

Disclaimer: This document is provided for information purposes. In the event of any discrepancy, the official DOGC grant regulatory guidelines for the Talent H2 CAT-BW shall prevail.

Decisionxxxx/yyyy/yyyy, of [dd] of [month], approving the grant Regulatory guidelines that must govern the Talent H2 CAT-BW (TALH2) Doctoral Fellowship Programme.

The Law 7/2001, of 31 May (DOGC no. 3407, of 12.6.2001), creates the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) as a public law entity that adjusts its actions to private law, with its own legal personality, full capacity to act and its own assets for the fulfilment of its functions.

The Agency is responsible for implementing grant, loan and funding programme, as well as other initiatives to promote higher education, research and innovation, and technological innovation in Catalonia.

Article 73 of Law 9/2022, of 21 December, on Science, provides that the AGAUR is a funding agency for the programme and lines of research promotion entrusted to it by the Administration of the Generalitat or other public entities and that manages the funding of public funds intended for research in accordance with the principles of evaluation, efficiency, quality, publicity, transparency and objectivity; it guarantees the retention of accounts; It facilitates the monitoring of actions, and rationalizes management, reducing administrative burdens.

The AGAUR is attached to the Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (Spain), in accordance with Decree 80/2026, of 12 May, on the restructuring of the Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (Spain).

The provisions of the revised text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, are applicable; the basic precepts of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and the regulations that implement it, approved by Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July.

In the preparation of this provision, the repercussions and effects of these subsidies and compliance with the principles of budgetary stability and financial sustainability of Article 7 of Organic Law 2/2012, of 27 April, have been assessed.

Article 11 of the Agency's Statutes, approved by Decree 168/2002, of 11 June, of the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya, provides that the Board of Directors is responsible for approving calls for grants and subsidies, as well as resolving them. These faculties have been delegated to the Executive Committee for Technological Innovation and Scientific Internationalisation Grants (CEAITIC) or the person who holds the chairmanship, in accordance with the Agreement of the Board of Directors of 9 December 2022 (Decision REU/3960/2022, of 15 December, DOGC no. 8817, of 21.12.2022).

For all these reasons,

Resolution:

Single article

To approve the grant Regulatory guidelines that must govern the Talent H2 CAT-BW (TALH2) Doctoral Fellowship Programme, which appear in the annex to this Resolution.

Final provision

These Regulatory guidelines come into force the day after they are published in *the Official Gazette of the Generalitat de Catalunya (DOGC)*.

Barcelona,

P. d. (Decision REU/3960/2022, of 15 December, DOGC no. 8817, of 21.12.2022)

Javier Selva Sánchez

President of the Executive Committee for Technological Innovation and Scientific Internationalisation Grants (CEAITIC)

ANNEX

This annex contains the following sections:

1. Preamble
2. Regulatory guidelines
3. Project selection procedure
4. Candidates' selection procedure
5. Common rules of procedure

1. Preamble

The Talent H2 CAT-BW Doctoral Fellowship Programme is part of a joint strategic initiative between Catalonia (hereinafter, CAT) and Baden-Württemberg (hereinafter, BW) to promote the training of research talent in the field of hydrogen, in response to a shared challenge of great relevance: the decarbonisation of the economy, the transition towards a sustainable energy model and the strengthening of industrial, scientific and technological competitiveness.

This initiative is part of the context of current European priorities in terms of competitiveness, research, innovation and strategic autonomy. The European Union's recent reports and guidelines on the future of European competitiveness point to the need to accelerate innovation capacity, reduce the technological gap with respect to other advanced economies, advance industrial decarbonisation, reduce energy costs and reduce strategic dependencies in critical sectors. Within this framework, the development of technologies linked to hydrogen, clean energy and low-carbon industry is a priority area to strengthen Europe's resilience, technological autonomy and competitive positioning.

In Catalonia, the programme is aligned with the functions and priorities of the Directorate General for Technological Innovation and Scientific Internationalisation of the Ministry of Research and

Universities, as an instrument aimed at promoting technological innovation, the internationalisation of the research system, scientific cooperation with leading European ecosystems and the connection between knowledge, technology and the productive fabric. in line with the current European context in terms of competitiveness, energy transition and hydrogen technologies.

In this context, in 2022 Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg established a strategic alliance to strengthen cooperation in hydrogen research and innovation, with the aim of developing advanced technological solutions and training a new generation of highly skilled researchers, capable of responding to the scientific, industrial and social challenges associated with the energy transition. This initiative is part of a consolidated trajectory of collaboration between the two regions, which have been cooperating for more than three decades within the framework of the Four Motors for Europe, promoting joint actions in areas such as research, innovation, higher education, knowledge transfer and economic development.

The Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (DREU), through the Directorate General for Technological Innovation and Scientific Internationalisation, and the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg (MWK) have promoted the Talent H2 CAT-BW project, co-funded with European funds Horizon Europe – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND 2024, in accordance with Grant Agreement no. 101217279. The implementation of the project is articulated through the DREU-MWK collaboration agreement, which establishes the institutional, financial and governance framework necessary for its joint implementation. The Talent H2 CAT-BW programme contributes to the objectives of the Strategic Grants Plan of the Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (Spain) for the period 2025-2028 and to the strategic priorities of the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg in the field of research and innovation, with the aim of strengthening their respective knowledge and innovation ecosystems and positioning Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg as leading European regions in hydrogen-related technologies, clean energy and industrial decarbonisation.

The grants promoted within the framework of the programme are aimed at the development of interregional doctoral projects in the field of hydrogen. They promote doctoral training through a model of structured cooperation between both regions, fostering an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international approach, in line with the principles of open science, responsible research and standards of scientific excellence. Specifically, the programme focuses on the advanced training of Doctoral Candidates in the field of hydrogen, with the aim of contributing to the scientific and technological development necessary for the sustainable energy transition, industrial competitiveness and European strategic autonomy. The Talent H2 CAT-BW programme is part of the regional hydrogen ecosystems and aims to strengthen the positioning of Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg as benchmark territories at European level in research and innovation in this field, through the training of a new generation of highly skilled researchers. The programme promotes the creation of an excellent doctoral training environment with international projection, with the participation of more than 50 European entities, and follows good practices in responsible research in accordance with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the DORA Declaration on research assessment.

The Talent H2 CAT-BW Doctoral Fellowship Programme is intended to promote 40 interregional doctoral projects in hydrogen, with a balanced distribution between Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, promoting an international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary environment, mobility between regions and training in advanced scientific competences and key transversal skills identified in the European *framework The European Competence Framework for Researchers – ResearchComp*. This training should enable the training of a new generation of Doctoral Candidates capable of developing knowledge, technology and innovative solutions in a strategic

area for the energy transition and European competitiveness. Given the nature of the programme, these rules regulate a single call structured in two differentiated and successive deadlines. The purpose of the first deadline is the presentation, evaluation and selection of the joint interregional projects that, where appropriate, will obtain the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal. The purpose of the second deadline is the presentation, evaluation and selection of the doctoral researchers in training who will join the previously selected projects, in accordance with the procedures and requirements established in these rules and in the corresponding call. This procedural structure does not entail the opening of two separate calls, but the processing of a single call with two successive submission deadlines.

In accordance with Grant Agreement no. 101217279, the Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (Spain) acts as the sole beneficiary before the Research Executive Agency, and assumes the obligations of coordination, management, justification, monitoring, control and reporting that derive from it. The Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants acts as the managing body on behalf of the DREU, under the terms established by the corresponding legal instruments, and carries out the operational functions of management of the programme entrusted to it.

Regarding the legal and financial regime of the programme, all the participating Host Institutions, both in Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, are part of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, participate in the common selection procedure and are bound by the common obligations of the programme, of Grant Agreement no. 101217279. For the purposes of the funding scheme managed by AGAUR, the Host Institutions in Catalonia that are selected may have the status of beneficiaries of the grants granted by AGAUR, in accordance with these terms and conditions and the corresponding call. Regarding the Host Institutions in Baden-Württemberg, the corresponding funding is channelled through the MWK, in accordance with the DREU-MWK agreement and the legal instruments applicable to its legal system.

When the Principal Investigator of the selected project is assigned to an institution in Catalonia, it will receive the corresponding funding as a beneficiary of the grant granted by AGAUR. When the Principal Investigator of the selected project is attached to an institution in Baden-Württemberg, this institution will receive the corresponding funding through the MWK, without this implying the granting of a grant by AGAUR.

All Host Institutions and participants are subject to the common obligations necessary to guarantee the correct execution of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, compliance with Grant Agreement no. 101217279, technical and economic monitoring, justification before the EU Research Executive Agency, document preservation, visibility of European funding, open science, ethical principles and applicable controls or audits. These obligations are required through the corresponding legal channels depending on whether they are Catalan entities benefiting from an AGAUR grant or entities in Baden-Württemberg, linked to the programme through the MWK and the corresponding instruments of accession. Consequently, the purpose of these rules is to establish the regime applicable to the common procedure for the selection of projects and doctoral researchers, as well as the system for granting, managing, paying, justifying, monitoring and controlling the grants that correspond to the Host Institutions in Catalonia, without prejudice to the common obligations of the programme applicable to all participating entities and individuals and the specific funding and management regime applicable to the Host Institutions in Baden-Württemberg through the MWK.

2. Regulatory guidelines

Basis 1. Applicable regulations

These rules regulate the line of grants with code TALH2_REU0112 of the Strategic Plan for Subsidies of the Ministry of Research and Universities of Catalonia (Spain).

Subsidies financed from European Union funds are governed by the Community regulations applicable in each case and by the national rules for their implementation or transposition. Likewise, the EU regulations are applicable to all entities participating in the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, both in Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg.

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with Decision 2010/48/EC of the Council of the European Union.
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, (2016/C 202/02) of 7 June 2016.
- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union,
- Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing the Horizon Europe programme, The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

The regulations governing subsidies awarded by the Administration of the Generalitat de Catalunya, its autonomous bodies and the entities that make up the majority public sector of the Generalitat de Catalunya establish that the guidelines are issued as a result of the exercise of the corresponding administrative powers.

In everything that is not expressly provided for in these rules, the precepts contained in the following regulations are applicable:

- Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on general subsidies.
- Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, approving the Regulation of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on general subsidies.
- Royal Decree-Law 36/2020, of 30 December, approving urgent measures for the modernisation of the Public Administration and for the implementation of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.
- Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, approving the revised text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia.
- Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia.
- Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

As well as the provisions of the Budget Law of the Generalitat de Catalunya that is applicable to the corresponding financial year, and the rest of the applicable regulations.

The following sectoral regulations also apply:

- Law 9/2022, of 21 December, on science.
- Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, approving the Statute of Doctoral Candidates.

Regarding entities receiving funding channelled by the MWK, the regulations of Baden-Württemberg, including the Landessubventionsgesetz (LSubvG), are applicable, without prejudice to the common obligations arising from Grant Agreement no. 101217279, the DREU-MWK agreement and these rules in terms of regulating the common selection procedure and the programme.

Base 2. Concession procedure

2.1 The grant is awarded through competitive competition; so that applications are evaluated and ordered according to the previously established evaluation criteria and are awarded to the projects that obtain the best score.

2.2 The competent body of the procedure is the one that determines the call.

2.3 The body competent to issue the award decision is the one that determines the corresponding call.

2.4 The grants covered by these rules are articulated through a single call, structured in two differentiated and successive deadlines. The purpose of the first deadline is the presentation, evaluation and selection of the 40 joint interregional projects that, where appropriate, will obtain the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal. The purpose of the second deadline is the presentation, evaluation and selection of the doctoral researchers in training who will join the previously selected projects, in accordance with the procedures and requirements established in these rules and in the corresponding call. This procedural structure does not entail the opening of two separate calls, but the processing of a single call with two successive submission deadlines.

Base 3. Purpose

3.1 These rules regulate the Talent H2 CAT-BW doctoral grant programme, as a cooperation programme between Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, establishing the common procedure for the selection of projects and doctoral researchers and the common obligations applicable to all participating entities and individuals.

3.2. The purpose of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme is to select and subsidise 40 interregional projects between Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg for the training of doctoral researchers in the field of hydrogen for 36 months, in accordance with the funding regime and the conditions established in these rules, in the corresponding call, Grant Agreement no. 101217279, the agreement between DREU-MWK and in the corresponding legal instruments in accordance with its legal system.

They also regulate the system for granting the grants, managed by the AGAUR on behalf of the DREU: With regard to the Host Institutions of Catalonia for the granting of the funding and the granting of the financing and for the Host Institutions of Baden-Württemberg, for the selection of the corresponding projects, and the financing decision that is channelled through the MWK, in accordance with the DREU-MWK agreement and the legal instruments applicable to its legal system, without this implying that they acquire the status of beneficiaries of the grant granted by AGAUR.

3.3 Projects must meet the following requirements:

- a) Consisting of two researchers, one from the research, development and innovation system of Catalonia and the other from the Baden-Württemberg higher education and research sector. One of the two researchers acts as Thesis Director and Principal Investigator (PI) and the other as Co-Director of Thesis and Co-Principal Investigator (CoIP) of the joint project.
- b) The projects must be of an interregional nature and contribute to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge, responding to the current challenges of the hydrogen sector, in accordance with the priorities established in the call. They must also be aligned with the interests and needs of the business and social fabric, to promote knowledge transfer, innovation and the socio-economic impact of the results obtained.
- c) In order to guarantee the interregional nature of the projects between Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, both the PI and the CoIP are responsible for the scientific monitoring and training of the Doctoral Candidate, as well as for ensuring the coherence of the project with the objectives of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme. The project must indicate the profile of the Doctoral Candidate and provide for a structured training plan, aligned with the doctoral programme of the main host entity, with the European competence framework for research staff ResearchComp, established by the European

Commission, and with the lines of action of the European project Green Skills for Hydrogen (GreenSkillsforH2), with the aim of guaranteeing the development of scientific, transversal and green skills relevant to the hydrogen sector.

