

## ABSTRACT

CINTESIS, *Centro de Investigação em Tecnologias e Serviços de Saúde*, and UnIC, *Unidade de Investigação e Desenvolvimento Cardiovascular* – two R&D units hosted at Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto (FMUP) – CCUL, *Centro Cardiovascular da Universidade de Lisboa*, hosted at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon (FMUL), and CI-IPOP, *Centro de Investigação do Instituto Português de Oncologia do Porto*, hosted at IPO-Porto, are jointly proposing the creation of RISE – *Rede de Investigação em Saúde*.

RISE will focus on health research and innovation, aiming to perform translational and clinical research – from preclinical and clinical stages to community level – by connecting universities to health providers, at both a regional and a national level.

RISE also aims to strengthen the Portuguese S&T System, by addressing several key priorities defined at the “Health, Clinical and Translational Research” Thematic Agenda for Research and Innovation of the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (FCT).

To meet this goal, RISE will aggregate >220 PhD researchers (plus >120 PhD students) with a variety of academic backgrounds e.g. physicians, nurses, biologists, nutritionists, psychologists, economists and data scientists. This diversity of competences and professional experiences will allow RISE researchers to work together to find multidisciplinary solutions to relevant health problems, particularly on the field of non-communicable diseases e.g. cardiovascular, oncological, inflammatory and degenerative diseases.

By providing new knowledge and innovative solutions through evidence driven decisions and policies, RISE will develop and test new diagnostic tools, digital platforms and/or health interventions by means of RCTs and cost-effectiveness analysis.

Overall, in last 5 years, the four associated R&D units and its respective host institutions attracted >15 MEuros in competitive research grants, >16 MEuros in PhD tuition fees, 7 MEuros in RCT, besides employing >50 researchers. Based on this track record, RISE is clearly able to secure, in 5-year time, the 22 new research contracts planned in this proposal, therefore strengthening the research careers at RISE host and/or partner institutions.

Furthermore, RISE is expecting to move from its present consortium governance model to a non-profit association, involving all current proponents and other associates e.g. public and private healthcare institutions and health-related companies and industry.

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