

# GreenLabs Portugal Network of Research Laboratories

## Members Commitment for Sustainable Research Practices

*This document is a Letter of Commitment based on an initiative started in 2021, hereby signed by all the current members*

The scientific community of the National Scientific and Technological System (Laboratories, Research Centers, Universities, and others) is highly aware of the substantial environmental impact of science-related activities. Environmental sustainability and the protection of the planet are, currently, a priority and a matter of survival. Numerous grassroots green lab initiatives have emerged in Portugal and around the world to address the ecological impact of scientific research. In October 2021, **GreenLabs Portugal (GLPT)**, also known as the **Greenlabs National Network of Portuguese Research laboratories**, was established to unite these initiatives at the national level. The network aims to promote ecologically sustainable research within the Portuguese scientific community by joining members under a common goal: to tackle environmental challenges while maintaining research quality and excellence. **GLPT's** mission aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the European Union's target of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050 and seeks to contribute to these objectives by advocating for increasingly sustainable science as a fundamental principle in Portuguese Research Institutions. Additionally, since April 2022, **GLPT** has become a member of the Sustainable European Laboratories (SELS) Network, an organization that promotes and facilitates sustainable research practices throughout Europe.

Upon joining **GLPT**, each Institution and their respective Green Teams are committed to various actions to reduce the carbon, energetic and waste footprint within their laboratories, buildings, or surrounding areas and spaces. These actions include:

1. Reducing daily waste associated with scientific research by encouraging recycling practices and labware reuse, wherever possible;
2. Implementing practices and strategies that reduce water and energy consumption;
3. Encouraging the implementation of green procurement practices;
4. Promoting sustainable travelling to conferences;
5. Supporting local and national sustainability events (meetings/congresses/retreats/workshops, among others), promoted by their own green teams or the **GLPT network**;
6. Supporting local and national greenlabs' sustainability studies and surveys;
7. Implementing training on environmentally sustainable practices within the Institution;
8. Fostering sustainability seminars within the annual seminar calendar of the Institution;
9. Encouraging collaborations and working as a network of sustainable laboratories rather than individually, through the institutional support of the **GLPT network**.

Furthermore, the institutions agree to support the maintenance costs of the **GLPT** website on a rotation basis between all Institutions.

The **GLPT** aims to become the voice of sustainable science in Portugal by bringing together teams and Institutions dedicated to promoting sustainable actions in research. Through high-quality reporting and the establishment of common standards and goals, the **GLPT** strives to promote a culture of sustainability and innovative solutions to address global challenges that will be at the base of future scientific research. With the active support of all members, the **GLPT** is committed to driving positive change and contributing to a more sustainable future.

The institutions listed below are current members of the **GLPT network** and have signed this document committing to promote sustainable research practices: