



Press Release

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'PUMP' Report - Mapping Scientific Collaboration between Portugal and the United Kingdom

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PARSUK, in partnership with the [Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology \(FCT\)](#) and the [British Embassy in Lisbon/UK Science and Innovation Network \(SIN\)](#), is proud to announce the release of the ground-breaking report from the Portugal – United Kingdom Mapping Project ('PUMP').

The report is the most comprehensive analysis of the scientific collaborations between Portugal and the UK to date. It will be officially launched at the Portuguese Embassy in London today, 27th of October 2023 at a launching event at 5 pm and will be available for public consultation at 7 pm at www.parsuk.pt.

This project aims at mapping the recent evolution of scientific collaborations between Portugal and the United Kingdom, shedding light on their scope, impact, and potential for future investment opportunities.

Professor Madalena Alves, President of FCT, said: "Mapping these collaborations makes it possible to recognise their importance and find ways to strengthen them, with benefits for both scientific systems."

The report presents ten findings that showcase the robustness and significance of scientific collaborations between Portugal and the UK. A few examples include:

1. The scale of scientific collaborations is substantial, with nearly 1,500 international scientific projects identified, representing billions of worth in combination.
2. Research areas of climate change, oceans, and biotechnology emerged as prominent and crucial collaboration priorities for both countries and beyond.
3. The report highlights the presence of a vibrant ecosystem of dynamic and collaborative institutions in both Portugal and the UK. The most collaborative institutions in Portugal were the Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade do Porto and CIIMAR, while the University of Exeter, Imperial College London, and the Scottish Association for Marine Science topped the list in the UK.
4. Scientific collaborations between Portugal and the UK demonstrated high productivity, impact, and recognised quality. The report identified nearly 15,000 publications, with 80% published in the top 25% most prestigious journals of their respective fields, along with 40 patent applications.
5. Both countries invest in international training opportunities, with over 350 international doctoral projects identified, valued in millions.

The report also presents five key recommendations for future investments between Portugal and the UK, based on the findings:

1. Engage in joint research and development in strategic and mutual interest areas, such as climate change, oceans, and biotechnology.
2. Support the creation of official collaboration agreements between research institutions that demonstrate significant international cooperation.
3. Facilitate the transfer of innovation and technology between both countries through joint ventures, technology transfer offices, and tax incentives for companies investing in science and technology.

4. Promote international cooperation across all career stages in research, with a particular focus on early-career researchers.
5. Monitor and evaluate the evolution of scientific collaborations over time through surveys and questionnaires, enabling a deeper understanding of the collaborative landscape between Portugal and the UK.

The publication of this report marks the first step in ongoing research on international scientific collaborations, specifically within the bilateral relationship between Portugal and the UK. It underscores the long-standing history of collaboration between the two countries and emphasises our shared interest in continued collaborative research.

Chris Sainty, His Majesty's Ambassador to Portugal, said: "The study is in part a celebration of the past and the present scientific links between our two countries. But more importantly, it looks forward and discusses ways to deepen those links in the future."

The insights provided by this project will guide future efforts, enabling stakeholders, including senior leadership and decision-makers in government agencies, academic and research institutions, to identify potential investment opportunities. Additionally, the report will assist PARSUK in refining the focus of the PUMP project, ensuring the success of future editions.

About PARSUK:

PARSUK - Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the UK is a non-profit organisation that aims to foster academic and scientific collaboration between Portugal and the UK. PARSUK seeks to enhance research opportunities, facilitate knowledge exchange, and promote the exchange of ideas between researchers and institutions.

About FCT:

The Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) is the national funding agency for scientific research, technology, and innovation in Portugal. FCT aims to promote scientific and technological progress by supporting research projects, scholarships, and fellowships.

About the British Embassy in Lisbon:

The British Embassy in Portugal is responsible for developing and maintaining bilateral relations between the UK and Portugal. Its mission is to promote the objectives and policies of the British Government in Portugal, supporting British companies doing business in Portugal, encouraging foreign investment in the UK, and providing consular assistance to British residents and visitors to Portugal as necessary. The two countries have been close allies for over six hundred and fifty years under the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world.

About the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN):

The UK's Science and Innovation Network (SIN) leads on developing science partnerships and deploying science diplomacy around the world. The UK is a global power in science, technology, and innovation. International collaboration is essential to maintaining the UK's scientific base, supporting the competitive advantage of our innovative businesses whilst addressing shared opportunities and threats. In Portugal it works to strengthen the relationship between researchers, institutions, and organisations in both countries.

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