- d) Include mobility activities through research stays (secondments), in accordance with the principles of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. In particular, it must provide for an international stay in the region co-responsible for the supervision of the thesis of at least 6 months, as well as other interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary stays in other academic entities or other sectors of between 1 and 3 months, in order to promote the exposure of the researcher to different institutional environments.
- e) Specify the expected scientific, economic and social impact, including the potential to contribute to the research and innovation ecosystem, public decision-making and sustainable development, in line with the purpose of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme and with European priorities in terms of energy transition.
- f) To ensure ethics and gender equality in all its activities, to comply with European regulations on intellectual and industrial property, and to respect the obligations of the Horizon Europe programme on immediate open access to scientific publications, the proper management of data through a management plan (DMP) and, where appropriate, the participation of citizens and end users.

Basis 4. Amount

4.1 The maximum amount allocated to the grants granted by the AGAUR to Host Institutions in Catalonia and the budgetary application to which they must be allocated are those determined by the call. The programme provides for the funding of 40 interregional projects, with an equitable distribution of 20 projects linked to Host Institutions in Catalonia and 20 projects linked to Host Institutions in Baden-Württemberg.

4.2 The maximum amount of the grant is limited to the funding available for the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, co-funded by the European Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND programme of the Horizon Europe fund, the DREU and MWK, which determines the contributions of each of these co-funders. The beneficiary entities of the funding will contribute to co-financing other expenses not covered by the funding.

4.3 The amount of the funding per beneficiary entity in Catalonia is set in the call and covers the expenses associated with hiring the doctoral student for a maximum period of 36 months, mobility expenses and, where applicable, a family allowance in accordance with the eligible expenditure concepts included in base 9.3.

Base 5. Incompatibility of the grants with other subsidies or grants

5.1 These grants are compatible with other grants for the same purpose from any administration or entity, public or private, national, European Union or international organisations, provided that the total amount of the grants awarded does not exceed the total cost of the activity being funded, provided that there is no double funding of the same units/person-month or the same fundable concepts, in accordance with the provisions of Article 19.3 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November.

5.2 The Host Institutions must communicate the application or obtaining of other subsidies, grants, income or resources that finance the activities covered by the programme, from any administration or entity, public or private, as well as their amount. This communication must be made as soon as this circumstance is known and, in any case, before the justification for the application of the funds received.

5.3 Under no circumstances may the same units/person-month or the same fundable items of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme be simultaneously allocated to more than one source of funding.

Base 6. Execution period

6.1 The grants awarded have a duration of 36 months. The activities that must be carried out to fulfil the purpose of the funding must be carried out within the period established in the call.

6.2 The Host Institutions that have been selected to receive funding must formalize the employment contract as a Doctoral Candidate in accordance with the applicable regulations in

force, within a maximum period of 12 weeks from the day following the notification of the provisional resolution.

6.3 Only in exceptional and duly justified cases may the President of the CEAITIC authorise the postponement of the date of contracting. In any case, the extension of the incorporation period must be requested at least one month before the end of this period.

6.4 The fact of not having signed the corresponding contract within the established period is understood as a tacit waiver of the corresponding financing, with the exception provided for in the previous section, and without the need for prior notice.

Base 7. Processing of the procedure and nature of the expenditure

The processing of the procedure and the nature of the expenditure are specified in the call.

Base 8. Publication and communications

8.1 Articles 17.3 shall apply and 18 of the General Law on Subsidies in relation to Agreement GOV/192/2015, of 29 December, supplementing Agreement GOV/77/2015, of 2 June, on the publication of notification notices in the *Official Gazette of the Generalitat de Catalunya*. The full text of the calls for subsidies is published in the *Official Gazette of the Generalitat de Catalunya*.

8.2 The resolutions, procedures and requirements related to the granting of these subsidies are notified on the electronic bulletin board of the Generalitat de Catalunya, accessible from the Electronic Office and on the website www.talenth2catbw.cat. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

8.3 The publication of the call becomes effective by sending the information required by the Register of Grants and Subsidies of Catalonia, in accordance with article 96 bis of the revised text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia, and through the National Subsidies Database.

Basis 9. Eligible expenses

9.1 In accordance with the MSCA COFUND funding scheme applicable to the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, the eligible items are articulated through unit cost contributions. This regime does not entail the justification of the actual cost of each of the expenses by means of invoices or equivalent documents, but it does entail the obligation to prove the effective execution of the units/person-months financed, compliance with the conditions of the programme and the correct application of the funding received. All this is understood without prejudice to the obligations of documentary conservation, traceability and control established in these bases, the call, the Grant Agreement no. 101217279 and the DREU-MWK agreement.

9.2 The eligible unit is considered to have been executed when the doctoral researcher has been hired and has carried out the funded activity within the period and under the established conditions, and when the host entity can prove the reality of the action, the applicable employment relationship or equivalent, enrolment or admission to the doctoral programme and compliance with the obligations of the programme.

9.3 Eligible items:

- a) **Living allowance:** unit amount intended to cover the costs of hiring the Doctoral Researcher, including the gross salary and all mandatory social contributions and other associated labour costs, borne by both the company and the worker, as well as applicable taxes, for a maximum duration of 36 months. The net salary results from deducting from the gross amount all the mandatory social security contributions (of the employer and the worker) as well as the applicable indirect taxes. The salary amount will be adjusted by applying the country-by-country correction coefficient established under the MSCA for 2024 (95.6% for Spain and 101.2% for Germany).
- b) **Mobility allowance:** unit amount intended to cover the expenses related to the mobility of the contracted researcher, including travel and accommodation expenses during stays in the other region. This amount is paid in accordance with the usual practice and

payment procedures of each entity.

- c) **Family allowance:** additional unit amount applicable in the event that, at the time of the application, the Doctoral Candidate accredits family ties, understood as marriage or equivalent relationship legally recognised in the country where the relationship has been formalised, or dependent children in accordance with the applicable national regulations and prior justification of an official accrediting document.

These amounts are subject to the tax withholdings and contributions established by the applicable legislation.

9.4 Any other expenditure not provided for in these regulatory guidelines is not eligible expenditure and neither are any

- interest owed on bank accounts;
- interest, surcharges and administrative and criminal sanctions;
- the costs of legal proceedings

9.5 The host institution will be responsible for the enrolment of the person hired in the doctoral programme, and will assume the expenses arising from the implementation of the doctoral project, including those necessary for training and scientific development of the fellow that are not covered by this grant, such as:

- Expenses directly linked to the research, training and networking activities of the contracted researcher. It includes, among others, consumables, access to scientific infrastructures and services, participation in congresses, training activities, expenses associated with the publication of results. An indicative budget of around 15,000 euro in cash will be made available for the fellows' training and networking activities during the execution of the project. This amount cannot be replaced by contributions in kind.
- Expenses related to the sustainability of the project and expenses for the publication and dissemination of the results, the expenses of publication in scientific journals (in open access), and expenses derived from the incorporation of data into open access repositories.
- Expenses derived from the registration fees of the doctoral programme corresponding to the Doctoral Candidate, in accordance with the current academic regulations of the host institution, as well as any increase in contractual costs with own funds or charged to other funding funds, provided that these are compatible with the applicable regulations of the European Union within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

Other costs that are not part of the maximum amounts of European contribution or DREU/MWK co-financing in accordance with the rules, the call and the applicable participation instruments, must be borne by the Host Institutions.

Base 10. Outsourcing

CAT and BW institutions may not subcontract, in whole or in part, the activity covered by the funding.

3. Project selection procedure

Base 11. Applicant entities and beneficiary entities

11.1 Entities from Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg that meet the requirements established in these terms and conditions and in the corresponding call may participate in the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme.

All entities can act as host Institutions participating in the joint programme and can participate in the projects as a representative entity of the PI or the CoIP, in the common selection procedure and are linked to the common rules of procedure of the programme, according to the Grant Agreement no. 101217279 and, where applicable, the DREU-MWK agreement.

The management of the common selection procedure is carried out in accordance with these

terms and conditions and with the call managed by AGAUR, without prejudice to the fact that the system for granting, paying, justifying, controlling, revoking or recovering funding may differ depending on the region of affiliation of the main host entity.

11.2 On the part of Catalonia, the universities of the Catalan university system, research centres, hospital foundations, centres of the Spanish National Research Council located in Catalonia and the three major infrastructures of the Catalan research system can be applicants and beneficiaries: the Alba Synchrotron of the CELLS Consortium, the MareNostrum supercomputer of the *Barcelona Supercomputing Center* – National Supercomputing Centre and the National Centre for Genomic Analysis.

Science and technology parks, technology centres, support centres for technological activity and technology dissemination centres are excluded.

When a university is structured as a federation of entities, they may carry out all or part of the activities of the project in the name and on behalf of the beneficiary entity, and are also considered beneficiary entities, in accordance with the provisions of article 11.2 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November. This circumstance must be stated in the application.

Entities affected by a final judgment or an administrative decision may not be beneficiaries of this grant:

- a) to determine that they have applied rules on access, operation or use of means and facilities that imply, in fact or in law, discrimination on the basis of gender or any other personal or social condition or circumstance set out in Article 1 of Law 19/2020, of 30 December, on equal treatment and non-discrimination, and,
- b) that has not expired.

For the purposes of the funding scheme managed by AGAUR, Host Institutions in Catalonia that implement the activity on which the funding is based and that meet the requirements of these terms and conditions and the call may be beneficiaries for this grant.

11.3 On the Baden-Württemberg side, public universities and universities of applied sciences located in Baden-Württemberg, the non-university research institutes of the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association, the Fraunhofer Society and the Helmholtz Association that receive joint structural funding from the federal government and the governments of the Länder – provided that these institutes are established in Baden-Württemberg – may participate, as well as the research institutes of the Innovation Alliance Baden-Württemberg e.V.

These entities are part of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme, they participate in the common rules of procedure for their selection and are linked to the common obligations of the programme. Likewise, they may have, in accordance with the applicable regulations and legal instruments of the MWK, the corresponding status as Host Institutions beneficiaries or recipients of the funding channelled by Baden-Württemberg.

11.4 The selected Host Institutions that receive the Talent-H2 CAT-BW Seal in which the PI is attached to an institution of the research, development and innovation system of Catalonia and that formalize the hiring of a Doctoral Researcher in selected training, will be beneficiaries of these grants and will receive funding through AGAUR. The selected Host Institutions that receive the Talent-H2 CAT-BW Seal in which the PI person is attached to an institution in the BW higher education and research system and that formalise the recruitment of the selected doctoral student will receive funding through the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg (MWK), according to the procedures established by it. This status as beneficiary entities or recipients of the funding channelled by the MWK does not imply that they acquire the status of beneficiaries of a funding granted by AGAUR. In both cases, the entity from the other region that participates in the project as a CoIP affiliated entity is part of the joint project and is linked to the common obligations of the programme.

11.5 The person acting as a PI must be linked to the main host entity, statutorily or contractually for at least the entire period of execution of the grant or the corresponding funding.

11.6 Applicant PIs may submit a maximum of two project applications in the corresponding call. In this case, he/she can only participate as a PI in a single application and as a CoPI in another,

provided that he/she has the necessary resources and capacity to ensure the proper development and monitoring of the joint doctoral projects if selected.

Base 12. Submission of project applications and documentation

12.1 Project applications must be submitted through the participating Catalan entity, which acts as the presenting or coordinating entity of the project application, without this altering the status of main host entity or the corresponding funding circuit according to the region of affiliation of the PI person. The application must be formalized by the legal representative of the Catalan entity participating in the project, regardless of the main host institution (Host Institution) or the role of the researcher, whether from the IP or CoIP and must be submitted electronically using the standardized form that will be available to interested persons at Tràmits Gencat (<https://tramits.gencat.cat>).

12.2 The legal representatives of the CAT institutions must sign applications electronically and must be authenticated through the electronic signature systems accepted by the Electronic Office of the Generalitat for medium-level procedures, in accordance with the criteria established in Order VPD/93/2022, of 28 April, approving the Catalogue of Identification and Electronic Signature Systems.

12.3 The application must be submitted using the form made available and through the channel determined in the previous sections. In the event that the application is submitted or procedures are carried out through forms or channels other than those specifically established in these regulatory guidelines, these applications are considered not to have been submitted, in accordance with articles 16.8 and 66.6 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. Therefore, the date from which it is understood that the application has been submitted, or the procedure has been carried out is the date of entry of the specific form indicated.

12.4 The standard application form consists of a general form and an attached document, which must be attached to the form in accordance with the instructions of the standard form. This attached document is the descriptive report of the doctoral project. It is essential to submit the form with the annexes in order to proceed to the evaluation phase. The form must include the responsible declarations on the aspects detailed in these regulatory guidelines and that the legal representative ratifies by signing the application.

Given that this is a competitive procedure, improvements to the project application presented in the annex are not allowed, once the deadline for submitting applications has elapsed.

The evaluation is carried out exclusively on the information provided in the corresponding annexes. In the event that the report is blank or illegible, the evaluation will only be carried out on the information provided in the form within the initial submission period

12.5 If the application form and the documentation required in the call do not meet the requirements that can be amended, the competent body shall require the interested party, by publishing an amendment order on the electronic bulletin board of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>), to so that, within ten working days, it corrects the defect or attaches the mandatory documents with the indication that, if it does not do so, it is understood that it withdraws the application, in accordance with article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, and the corresponding decision will be issued. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

Amendments to the application can only be of formality and cannot have an impact on the object of evaluation of the project, they can be submitted through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file (contribution of documentation and other requests), which can be found in the Procedures section of the website of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>).

The AGAUR may require, at any time during the processing of applications, the documentation it deems necessary to accredit the fulfilment of the requirements set out in the regulatory guidelines and in the call. Failure to provide the required documentation within the legally established period may result in the denial of the funding.

12.7 The deadline for submitting applications is that indicated in the call for the funding.

12.8 In the event of an interruption due to accidental circumstances in the operation of the E-Office, the user who accesses it must be able to view a message communicating this circumstance and informing them of the effects of the interruption of operation on the calculation of the deadlines. Therefore, if there is an unplanned interruption in the operation of the electronic systems during the last day established for the corresponding procedure to be carried out, this procedure can be carried out during the following three consecutive working days. The extension of three working days will be communicated to the Electronic Office of the Generalitat.

