

The OTC, Organização dos Trabalhadores Científicos (in English, Organization of Scientific Workers), is a non-profit organization that addresses all those directly or indirectly involved in scientific research activities. Founded between 1974 and 1979 (the year of its legal recognition), it emerged as a result of a broad movement of scientific workers who felt the need for greater appreciation of their profession and their social role, with the aim of defending and stimulating, as far as of its possibilities, scientific activity in Portugal, to collaborate in the elaboration of a national scientific policy, and to fight for the correct application of Science to the service of the Portuguese people, and at the world level, to the service of Peace, progress, and cooperation among nations.

We are neither a union association nor a scientific society. The OTC distinguishes from the latter because it does not assume itself as an association for the defense of the labour rights of its members, although it does not ignore them and try to intervene in specific problems of the conditions under which the activity of scientific workers is carried out. It also distinguishes from a scientific society because its interests are broad, extending to all areas of knowledge, giving particular emphasis to the global issues facing the planet, whose future depends on the capacity of man to promote sustainable development.

The OTC seeks to keep a deep sense of social responsibility awareness of scientists and other scientific workers, following the example of great figures of the past as Albert Einstein or Joseph Rotblat.

Since the beginning of its existence, the OTC has always worked in this direction, beginning in the 1980s to make a significant contribution to the establishment of a career in scientific research that did not exist until then, which still remains with the structure and main characteristics of university teaching career.

In March 1981, the OTC joined the World Federation of Scientific Workers, and has since participated regularly in the activities of the WFSW.

Today, with a number of active affiliated members that has been steadily increasing over the last few years, we hope to be able to continue the work we have always done since the OTC was created.