



## NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A DOCTORATE PROJECT MANAGER UNDER DECREE-LAW NO. 57/2016

**Internal code: Project\_Manager/ERC\_CenAGE/i3S/3003/2026**

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for an unfixed term, part-time work (20%) contract to carry out science management duties within the project **CenAGE** “A *centromeric view on AGEing: unveiling centromere instability in ageing*” GA 101224668, funded by the European Research Council under the topic ERC-2025-SyG - ERC SYNERGY GRANTS.

**Scientific Area:** Health Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan

Amongst the ageing hallmarks, genomic instability has emerged as a unifying cause of ageing, since it drives most of the other hallmarks, namely senescence and chronic inflammation. These hallmarks are all typically portrayed by the aged immune system, with compelling evidence pointing to genomic instability in immune cells as a driver of organismal ageing. Intriguingly, while the role of telomeres, mutations, transposons, etc, in age-related genomic instability has been widely investigated, the centromeres have remained largely overlooked. Emergent evidence show that centromeres are inherently unstable, and recent findings from our labs indicate that centromere instability can lead to genome instability, inflammation, and senescence, including in non-cycling immune cells. In CenAGE, we propose a multi-layer synergistic approach to deliver a ‘centromeric’ view on ageing by: i) characterizing age-associated changes in centromere features in cellular models; ii) identifying the intrinsic (genetic and epigenetic) and extrinsic (viral infection) mechanisms behind centromere-driven senescence hallmarks; iii) establishing the role of centromere dysfunction in physiological decline, focusing on the immune system; and iv) testing how geroprotective interventions that implicate centromeres impact immunosenescence and systemic ageing.

The tasks to be executed by the project manager are as follows:

- Oversee the project lifecycle phases (initiation, planning, execution, monitoring/controlling, and closure) in close contact with project managers at I. Curie;
- Report the project outputs in close contact with partners at I. Curie;
- Aid on the recruitment of human resources, acquisition of equipment; organization of consortium meetings, team missions and lab rotations;
- Monitor budget for laboratory supplies, maintenance, and service contracts, and liaise with the group leader to ensure effective allocation and utilization;
- Provide advice and assistance with writing, proofreading, preparation and submission of documents, reports, manuscripts and applications;
- Establish and maintain relationships with relevant (national and international) partners, including taking a lead role in coordination, liaising with people and



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- Facilities within the Institute, and with external collaborators and Institutions;
- Organize Scientific and Science Outreach events (e.g., conferences, seminars, workshops);
- Participate in and support public engagement and widening access activities;
- Liaise with the i3S communication unit to manage and coordinate the group and the project science communication and outreach (e.g., social media, website);
- Aid the Group leader and other group members in applying for and securing funding.

## 2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Decree No. 57/2016, of August 29 – Legal Framework for Scientific Employment (RJEC) – in its current version. Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

## 3. Jury

Chairman: Elsa Logarinho; Other Members: Margarida Saraiva, Florence Janody; Substitutes: José Carlos Bessa, Diogo Sampaio e Castro.

## 4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group research group Aging and Aneuploidy.

## 5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Higher Technician / Project Manager

€ 715.31, corresponding to a weekly workload of 7 hours.

## 6. Requirements for admission

### Mandatory:

- PhD degree in Biology/Biomedicine/Biochemistry or a related area (concluded >6 years ago);
- Research Project Management course certificate;
- Experience in project coordination and management;
- Demonstrable ability to writing and editing scientific manuscripts and major grant applications, with an in-depth understanding of scientific publication and grant application processes;
- Motivation Letter in English;
- Relevant publication record in areas relevant to the project;
- Fluency in written and spoken English;
- Good teamwork and interpersonal skills;
- Immediate availability to start the contract – to be mentioned in the motivation letter.

### Preferential:

- Consolidated Research experience (>10 years), preferably in the areas of Aging;
- Demonstrable track record in securing funding;
- Ability to prioritize tasks and keep track of multiple ongoing projects (meet deadlines and milestones);



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- d) Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to interact equally effectively with senior academic staff, researchers, support staff, stakeholders and the general public;
- e) Experience in the organization of Scientific and/or public outreach events (e.g., seminars, conferences, science outreach);
- f) Proactive and organized, with excellent attention to detail and problem-solving skills;
- g) Ability to train and manage teams;
- h) Ability to tailor writing and communications to different audiences or contexts;
- i) Good teamwork and interpersonal skills.

### 7. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

The evaluation of the scientific and curricular background of the candidates should focus on the activity of the last five years that the candidate considers most relevant. The five-year period may be extended by the jury, at the candidate's request, when justified by suspension of scientific activity for socially protected reasons, namely for reasons of parental leave, prolonged serious illness, and other situations of unavailability for work that are legally protected.

#### Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria:

- a) Detailed Curricula (80%) under the following sub criteria:
  - i. Consolidated Research experience, preferably in the areas of Aging;
  - ii. Demonstrable track record in securing funding
  - iii. Ability to prioritize tasks and keep track of multiple ongoing projects (meet deadlines and milestones);
  - iv. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to interact equally effectively with senior academic staff, researchers, support staff, stakeholders and the general public;
  - v. Experience in the organization of Scientific and/or public outreach events (e.g., seminars, conferences, science outreach);
  - vi. Proactive and organized, with excellent attention to detail and problem-solving skills;
  - vii. Ability to train and manage teams;
  - viii. Ability to tailor writing and communications to different audiences or contexts;
  - ix. Good teamwork and interpersonal skills.
- b) Motivation Letter in English (10 %);
- c) Interview - *facultative* (10%).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the 2 (two) best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed may receive a maximum score of 90%.



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Candidates who submit their application incorrectly or fail to meet the required qualifications for this competition will be excluded from admission. The jury reserves the right to request any candidate, in case of doubt, to provide supporting documents for their statements.

False statements made by candidates will be sanctioned in accordance with the law.

The jury will draw up minutes of its meetings, which can be consulted at the candidate's request within 10 working days after the selection results are released.

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed, and draws up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ordered by respective classification.

All candidates are notified of the selection results by email. After notification, candidates have 10 working days to comment.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, the jury's final decision is communicated to the candidates. Subsequently the institute Director, who is also responsible for the final decision of hiring, will ratify the decision of the jury.

This call is intended exclusively to fill the indicated position on offer and may be canceled before the final ranking list of candidates is ratified by the Director. Accordingly, the position will no longer be available.

### **8. Submission of applications**

Applications must include all the documents proving that they fulfill the admission requirements, namely:

- a) Copy of certificate or diploma of the PhD degree;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Research Project Management Certificate;
- d) Motivation Letter in English;
- e) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from March-30 to April-13, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/6f6f4f5a5325b78486a9443b469f27>

### **9. Start and duration of the contract**

The anticipated start date of the contract is May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The estimated duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable.



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#### **10. Non-discrimination and equal access policy**

i3S actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No applicant shall be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the basis of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, i3S adopts the Open, Transparent and Merit-based (OTM-R) principles for the recruitment of researchers, with the aim of conducting fair and transparent recruitment processes, bringing equal opportunities to all candidates.

#### **11. Applicants with disabilities**

Under the terms of Decree-Law 29/2001, of February 3, the candidate with a disability is given preference in equal ranking, which takes precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare under oath their degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned decree.



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