

**Minutes No. 2 - Annex III - Justifications from the Jury Members for the Evaluation
Assigned to the Candidates:**

Candidate – Ana Isabel Rodrigues Simões Casinhas Sacavém

A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for proposals. Undergraduate grade of 13 and Master's grade of 19 = 15.4 (3.5).

A2: No articles in scientific journals. Participation in research projects, scientific conferences, and postgraduate studies in Human Resources.

B1: The proposed project demonstrates scientific merit, and the research question and objectives are clearly defined. However, although there is reference to OpenEU and the Open University Strategic Plan, particularly regarding the Digital Transformation agenda, the connection between these frameworks and the proposed research is not sufficiently clear, since the study focuses on the context of primary and secondary education, and not higher education.

B2: The literature review is sufficient. The research methodology is correctly explained and is consistent with the objectives. The comparative aspect, since the project focuses mainly on a case study in a school, is the most limited part that would need to be strengthened.

B3: The proposal has potential and practical implications, but it does not include any clear strategy for the internationalization of the research through collaboration with partner higher education institutions within the OpenEU alliance. The timeline is feasible and covers appropriate stages. However, the first and second iterative interventions are not sufficiently explained; it is unclear how the research will be integrated into the school, in which subjects, for what pedagogical purposes, how many teachers and students will participate in the implementation, etc.

Candidate – Cristiane Lopes Miguel Neto dos Santos

A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for proposals. Integrated Master's degree with a grade of 17 (4.5).

A2: Does not have scientific articles in indexed journals, patents, projects, or communications in conference proceedings; it only reflects extensive experience in institutional management, including at the international level.

B1: The project proposal is aligned with OpenEU's central mission of digital transformation in higher education, inclusive access, and lifelong learning. By proposing an ICT-driven framework to enhance institutional capacity and employability in Angola, the research directly addresses these strategic priorities, albeit within a limited context.

B2: The scientific quality of the proposal is consistent, although it is developed in a rather succinct manner and offers a limited review of the relevant literature. The methodology is clear, adopting a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative analysis of higher education indicators with semi-structured qualitative interviews involving faculty, policymakers, and OpenEU partners. There was a lack of connection between the methods and the research objectives. There was no reflection on the number of entities and people involved.

B3: The work plan, although quite challenging, could be developed within a 4-year timeframe, since the candidate's proven track record in institutional governance in Angola can mitigate execution risk and ensure reliable access to necessary data and institutional stakeholders.

Candidate – <u>Diogo Filipe Lemos Bugarim Fernandes</u>
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A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for applications. Bachelor's degree grade of 15 and Master's degree grade of 18 = 16.2 (4).

A2: It is highlighted that the article in Data in Brief is co-authored with several researchers but is not yet published. Has professional experience in research grants within the scope of S4P REC-SEL and "Scientist Returns to School". Tutoring (UAb) and supervision of final course projects are also highlighted.

B1: The research topic is indirectly aligned with both OpenEU and UAb considering the interdisciplinary theme in the area of climate change and governance, but this alignment could have been justified. Alignment with the UAb Strategic Plan 2024-27 is mentioned, but not explicitly argued in the application. The objectives are well defined and structured in three analytical axes (E1, E2, E3), with operationalized research questions. The scientific and political relevance is solid, and the topic has renewed pertinence in light of the 2025 fires.

B2: The state of the art is coherent and well-founded—it mobilizes relevant literature. The articulation between the three structuring concepts is the most original point of the project. The methodology is mixed (documentary analysis, georeferenced database, GIS with ArcGIS, semi-structured interviews), with good internal consistency. However, the empirical operationalization of the three "tragedies" for the Portuguese forestry case is a

methodological challenge, and the application assumes its viability without sufficiently problematizing the risks of conceptual overlap. The "Anti-commons" applied to Portuguese small forestry has precedents that it cites.

B3: The schedule is detailed with a logical sequence of tasks. The tools are adequate (ArcGIS, interviews, documentary analysis). The risks are not explicitly analyzed. The internationalization component is foreseen—participation in international conferences—but there is no indication of mobility in OpenEU partner HEIs, which the call for proposals specifically values.

Candidate – <u>João Gabriel Thomaz Moura Morais</u>
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A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the notice. Bachelor's degree grade of 18 and Master's degree grade of 19 = 18.4 (5).

A2: The candidate has a very robust curriculum vitae, possessing strong professional experience and holding several publications and other types of activities.

B1: The project is very original, seeking to fill a gap in research and pedagogical practice and contribute to answering pressing issues in contemporary societies. It is also relevant in the context of OpenEU and the UAb strategic plan, namely because it aims to contribute to pedagogical innovation in distance education.

B2: The research project is well-executed, with a well-defined theoretical and methodological foundation. Some theoretical aspects could be better clarified, notwithstanding that we are dealing with a project of the utmost relevance (even because of the relationships it establishes with the principles advocated by OpenEU).

