HEI-Lab: Digital Human-Environment Interaction Lab

DOI: https://doi.org/10.62658/COFAC/HEI-LAB/2026-27
Project Reference: COFAC/HEI-LAB/2026-27

Research Unit Identification

Full Name	Digital Human-Environment Interaction Lab
Acronym	HEI-Lab
Director	Pedro Santos Pinto Gamito
Funding Body	COFAC - Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural, C.R.L.
Funding Period	01/09/2026 – 31/08/2027
Unit URL	https://hei-lab.ulusofona.pt/

Mission & Objectives

Abstract:

HEI-Lab is an interdisciplinary Research and Development (R&D) unit of Lusófona University whose mission is to advance scientific knowledge on human behaviour and human-environment interactions through innovative, transdisciplinary research and technological approaches, promoting individual and community wellbeing.

HEI-Lab addresses three major societal challenges: **vulnerable populations and contexts of vulnerability; mental health, wellbeing and healthcare; and digital transition and emerging technologies.** Its research explores human experiences and needs, psychological and behavioural processes, and the impact of digitalisation, aiming to address inequalities and develop evidence-based solutions to current societal challenges.

Its main objectives are to advance scientific knowledge, develop innovative research methodologies and technological solutions, and design and validate evidence-based

interventions across social, forensic, educational and healthcare settings. HEI-Lab also promotes scientific training and early-career researcher development, strengthens national and international collaborations, and fosters knowledge transfer and public engagement to maximise research impact and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Scientific Areas & Research Lines

Principal Scientific Areas

Psychology	Computer and Information Sciences	Media and Communication Sciences

Research Labs

WIN – Wellbeing and Interactivity Nexus Lab — Focuses on the interaction between humans and digital technologies, exploring how interactive systems, virtual reality and other innovative tools can promote wellbeing, mental health, learning and human development.

MH&CS - Mental Health and Clinical Sciences Lab — Focuses on mental health and clinical psychology, investigating psychological functioning, psychopathology and related risk and protective factors, while developing evidence-based approaches to assessment, prevention and intervention.

BeSSC – Behavior and Social Change in Context Lab — Focuses on human behaviour and social processes within diverse contexts, investigating the psychological and social factors that shape attitudes, relationships, decision-making and behavioural change, including issues related to inclusion and sustainability.

Identifiers & Citation Information

DOI
https://doi.org/10.62658/COFAC/HEI-LAB/2026-27
Funding Reference Code
COFAC/HEI-LAB/2026-27

Mandatory Publication Statement

Required in all scientific and institutional outputs (written in the appropriate language):

This work was funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), under project UID/5380/2025 and by COFAC – Cooperativa de Formação eAnimação Cultural, C.R.L., under the project "COFAC/HEI-LAB/2026-27".

Mandatory Application Scope

The acknowledgement statement above must appear in all of the following outputs:

- Scientific articles, posters, books, and journal papers;
- Monographs, brochures, and informational leaflets;
- Newsletters, announcements, and advertising materials;
- Cover pages (where applicable) and all printed applications;
- Digital typographic and other reproduction formats;

  PowerPoint presentations and other digital presentations.