

**Date: 15 and 16 July 2026**

**Venue: Lisbon Congress Centre**

### 1<sup>st</sup> National Science and Innovation Conference 2026

The 2026 Conference is dedicated to an enlarged consultation of the science-innovation ecosystem, where the scientific community, private companies, sector organizations, and the public administration interact. We expect a rich discussion based on collaborative proposals for future research and knowledge-based innovation including its connections to society, economy, the territory, and the regional development, as well as better alignment with European strategies and the capacity for internationalisation.

All actors of the ecosystem have been invited to submit shared proposal for themes and questions they consider strategic for the future of research and innovation in Portugal. According to the proposals received, thematic sessions will be organized, including all types of actors and moderated by a professional. Reports from the sessions will be incorporated in the contributions to the strategic design of the future of research and innovation in Portugal.

## 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 10h15 **Opening session**  
João Barros, President of the Board of Directors of AI<sup>2</sup>
- 10h45 **Plenary session 1: Science and Innovation Priorities**  
Update on the Strategic Assessment and Participatory Process  
Maria do Rosário Partidário, Scientific Coordinator
- 12h00 **Plenary session 2**  
Organized by the National Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CNCTI)  
Carlos Oliveira, President of CNCTI
- 12h45 **Networking lunch**
- 13h45 **Parallel Sessions: Thematic participatory discussions**
- 15h10 **Plenary session 3**
- 16h00 **Coffee break and networking**
- 16h30 **Parallel Sessions: Thematic participatory discussions**  
**Closing remarks**  
M. Castro Almeida, Minister for the Economy and Territorial Cohesion

## 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 9h00 **Parallel Sessions: Thematic participatory discussions**
- 10h30 **Coffee break and networking**
- 11h00 **Plenary session 4: Portuguese R&I Ecosystem for the Future**  
*The new National Science and Innovation Act*  
Helena Canhão, Secretary of State for Science and Innovation  
João Ferreira, Secretary of State for Economy
- 11h30 **Plenary session 5: The Alignment of National and EU Strategic Priorities for Research and Innovation**  
*The Reform of the Portuguese Scientific and Innovation System and the new European Framework Programme*  
Fernando Alexandre, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation  
*Priorities for the new European Framework: FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund*  
Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner
- 12h30 **Networking lunch**
- 13h30 **Parallel Sessions: Thematic participatory discussions**
- 15h00 **Coffee break and networking**
- 15h30 **Plenary session 6: From Science to the Ecosystem - Building Territorial Advantages in the Innovation Economy**  
Organized by the Business Association for Innovation in Portugal (COTEC Portugal)  
Jorge Portugal, General Manager, COTEC Portugal
- 16h30 **Closing session**  
Highlights from the parallel sessions  
**Closing ceremony**  
Fernando Alexandre, Minister of Education, Science and Innovation