12.9 In accordance with Article 28 of Law 39/2015, modified by the LOPDGDD, which guarantees the right not to provide documents that are already in the possession of AGAUR or have been prepared by any other administration, AGAUR may use, consult or collect documents or certificates issued by other administrations or public entities, research centres, universities and, in particular, the State Tax Administration Agency (AEAT), or any other administration, to verify the data necessary for the processing of the grant with the aim of satisfactorily resolving the call. Specifically, you can consult your tax obligations with the State and the Generalitat de Catalunya, as well as your obligations with Social Security.

12.10 The submission of the application form empowers the competent body to verify that the data contained therein and declared in it are true.

12.11 The inaccuracy, falsehood or omission of an essential nature of any data in the application form or document that accompanies it renders this procedure ineffective, from the moment it is known and with the prior hearing of the interested party, and, consequently, entails the inadmissibility of the grant application. If the fact or omission is known once the funding has already been awarded, it is grounds for revocation and/or sanction.

Base13. Requirements for applicant entities

13.1 Entities applying for CAT must comply with the requirements and general conditions established in Article 13 of the General Law on Subsidies; specifically, the following:

- a) Be up to date with tax obligations with the State and the Generalitat de Catalunya, as well as with obligations with Social Security. This compliance must be maintained throughout the procedure.
- b) Submit a declaration on whether other public or private grants have been applied for or obtained for the same activity and state the detailed relationship with the granting entity and the amount requested or obtained.
- c) To have duly justified the scholarships or grants previously awarded from the budgets of the Generalitat de Catalunya.
- d) Have the administrative, financial and operational capacity to comply with the obligations established in the regulatory guideline.
- e) If the activity that is the object of the grant uses any element likely to generate copyright, comply with the regulations on intellectual property.
- f) In the case of having workplaces or establishments open to the public: comply with language policy regulations by stating in Catalan, at least, the signs and fixed information containing text that must appear inside the workplaces aimed at the people who work there and serving consumers in any of the official languages of CAT.
- g) In the case of companies with fifty or more workers, comply with the legal quota for the reservation of jobs in the company's workforce established in article 42.1 of the revised text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013, of 29 November, or the exceptional alternative measures provided for in Royal Decree 364/2005, of 8 April, and Decree 86/2015, of 2 June.
- h) In the case of entities with a workforce equal to or greater than twenty-five people, comply with the obligation, in agreement with the social agents, to indicate the means they use

to prevent and detect cases of sexual harassment and harassment based on sex and to intervene in them, and to have protocols for addressing and preventing sexual harassment and harassment based on sex, in accordance with Law 5/2008, of 24 April, on the right of women to eradicate gender violence.

- i) Never have been subject to final administrative sanctions or final convictions for having exercised or tolerated labour practices considered discriminatory on grounds of sex or gender, in accordance with the provisions of Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.
- j) In the event that the entity has a workforce of more than fifty people, have an equality plan, in accordance with Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, for the effective equality of women and men.
- k) To respect the conditions of Law 19/2020, of 30 December, on equal treatment and non-discrimination, and, consequently, not to promote inequalities for any of the reasons referred to in Article 1 of the aforementioned Law and to adopt measures aimed at preventing actions or behaviour that may undermine the dignity of people and against free development and expression, without any discrimination, of one's own personality and personal abilities.
- l) Make a non-sexist, non-stereotyped and non-androcentric use of language; that takes diversity into account; that is respectful, non-classist, non-racist, non-xenophobic and non-LGBTIphobic; that avoids any discriminatory image of women or sexist stereotypes, and that promotes values of equality, balanced presence, diversity and co-responsibility.
- m) Do not commit, incite or promote acts of LGBTI-phobia.
- n) Be registered in the Economic Activities Tax Census or in the corresponding register, in those cases in which it is mandatory.
- o) In the case of foundations and associations, they must have adapted their statutes to Law 5/2011, of 19 July, amending Law 4/2008, of 24 April, on the third book of the Civil Code of CAT, relating to legal persons.
- p) In the case of foundations, they must have submitted their annual accounts to the Protectorate.
- q) Where appropriate, have a system for organising and managing prevention, in accordance with Law 31/1995, of 8 November, on the prevention of occupational risks, and the regulations that implement it.
- r) To provide only the personal data of third parties when strictly necessary to achieve the required purpose and, if they are provided, to inform third parties of the purpose and processing of their data in the terms provided for in current regulations.

The way to prove these requirements is through a sworn statement included in the application form, or through documentation accrediting compliance with the requirement.

The submission of the declaration of responsibility within the framework of an administrative procedure empowers the competent body to verify the conformity of the data contained in it or declared therein, in accordance with Article 35.3 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the Legal Regime and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia.

13.2 Catalan entities affected by any of the circumstances established in Article 13.1 of the General Law on Subsidies may not be beneficiaries of the funding regulated by these rules.

13.3 BW Host Institutions participating in the programme must comply with the requirements and general conditions:

- a) Be aware of BW regulations in relation to the Grant Act and Article 264 of the German Criminal Code (§264 Strafgesetzbuch).
- b) The project activities eligible for funding by the participating institutions are limited exclusively to non-economic activities within the meaning of section 2.1 of the European Union Framework for State Grant for Research, Development and Innovation. In the event that the applicant institution carries out both economic and non-economic activities, only the non-economic activities of the institution may be subject to funding. Compliance

with the requirements for established economic activities, such as accounting separation and purely auxiliary economic activities of the European Union Framework on State grant for research, development and innovation (2022/C414/01), as a prerequisite for the granting of funding.

- c) Confirmation that the entity is not in difficulty.
- d) Confirmation of the existence of pending payments arising from recovery orders.
- e) Declaration regarding any other additional funding (EU, federal or state), in order to avoid double funding.
- f) Confirmation that the financing of the total costs and the costs of future monitoring or maintenance is guaranteed.
- g) Confirmation that the beneficiary person or entity is able to maintain separate accounting for project financial transactions or to use a specific, separate accounting code.
- h) Confirmation that the beneficiary person or entity is able to keep the documentation in an orderly manner for a period of 5 years.
- i) To have the administrative, financial and operational capacity necessary to comply with the obligations established in the regulatory guideline.
- j) When the activity subject to the funding uses any element likely to generate copyright, comply with the applicable regulations on intellectual property.
- k) Comply with the legislation implementing the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as the legal requirements on equality, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and data protection.

Compliance with these requirements must be accredited by means of a declaration of responsibility included in the application form or by means of the corresponding supporting documentation.

13.4 All participating entities, by submitting the application, adhere to the ethical principles and rules of conduct established in these regulatory guidelines.

13.5 Exceptionally, and when required by the applicable regulations, including current regulations on security or access control to certain infrastructures or technologies, specific restrictions may be expressed regarding the participation of certain candidates, which must be expressly stated in the description of the project. These must be duly based on a normative or regulatory provision of a European, state, federal, regional or institutional nature that is applicable to the host entity.

13.6 The requirements must be met at the time of submitting the application and must be maintained during the period of enjoyment of the grant, for all entities that are part of the H2 CAT-BW Talent Programme.

13.7 All Host Institutions must respect:

- the relevant / applicable regulations on effective equality between women and men;
- the relevant / applicable regulations that guarantee the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and intersex people and to eradicate homophobia;
- the relevant / applicable regulations that establish the right of women to eradicate gender-based violence
- the relevant / applicable regulations on equal treatment and non-discrimination.

Base 14. Obligations of Host Institutions

The submission of the application entails compliance with the obligations established in these terms and conditions for the execution of the project that have been selected with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal, by the participating entities of the two regions CAT and BW:

- a) Carry out the subsidized or financed activity within the period indicated in the regulatory guideline, the call, Grant Agreement no. 101217279 and, where appropriate, MWK instruments.
- b) Formalize an agreement between the entities of the two principal investigators of each

- participating region, which establishes the commitments and obligations to carry out the joint project linked to the grant or doctoral funding, in accordance with the conditions established in these rules, the Grant Agreement and the instruments of the programme.
- c) Carry out the subsidised activity in accordance with the project presented.
 - d) To hire staff under the doctoral and full-time contract modality within the period established in the corresponding call and to comply with all the obligations established by the regulations of each country. In the case of CAT: Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, Law 9/2022, of 21 December, on Science, and Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, approving the Statute of Doctoral Candidates, or the regulations in force.
 - e) Assume any hiring costs that exceed the amount of the grant or funding awarded and adjust the remuneration of Doctoral Candidates at all times. In the case of CAT, in accordance with the minimum remuneration established in Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, approving the Statute of Doctoral Candidates and in accordance with the respective regulations governing doctoral staff in Germany.
 - f) To provide the contracted person with the necessary collaboration and support and to provide the means or equipment necessary for them to carry out their training and research activities, guaranteeing in all cases professional and material conditions equivalent to those of staff of the same category or comparable situation of the institution.
 - g) Always provide the information required on the financed action and submit to verification and control actions, in accordance with the applicable regulations, by:
 - The Investigating Officer,
 - the General Comptroller of the Generalitat,
 - the Audit Office,
 - other competent bodies in Baden-Württemberg.
 - h) Communicate to the competent body or the MWK, as appropriate, the grants, income or resources to finance the subsidised activity requested from other public or private administrations or entities, national or international, or already obtained, after the funding application has been submitted. This information must be communicated as soon as it is known and, in any case, before justifying the application of the funds received.
 - i) On the part of CAT, comply with articles 90 bis, 92 bis and 95 of the revised text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia and also article 14 of the General Law on Subsidies. In relation to legal entities that have received a funding for an amount greater than 10,000.00 euros, communicate to the body that grants the funding the information on the remuneration of its management or administrative bodies, in compliance with article 15.2 of the Law on transparency, access to public information and good governance. This document may be replaced by a sworn statement by the entity's legal representative, stating that this information is published on the entity's website under the terms and conditions established by Law 19/2014, of 29 December, and the rest of the applicable regulations.
 - j) On the part of BW, comply with the funding regulations in force in Baden-Württemberg on the date of publication of these rules.
 - k) To keep the documents justifying the use of the funds received, including electronic documents, for as long as they can be subject to verification and control actions.
 - l) Use non-sexist and non-discriminatory language in all documentation, advertising, images and materials of the subsidised activity.
 Avoid any discriminatory image of women or sexist stereotypes.
 To promote values such as equality, diversity, co-responsibility, the balanced presence of women and men and the plurality of gender roles and identities.
 - m) Adhere to the ethical principles and rules of conduct contained in these rules, as well as those that may appear in the corresponding calls, and adapt the activity to them.
 - n) Align with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and promote

institutional measures aligned with the European initiative of the Human Resources Strategy for Research Staff (HRS4R), promoting excellence in research, an attractive work environment and a framework of actions to support the professional development of research and management staff that includes:

- The application of Open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment (OTM-R) measures.
 - The application of measures to enhance interdisciplinary research options and boost networking opportunities for Doctoral Candidates, including international relations, inside and outside the academic world.
 - The facilitation of a series of training activities aligned with the European Competence Framework for Research Staff (Research Comp) and Management Staff (RM Comp), as part of their development to contribute significantly to their professional careers.
 - The promotion of responsible research and innovation (RRI) with open access to publications and data management policies.
 - The promotion of sustainable research and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- o) Promote gender equality measures. In the case of CAT, in accordance with the Gender Equality Strategy in Science (EIGEC), derived from Law 9/2022, of 21 December, on Science and, in the case of BW, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the Federal Republic of Germany on gender equality and non-discrimination) in gender equality and non-discrimination.
- p) Follow the recommendations issued by the European Commission in the Green Charter of the MSCA programme (MSCA Green Charter) with the aim of implementing the research projects associated with these grants in a sustainable way.

Base 15. Evaluation and selection of projects

15.1 In accordance with the mechanisms and criteria established in the regulatory guideline, and in accordance with the AGAUR Evaluation Regulations, which can be consulted on its website, external persons and experts from the scientific community evaluate the applications, in accordance with the following criteria and scores (assessment out of 100):

- a) Excellence of the doctoral project in terms of science and innovation (25%). The relevance of the project in relation to the object of the grant and the characteristics and requirements established in these regulatory guidelines will be assessed.
- b) Expected scientific, economic and social impact, as well as the doctoral student's future professional projection (25%). The credibility of the actions will be assessed to assess the unique contribution that the results of the project would make in the field of action, and the impacts to improve the career prospects and employability of doctoral students, as well as their contribution to the development of skills. How the expected impact is demonstrated, concisely and consistently, for the adoption, use or further development of the results by well-identified target groups, in coherence with the programme set out in this preamble.
- c) Experience of directors and their contributions: publications, supervised doctorates, experience in management or participation in R+I projects (25%). The scientific background and international impact of both the IP person and the CoIP person of the project will be assessed, showing their suitability to lead the proposed project.

Considering the experience of supervision and Doctoral Candidates and their ability to execute and coordinate the planned research and training activities.

- d) Triple I Dimension: the adequacy of international and intersectoral stays, and the interdisciplinary nature of the project (25%). The suitability of the requested profile and the work plan for the doctoral student will be assessed, considering the periods of different stays and long-term (secondments), with the triple I dimension (international, intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary), as well as the specific training plan planned and the potential collaborations identified.

The gender and ethics aspects of the projects will be reviewed in a transversal way.

15.2 As a result of the evaluation, a duly prioritised list is generated, made up of proposals above the quality threshold with final evaluation score expressed on a scale of 1 to 10, to two decimal places.

15.3 The selection of projects is made by the Selection Committee, taking into account the evaluation guidelines of the AGAUR, the evaluations and the institutional interest. It is planned to select a maximum of 40 projects to which the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal was awarded, 20 for projects led from Catalonia and 20 for projects led from Baden-Württemberg.

The selected projects will be distributed in a balanced way between and within the two participating regions. To this end, Catalonia will finance up to a maximum of 20 projects with Host Institutions based in its territory, while Baden-Württemberg will finance up to a maximum of 20 projects with Host Institutions established in its territory.

The Committee sets the minimum cut-off mark to access the quality awarded by the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal. In the event of a tie in the total score, preference will be given to projects in which the IP or CoIP are women.

