

Post-Doctoral Researcher (1 Vacancy)

CES/27/2025-PD-CO3

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory – University of Coimbra (Portugal), invites applications for (1) **one Post-Doctoral Researcher position** (CES/27/2025-PD-CO3) in the Horizon project “CO3 – Continuous Construction of resilient Social Contracts through Societal Transformations” (GA: 101132631), funded by the European Commission, coordinated by Vanda Amaro Dias and Cristiano Gianolla.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The project is part of the research line (Semi-)Peripheral Capitalism: Crises and Alternatives, which aims at deepening the knowledge indispensable towards the construction of sustainable societies, from a social, political, ecological and security point of view. To this end, attention is given to the material and institutional structures of the economy, to the international dynamics of peripheralization, to the complexity of work as a structuring dimension of contemporary life, to the multidimensional and multiscale conditions of democracy and the public sphere, and to participatory and inclusive forms of organisation of society.

A. Project Description

Project title: “CO3 - Continuous Construction of Resilient Social Contracts through Societal Transformations”

Based on the analyses of the limitations of, and challenges to the social contracts in political theorising and practices, CO3 aims at developing and promoting a more democratic, more inclusive and more open model of social contracts, which manifest political and social resilience in the face of major societal challenges, crises, and anti-democratic tendencies. Drawing from 8 empirical case studies in EU member states, and in 3 non-member states, CO3 researches safeguards and mechanisms for resilient social contracts overtime. While the theoretical ambition of the CO3 project is to analyse how the contemporary theories of the social contract contribute to our understanding of the social contracts in the current crises-driven European political environment, the empirical ambition is to investigate contradictions and tensions between practices, narratives and lived experiences in social contracts across Europe through concrete cases. As a result, CO3 generates evidence-based knowledge on the safeguards and mechanisms for promoting resilient social contracts, which support citizen involvement and democracy across Europe.

Expected duration of the project execution: 36 months, from February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2027.

Cofinanciado por:

B. Scientific Field

Social Sciences

c. Work plan, tasks:

The selected researcher is expected to:

- Contribute to the execution of the project's scientific tasks led by the CES team, as well as supporting any related activities. In particular, the selected researcher will be asked to: collect, organise and analyse qualitative and quantitative data; carry on fieldwork on the challenge of the social contract in Europe in the context of EU Enlargement; and analyse existing datasets (for example the European Social Survey and the Eurobarometer) to provide evidence of the expectations and emotions of the population in relation to the EU;
- Support the implementation of the scientific tasks of the project, namely, literature review, document research, databases and website maintenance, drafting and editing of reports and publications, transcribing, translating and reviewing and data, data analysis, organise and participate to scientific and dissemination events, draft reports and publications, draft results and dissemination material, among other tasks;
- Support the administrative activities of the project – including the organisation of events, management of communication – and other tasks necessary to implement the project.

d. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The successful candidates will be hired under Law no. 57/2016, August 29, altered by Law 57/2017, which approves a doctoral hiring regime with a view to boosting scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC). The hiring will also be governed by the Labour Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of February 12, as currently worded.

e. Workplace

Research will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities in Coimbra, Portugal. Selected researcher will occasionally need to travel to other locations to perform research tasks. The successful candidate is expected to move to Coimbra – Portugal for the duration of the contract.

Cofinanciado por:

f. Duration of the Contract

The contract will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the project, foreseeably starting on 17 November, 2025. The contract is fulltime, in exclusive dedication until the end of the project. Selected researcher is subject to yearly evaluations by the PI's, upon which depends the continuation of the contract.

g. Application dates

From 22 September to 14 October, 2025. After 14 October (23h59 Lisbon time), 2025, applications will not be considered for evaluation.

h. Application process

Applications must include:

- a) Presentation/Motivation letter with the contest reference (CES/27/2025-PD-CO3) of maximum 2 pages in English in which the candidate addresses at least four points:
 - (1) motivation to be part of the CO3 project within the CES team and under the project research line;
 - (2) demonstration of language oral and written proficiency in both English and Portuguese (with reference to the context where the candidates learned and perfected both languages or to whether they are native speakers);
 - (3) to what extent education and previous experience match the selecting criteria listed, and;
 - (4) they allow to execute the work plan mentioned above;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Copies of degree certificates. It is mandatory to be holder of a PhD degree by the ending of the tender (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point "k. Mandatory requirements");
- d) One publication, which better represents the writing skills of the applicant and their proximity with CO3 research, in Portuguese or English;
- e) Other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/27/2025-PD-CO3).

SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS

i. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project, and in the research line listed above, by fulfilling the following criteria:

- a) Academic background (and research) carried out in the area of Political Science, International Relations, European Studies, Sociology or related field, with demonstrated research related to social contract, Europe/European Union, (post)colonialism and/or imperialism, and political emotions (20%);
- b) Demonstrated experience (publications, participation in research projects, membership in research groups or networks) in the area of European Social Contracts, EU Enlargement, EU external governance, resilience, and political emotions. Expertise on EU relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine and Turkey, particularly within the scope of the enlargement process, is also desirable (20%);
- c) Competence in quantitative methods in (e.g.) survey analysis and related software (e.g., SPSS, R, Python). Experience in qualitative data collection and analysis, including semi-structured interviews, Focus Group, Discourse Analysis, participatory research and related software (e.g., MAXQDA/NVIVO) is an added value (20%);
- d) Level of language proficiency in English (compulsory) and in Portuguese (highly desirable). Other desirable languages are Ukrainian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian and Turkish (20%);
- e) Experience in research project administration, team work and communication, organisation and dissemination, event organisation and publication editorial work; (10%);
- f) Solid publication track-record in the area of study, experience in editing publications and use of bibliographical software (e.g., Endnote/Zotero/Mendeley), project management systems and collaborative software (10%).

The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate.

j. Monthly Salary

The monthly salary is 2.351,53 Euros gross plus two additional months of salary (total of 14 months of salary a year). Full protection by Social Security is included in the contract. Researchers will be covered by Portugal's national health insurance plan.

Salary is set in accordance with the provisions of Portugal's scientific employment law, namely line a) number 1, of article 15, Law nº 57/2017, corresponding to level 33 of the single salary scale approved by Decree no. 1553-C/2008 of December 31.

k. Selection Criteria

- Applicants must hold a PhD in social sciences, experience in the subject area indicated above and demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project;
- Applicants must have demonstrated proficiency in English.

Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System, (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of the degree(s) will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:

- recognize the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
- give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
- use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

In case of selection, the contract can only be signed after the recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese authorities, under the terms of the Law-decree nº66/2018, August 16. The selected candidate must deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results. After the 30 days, the jury may decide to (1) either extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition; (2) assign the position to the next candidate for merit; (3) or not award the position.

l. Selection Process

Applicants will be selected based on their scientific merit and curricular path. In case of equivalent curricular profiles, the best-positioned applicants will be short-listed for an interview, meant to assess each applicant's potential contribution to the development of the project. The two stages of evaluation (the curricular merit assessment and the interview) will weigh 50% each in the final score. The scale applied to each criterion is 0 to 20.

The jury reserves the right to not select any applicants for the positions, if applications do not meet the necessary standards and/or profiles in terms of absolute merit.

m. Selection Panel

- Vanda Amaro Dias (President)
- Cristiano Gianolla (Permanent member)
- Daniela Nascimento (Permanent member)
- Manuel João Cruz (Substitute member)
- Gustavo Garcia Lopes (Substitute member)

Cofinanciado por:

n. Communication of Results

The results of the selection process will be emailed to all candidates, and the meeting minutes of the selection panel will become publicly available.

Additional comments

Equality of opportunities:

CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, territory of origin, and disability (Law nº 93/2017, 23 August; Law nº 4/2019, 10 January).

Data protection:

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

Contact:

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