**PROJECT CO-FUNDED BY EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS (ERDF)**

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**Title**: ‘The geopolitical discourses of the Iberian Peninsula during the Salazar and Franco dictatorships: projects and realities of the Iberian alliance and its international projection’ (Los discursos geopolíticos de la Península Ibérica durante las dictaduras de Salazar y Franco: proyectos y realidades de la alianza peninsular y su proyección internacional).

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**Summary:**

The project focuses on analysing the respective geopolitical imaginaries of the Salazar and Franco dictatorships in the Iberian Peninsula. The aim is to analyse how the dictatorships believed that such Iberia should behave both internally, that is, in terms of the relationship between its two national states, and externally, that is, what its geopolitical and geostrategic role should be, taking into account the political and ideological articulation constructed by the two authoritarian projects with very similar signs of identity. These discourses and practical responses were not simply ideological resources, but rather their real application, that is, the political action to which they gave rise, represented a real structural break in the historical relations between the two countries, as they actually provided a lasting solution to the main structural problems that had been affecting these relations since the beginning of modern times.

The project does not only focus on what can be called the geopolitical imagination projects of two peripheral dictatorships with no real elements of international power, but also on the way in which these imagined geopolitical spaces were able to put an end to the historical Iberian dispute almost in its entirety and guide both countries towards a common and shared external projection. Because those geopolitical discourses imagined an Iberian space of alliance, extensible to an Ibero-American community that would never have been possible to build without first ending the dispute that was at its root. Hence, Iberian geopolitics is radically inseparable from the more studied Ibero-American geopolitics.

The project also proposes an approach to the geopolitical discourses of the Iberian Peninsula carried out by the respective oppositions to the dictatorships, for without them, we would not have a complete picture of the Spanish and Portuguese geopolitical imagination of the second half of the 20th century. The visions of the Spanish-Portuguese intellectual and political exiles also reproduced the conflicts inherent in the Iberian dispute, which demonstrates its deep roots in the identity definitions of each of the two Spanish and Portuguese national projects. They also imagined a democratic Iberia that could provide a new federal response to the territorial organisation of the Peninsula and cooperate in the construction of a multinational Ibero-American space.

In short, the subject matter defined in this project will help to improve the understanding of fundamental elements of the construction of national identities, initially, and their transformation during the authoritarian regimes of Salazar and Franco, as well as the discourses on the external projection of the Iberian world, an initial and novel aspect, the fruit of this new relational climate opened up by the dictatorships and which finally came to fruition after their disappearance.