

# Informed Consent Form for Participation in Research

(Design Researchers)

The *Fraunhofer Portugal Research Association*, a research centre in digital technology, is carrying out a research project funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology entitled *Taboo - An exploration of design principles for the creation or design research artifacts to investigate taboo topics*.

The project intends, in a first phase, to identify the difficulties experienced by design researchers in interacting with research participants when the subject of research is taboo. In a second phase, we will seek to propose some design principles and experimental artifacts that help those who do design research around taboo topics.

We would like you to collaborate in both phases of the project, but if you would like to take just in one of them or in just one of the activities, this is possible as well. For the first phase, we will ask you to answer a questionnaire, potentially followed by an interview. For the second phase, we will ask you to test one or more artifacts by proposing possible improvements to the artifact's design. This (re)design proposal may be included in a final exhibition of artifacts produced within the scope of the research project.

## Materials Used

For the questionnaire, we will use an online platform and the participation can be anonymous. If you wish to continue to be called for the remaining activities, we will ask you to share your contact details with us. For the interview, we will use an online conferencing system and will schedule individual sessions.

In the phase of artifact testing, we will ask you to test artifacts created by the research team with a user group. In this phase, we will ask you to give us written or oral feedback about the artifacts, as well as, if applicable, representations/prototypes of your proposal to (re)design one or more artifacts. The analysis of the collected data will be carried out by the *Fraunhofer Portugal Research Association* team.

## Procedures

Personal data are confidential and will be destroyed three years after the end of the project. The project closes in December 2025. The remaining data will be used to feed a database, thus allowing it to be used for research purposes. The data will be stored in anonymized form. If you wish to have your authorship publicly acknowledged in the representations and/or prototypes you develop, you can give this explicit indication to the Principal Investigator, whose data are at the end of this document. In this case, your name will be associated with the representations and/or artifacts whenever they are used in the scope of the research, communication or dissemination activities of the project. The *Fraunhofer Portugal Research Association* is responsible for safeguarding and protecting the data collected, which will only be used for this study.

We would like to count on your participation. Participation does not involve any loss or material damage. Your participation does not involve any type of payment.

Your participation is voluntary, and you can stop it at any time without any consequence. You may also request the rectification or destruction of the information collected at any time. To do so, please contact us using the email address provided below.

We greatly appreciate your contribution, which is fundamental to our research.

Participant:

☐ *I declare that I have read and understood this document, as well as further information that might I have requested, and I agree to participate in this investigation. I allow the use of the data I provide on a voluntary basis, trusting that it will only be used for research and with the guarantees of confidentiality and anonymity given to me by the investigators. I authorize the communication of data anonymously to other partner entities of the study for academic and scientific research purposes.*

☐ *I authorize the collection of images and their dissemination, provided that they are anonymous.*

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Principal investigator:

Name: Ricardo Melo

Phone: +351 220 430 300

E-mail: ricardo.melo@fraunhofer.pt