



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Universidade de Coimbra

## About the Centre for Social Studies (CES)

CES is a scientific research institution in the field of social and human sciences, founded in 1978 with the status of Non-Profit Private Association. In February 2002, CES was granted the status of Associate Laboratory by the Ministry of Science and Technology. CES is regularly evaluated by international experts, having received, in all occasions, a classification of "Excellent".

CES currently has 137 researchers, 88 post-doctoral researchers, 468 PhD students and 49 junior researchers of several knowledge fields within Social Sciences and Humanities across the different Research Groups.

## What do we do

CES research activities focus on studying the new dynamics of social interactions, both within the Portuguese society and the global sphere, namely North-South relationships. In addition to the main research activity, CES also provides specialized services in these fields of study.

CES has been offering a wide and growing programme of post-graduate training, including doctoral and post-doctoral programmes. CES also develops, within the scope of its status as Associate Laboratory, several Advanced Training actions, seeking to share the results of its researches with a more vast audience.

## How do we do it

Research is often conducted in partnership with different national and international institutions. These partnerships result in the development of cooperation projects and, in a more permanent basis, in the development of specific protocols of cooperation with other academic institutions or other entities operating within CES research fields. CES also organizes its research across Observatories, resulting from protocols agreed with entities interested in benefiting from the results of the Centre's research activity.

Finally, the Biblioteca Norte|Sul (North|South Library) is also worth emphasizing. Created in 1998, it aims at gathering a bibliographic collection focused on publications resulting from the scientific production of the South Hemisphere, in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities.

## Our goals

a) To promote innovative epistemologies and methodologies and to stimulate the cultural interaction of ideas as an exercise towards an "ecology of knowledge", i.e. the articulation of scientific knowledge with knowledge produced by citizens' organizations and social



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movements, in order to enhance the idea of "knowledge society" and to maximize the impact of science in society;

b) To produce innovative knowledge on Portugal and other European societies (particularly Southern European societies) and on the Portuguese-speaking countries (particularly Brazil, Angola and Mozambique), with a strong orientation towards the enhancement of North-South dialogues;

c) To support the development of strong human rights concepts, able to denounce different kinds of inequalities and discriminations and to strengthen democracy;

d) To provide support to the elaboration of public policies through the development of applied research;

e) To strengthen the participation in national and international networks, paying special attention to North-South and European cooperation and to the relationship with Portuguese-speaking countries;

f) To foster post-graduate studies and advanced training activities open to young researchers, professionals and citizens in general, as a way of contributing to the improvement of societal skills.

### **Our strategy**

- To promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, combining contributions from various areas and traditions;

- To develop new and innovative instruments and analytical, theoretical and methodological approaches capable of understanding the specificities and complexities of contemporary society;

- To disseminate scientific knowledge, making it available to multiple fields of application, through joint initiatives with civil society organizations, state institutions and international agencies, as well as local government bodies, at the regional and national level, within the Portuguese context.