

"la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the Foundation for Science and Technology form a partnership to support biomedical and health research in Portugal

- **The prime minister of Portugal, António Costa, and the president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, Isidro Fainé, have today signed a collaboration agreement in Porto to jointly promote research projects of excellence and high social impact in the field of biomedicine and health.**
- **As a result of this partnership the Foundation for Science and Technology will match investment made by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation in research projects selected in the context of the Foundation's extension of activity in Portugal.**
- **The call for research project grants opened by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation is addressed to projects of excellence in the fields of oncology, neuroscience and infectious and cardiovascular diseases, as well as to cross-cutting biomedical projects.**
- **"Yesterday we presented the action plan for 2018 of the Banking Foundation in Portugal, the fruit of our partnership with BPI, and today we can see what one of our strategic lines of action will be: support to research. We undertake this with the best possible travelling companion: the Portuguese government, whom I wish to thank for the confidence they have placed in us. Our goal is shared: to contribute to the progress of Portugal and the wellbeing of the Portuguese", explained the president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, Isidro Fainé.**
- **With more than a century of history, "la Caixa" Banking Foundation is the largest in Spain and among the foremost institutions of its kind at the international level.**

Porto, 15 February 2018. The prime minister of Portugal, António Costa, and the president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, Isidro Fainé, have today signed a collaboration agreement in Porto that will enable them to jointly award support

to research projects of excellence and high social impact in the field of biomedicine and health.

Projects led by researchers from universities and not-for-profit research centres and carried out in Spain or Portugal may be eligible to receive these grants.

The agreement signed today establishes that the Foundation for Science and Technology associates itself with the aforementioned initiative, undertaking to match investment made by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation in research projects led by researchers from universities and not-for-profit research centres based in Portugal.

Through this programme of investment in biomedical and health research, both entities aim to foster investigation carried out in Portuguese centres in collaboration with others foreign institutions. Their goal is to transfer results for the benefit of health and contribute to people's general wellbeing

"Yesterday we presented the action plan for 2018 of the Banking Foundation in Portugal, the fruit of our partnership with BPI, and today we can see what one of our strategic lines of action will be: support to research. We undertake this with the best possible travelling companion: the Portuguese government, whom I wish to thank for the confidence they have placed in us. Our goal is shared: to contribute to the progress of Portugal and the wellbeing of the Portuguese", explained the president of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, Isidro Fainé.

Open, transparent and competitive bidding

Selection of the proposals will be based on a rigorous process that meets the highest standards of quality, impartiality, objectivity and transparency. It will consist of an initial peer review phase to shortlist projects, and a second selection phase to be carried out by committees comprising relevant international experts for each of the research areas.

The types of grants made available by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation are:

- Up to **500,000 euros** over three years to innovative, transformative projects developed by one or several research teams.
- Up to **1,000,000 euros** over three years to projects that encompass various centres, possibly with international partners, and are highly

transdisciplinary.

The projects received will be evaluated between March and June, and the results made public in July 2018. The selected proposals will be developed over a period of 36 months.

More than 30 years fostering research

The incorporation of BPI into the CaixaBank Group will result in Portugal becoming the epicentre of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation's international commitment, which is expected to reach an annual budget of 50 million euros dedicated to social action in that country.

The Foundation's commitment to people's welfare has characterised the entity's actions since its conception in 1904 and continues to be more valid than ever. Its main goal is to contribute to the building of a better, fairer society, while at the same time offering opportunities to the people who most need them.

The Banking Foundation has been supporting research of excellence for more than 30 years. During these three decades, the entity has allocated over 380 million euros to fostering research through 352 projects and awarded 4,348 excellence grants to promote the training of young people from around 100 Spanish universities and centres. It has also been the driving force behind 1,629 clinical trials of new treatments for people suffering from cancer, AIDS or malaria, among other illnesses.

If you would like further information, please contact:

Jesús N. Arroyo: 0034 629 79 12 96 / jnarroyo@fundaciolacaixa.org

Rui Silva: 912 454 299 / rsilva@tinkle.pt