

7th edition - Seed Projects for Interdisciplinary Research within the Strategic Areas of the University of Coimbra

Guide to Ethics and Security Issues in research proposals

The tables below aim to guide candidates in the identification of ethical and security issues regarding their proposal to “Seed Projects for Interdisciplinary Research - 2026” and support the preparation of subpart 3.5. *Ethics Self-Assessment* of the proposal template. These tables are based on the Ethics and Security issues required to be taken into account by applicants and beneficiaries of EU projects funded by the European Commission (EC). For more information on each of the ethical and security issues and how to address them see the guidelines ‘[How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment](#)’ from the European Commission.

Ethics issues table

Go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. If you answer ‘Yes’ to any of the questions, provide additional information on that issue in the Ethics Self-Assessment of your proposal.

1. HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS AND HUMAN EMBRYOS		
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they previously established cells lines?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Will the activity lead to their destruction?	☐ Yes ☐ No
2. HUMANS		
Does this activity involve human participants?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Are they volunteers for nonmedical studies (e.g. social or human sciences research)?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they healthy volunteers for medical studies?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they patients for medical studies?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they children/minors?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are there other persons unable to give informed consent?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Does it involve invasive techniques?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Does it involve collection of biological samples?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014) ? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Is it a clinical trial?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Is it a low-intervention clinical trial?	☐ Yes ☐ No

3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES (not covered by section 1)		
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Are they human embryonic or foetal cells or tissues?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they available commercially?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they obtained within this project?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they obtained from another project, laboratory or institution?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they obtained from biobank?	☐ Yes ☐ No
4. PERSONAL DATA		
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g.: sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical beliefs)?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If YES: Does it involve processing of genetic, biometric or health data?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as surveillance, geolocation tracking, etc.)?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?		☐ Yes ☐ No
5. ANIMALS		
Does this activity involve animals?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Are they vertebrates?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they non-human primates (NHP)?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they genetically modified?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they cloned farm animals?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Are they endangered species?	☐ Yes ☐ No
6. OTHER COUNTRIES		
Will some of the activities be carried out outside Portugal?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Specify the countries:	
Do the activities undertaken in other countries raise potential ethics issues?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Specify the countries:	
Does this activity involve low and/or lower-middle income countries ? (if yes, detail the benefit-sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)		☐ Yes ☐ No
Could the situation in other countries put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?		☐ Yes ☐ No
7. ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH and SAFETY		
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?		☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?		☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the		☐ Yes ☐ No

implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?	
8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	
Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence based systems? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).	☐ Yes ☐ No
9. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES	
Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Please specify:	

Security issues table

Please go through the table and indicate which elements concern your proposal by answering YES or NO. If you answer YES to any of the questions, please provide additional information on this security issue in the Security self-assessment section below.

1. EU classified information (EUCI)¹		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Is the activity going to use classified information as background information?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Is the activity going to generate classified foreground information as results?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Does this activity involve participants which need to have access to EUCI?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Do the non-EU countries concerned have a security of information agreement with the EU?	☐ Yes ☐ No
2. MISUSE		
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES:	Does the activity provide knowledge, materials and technologies that could be channelled into crime and/or terrorism?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	Could the activity result in the development of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) weapons and the means for their delivery?	☐ Yes ☐ No
3. OTHER SECURITY ISSUES		
Does this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES, please specify:		
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration?		☐ Yes ☐ No
If YES, please specify:		

¹ According to the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information, "European Union classified information (EUCI) means any information or material designated by an EU security classification, the unauthorised disclosure of which could cause varying degrees of prejudice to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States".