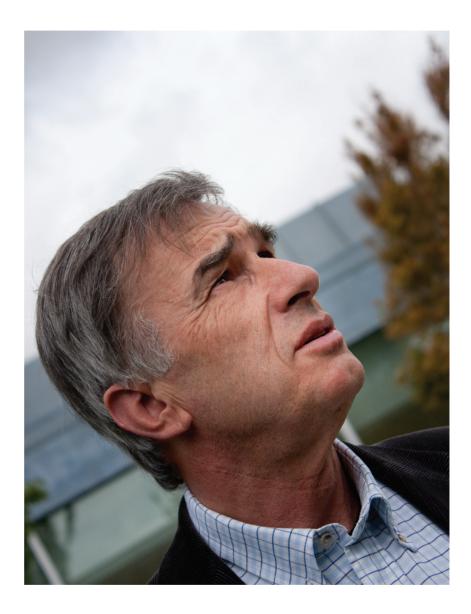
**MANUEL ANTÓNIO ASSUNÇÃO** University of Aveiro

## A WORD FROM THE RECTOR



"We are at the start of a cycle which will bring substantial changes to European funding, and over the next seven years, the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020 will be one of the most important instruments for the development of science and technology in Europe. The creation of the necessary conditions for the ample participation of UA teaching and research staff in research, innovation and demonstration projects and in research networks funded under Horizon 2020 will therefore be crucial to countering the lack of investment at national level. This policy, of promoting the UA's participation in Horizon 2020, should not, however, ignore or dissociate itself from the RIS3 - Research and Innovation Strategy for the Specialisation of the Central Region and from the main areas of interconnection. The international and regional levels should always be viewed as mutually reinforcing."