15.4 The composition of the Selection Committee is established in the call and must guarantee the balanced presence of men and women in accordance with the provisions of Article 2. and Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.

15.5 The call must take into account, in any case, the incorporation of positive action measures, in accordance with article 31 of Law 19/2020, of 30 December, on equal treatment and non-discrimination, and article 5 of Law 13(2025, of 29 December, on the rights of LGBTI people and the eradication of LGBTI-phobia.

15.6 The operating regime of the Selection Committee, in all matters not established in these regulatory guidelines, is in accordance with the rules applicable to collegiate bodies, in accordance with Article 17 of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

15.7 This Selection Committee may receive advice from external expert bodies, and its meetings may be attended by technical staff from AGAUR, DREU and MWK. As long as the projects have reached the required scientific and technical quality, the Selection Committee will consider for the final proposal of projects, thematic diversity, interdisciplinarity, the balanced participation of different types of entities and the representation of the different areas of action of the programme in order to guarantee compliance with the strategic objectives of the Talent H2 CAT-BW project and maximise its scientific impact, technological and socio-economic.

15.8 The Selection Committee may propose a reserve list, duly prioritised, made up of applications for projects that have achieved sufficient technical quality to access the grant. Where appropriate, these projects may form part of the successive calls for candidates under these rules.

Base 16. Proposal for a provisional decision of the Seal

16.1 The competent body shall formulate the proposal for a provisional decision to award the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal, based on the report of the Selection Committee.

16.2 The proposal for a provisional decision must be notified by publication on the electronic

bulletin board of the Administration of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<http://tauler.gencat.cat>), without prejudice to the possibility that other electronic means may be used in addition. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects, in accordance with article 45.1.b of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

16.3 The proposed decision must contain the list of projects and applicant entities proposed to obtain the Seal, duly prioritised according to the score obtained, and provided that they have achieved the minimum required score, in accordance with the assessment criteria, as well as those on the reserve list for each region.

In the event that any of the coordinating entities of the projects proposed to obtain the Seal withdraw from the application, the Seal may be awarded to an applicant entity from the reserve list in order of score, provided that sufficient credit has been released to attend to the following applications with the same score, in accordance with the distribution of selected projects in the corresponding region.

The list of the selected projects will be published on the website of the Talent H2 CAT-BW (www.talenth2catbw.cat) programme. The purpose of this publication will be to facilitate its dissemination and to allow interested parties to submit applications in the corresponding calls, in accordance with the procedure established in these regulatory guidelines.

16.4 Applicant entities may submit allegations within 10 working days of notification of the proposed provisional resolution. The allegations are considered at the time of issuing the decision without any decision nor report being generated as a response.

16.5 The allegations are reviewed for possible errors, but do not entail a new scientific evaluation if what is manifested is disagreement with the expert opinion of the evaluator. Likewise, within the indicated period, the applicant entities may withdraw the project application, without prejudice to the fact that the withdrawal may be manifested at any other time in the procedure prior to the concession resolution.

Base 17. Inadmissibility and withdrawal of applications

17.1 Failure to comply with the non-amendable requirements or the deadline for submitting applications established in these regulatory guidelines and the call for the funding will result in the inadmissibility of the application.

17.2 The applicant entity may withdraw its grant application in writing, prior to the award.

17.3 In the event of failure to accredit the requirements established in these regulatory guidelines or the call for the funding, the competent body will require the applicant to supplement or amend the application.

If the requirements made by the competent body are not responded to within ten working days, it will be understood that the applicant entity withdraws from the funding application.

17.4 The competent body must decide on the non-admission or withdrawal of the applications prior to the granting of the subsidies and notify the interested entities of the decision of inadmissibility or withdrawal by publishing it on the electronic board of the Administration of the Generalitat of CAT (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>), as well as on the programme's website (www.talenth2catbw.cat), without prejudice to the fact that it may additionally use other electronic means. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

Base 18. Decision and notification of the granting of the Seal

18.1 The decision to grant the Seal is notified by publishing it on the electronic board of the Electronic Office of the Administration of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<https://tauler.seu.cat/inici.do?idens=1>) and on the programme's website (www.talenth2catbw.cat). This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects under the terms established in article 45.1.b of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

18.2 The decision will include the projects selected with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal of each region. The result will be a list of selected projects and Host Institutions that can participate in the candidate selection phase and opt, as appropriate, for the grant granted by the AGAUR in the case of the Host Institutions in Catalonia or the funding channelled by the MWK in the case of the BW Host Institutions. Likewise, the decision granting the award must state that the firmness of this decision means that the Catalan beneficiary entity tacitly declares that it is up to date with its obligations to the Tax Administration and the Social Security Treasury and the Generalitat de Catalunya, to the detriment of the competent body verifying the declaration made.

18.3 The competent body will issue the reasoned decision of the procedure for awarding the funding and will notify the interested parties within the period indicated in the call.

The notified decision will be understood to have been tacitly accepted, if within 10 days it has not submitted a letter of renunciation of the funding. The granting of the Seal does not in itself equate to the final economic concession of the grant.

If any of the proposed entities withdraw from the application, the Seal may be awarded to an entity on the reserve list in order of score in the corresponding region.

18.4. If an express concession decision has not been issued and notified after the maximum period provided for in the call, the applicant entities may consider their application rejected due to administrative silence, in accordance with the provisions of Article 55.1.a) of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the Legal Regime and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia, and Article 25.5 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies.

In those periods in which the interested entities are required to submit amendments, complementary documentation and other necessary elements, the expiry of the maximum period for resolving and notifying is suspended for the time that elapses between the notification of the requirement and its effective compliance by all the interested parties or during the period established in article 22.1.a) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October to comply with the requirement.

The expiry of the period may also be suspended if any of the other causes included in the article 22 occur, a circumstance that must be notified to the interested parties in those cases in which the regulation requires it.

18.5 In accordance with Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, and Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the Legal Regime and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia, an administrative appeal or, where appropriate, a contentious-administrative appeal may be lodged against the decision granting and refusing the Seal, under the terms indicated in the concession resolution. The presentation of the documentation required in the amendment procedure at the appeal stage is not accepted.

4. Candidates' selection procedure

Once the award decision has been published on the electronic board of the Electronic Office of the Administration of the Generalitat de Catalunya of the selected projects that have obtained the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal, the deadline for submitting applications for the call to select the doctoral candidates for the projects will be opened, with access to the programme's website (www.talenth2catbw.cat).

Base 19. Requirements for candidates

Candidates, of any nationality, must meet the following requirements:

- a) Hold a university degree that gives access to doctoral studies (bachelor's degree + master's degree or equivalent), with a minimum of 300 ECTS credits, of which at least 60 must be at master's level, on the date of the end of the deadline for submitting applications. On the date of application or hiring, researchers may not be in possession of a doctoral degree. People who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis, even if they have not formally received the degree, will not be eligible.
- b) Not have resided or carried out the main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host entity (Spain or Germany) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately

- prior to the deadline for submitting applications for the corresponding call, in accordance with the mobility rule established by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).
- c) Accredited a level of English B2 or higher (CEFR).
 - d) If you have family dependants at the time of submitting the application, this must be accredited by means of the family book or equivalent document.

Base 20. Documentation for the submission of applications

20.1 Each candidate may only submit a single application. In this application, one may indicate, in order of preference, a maximum of 3 projects that have the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal.

20.2 Candidates must submit the standard application form, which consists of a general form in PDF format and an attached document, which must include:

- a) Applicant Information:
 - CV form according to the Europass model (max. 4 pages) that includes the candidate's career, awards, scholarships, meetings, publications, etc.
 - Letter of motivation (max. 3 pages). The preference of up to three projects to develop the doctoral thesis of the published projects with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal must be included, as well as the reasons and justification for the selection of these options.
 - At least two signed letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty members (including the supervisor of the master's thesis) that recognize the applicant's academic skills and experiences (research, work, volunteering, etc.).
 - Academic Record: digital/scanned copy of the academic certificates (bachelor's/master's degree) and the official transcript of the corresponding grades in English or Spanish/German. (depending on the country where the doctoral project is located). Official transcription is understood to be the academic document issued directly by the university or higher education centre where the studies were taken, which accredits the subjects, credits and grades. To be considered official, the transcript must include the institution's signature or seal, or an electronic verification system (digital signature, secure verification code, QR code or equivalent). Self-generated versions, screenshots, or unverifiable documents will not be considered official.
- b) Level of English: An intermediate upper-level test must be included; this must be one of the recognised international qualifications: minimum CEFR B2, Cambridge English First (FCE), PTE Level 3, IELTS 5-6.5 or TOEFL > 72. with a scanned copy or a printout of the exam results. Applicants from native English-speaking countries can apply without the need for a level test. An official degree (including postgraduate degrees) obtained entirely in English, or any other document issued by a competent institution that reliably accredits an equivalent level, will also be accepted as a level test.
- c) Copy of the family book, if applicable, request the family amount.

Base 21. Submission of applications

21.1 Candidates who wish to access the grants regulated by these rules must submit their application for projects identified with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal.

21.2 Applications must be submitted using the standard form that will be made available to interested parties on the website of the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme and submitted on the Procedures platform of the website of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>). It can also be advertised through the EURAXESS platform. To submit the application, you must have a valid digital identification mechanism. An easy identifier to obtain is the idCAT Mobile. For more information on the registration procedure for idCAT Mobile, you can consult the AOC support page available at:

<https://suport.aoc.cat/enUS/article/?servei=idcatmobil&id=KA07618>

In the event that the application is submitted or procedures are carried out through forms or channels other than those specifically established in these regulatory bases, these forms are

considered not to have been submitted, in accordance with articles 16.8 and 66.6 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure of public administrations. Therefore, the date from which it is understood that the application has been submitted, or the procedure has been carried out is the date of entry of the specific form indicated.

21.3 The standardised application form consists of a general form and an attached document, which must be attached to the form in accordance with the instructions indicated in rule 20.2. It is essential to submit the form with the annexes to proceed to the evaluation phase.

The evaluation is carried out exclusively on the information provided in the form and corresponding annexes. If it is blank or illegible, the evaluation will only be carried out on the information provided in the annex within the initial submission period.

21.4 If the application form and the documentation required in the call do not meet the requirements that can be amended, the competent body shall require the interested party, by publishing an amendment order on the electronic board of the Generalitat de CAT (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>), to so that, within ten working days, it corrects the defect or attaches the mandatory documents with the indication that, if it does not do so, it is understood that it withdraws the application, in accordance with article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, and the corresponding decision will be issued. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

Amendments to the application can only be formal and cannot have an impact on the candidate's object of evaluation, they can be submitted through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file (contribution of documentation and other requests), which can be found in the Procedures section of the website of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>) or in any official electronic register.

The AGAUR may require, at any time during the processing of applications, the documentation it deems necessary to accredit the fulfilment of the requirements set out in the call. Failure to provide the required documentation within the legally established period may result in the denial of the funding.

21.5 The deadline for submitting applications is the one indicated in the call for applications.

21.6 In the event of an interruption due to accidental circumstances in the operation of the E-Office, the user who accesses it must be able to view a message communicating this circumstance and informing them of the effects of the interruption of operation on the calculation of deadlines. Therefore, if there is an unplanned interruption in the operation of the electronic systems during the last day established for the corresponding procedure to be carried out, this procedure can be carried out during the following three consecutive working days. The extension of three working days will be communicated to the Electronic Office of the Generalitat.

21.7 In accordance with Article 28 of Law 39/2015, as amended by the LOPDGDD, which guarantees the right not to provide documents that are already in the possession of the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants or have been prepared by any other administration, the AGAUR may use, consult or collect documents or certificates issued by other administrations or public entities, research centres, universities and, in particular, the State Tax Administration Agency (AEAT), or any other administration, to verify the data necessary for the processing of the grant with the aim of satisfactorily resolving the call. Specifically, you can consult your tax obligations with the State and with the Generalitat de Catalunya, as well as your obligations with Social Security.

21.8 The submission of the application form entitles the competent body to verify that the data contained therein and declared in it are true.

21.9 The inaccuracy, falsehood or omission of an essential nature of any information in the application form or document that accompanies it will render this procedure ineffective, from the moment it is known and with the prior hearing of the interested party, and, consequently, entail the inadmissibility of the grant application. If the fact or omission is known once the funding has already been awarded, it is grounds for revocation and/or sanction.

21.10 If the application form and the documentation required in the call do not meet the requirements, the competent body shall require the interested party, by publishing a Notice of Amendments on the electronic board of the Generalitat de CAT (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>), to so that, within ten working days, it corrects the defect or attaches the mandatory documents with the indication that, if it does not do so, it is understood that it withdraws the application, in accordance with article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, and the corresponding decision will be issued. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

Amendments to the application can be submitted through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file (provision of documentation and other requests), which can be found in the Procedures section of the website of the Generalitat de CAT (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>). The AGAUR may require, at any time during the processing of applications, the documentation it deems necessary to accredit the fulfilment of the requirements set out in these regulatory guidelines and in the call. Failure to provide the required documentation within the legally established period may result in the denial of the funding.

21.11 In the event of over-registration of the number of applications, initial eligibility measures may be applied so as not to compromise the quality of the selection process. If the applications exceed five times the number of candidates to be funded, the weighted average of the academic record before moving on to the full evaluation phase will be considered as the cut-off mark.

Base 22. Evaluation and selection of candidates

22.1 The selection is processed on a competitive basis, in accordance with the assessment and prior selection procedures determined by these rules and will be carried out in two phases, an external assessment phase and an interview phase.

The assessment and prioritisation of applications will be carried out by external and independent experts, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations of the AGAUR evaluation system, based exclusively on the documentation provided in the application.