B3: The work plan adequately outlines the steps to follow, but it is too ambitious in the second year and there is no indication of mobility in OpenEU partner HEIs.

Candidate – <u>Joaquim Gomes André Chitata</u>

A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for applications. Bachelor's degree grade of 14 and Master's degree grade of 16 = 14.8 (3.5).

A2: The curriculum vitae highlights evidence of diverse and substantial scientific production, in scientific articles, although without articles in indexed journals, and also presents complementary training, grants and awards.

B1. The research topic is indirectly aligned with both OpenEU and UAb, considering the interdisciplinary theme in the area of globalization, sustainability and development, linking the dynamics of participatory management with biodiversity conservation, but this alignment could have been better justified with the case study in Mozambique.

B2. The scientific quality of the plan shows clarity and coherence in the objectives in relation to the methods (well detailed), but the state of the art needed to be further developed and the research needs better identified. The inter- and transdisciplinary action-research approach is clear in the work.

B3. The plan is feasible, although it seems overly ambitious given the diversity of data to be collected, and it does not identify partnerships with Open EU partner institutions. The timeline seems interesting to me, although somewhat linear. It does not present any contingency plan to mitigate the difficulties of qualitative research.

Candidato(a) – S M Abul Kalam Azad

A1: Diplomas from courses without grade presentation. According to the Notice, table 2, a grade of 2.5+2 is assigned, making an average of 2.3.

A2: Of the 4 publications, 1 was considered indexed in relevant databases. The candidate does not demonstrate relevant experience in managing funded projects or patent registration, and points were also awarded in this criterion for additional training (MBA and postgraduate studies).

B1: The candidate presents a work plan relevant to OpenEU and consistent with the UAb strategic plan, proving to be well-founded.

B2: The research project is well-developed, with a well-defined theoretical and methodological foundation.

B3: Opportunities for internationalization are not clear, particularly within the scope of OpenEU, nor is a risk analysis of the research carried out, although the proposal contains a timetable and an appropriate methodology for the tasks foreseen.

Candidato(a) – Sílvia Cristina Fontes Jesus Serrado Cópio
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A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for applications. Bachelor's degree grade of 15 and Master's degree grade of 14 = 14.6 (3.5).

A2: Although the candidate presents several publications, there is no evidence of indexing. She has several oral presentations without explicitly stating the existence of proceedings. She has extensive training.

B1: The project is original, well-founded, and relevant in the context of Open EU on family rights in education in the European context.

B2: The research project is of high quality and clarity, although the theoretical foundation is underdeveloped, presenting a set of authors that reveal prior work and theoretical knowledge of the field.

B3: The work plan adequately outlines the steps to be followed.

Candidato(a) – Susana Maria dos Santos Rocha Fouto da Silva
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A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for proposals. Bachelor's degree grade of 15 (2.5) and master's degree without classification (2.0, according to the call for proposals) - average 2.3

A2: Extensive training in speech and language therapy and family mediation, areas in which she has professional experience. Although she has produced publications and podcasts, none of them have been published in scientific journals or presented at prestigious conferences.

B1: The research project proposes the development and evaluation of a Family Mediation Intervention Program (FMI) in Portugal, focusing on family resilience, collaborative mediation, and social sustainability in the era of globalization. Although not strictly linked to the developments or areas of activity of OpenEU, the proposal can be aligned with the pillars of Inclusion, Equity, and Lifelong Learning of OpenEU, using digital technology to provide continuing education, training, and flexible knowledge to address social, economic, and environmental challenges.

B2: The methodology is described adequately and comprehensively, with a detailed theoretical framework and a sequential mixed-methods design.

B3: The feasibility of the 4-year work plan is well described. The timeline logically sequences the phases of the investigation. It identifies specific risks and mitigation plans for each phase.

The project demonstrates its commitment to Open Science and adherence to ethical standards and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Candidato(a) – <u>Zacarias Augusto Rungo</u>

A1: Classification according to Table 1 of the call for applications. Bachelor's degree grade of 14 and Master's degree grade of 15 = 14.4 (3.0).

A2: The curriculum vitae highlights evidence of diverse scientific production, in scientific articles and in the area of the thesis, although without articles in indexed journals. Has extensive training in various scientific areas. Does not mention any participation in research projects.

B1: Interesting and ambitious work plan, with some academic justification, although not in-depth regarding the research gap. The research topic is aligned with both OpenEU and UAb considering the interdisciplinary theme in the area of climate change, linking social vulnerability with climate risks, but could have better justified this alignment and in particular with the case study in Mozambique.

B2: The scientific quality of the plan shows high clarity and coherence in the objectives in relation to the methods (well detailed and with the analysis model well identified). The case study is properly justified within the context of the global problem of climate change and approached in a transdisciplinary manner.

B3: The plan is feasible, but it does not adequately specify any measures for internationalizing the project within OpenEU. The timeline seems interesting, although somewhat linear. It does not present any contingency plan to mitigate the difficulties of qualitative research.