. Grapevine & Wine:
<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/thematic-lines/grapevine-wine>
2. Olives & Olive Oil:
<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/thematic-lines/olive-olive-oil>
3. Tropical Agriculture & Food Value Chains:
<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/thematic-lines/tropical-agriculture-food-value-chains>;
4. Green & Blue Infrastructures:
<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/thematic-lines/green-blue-infrastructures>.

Both PI and co-PI must be affiliated to LEAF as well as the large majority of the investigators involved.

The budget of the project allows three types of costs:

- a) Laboratory/field consumables and external service purchases (includes open access Q1 publications);
- b) Small back up equipment;

LEAF Coordination

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- c) Missions - for field or laboratory work and participation in international congresses (max. 4; each with minimum 1 oral communication and maximum 2 participants).

LEAF projects do not cover the following costs: large equipment purchase and external consultants.

3. Application

LEAF internal projects application must be written in English and each PI is allowed to submit only one application (but can collaborate in other projects).

LEAF projects must have a maximum of 15 A4 pages using 1.5 line spacing and size 12 Times New Roman font.

Excess of pages will not be considered by the evaluators.

Projects must have the following structure (within max 15 pages):

- a) Acronym
- b) Title
- c) Abstract
- d) Graphical abstract
- e) Objectives and Thematic Line addressed (relevance and contribution to the thematic line objectives)
- f) State of the art
- g) List of Researchers involved, including their updated ORCID IDs and for PI and co-PI a short version of cv including last 5 relevant publications and coordination of projects
- h) Working plan (includes tasks, proposed methodologies, milestones, deliverables, risk evaluation and contingency measures)
- i) Expected results: a map of deliverables including publications with deliver dates.
- j) Timeframe. It should include starting and conclusion date and a chronogram (e.g. Gantt) with the different tasks and respective milestones
- k) Foreseen dissemination of results including oral communications (posters can be added) to scientific meetings (National and International Congresses)
- l) References (up to 30)
- m) Budget distribution, must be checked with and approved by our Project Office

4. Project submission: Projects must be sent until midnight of 30th September to email (leaf@isa.ulisboa.pt), in the pdf format, as an attachment to the email and must include a signed statement from both the PI and Co-PI assuming the responsibility to conclude the proposed project.

5. Project Applications Evaluation: The routing of Project evaluation will be conducted by the LEAF board. The board will establish **an international evaluation panel** covering the different research areas of LEAF. Evaluation panel members cannot be based in Portuguese institutions. Each application will be evaluated by three

members of the panel. Project evaluators will take into account the following classification grid:

- A. Overall scientific quality of the project: (scoring 0-6)
- B. Interdisciplinary nature of the project and of the involvement of multiple LEAF groups: (scoring 0-4)
- C. Capacity and suitability of the research team to achieve the proposed objectives (includes CV evaluation of PI and CoPI and past experience in the proposed research topic): (Scoring 0-3)
- D. Prospects of obtaining sound research outputs, namely in the form of 2-3 publications in Q1 journals: (Scoring 0-3)
- E. Suitability of the requested funding: (Scoring 0-4 value)

Each evaluator will classify the project within the above-mentioned grid independently of the other evaluator and using the formula:

$$\text{FINAL SCORE} = A + B + C + D + E$$

(Maximum 20 values)

The final score of the project will be the average of the marks obtained from each evaluator. Projects will be ranked according to the final score. If a given TL is not included on the projects graded in the top four positions by less than 10% of the 4th ranked proposal, the evaluation panel will introduce a minor adjustment of 10% to allow distributing projects within the 4 TL. If more than 10% adjustments are required, the quality rules over, and it may occur that some TL are voided and others are overloaded.

6. Obligations of the PI/Co-PI: The PI is responsible for managing the project. At the event of PI failure Co-PI will assume full responsibility. At least annual reports with the progress of the project (including results, constraints, missed milestones and delayed deliverables) as well as a detailed final report (within the six months upon project completion) must be handed to the LEAF board.

7. Non-compliance: In the event of non-compliance including *force majeure* reasons (e.g. PhD student abandoning the program, PI accident, etc.), or declared by the LEAF board on the basis of the reports and (lack of) outputs, the PI and/or the co-PI will discuss with the LEAF board an alternative in order to conclude the project. If it results impossible to complete the project, it will therefore be immediately terminated.

Lisboa, 10th June 2020

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P'la Coordenação do LEAF