22.2 Evaluation criteria

In accordance with the mechanisms and criteria established in the regulatory bases, and in accordance with the AGAUR Evaluation Regulations, which can be consulted on its website, external persons and experts from the scientific community evaluate the applications, which will be carried out in two phases in accordance with the following criteria and scales:

Phase 1 - Merit and career assessment criteria (50%)

- a) Studies (20%): bachelor's and master's degrees of excellence and suitability for doctoral projects. The assessment does not only consider the educational aspects of the candidate, but also other activities in the context of career progression and the development of personal skills, aligning with the principles and requirements of the European Charter for Researchers.
- b) Research and experience (15%): participation in projects, scientific contributions (publications, awards), attendance at congresses/events, research skills and competences. Training and other relevant aspects, skills and training in research competences (teaching, supervision, teamwork, knowledge transfer, management or scientific-technical involvement in research and innovation projects related to the theme of the chosen project) are considered.
- c) Letter of motivation (5%): interest and motivation to join the programme. Preferences will be assessed, as well as the reasons and justification for the selection of these options and the letters of recommendation submitted in relation to the chosen projects
- d) Others (10%): participation in international programmes (e.g. Erasmus), mobility (research stays), science communication, level of English, suitability of the profile to the programme, volunteering, social and industrial experience. Skills in foreign languages, digital literacy and volunteering, social or science communication activities will be assessed.

As a result of this evaluation phase, a scientific and technical evaluation value is generated and a proposal of candidates will be presented prioritized for projects requested with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal, distinguishing the balance of each region. In the event of a tie in the total score, the order of prioritisation of the applications will be established by successively applying the following criteria: higher score in the studies section; if the tie persists, higher score in the Research and doctoral experience section; then, higher score in the Motivation Letter; and finally, higher score in the Others section.

Phase 2 – Interviews (50%)

A maximum of 3 candidates for each of the projects with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal will access phase 2, and in accordance with the order of prioritisation obtained in phase 1, external evaluation and the prioritisation of projects established in base 18. This phase may have external advisors.

The shortlisted candidates will be assessed in the interview phase, with the following criteria.

- a) Research skills (25%): scientific excellence, motivation and potential as a future leading researcher, scientific quality of the presentation and answers during the Q&A session, ability to argue suitability for the position. The overall potential as a researcher and the potential to develop the pre-selected projects will be positively assessed.
- b) Interpersonal skills (15%): professional attitude, teamwork, reliability, motivation. Creativity, level of independence, leadership skills and self-identification of strengths and weaknesses will be positively valued.
- a) Communication skills (10%): proficiency in English and oral communication.

As a result of the evaluation, a final scientific-technical evaluation value is generated expressed on a scale of 1 to 10, with two decimal places, and a proposal of candidates will be presented prioritized by projects. The order of prioritization of applications will be established by successively applying the following criteria: research skills; interpersonal skills and finally higher score in communication skills.

22.3 The selection is made by the Selection Committee, considering the general rules of the AGAUR and the evaluations made of the candidates according to rule 22.2.

The Committee will establish the prioritized list of selected candidates, considering the projects that have the Seal for each region. In the event of a tie in the total score obtained by the pre-selected doctoral students, priority will be given, successively, to applications submitted by women, refugees and Doctoral Candidates with disabilities. The Selection Committee may take into account in the final proposal of candidates for projects accredited with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal, the contribution of the candidates to thematic diversity, interdisciplinarity, the balanced participation of different types of entities and the representation of the different areas of action of the programme and region, in order to establish the priority of the projects in order to guarantee the fulfilment of the strategic objectives of the project Talent-H2 CAT-BW and maximise its scientific, technological and socio-economic impact.

22.4 Its composition is established in the call and must guarantee the balanced presence of men and women in accordance with the provisions of article 2. *and* Law 17/2015, of 21 July, on effective equality between women and men.

22.5 In any case, the call must take into account the incorporation of positive action measures, in accordance with Article 31 of Law 19/2020, of 30 December, on Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, and Article 5 of Law 13/2025, of 29 December, on the rights of LGBTI people and the eradication of LGBTI-phobia.

22.6 The operating regime of the Selection Committee, in all matters not established in these

regulatory bases, is in accordance with the rules applicable to the collegiate bodies, in accordance with Article 17 of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

22.7 This Selection Committee may receive advice from external expert bodies, and its meetings may be attended by technical staff from AGAUR and BW.

22.8 The Selection Committee may propose a reserve list, duly prioritised, made up of applications from candidates who have not been assigned to the projects, but who have achieved sufficient technical quality to access the grant, for each of the two regions. These may be part of the successive calls for these rules.

22.9 Each applicant receives an evaluation report that justifies the final score obtained.

Base 23. Proposal for a provisional decision of the grants

23.1 The competent body shall formulate the proposal for a provisional decision for the granting of the grants and the selection of the corresponding funding, based on the report of the Selection Committee and in accordance with these regulatory bases.

The proposal must contain the list of projects proposed for each participating region, indicating the host entity, the project and a maximum of three prioritized candidates, in accordance with the order resulting from the selection procedure established in these rules and in the corresponding call.

In the case of Catalonia, the proposal may give rise, once the corresponding procedure has been completed, to the granting of the grant by the AGAUR to the Catalan beneficiary entity. In the case of Baden-Württemberg, the proposal may give rise, once the corresponding processing has been completed, to access to funding channelled by the MWK, in accordance with the DREU-MWK agreement and the procedures and legal instruments applicable to its legal system. .

If any of the proposed entities withdraw from the application, the corresponding entity on the reserve list may be proposed, in order of score and in accordance with the distribution of projects by region of the host institution.

If any of the proposed candidates withdraws from the application, the next candidate on the reserve list may be proposed, in accordance with the established order of priority.

23.2 The proposal for a provisional decision must be published in the electronic means for the purposes of notification determined by the call. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects, in accordance with article 45.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

Publication on the AGAUR website or on the programme website is for information purposes only, unless the call expressly attributes notifying effects.

23.3 When the Principal Investigator of the project is attached to a Catalan institution, it will act as the candidate's contracting entity. When the Principal Investigator is attached to an institution in Baden-Württemberg, it will act as the candidate's contracting entity.

23.4 Selected applications from the Baden-Württemberg region will be funded by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts (MWK), in accordance with the TALENT H2 CAT-BW programme, Grant Agreement no. 101217279, the DREU-MWK agreement and the legal instruments applicable to its legal system, without this selection implying the granting of an AGAUR funding to Baden-Württemberg entities.

Base 24. Allegations and proposal for a final decision

24.1 Both candidates and participating entities may submit allegations within 10 working days of the day following the publication of the proposal for a provisional decision.

24.2 The allegations presented must be taken into account before formulating the proposal for a final resolution, without it being necessary to issue an express decision or issue an individualised report on each of them.

24.3 The allegations are reviewed in order to detect possible material errors, manifest inconsistencies or procedural defects. They do not entail a new scientific evaluation for the sole

fact that there is disagreement with the expert opinion of the evaluator, without prejudice to the fact that, when a material error, manifest inconsistency or procedural defect is identified, the application may be reviewed in the terms established in the call.

24.4 Once the period for allegations has expired and those that have been presented have been assessed, the management body must formulate the proposal and submit it to the competent body to issue the final decision on the grant.

24.5 Likewise, within the indicated period, candidates and participating entities may withdraw from the application, without prejudice to the fact that the withdrawal may be manifested at any other time in the procedure prior to the award resolution.

Base 25. Acceptance of the grant or adhesion to the programme

25.1 Once the provisional award decision has been published, the Catalan beneficiary entities must formalise their acceptance of the grant with AGAUR.

The document accepting the grant can be obtained on the AGAUR website and must be submitted to the AGAUR electronic register through EACAT or through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file, within two weeks of the day following the publication of the provisional resolution, unless the call establishes a different deadline.

25.2 The selected Host Institutions in Baden-Württemberg must formalize the acceptance of the funding or adherence to the obligations of the programme before the MWK, by means of the legal document required by the MWK and in accordance with the applicable German regional or federal regulations.

These entities are bound by the common obligations established in these rules, in Grant Agreement no. 101217279, the DREU-MWK agreement and the MWK legal instruments, without acquiring the status of beneficiaries of a funding granted by AGAUR.

25.3 With the corresponding acceptance or adhesion document in each region, the selected Host Institutions undertake to submit the following attached documentation relating to the selected researcher:

- a) Copy of the selected person's DNI, NIE, TIE or passport.
- b) Copy of the acceptance or enrolment of the doctoral programme. If the enrolment does not contain the details of the assigned thesis supervisors, this enrolment must be accompanied by documentation proving that the thesis supervisor indicated in the application is assigned to the doctoral thesis of the Doctoral Candidate.
- c) The signing of a declaration that the obligations of the programme and the mobility standard of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme (MSCA) are met.

25.4 In the event that the documentation submitted does not meet the necessary requirements, a period of 10 working days must be granted so that the required documentation can be corrected.

25.5 In the case that the host institution has not submitted the acceptance document and the rest of the documentation within the period provided for in these regulatory guidelines and the corresponding call for applications it tacitly renounces from the grant, without the need for prior notice.

25.6 The selected Host Institution has a maximum period of 12 weeks, counting from the day following the publication of the provisional decision of the grant, to formalize the hiring of the selected doctoral researcher.

Within this same period, all the selected Host Institutions, both in Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, must submit the documentation accrediting the contract and the rest of the requirements demanded by the programme, through the channels established in the call or the corresponding instruments of acceptance or adhesion. This documentation must be made available to the AGAUR for the purposes of the joint management and monitoring of the programme, without prejudice to the fact that, with regard to the entities of Baden-Württemberg, the effects linked to the financing correspond to the MWK in accordance with its applicable regulations and instruments.

- a) Copy of the doctoral researcher's contract.
- b) Documentary accreditation of the rest of the requirements set out in these rules for candidates, if they have not been presented in the acceptance phase.
- c) Acceptance by the doctoral student of the obligations set out in these regulatory bases. Additionally, in the case of Catalan beneficiary entities, the following must be submitted:
- d) Copy of the document from the General Treasury of the Social Security "Contribution data report / Employed workers" (IDC).
- e) Copy of the deed of incorporation of the entity, the document accrediting the powers of attorney and the identification document of the legal representative of the entity. If this documentation has already been submitted in previous calls, it is sufficient to submit a declaration indicating the date of submission of the document and that it is still valid.
- f) In accordance with article 15.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, if the amount of the grants awarded is greater than 10,000 euros, the declaration of responsibility for the information relating to the remuneration of the management or administrative bodies must be provided, for the purpose of making it public in accordance with the corporate criteria adopted or, where appropriate, in accordance with the corresponding regulatory development.

25.7 In the event that the first proposed candidate does not formalise the contract, the entity may proceed to hire the next candidate proposed in the resolution, following the order of priority indicated. This change must be communicated to the Talent-H2 CAT-BW programme by the means established in the call.

Base 26. Inadmissibility and withdrawal

26.1 Failure to comply with the non-amendable requirements or the deadline for submitting applications established in these regulatory guidelines and the call will result in the inadmissibility of the application.

26.2 The applicant entity may withdraw its application in writing before the grant.

26.3 In the event of failure to accredit the requirements established in these regulatory guidelines or the call, the competent body shall require the applicant person or entity to supplement or amend the application. If the request made by the competent body is not responded to within 10 working days, it will be understood that the applicant person or entity withdraws the application.

26.4 The competent body shall decide on the non-admission or withdrawal of the applications prior to the granting of the grants and notify the corresponding decision to the interested persons or entities by publishing it in the electronic means for notification purposes determined by the call. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects.

Base 27. Decision and notification

27.1 The competent body shall issue the reasoned decision of the award procedure and notify the interested entities within the period indicated in the call.

27.2 The award decision must indicate the purpose and object of the grant, the maximum amount of the grant for the Host Institutions.

For Catalan Host Institutions, the decision will identify the projects and candidates selected in the common procedure, the conditions that the Catalan beneficiary entity must meet, the deadline for the execution and justification of the subsidized actions, the origin of the funds with which the grant is financed and the corresponding means of appeal.

With regard to the Host Institutions of Baden-Württemberg, the decision will identify the projects and candidates selected in the common procedure, which will be financed by MWK and must comply with their financing conditions proposed.

27.3 The decision granting the grant to the Catalan beneficiary entities must state that the finality of this decision implies that the Catalan beneficiary entity tacitly declares that it is up-to-date with

its obligations to the Tax Administration, the General Treasury of the Social Security and the Generalitat de Catalunya, without prejudice to the competent body verifying the tax return made.

27.4 The notification of the decision is made by publication in the electronic means for the purposes of notification determined by the call. This publication replaces the individual notification and has the same effects, under the terms established in article 45.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

27.5 If an express decision has not been issued and notified after the maximum period indicated in the call for applications has elapsed, the applicant entities may consider their application to be rejected due to administrative silence, in accordance with article 55.1.a) of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, and article 25.5 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November.

27.6 In the periods in which the interested entities are required to submit amendments, complementary documentation or other necessary elements, the expiry of the maximum period for resolving and notifying is suspended for the time that elapses between the notification of the requirement and its effective compliance by the interested entities, or during the period established in article 22.1.a) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October.

The expiry of the period may also be suspended if any of the other causes provided for in Article 22 of Law 39/2015 occur, a circumstance that must be notified to the interested entities in cases where the regulation requires it.

27.7 The corresponding administrative or contentious-administrative appeals may be lodged against the decision to grant or deny the grants, under the terms indicated in the resolution. The submission of documentation that has been required in the amendment procedure and has not been provided within the corresponding period is not accepted during the appeal phase.

Base 28. Obligations of the doctoral student

The doctoral candidate shall comply with the following obligations:

- a) Join the institution within the pre-established period. This period may be extended in exceptional cases related to immigration procedures or other personal situations duly justified and previously notified to the programme management by mail to: talenth2catbw@gencat.cat.
- b) Be admitted or enrolled in the corresponding doctoral programme at the time of signing the contract with the host institution. Inform the competent body and request any changes that affect the development of their doctoral thesis, in accordance with the internal regulations of the entity where they develop their thesis.
- c) Carry out the activities described in the work plan of the doctoral project Talent H2 CAT-BW to which it is assigned, under the double interregional supervision of the Supervisor and Co-Director of the thesis. Comply with the training and secondments and compulsory stays, organized according to the project planning, as well as other training provided by the DREU, MWK or the AGAUR to acquire transversal skills.
- d) Comply with current labour legislation and the regime and regulations of the Host Institution where the activities are carried out.
- e) Comply with the obligations required to be part of the doctoral project subject to these regulatory guidelines and the fundamental ethical principles they establish, as well as good research practices based on the fundamental principles of research integrity.
- f) Follow the principles of the European Charter for Research Staff of the European Commission.
- g) Apply for authorisation to carry out any research stay or activity that involves a prolonged absence from the job, beyond those provided for in the project, in accordance with the internal regulations of each affiliated entity. These absences from the workplace may not exceed six months in any case. An absence of more than twelve months may not be accumulated in the total of the three years of the grant.

