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## To whom it may concerns

I am pleased to provide a recommendation for The University Center for Research in Psychology (CUIP) for funding. My name is Nataša Jokić-Begić, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Zagreb, Croatia. I am the President of the International Stress, Trauma, Anxiety and Resilience Society (STAR) and Vice President of the Croatian Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Therapy. I have collaborated with Prof. Dr. Saul Neves de Jesus in the STAR society and I am familiar with CUIP's activities.

The University Center for Research in Psychology (CUIP) is a team of expert researchers in Basic and Applied Psychology representing four renowned Portuguese universities: the University of Algarve, the University of the Azores, the University of Madeira, and the Autónoma University of Lisbon. The CUIP team aims to advance knowledge in psychology through cutting-edge research and innovative techniques. Their contributions have had a significant impact, shaping the field of psychology in Portugal and beyond.

CUIP has achieved several significant milestones and has dedicated itself to several key objectives. Here are a few reasons why CUIP deserves further funding:

1. **Integration of Teaching, Research, and Community Service:** CUIP has successfully integrated these three fundamental tasks of the academic community, ensuring a holistic approach to advancing knowledge in psychology while also serving the needs of the community.
2. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** CUIP promotes collaboration and interdisciplinary research, bridging the gap between fundamental and applied psychology. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of psychological phenomena and fosters innovation in research and practice.
3. **Collaboration with Island-Based Universities:** CUIP's partnership with universities situated on islands addresses the unique challenges and opportunities faced by island communities. This partnership demonstrates CUIP's commitment to addressing diverse societal needs and promoting inclusivity in research and education.
4. **Education at Various Levels:** CUIP offers educational programs at different stages, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. By providing opportunities for students to engage with psychology at different stages of

their academic journey, CUIP fosters a supportive learning environment and cultivates future leaders in the field.

5. **Potential as a Leading Research Hub:** Portugal is an attractive destination for visitors, and CUIP has the potential to become a leading research hub for psychology. Its attractive setting and collaborative ethos make it an appealing destination for scholars and students alike, further enhancing its reputation on the global stage.

CUIP's dedication to excellence in research, education, and community engagement has positioned it as a prominent institution in the field of psychology, both nationally and internationally. The current program of CUIP is not only impactful locally but also serves as an inspiring model for similar initiatives in other countries, such as Croatia, from which I come. Its innovative approach and comprehensive scope make it a valuable investment for the advancement of psychological research and education.

Sincerely,

**Nataša Jokić-Begić**



Zagreb, 8th of April 2024