

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2023-0404)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 2 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the BLOCKCHAINPT funded by IAPMEI with reference 51 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 Grant (BI)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea: Programming, Computer Systems, Informatics

Area of Work: Computer Science

Grant duration: 12 months, starting on 2023-12-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: António Pinto

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 930,98, [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:

1. Identify and evaluate candidate blockchain technologies that could be incorporated in UEFI
2. Identity, evaluate and test different blockchain services, such as smart contracts and NFT, in the context of a DaaS platform
3. Design, implementation and evaluations of a blockchain-assisted solution for device management in a DaaS platform

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The Device as a Service (DaaS) is already a reality from an economics standpoint but has yet to become a well know paradigm in the scientific and academic communities. A single reference was found in literature that conceptualizes a DaaS service largely similar to the one envisioned. Even though their work considers device abstraction and home network management and access control, capabilities for international deployment with high assurances of integrity, immutability and reliability, achieved with the use of blockchain technologies, aren't even considered.

When considering blockchain-assisted access control mechanisms, multiple solutions can be found in academic literature, but these ignore the concept of device ownership, not considering that the owner of the used device may be a distinct entity from the device user.

For instance, the use of NFT as a digital representation of a service agreement that allows a person to use a

specific device is novel. Moreover, if one considers that device authorization of use can change over time, such can be mapped to transference of NFT ownership. In other words, one could buy, or trade, a NFT that would authorize a user to use a specific device.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Degree in Computer Science, Informatics or similar.

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 of Web3 and smart contracts.

Minimum requirements:

Knowledge of programming and software development

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, 35%), Scientific Publications (PC, 15%), Experience (EX, 15%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 35%).

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 (60%) and EI (40%).

The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: António Pinto

Full member: Ricardo Rocha

Full member: João Paulo Vilela

Substitute member: José Paulo Leal

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 dully recognised in Portugal;
 - Documents proving the awarding of academic degrees and diplomas, or the according recognition - in cases of academic degrees or diplomas granted by a foreign higher education institution - can be dismissed in the application process, and replaced by the applicant's declaration of honour, with the verification of said condition taking place during the grant's hiring stage. The submission of the certificate is mandatory when signing the contract.
 - Academic degrees or diplomas awarded by a foreign higher education institution require an authentication by a Portuguese higher education institution, and the corresponding registration on the DGES platform, in conformity with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16, and Ordinance no. 33/2019, of January 25. More information available on the website <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>
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 the infringement of the grant holder's duties (article 14, no. 4)
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 2023-10-19 to 2023-11-02

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