- h) Actively participate in dissemination, communication and public engagement activities, through newsletters and social networks; preparing communication materials, participation in conferences and open visits; collaborating in press releases and informative articles; and presenting results at scientific events, as well as interacting with the public through networks, seminars, festivals and educational activities.
- i) Respond to the requirements of the DREU, MWK, AGAUR, REA or the European Commission derived from being part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions of the Horizon Europe programme, (including the obligations to open publications and participation in the final evaluation surveys and two years after the end of the grant).
- j) Register in a personal capacity on the EU Portal (Funding & Tenders - person Profile Portal).

Base 29. Resignations and replacements of the doctoral student

29.1 A waiver of the grant or the corresponding funding is understood to mean the failure of the doctoral student to join his or her job, the termination of his or her contract due to unforeseen circumstances or the express waiver of the grant by the Doctoral Candidate.

These situations must be communicated to the AGAUR, in the case of Catalan beneficiary entities, or to the MWK, in the case of BW Host Institutions, within a maximum period of 15 working days from the day following the day on which they occur, with a copy in the talenth2catbw@gencat.cat email.

29.2 If the waiver occurs after the first 6 months of receipt of the grant or funding, it will result in the end of the action. If the resignation occurs during the first six months of employment, the decision competent body of the call or the executive director of AGAUR for Catalan entities, or the MWK for BW entities, may authorize its replacement. In these cases, the entities must request, by means of a document signed by the respective legal representatives, the replacement of the doctoral student and may opt for another alternative candidate from the reserve list. The proposed candidates must have participated in the previous selection phases of these grants. The substitution does not entail any interruption of the grant, nor any modification of its duration, amount or initial conditions, unless it's previously approved by the granting body.

The substitution decision must specify the conditions of the grant. Substitutions must be notified individually, or in the case of CAT by publication on the Electronic Board of the Generalitat de Catalunya, to the person and entities concerned, in accordance with articles 40 to 44 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

29.3 In the event of non-compliance with the contracting period, the grant will be waived and will give rise to the proportional partial reimbursement of the amounts not executed. Entities are obliged to make the reimbursement corresponding to the period financed and not executed in accordance with base 38 to the AGAUR or BW, depending on the financing body of each entity.

5. Common rules of procedure

Base 30. Modification of the decision awarding the funding

30.1 The competent body has the power to review the funding awarded to the selected and beneficiary entities and modify the decision or the concession agreement if the conditions that have been taken into account for the granting of the funding are altered.

30.2 The Host Institutions may request the modification of the funding up to one month before the end of the period of execution of the activity of the funded projects. This will be carried out only in exceptional and duly justified cases. The granting of the extension will be subject to the assessment of the alleged circumstances and the express authorisation of the relevant competent body of CAT or BW, without its application necessarily implying its approval

In the case of CAT entities, this request for modification, electronically signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary entity, must be submitted to the AGAUR electronic register through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file (provision of documentation and other requests), which can be found on the AGAUR website (<https://agaur.gencat.cat/>). BW entities may request it through the channel indicated by MWK. In both cases, prior notification must be made by email to talenth2catbw@gencat.cat.

30.3 The circumstances that may give rise to the modification of the concession decision must be specified, in a reasoned manner, by the granting body or by the beneficiary, depending on who requests the modification, and must be considered when issuing the decision accepting or denying the modification.

The granting body, in view of the allegations and documentation presented, will resolve this request. If it deems it necessary, to form a sufficient judgment to assess the modification request, the AGAUR may request the advice of an external expert evaluator, who will assess the suitability of the modification.

Substantial changes that have not been communicated or that have not been expressly accepted, may lead to the total or partial revocation of the funding or the recovery of funding, depending on the applicable regime. The granting body has a maximum period of three months to respond to the request for modification. The request will be deemed to have been rejected due to administrative silence if the Administration has not responded within the indicated period.

To accept any modification, it must meet the following conditions:

- That it does not represent a breach of the requirements and conditions of these rules, the call, the Grant Agreement or the DREU-MWK agreement.
- That it does not entail an increase in the amount granted or the approved funding.
- That it is exceptional in nature and is not promoted for reasons of convenience or depends exclusively on the will of the beneficiary or Host Institution.
- That the new elements and circumstances that motivate the modification, if they had contributed to the initial concession, would not have led to the denial of the funding or financing, and that the alteration is not of such magnitude as to imply a substantial variation of the initially approved project.
- That it does not prejudice the rights of third parties.

30.4 Any incident that does not entail a substantial change in the project granted, must be reported to the competent body, or to the MWK in the case of BW entities, immediately and in any case before the end of the execution period. The competent body will resolve the application taking into account the provisions of the previous base, in relation to the terms and conditions of the modifications.

30.5 The contracting Host Institutions, both in Catalonia and Baden-Württemberg, may request the extension of the deadline for the execution of the financed actions up to one month before the end of the execution period, for duly justified reasons. In all cases, the extension must be exceptional, duly justified and compatible with the eligibility period of Grant Agreement no. 101217279 and with the calendar of the programme.

The application must be submitted through the corresponding channel according to the funding region: in the case of entities in Catalonia, through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file; and in the case of entities in Baden-Württemberg, through the procedure established by the MWK, without prejudice to the communication to the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme by the means determined by the call.

Base 31. Taxation of the funding

Subsidies and financing amounts, in general, are subject to the tax regulations applicable in each country and according to the legal nature of the corresponding payment.

Base 32. Public dissemination of results

32.1 Public dissemination of results:

- a) In order to promote transparency in the management of public funds, promote the dissemination of the scientific knowledge generated and guarantee the social return of the subsidies or funding granted, the AGAUR may publish, on its institutional website or in other means of dissemination specific to the DREU or the EU co-financing programme Horizon Europe or the MWK, extracts, summaries or results of the supporting reports submitted by the Host Institutions.
- b) The submission of the application entails the non-exclusive, free of charge worldwide assignment in favour of the AGAUR, the DREU, the MWK or the European Commission of the rights of reproduction and public communication on the selected fragments or contents of the justification report, with the sole purpose of allowing its public dissemination for informational, informative or scientific purposes related to the object of the programme, without prejudice to the applicable regulations on data protection, confidentiality, intellectual and industrial property and trade secrets.
- c) The disseminated content may be published under a *Creative Commons* Attribution-Non Commercial- (CC BY-NC-SA) license or another of an equivalent nature that guarantees the non-commercial reuse of knowledge and the mandatory citation of the authorship and source. The beneficiary entities accept that this dissemination is carried out under the terms of the license, without prejudice to the moral rights that correspond to the authors or holders of the intellectual property rights.
- d) AGAUR must ensure that any dissemination clearly indicates the authorship and source of origin of the information published, indicating the name and surname of the author, as stated in the report, the name of the institution and the name of the project.
- e) The final justification report must expressly include a section with a summary, extract or conclusions that can be published. In order to ensure compliance with current regulations on the protection of personal data, intellectual property and trade secrets, the beneficiary entities must omit in this section any information that is confidential or that may harm the rights or legitimate interests of third parties.
- f) This power of publication is compatible with the obligations of active publicity and communication of results established in these rules and in the applicable regulations on subsidies and transparency.

Base 33. Justification

33.1 Host Institutions with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal that receive funding from the programme must submit two reports on the execution of the actions in English, one 18 months after the start of the grant or funding and, a final one, during the month following the end of the action. They must be submitted in accordance with the standardised form for all entities. In all cases, the fulfilment of the object and purpose of the actions of the programme must be specified. Likewise, all participating entities must communicate the information of any change in the conditions, interruption or duration of the doctoral students' contract through the email to talenth2catbw@gencat.cat, without prejudice to the corresponding procedures of the AGAUR or MWK.

33.2 The economic justification of the actions must be carried out in accordance with the system of unitary contributions of the MSCA COFUND programme. The justification of the amounts linked to the 'unit cost contributions' is not intended to declare the real cost of each of the expenses, but

the effective execution of the fundable units and compliance with the conditions of the programme, without prejudice to the conservation and contribution, when required, of the labour, accounting, tax and administrative documentation that makes it possible to verify the reality of the action and the traceability of the funds.

33.3 The Host Institutions that receive funding must justify the effective execution of the grant or amounts received and accredit it during the month following the end of the action, or within the period established in the call and report the additional expenses covered.

In the case of CAT entities, the justification must be submitted using the standardised forms that can be obtained on the AGAUR website (<http://www.gencat.cat/agaaur>), through the justifying account modality, without providing proof of expenditure, without prejudice to the corresponding verifications. The supporting documentation must be submitted to the AGAUR electronic register through the EACAT platform or through the procedure associated with an AGAUR file (provision of documentation and other requests), which can be found in the Procedures section of the website of the Generalitat de CAT (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>).

In the case of BW entities, they must submit the supporting documentation in accordance with the standardised form established by MWK.

33.4 The documentation to be attached is as follows:

- a) Scientific-technical report of the action carried out, as indicated in rule 33.1, indicating the activities carried out and the results obtained, signed by the candidate hired and by the PI person who has coordinated the research activity. This report must follow the standardised form. If applicable, the PI must fill in the section on updating the ethical implications and provide any related documentation. This report also includes a certificate that accredits the work carried out and the dates on which it has been carried out, with the signature of the legal representative of the entity.
- b) Copy of the current enrolment of the doctoral programme of the Doctoral Candidate (except if it was already provided at the time of acceptance of the grant). In the event that the enrolment does not include the details of the thesis supervisors assigned to the doctoral thesis, this enrolment must be accompanied by documentation proving that the thesis supervisor indicated in the application is assigned to the doctoral thesis of the person hired.
- c) Economic justification model, which must also include a sworn statement from the beneficiary entity with the following minimum content:
 - that the units/person-months financed have been effectively executed, that the amounts have been allocated to the different sources of financing, so that there is no double financing and that the total of the sources of financing does not exceed the cost of the financed action;
 - that a separate accounting system is in place or that the receipts of expenditure are assigned a common accounting code to the transactions related to the subsidised action.
 - A statement of the other costs to which they have contributed and the other income or subsidies that have financed the subsidised activity, indicating the amount and origin. When the amounts are partially allocated to other subsidies or sources of funding, the exact amount or percentage allocated to each one must be indicated, with identification of the granting bodies.

33.5 The Host Institutions, both in CAT and BW, must keep the documents justifying the application of the funds received, including electronic documents, for as long as they can be subject to verification and control actions. The supporting documentation related to the grant or funding must be kept for a minimum period of five years from the final payment made by the REA, or for the longer period that is required while it can be subject to control, audit or verification.

33.6 The competent body, the AGAUR, the DREU, the MWK and the competent European bodies may verify, where appropriate, the documentation that allows evidence to be obtained on the effective execution of the fundable units, compliance with the conditions of the programme and

the traceability of the funds. These checks are compatible with the unit cost contributions scheme and do not convert the funding into an ordinary justification of actual costs.

These verification, control, audit or inspection actions may be carried out, among others, by the European Commission, the Research Executive Agency (REA), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

The beneficiary entities must fully collaborate with these actions and facilitate access to the documentation, records, information systems and personnel necessary for their development.

33.7 The regulation of cash payments is that contained in Article 7 of Law 7/2012, of 29 October, so that transactions in which one of the contracting parties is an entrepreneur or professional with an amount equal to or greater than 1,000 euros (one thousand euros) or its equivalent in foreign currency may not be granted in cash.

33.8 For duly justified reasons, the beneficiary entities may request the extension of the justification period established in the call before it ends, through the enabled electronic procedure. This new deadline may not exceed half of the initially established period.

Base 34. Payment

34.1 The payment and channelling of funds from the Talent H2 CAT-BW programme are governed by three different circuits: which consists of the payment of the AGAUR to the beneficiary entities in Catalonia; and the payment of the MWK to the Host Institutions of BW, in accordance with the regulations and instruments applicable in their territory (linked to the transfer of the DREU to the MWK of the European part corresponding to Baden-Württemberg, under the terms of the DREU-MWK agreement).

34.2 In the case of beneficiary entities in Catalonia, the payment of the grant is carried out with the verification of compliance with the requirements to obtain the status of beneficiary entity and in accordance with the conditions of justification and execution established in these bases, the call for applications and the applicable funding regulations.

34.3 The right to receive all or part of the funding granted by the AGAUR to the Catalan beneficiary entities will be lost in the event of a lack of justification or if there is any of the causes established in Article 37 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and Article 98 of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, approving the revised text of the Law on Public Finances of Catalonia.

34.4 Advance payments may be made that involve the delivery of funds prior to justification, as necessary financing to carry out the actions inherent to the funding. In this case, a first payment of 50% will be made at the time of accreditation of the candidate's incorporation, 30% after the intermediate justification (18 months after the grant) and 20% once the correct justification of the funding has been verified, always in accordance with the call and budget availability.

Under no circumstances may advance payments be made to Catalan beneficiary entities that have requested the declaration of voluntary bankruptcy, have been declared insolvent in any procedure, are declared bankrupt, unless an agreement has become effective in this bankruptcy, which are subject to judicial intervention or have been disqualified in accordance with Law 22/2003, of 9 July, bankruptcy, without the period of disqualification established by the judgment qualifying the bankruptcy having ended. For the payment of these grants, the constitution of guarantees is not required. To receive the amount of subsidies for entities in CAT, the beneficiary entities must be up to date with their obligations to the Tax Administration and Social Security, as well as that they do not have debts of any kind with the Generalitat de Catalunya.

34.5 The funding corresponding to the Host Institutions of Baden-Württemberg is channelled through the MWK, in accordance with the DREU-MWK agreement, the applicable regulations and the procedures and legal instruments established by the MWK. The fund transfer relationship between the DREU and the MWK is governed by the agreement signed between both parties.

34.6 The amount of the grant will be paid into the account indicated on the application form, which

must belong to the Host Institution, beneficiary of the grant.

The Host Institution benefiting from the funding may transfer the right to pay the funding to another entity. To make this right effective, a document must be presented in which the entity holding the right to collect transfers this right to another entity.

34.7 The presentation of reports will be linked to the interim payments mentioned above. Under no circumstances may advance payments be made to beneficiary Host Institutions that have requested the voluntary declaration of bankruptcy, have been declared insolvent in any procedure, have been declared bankrupt, unless an agreement with the creditors has become effective, or are subject to judicial intervention.

Base 35. Suspensions

35.1 Host Institutions with the Talent H2 CAT-BW Seal that receive a funding or funding may request the recovery of the period of suspension in the event of a suspension of the calculation of the contract due to situations of temporary disability or during the periods of time dedicated to the enjoyment of full-time leave due to pregnancy, risk during pregnancy and breastfeeding, birth, maternity, paternity, adoption, guardianship for the purpose of adoption or foster care, full-time breastfeeding, or for similar situations related to the above, as well as for the enjoyment of full-time leave for reasons of conciliation or care of minors, family members or dependents, and the time dedicated to taking leave to care for children or family members during the contract period (as well as the situation provided for in article 45.1.n of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Act as a measure to protect women victims of gender violence in the case of CAT or the BW regulations applicable in these cases. Similarly, the periods of time dedicated to the enjoyment of part-time leave for birth, maternity, paternity, adoption, guardianship for the purpose of adoption or foster care, as well as the reduction of working hours for reasons of breastfeeding, birth of a premature child or hospitalised after childbirth, legal guardianship, care of minors affected by cancer or serious illness, care of family members affected by accident or serious illness, care of dependent people or gender violence, and, finally, reductions in working hours due to similar situations related to the above, or for reasons of conciliation or care of minors, family members or dependents, during the term of the contract subject to the grant, imply the extension of the contract for the time equivalent to the working day that has been reduced.

35.2 All Host Institutions with the Talent H2 Cat-BW Seal that receive funding must submit the application for recovery of the suspension period, accompanied by the corresponding supporting documentation and the extension of the contract before the end of the three years of the grant, by email to talenth2catbw@gencat.cat and by registration with the competent body in the case of beneficiaries in CAT.

35.3 The competent body to issue the resolutions granting the AGAUR grant or the competent body of the MWK, as appropriate, will establish the conditions of the extension and the extension period. This extension does not in itself imply an increase in the amount awarded and must be compatible with the availability of funds, with the eligible units/person-month and with the eligibility period of Grant Agreement no. 101217279. The total extension period of the grant may not exceed eighteen months in any case.

Base 36. Waivers and substitutions of the grant

36.1 Catalan Host Institutions beneficiary entities may expressly renounce the funding awarded, in accordance with the provisions of Article 94 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. BW Host Institutions may waive funding in accordance with the procedure established by the MWK. The waiver can always be made before

the scheduled date for presenting the financial justification or equivalent documentation.

36.2 The Catalan beneficiary entity must repay the amounts received as a funding, with the corresponding default interest, calculated from the date of payment of the funding or the advances or payments on account made up to the date issued by the waiver decision or until the moment on which the beneficiary entity makes the payment. In the case of BW, the recovery of the amounts will be made in accordance with the indications of MWK agreement.

36.3 In the event of a total waiver, the competent granting body, AGAUR in the case of Catalan entities, or the MWK in the case of BW entities, may provide the grant funding to the entities in the reserve list.

The decision by which the substitutions are granted is notified individually to the interested entity or, in the case of Catalonia, by publication on the electronic bulletin board of the Generalitat de Catalunya, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 40 and 41 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, provided that it is subsequent to the decision to award the grants. Substitutions are not accepted after a period of 6 months from the decision to award the grants.

Lack of collaboration with the verification, control, audit or inspection actions, as well as resistance or obstruction to these actions, constitutes a cause for non-compliance that may lead to the refund, recovery or return of the amounts received, in accordance with the provisions of these terms and conditions and the applicable regulations, the Grant Agreement and the DREU-MWK agreement.

Base 37. Refund procedure

37.1 Catalan beneficiary entities must refund the amounts received in the following cases:

- a) By waiving the funding through the procedure enabled by the competent body.
- b) By revocation of the funding through the procedure enabled by the granting body.
- c) Due to nullity of the granting of the funding through the procedure enabled by the granting body.
- d) As a result of the result of a financial control, the imposition of a sanction or the ruling by administrative or judicial decision.

37.2 On the part of CAT, the grounds for reimbursement are those established in article 37 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on general subsidies.

37.3 On the part of CAT, in accordance with Article 100 of the revised text of the Law on Public Finances of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, the reimbursement procedure must be concluded within twelve months from the date of the decision to initiate the proceedings, which must be issued by the body that signed the award decision or by the body to which it delegates. This period may be extended for a period of no more than six months, in accordance with the provisions of the rules governing the common administrative procedure. Once the period for the reimbursement procedure has elapsed without the express decision having been notified, the procedure expires without the statute of limitations being considered interrupted.

37.4. The reimbursement or recovery of the amounts corresponding to BW entities will be executed by the MWK in accordance with its financing regulations, the DREU-MWK agreement and the applicable instruments.

Base 38. Revocation

38.1 On the part of the CAT Host Institutions, the grounds for revocation of the grant are those established in Article 37 of Law 38/2003, General Subsidies, together with Article 92 bis of the aforementioned Law and Article 99 of the revised text of the Law on Public Finances of Catalonia,

approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, which are as follows:

- a) Failure to comply with the obligation to provide justification.
- b) Obtaining the funding without meeting the required conditions.
- c) Failure to comply with the purpose for which the funding was granted, in whole or in part, because the amounts received were allocated to different purposes.
- d) Failure to comply with the conditions imposed on the beneficiary persons and entities when the granting of the funding, including obstruction of control actions or resistance to allowing them, in such a way that it is impossible to verify the accreditation of having carried out the object of the funding.
- e) In the case indicated in article 94.1, rule four of the revised text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia, due to the excess obtained over the cost of the activity carried out.
- f) The non-inclusion or improper use of the means indicated in article 92.7 of the revised text of the Law on Public Finances of Catalonia.

38.2 On the part of BW's Host Institutions, the causes for revocation, recovery or return of amounts will be executed in accordance with the MWK financing regulations, the DREU-MWK agreement and the applicable instruments of acceptance or adhesion, which include:

- a) Failure to comply with the obligation to provide justification.
- b) Obtaining the funding without meeting the required conditions.
- c) Failure to comply with the purpose for which the funding was granted, in whole or in part, since the amounts received were allocated to different purposes.
- d) Failure to comply with the conditions imposed on the beneficiary persons and entities when the granting of the funding, including obstruction of control actions or resistance to allowing them, in such a way that it is impossible to verify the accreditation of having carried out the object of the funding.
- e) Any other case of reimbursement, revocation, reduction or recovery of the grants provided for in German federal regulations, in the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg or in the applicable funding instruments approved by the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of Baden-Württemberg (MWK).

38.3 The competent body, with the prior processing of the legally established procedure, must revoke in whole or in part the subsidies granted to the Catalan beneficiary entities, with the obligation to return the amount received and to pay the corresponding late payment interest, in the cases established in the revised text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, and in Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies. In the case of entities that receive MWK funding, the cases of revocation, reimbursement, recovery or other equivalent measures provided for in German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the applicable financing instruments will be applicable.

38.4 Failure to comply with the requirements established in these regulatory guidelines and the sectoral regulations specified therein are also grounds for revocation, recovery or refund. Likewise, in the case of amounts financed from European Union funds, failure to comply with the requirements established by the applicable European regulations, Grant Agreement no. 101217279.

Base 39. Nullity and voidability

In accordance with the provisions of Article 36 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, when the act of concession incurs in any case of nullity or voidability, the competent body must proceed with the ex officio review or, where appropriate, the declaration of harmfulness and the subsequent challenge, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 106 and 107 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October,

and Articles 71 et seq. of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the Legal Regime and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia.

For BW entities, the equivalent mechanisms provided for in German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the corresponding financing instruments will be applicable.

Base 40. Advertising of the grants awarded

40.1 The Register of Grants and Subsidies of Catalonia shall provide the National Subsidies Database with information on the calls for grants and subsidies and the corresponding concessions, in the terms provided for in Articles 18 and 20.8 of the General Law on Subsidies.

40.2 In accordance with article 15.1.c of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance, the information relating to subsidies and public grant granted by AGAUR, with an indication of the amount, purpose and beneficiary entities, must be published on the E-Office and on the website of the competent body, without prejudice to the provisions of article 45.2 of Decree 8/2021, of 9 February, on transparency and the right of access to public information, according to which information relating to subsidies and grants awarded must be published by sending this information to the Register of Grants and Subsidies of Catalonia, which must be accessible from the Transparency Portal of Catalonia.

On the part of BW, the publicity and transparency obligations of Baden-Württemberg entities will be governed by German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the financing instruments applicable to them.

40.3 In accordance with Article 15.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance, when the beneficiary of the funding is a legal person, information relating to the remuneration of the management or administrative bodies must be published on the website of the body announcing the remuneration of the management or administrative bodies when the amount of the concession is greater than 10,000 euros.

40.4 The subsidies and all the actions of the programme are also subject to the publicity and transparency regime in accordance with the specific applicable regulations and with the requirements of the COFUND MSCA Talent H2 CAT-BW programme. The EU co-funding flag and the following sentence should be included: *This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 101217279*. Likewise, the funding of the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Government of Baden-Württemberg must be stated, where applicable.

Base 41. Notifications

41.1 In general, actions that require notification to applicant entities are made public on the electronic bulletin board of the Administration of the Generalitat (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>) and, for information, on the website of the AGAUR and the programme: www.talenth2catbw.cat.

41.2 This notification replaces the individual notification and has the same effects. In order to disseminate it further, and for information purposes, the result of the decision can be consulted on the AGAUR website and on the programme's website: www.talenth2catbw.cat.

41.3 In accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, the rest of the administrative acts issued in relation to this procedure must be notified by electronic notification. For these purposes, the address for notification purposes must be stated on the application form.

The notification is understood to have been made for all legal purposes at the time its content is accessed.

When, if there is evidence that the notification has been made available, ten calendar days have

elapsed without access to its content, it shall be understood that the notification has been rejected, unless, ex officio or at the request of the addressee, it is verified that it is impossible to access it.

41.4 For the rest of AGAUR's communications, which are not considered notifications, electronic means are used and sent to the email address indicated by the applicant in the application.

Base 42. Reproduction rights and Intellectual property

The intellectual property rights that derive from the object of the doctoral thesis belong to the people who have prepared the subsidized work. The works may not be used or exploited without the explicit consent of the authors. The project carried out in the interregional environment may generate other industrial property rights. Any intellectual property rights resulting from the project, as well as the corresponding access rights, must be attributed to the different participants in the collaboration in an appropriate manner and according to their respective tasks, contributions and interests, in accordance with what is included in a collaboration agreement between the parties. All of the above is understood without prejudice to the provisions of the applicable regulations of the Horizon Europe programme.

Base 43. Open access to scientific results

43.1 The Host Institutions and the participating doctoral staff must provide open access to the scientific publications generated within the framework of the funded project, in accordance with the applicable European regulations, in particular that of the Horizon Europe programme and Grant Agreement no. 101217279, by depositing the final version accepted for publication and the data associated with these articles in institutional or thematic repositories, simultaneously with the date of publication. It is mandatory to disseminate openly all the results generated within the framework of the project (including research data, codes and methodologies) and the management of research data in accordance with the international FAIR principles (easy to find, accessible, interoperable and reusable data).

43.2 All of the above is compatible with the possibility of protecting, prior to scientific publication, the intellectual property rights of research and innovation results, in accordance with national and European regulations. The obligation to make certain data or content available may be duly waived when its dissemination may affect the protection of personal data, confidentiality, security, the protection of results susceptible to exploitation or other intellectual property rights, in accordance with the applicable regulations. In these cases, the limitations on open access must be adequately justified.

43.3 In accordance with the applicable European regulations, in particular that of the Horizon Europe programme, research projects funded by these grants must draw up, where appropriate, a data management plan, in accordance with the international FAIR principles. This plan must be submitted together with the final justification document and must be signed by the Principal Investigator of the project.

43.4 The data management plan must contain, at least, the following information: description of the data that will be collected or generated during the project, the methodology and standards that will be applied (formats, metadata, structuring, etc.), how the data will be processed and stored, when and how it will be shared (choice of repositories, possible restrictions on access, etc.) and how they will be preserved beyond the end of the project.

43.5 To draw up this plan, the Data Management Plan (DMP) model and the guidelines established by the European Commission within the framework of the Horizon Europe programme must be followed.

43.6 In the dissemination of any type of information, publications or activities, the persistent indicators Talent H2 CAT-BW and the EU co-financing badge must be included, and it must be

stated that it has funding from the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Government of Baden-Württemberg, where applicable.

The following phrase must be included: "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the 'Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia and the Government of Baden-Württemberg'. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."

In addition, the Grant Agreement No. 101217279 number must be stated; The name of the project and, the acronym; The persistent identifier of the grant: TalentH2 CAT-BW. Whenever the journal allows it, link each author's ORCID to the Talent H2 CAT-BW project, as it facilitates automatic monitoring via OpenAIRE.

Base 44. Data protection and processing

The data provided by the applicants will be incorporated into the processing system owned by AGAUR with the aim of managing and resolving the granting of the grant, in accordance with the provisions of these regulatory bases, and will be processed in a lawful, fair, transparent, adequate, relevant, limited, accurate and up-to-date manner, in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for the processing of the data is the fulfilment of a mission carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of public powers conferred on the data controller and the fulfilment of a legal obligation by the controller.

The AGAUR has implemented the technical and organisational measures to guarantee the security of personal data and will be able to accredit compliance with data protection legislation in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Organic Law 3/2018 on Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

The communication or transfer of data relating to the funding between departments and autonomous entities and other entities attached to the department is foreseen, by virtue of the exercise and control of the funding function of the Administration, provided that the purpose of the data processing is compatible with the purpose for which the data were initially collected, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016. Certain data may also be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities during the grant management process may be necessary for it to be resolved correctly or because it is provided for in a regulation with the rank of law.

AGAUR must inform the interested parties of the processing of data in accordance with the provisions of Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR.

Likewise, in the event that applicants do not exercise their right to object, their data will also be processed to send them information related to the university field, research and knowledge transfer, such as calls, conferences, workshops and training that may be of interest to them, as they are related to the object of this call.

The processing of data of people in a situation of special vulnerability is subject to special protection in accordance with the provisions of article 28.2.e) of the Organic Law on Data Protection, so the processing of such data for persons or units other than the managing body must have the explicit consent of the affected persons or be protected by a regulation with legal status.

The interested party may exercise their rights of access, rectification, cancellation, opposition, deletion and limitation of processing before the managing body, as well as complain, where appropriate, to the data protection supervisory authority.

Base 45. Ethical principles

45.1 Actions funded under this programme must respect the ethical principles and applicable law of the European Union (under the Horizon Europe programme), the Member States and international law, including the Charter and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Additional Protocols, as well as the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (<https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>).

45.2 Actions funded under this programme involving the use of artificial intelligence must comply with Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised standards on artificial intelligence.

45.3 Special attention must be paid to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and psychological integrity of the individual, the right to non-discrimination and the need to guarantee the protection of the environment, as well as high levels of protection of human health.

45.4 Funded activities must focus exclusively on civil applications and the following fields of research are not funded: activities aimed at human cloning for reproductive purposes; activities aimed at modifying the genetic heritage of human beings that could make these changes heritable (except research related to the treatment of gonad cancer, which can be funded); activities aimed at the creation of human embryos exclusively for research purposes or for the purpose of acquiring stem cells, including through nuclear transfer of somatic cells leading to the destruction of human embryos.

Applicant researchers must complete an ethical self-assessment, included in the standardised annex of the application, where they must declare whether their research covers any of the fields described above, as well as identify any other relevant ethical aspect and describe how it will be treated, in accordance with the applicable European regulations, in particular that of the Horizon Europe programme. During the execution of the project, the entities must provide, when required, updated information on the ethical considerations of the project and its treatment, and, in any case, must present this information at the end of the project.

Host Institutions with a grant must fill out a responsible declaration stating that the activities will comply with the European Code of Conduct for Integrity in Published Research and that no expressly excluded research activities described in this section will be carried out.

Doctoral students must consider ethical aspects and the principles of integrity in research in the development of their research activity.

45.5 Host Institutions with subsidies must have the necessary licensing and control measures to carry out, with guarantees, the research and doctoral training activities requested. They must also have the authorizations of the corresponding ethics committees when the research and doctoral activities present ethical aspects that must be considered. Likewise, when the activities have relevant ethical aspects, they must first obtain authorisations or favourable opinions from the competent ethics committees, in accordance with the applicable European (Horizon Europe) and state regulations.

45.6 Where applicable, the funded activities must comply with the principle of not causing significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation.

45.7 Research and doctoral activities that do not comply with the regulations of ethics and integrity and that, therefore, are not acceptable from an ethical point of view, will not be funded.

The grant can be revoked if the systematic non-compliance with ethical aspects is verified during the project.

Base 46. Ethical principles and rules of conduct and the effects of a possible non-compliance

46.1 All actions must be carried out in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishing the Horizon Europe programme, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data (GDPR), the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. In addition, in the case of Baden-Württemberg entities, the applicable German regulations on public subsidies and fraud prevention, including the provisions of §264 of the Strafgesetzbuch (German Criminal Code) and, where applicable, the Landessubventionsgesetz of Baden-Württemberg. In accordance with Article 55.2 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, on transparency, access to public

information and good governance, the ethical principles and rules of conduct to which the entities receiving subsidies or grants must adapt their activity are made public, as well as the effects of any failure to comply with these principles, without prejudice to the fact that the call incorporates, where appropriate, codes of ethics due to the specificity of the subject matter or compliance with certain ethical principles or rules of conduct that are considered appropriate to guarantee the public or social interest of the subsidised activity, and to fulfil the object and purpose of the subsidies announced.

46.2 Ethical principles and rules of conduct:

- a) The Host Institutions and those participating in the projects must adopt an ethically exemplary conduct, refrain from exercising, promoting, proposing or promoting any type of corrupt practice and informing the competent bodies of any manifestation of these practices that, in their opinion, is present or may affect the procedure. They must refrain from carrying out any action that may violate the principles of equal opportunities and free competition.
- b) In general, Host Institutions assume, in the exercise of their activity, the following obligations:
 - To observe the principles, rules and ethical canons of the activities, trades or professions corresponding to the activity subject to the funding or public grant.
 - Not to carry out actions that put the public interest at risk.
 - To report irregular situations that may arise in calls for subsidies or grants or in the processes derived from these calls.
- c) In particular, Host Institutions assume the following obligations:
 - Immediately notify the competent body of possible situations of conflict of interest or changes in the conditions of the project
 - Not to request, directly or indirectly, that a public official or employee influence the award of the funding or grant.
 - Not offering or providing public officials or employees with personal or material advantages, either for themselves or for third parties, with the aim of influencing a funding or grant award procedure.
 - To collaborate with the competent body in the actions that it carries out for the monitoring or evaluation of compliance with the obligations established in these regulatory guidelines, particularly by providing the information requested for these purposes related to the receipt of public funds.
 - Comply with the obligations to provide information that the transparency legislation imposes on successful bidders in relation to the Administration or administrations of reference, without prejudice to compliance with the transparency obligations that directly correspond to them by legal provision, in the cases established in section four of article 3 of the Transparency Law.
 - Incorporate the gender and intersectional perspective in the programming of activities, projects and services.

46.3 Effects of a possible breach of ethical principles and rules of conduct.

In the event of non-compliance with the ethical principles and rules of conduct of CAT entities, the sanctioning regime established by Law 19/2014, of 29 December, and the sanctions established in Article 84 with regard to entities benefiting from public grant are applicable, without prejudice to other possible consequences established in current legislation on subsidies.

In the event of non-compliance with the ethical principles and rules of conduct of BW entities, the sanctioning regime and other consequences provided for in German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the applicable financing instruments will apply.

Base 47. Conflicts of interest

The competent body must ensure that no case involving a conflict of interest occurs.

In general, and to prevent fraud, all the persons involved in the selection procedure of the beneficiary entities and in the verification of compliance with the conditions will formalise a declaration of absence of conflict of interest at the time of starting their participation, undertaking to keep it updated in the event that the situation changes with respect to the original declaration.

Base 48. Infractions and sanctions

48.1 The infringements and sanctions relating to the subsidies granted by the AGAUR to Catalan beneficiary entities are those established in Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, Law 38/2003, of 17 November, and Law 39/2015, of 1 October, without prejudice to the specialities that may arise from the applicable sectoral regulations. Entities that receive funding from BW are subject to their own law, the MWK instruments, the DREU-MWK agreement and the Grant Agreement, without prejudice to the corresponding recovery or correction measures. With regard to responsible declarations, these imply that the interested party has the relevant documentation accrediting the declared data.

If the Administration verifies the inaccuracy or falsity of the data declared, this fact entails, with the prior hearing of the interested party, the corresponding procedure being annulled. If this conduct is classified as an infringement in the applicable legislation, it gives rise to the initiation of the corresponding disciplinary proceedings, in accordance with the sanctioning regime referred to in the previous section.

48.2 Individuals or legal entities, public or private, as well as entities without personality, who, by action or omission, incur in the cases classified as infringements in these regulatory guidelines and in the regulations applicable to the funding system in Catalonia, are liable for administrative infringements in the field of subsidies.

48.3 In the event of non-compliance with the obligations established in the regulatory guidelines by the Catalan beneficiary entities, the sanctioning regime established in Title IV of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and Article 100.1 et seq. of the revised text of the CAT Public Finance Act, shall apply. approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, if such non-compliance constitutes an infringement in accordance with the aforementioned legislation, regardless of the total or partial reimbursement of the funding.

48.4 Likewise, if, during the controls carried out, the Comptroller General encounters conduct by the controlled subject that tends to hinder, delay or prevent its action, it must propose to the competent body that it initiate the sanctioning procedure in accordance with the provisions of Article 67 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, General Subsidies.

48.5 In accordance with article 101.1 of the revised text of the CAT Public Finance Act, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, the following offences are administrative offences in relation to subsidies:

a) Of the beneficiary entities:

- First. Obtaining a funding by falsifying the conditions required to grant it or by concealing data that would have prevented or hindered its granting.
- Second. The allocation of the amounts received, partially or totally, to purposes other than those for which the funding was awarded.
- Third. Failure to comply, for reasons attributable to the beneficiary, with the obligations imposed for the granting of the funding.
- Fourth. The refusal to allow the inspection, verification and control actions to be carried out by the competent body, where appropriate, or the Comptroller General and the other control bodies, or the obstruction of these actions.
- Fifth. Failure to notify the competent body, where applicable, of the receipt of subsidies or grant for the same purpose from any public administration, and also of the modification of any circumstance that has served as the basis for the granting of the funding.
- Sixth. The lack of justification, in whole or in part, of the application of the funds received or the justification outside the period established to accredit the achievement of the object of the funding.

- Seventh. The lack of accreditation to the granting administration, where applicable, of compliance with the obligations imposed for the granting of the funding.

b) From third parties related to the object of the funding: The refusal to allow the verification and control actions that, with respect to the accreditation of the realization of the object of the funding, may be carried out by the control bodies, or the obstruction of these actions.

48.6 As established in article 101.2 of the same Legislative Decree, the administrative offences typified in the previous section may be very serious, serious or minor, in accordance with the following classification:

- a) In the case of beneficiary entities, those defined in points one, second and third of letter a of section 1 are very serious infringements. Recidivism, within three years, in the commission of serious offences is considered a very serious offence when it has been declared so by a final decision in the administrative proceedings.
- b) In the case of beneficiaries, those defined in points four and five of letter a of section 1 are considered serious infringements. In the case of a third party, the infringement defined in letter b of section 1. Recidivism, within a period of three years, in the commission of minor offences is considered a serious offence when it has been declared so by a final decision in the administrative process.
- c) In the case of beneficiary entities, those defined in points six and seven of letter a of section 1 are considered minor infringements.

48.7 Catalan beneficiary entities and third parties that carry out the conduct typified in this article are responsible for infringements.

48.8 Very serious offences are time-barred after five years, serious offences after three years, and minor offences after one year. The statute of limitations begins to run from the day on which the infringement was committed.

48.9 In the case of BW entities, the infringements, penalties and other consequences provided for in the German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the applicable financing instruments shall apply.

Base 49. Functions of verification and control of eligible actions

49.1 The competent bodies of the granting entity have the power to carry out the verifications that are necessary to verify the actions and data that justify the granting of the funding to the Catalan entities and the execution of the actions of the programme.

49.2 The competent body, the AGAUR, the DREU, the MWK or the competent European bodies may carry out specific verification actions following complaints or the existence of indications of fraud or irregularity in the execution of the activity financed by these subsidies or by the programme.

49.3 The beneficiary entities of the CAT subsidies must submit to the verification actions that the competent body deems necessary and those carried out by the competent bodies of the Regional, State and European Union Administrations. BW Host Institutions must undergo the corresponding verification actions in accordance with the regulations of the MWK, the DREU-MWK agreement and the Grant Agreement.

49.4 Verification and inspection actions may also affect the verification of the veracity of the information indicated by the beneficiary or Host Institution on the database or documentation in the possession of third parties.

49.5 In accordance with article 46.2 of Law 38/2003, the refusal to comply with the obligation of the Catalan beneficiary entities or third parties to collaborate and provide the documentation required of them in the exercise of these verification and inspection functions is considered resistance, excuse, obstruction or refusal and, therefore, cause for revocation and reimbursement, where applicable, of the grant, without prejudice to any sanctions that may apply.

49.6 Catalan beneficiary entities are obliged to provide all the information required by the Comptroller General of the Generalitat, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, in accordance with Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, approving the revised text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia. In the case of BW entities, they must submit to the verification, monitoring, audit and control actions carried out by the MWK and the other competent authorities of Baden-Württemberg and Germany, in accordance with the regulations applicable to them.

All Host Institutions must also provide the information required by the REA, the European Commission, OLAF, the EPPO, the European Court of Auditors, the DREU, the AGAUR or the MWK, where appropriate.

The beneficiary entities of CAT grants must submit to the administrative verification actions carried out by AGAUR, in accordance with its funding verification action plan, and to the control actions carried out by the competent bodies of the Regional, State and European Union Administrations.

The purpose of administrative verifications is to verify the execution of the actions, compliance with the conditions of the programme and the traceability of the funds.

Base 50. Appeals system

Against this Resolution, which exhausts the administrative channels, the interested parties may optionally lodge an appeal for reconsideration, prior to the contentious-administrative appeal, before the person who signs these regulatory guideline, within a period of one month from the day following its publication in the DOGC, in accordance with the provisions of article 77 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the Legal Regime and Procedure of the Public Administrations of Catalonia, and Articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, or any other resource they deem appropriate for the defence of their interests.

They may also lodge a contentious-administrative appeal with the Contentious-Administrative Chamber of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia within two months of the day following its publication in the Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia, in accordance with articles 10.1.a, 14, 25 and 46.1 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, regulating contentious-administrative jurisdiction, without prejudice to the fact that they may lodge any other appeal they deem appropriate.

For Baden-Württemberg entities, any administrative or jurisdictional remedies that may be appropriate will be governed by German federal regulations, the regulations of the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the procedures established by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts.