Deliverable 7.6 - Report on Dissemination Activities (Part 1)

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1. Executive summary

This deliverable outlines the InCITIES external dissemination channels as well as the partner-level and project-level dissemination activities conducted within the first year of the InCITIES implementation. This document will be updated again in M24 (September 2024) and M36 (September 2025).

Preparation of this deliverable was led and completed by the UNIZA team (Tibor Petrov, Tatiana Kováčiková, Christina Georgouli) with the involvement and revision of the other beneficiaries. The project's coordinator and consortium contributed to the preparation of the deliverable by providing required inputs as well as feedback on the structure and the content of this document.

2. History of changes

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InCITIES Deliverable D7.6 - Report on Dissemination Activities (Part 1) final version V2.0	2.0	Updated information in chapter 8 and final review	Pedro Antão (ISCTE), Christina Georgouli (UNIZA)	08.04.2024

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3. Introduction

This deliverable overviews the InCITIES external dissemination channels and describes the dissemination activities of the InCITIES conducted within the first 12 months of the project implementation. The dissemination activities are divided into two groups – project-level dissemination activities, i.e., activities conducted by the project consortium as a whole; and partner-level dissemination activities, i.e., activities carried out by individual project partners. The Report on dissemination activities will be updated in M24 (September 2024) and M36 (September 2025).

4. Objectives

The main objective of WP7 - communication, dissemination, and exploitation, is to provide stakeholders with appropriate and reliable information about the project scope, objectives, activities, and results. Focus will be given to the following items:

- Designing and implementing a dissemination and exploitation strategy using applicable methods and tools and covering relevant TGs (e.g., policymakers, researchers and professors, the scientific community, local community, SMEs, Industry, and citizen associations).
- Promoting the exploitation of project partners' research and innovation (R&I) results.
- Develop a sustainability plan enabling the sustainability of project activities, results, and collaboration beyond the project's lifetime.

5. InCITIES Dissemination Channels

This section overviews the dissemination channels of the InCITIES project set up within the first year of its implementation. Main InCITIES communication and dissemination channels include the project website, social media, and printed dissemination materials.

5.1 Project website

The InCITIES project website is hosted at https://incities.eu/. The website provides all the basic information relevant to the project and serves as one of the key dissemination channels of the InCITIES project.

The website consists of eight sections. Section "Home", i.e., the website's front page, provides a high-level overview of the InCITIES vision, mission, project partners, and most recent news articles and events. Section "About" describes the InCITIES project, its objectives, and a short description of the InCITIES methodology, pathways towards impact, and activities. Section "Advisory Board" lists the InCITIES Advisory Board members. Section "Partners" provides the profiles of all InCITIES project partners. Sections "News" and "Events" are used to disseminate information about project-related developments and scheduled events respectively. Section

"Useful Links" provides interested visitors with links to the PIONEER Alliance website and websites of other relevant projects. Finally, the "Contact" section provides links to the InCITIES partners' websites, social media, and email addresses as well as a contact form for sending an email to the project consortium.

The screenshot of the InCITIES website front page is depicted in Figure 1.

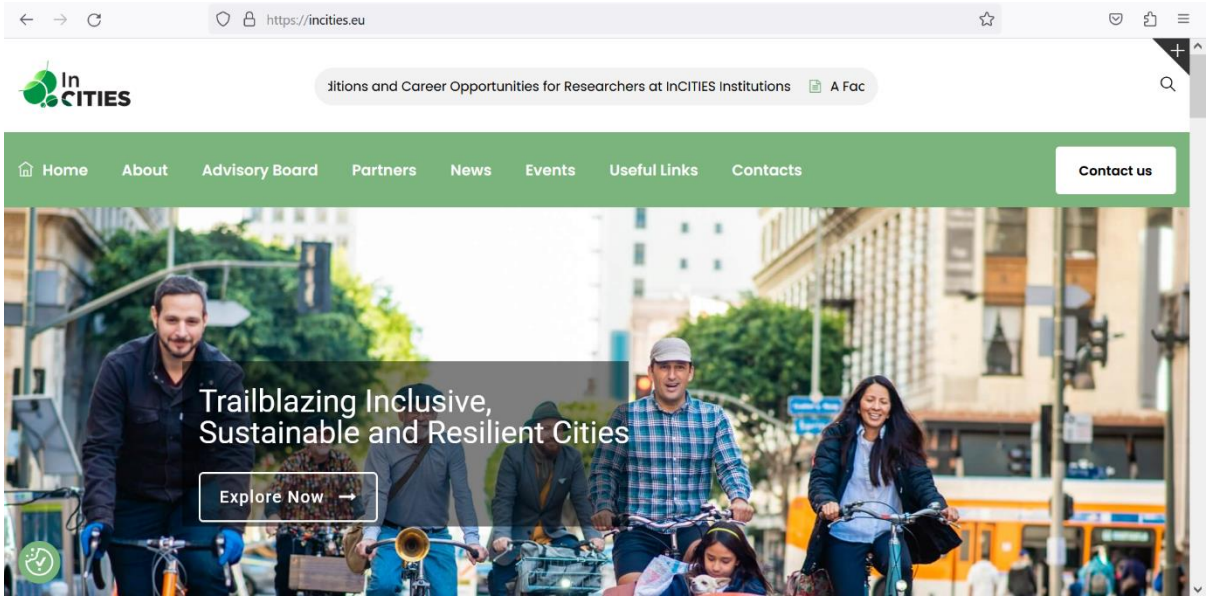

Figure 1 - InCITIES website screenshot.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 9 regarding 'project website visitors per month' has target values of 50, 150 and 300 for a short, medium, and long-term impact respectively. Table 1 below demonstrates that the target value for short term impact has been reached, already in the first 2 months during which this KPI is being monitored. InCITIES website visitors are 169 for November and 31 for December 2023, having on average 100 visitors per month, which falls between the short term and medium-term target of KPI9. It is noted that the month of December is not a representative month regarding website visitors, due to Christmas holidays. Nevertheless, KPI9 is progressing well as an average for November and December 2023.

Table 1 - Website visitors

Month	**KPI9 - users**	**Unique users**	**Average engagement time**
November 2023	169	169	15s
December 2023	31	25	1m 34s
Average per month	**100**	**97**	**54.5s**

The website is expected to show the project's contribution to 'Expected impact EI9 - Improved outreach to international scale for all actors' since it will be the means by which such outreach activities and events will be promoted, together with the project social media. The website visitors are monitored monthly, to understand, among others, the user activity over time and the country of users.

Regarding the corresponding expected outcomes of KPI9, these are focused on EO1 and EO4. The website activity, in particular the News and Upcoming Events sections, demonstrate how InCITIES partners participate in several external and partners' events, open to the surrounding ecosystems while promoting the InCITIES pathway toward a regional role model of successful transformation. The website provides details on upcoming events and workshops, including the agenda of activities, to involve InCITIES members and surrounding ecosystem partners.

5.2 Project social media

The InCITIES project social media accounts were set up as a complementary communication channel to the website, serving as a means of informal communication and learning space supporting the dissemination activities and contributing to project visibility and recognition. The InCITIES communication and dissemination team currently operates project accounts on two social media platforms – X (formerly known as Twitter) and LinkedIn.

5.2.1 InCITIES X/Twitter account

The InCITIES X/Twitter account (https://twitter.com/_InCITIES) will be used as a means of flexible, short-content communication for publishing brief announcements of project publications and facilitating discussion about InCITIES topics of interest, i.e., inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities and transformation and modernisation of higher education institutions ecosystems.

A screenshot of the InCITIES X/Twitter profile is depicted in Figure 2.

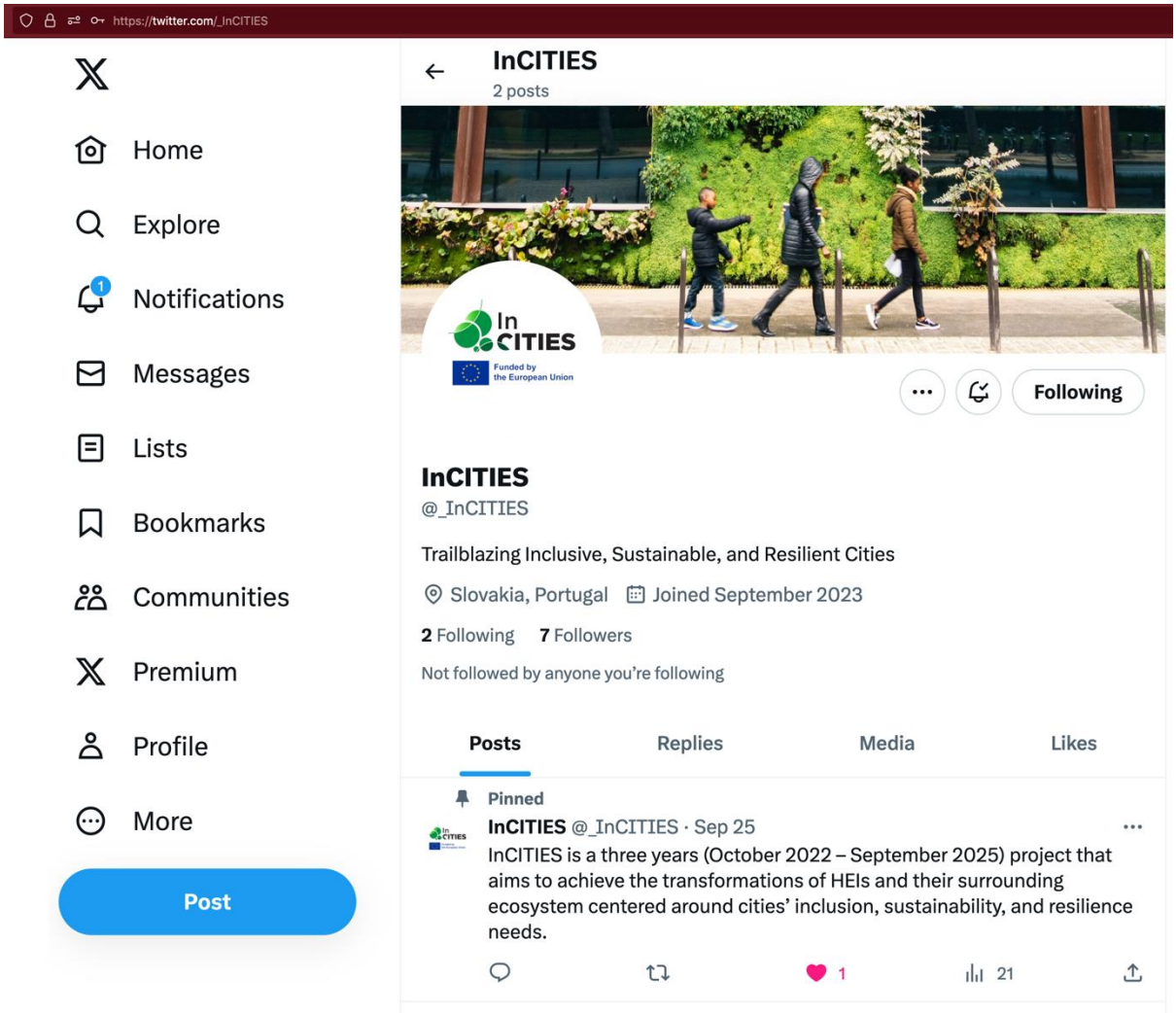

Figure 2 - InCITIES X/Twitter profile screenshot.

5.2.2 InCITIES LinkedIn account

Considering the LinkedIn's reputation as a go-to social media platform for discussing business matters and for professional communication, the InCITIES LinkedIn account (https://www.linkedin.com/company/incities-project/) will be used to disseminate project information targeted towards professional audiences, such as city professionals, HEIs staff, transport professionals, etc.

The screenshot of the InCITIES LinkedIn profile can be seen in Figure 3.

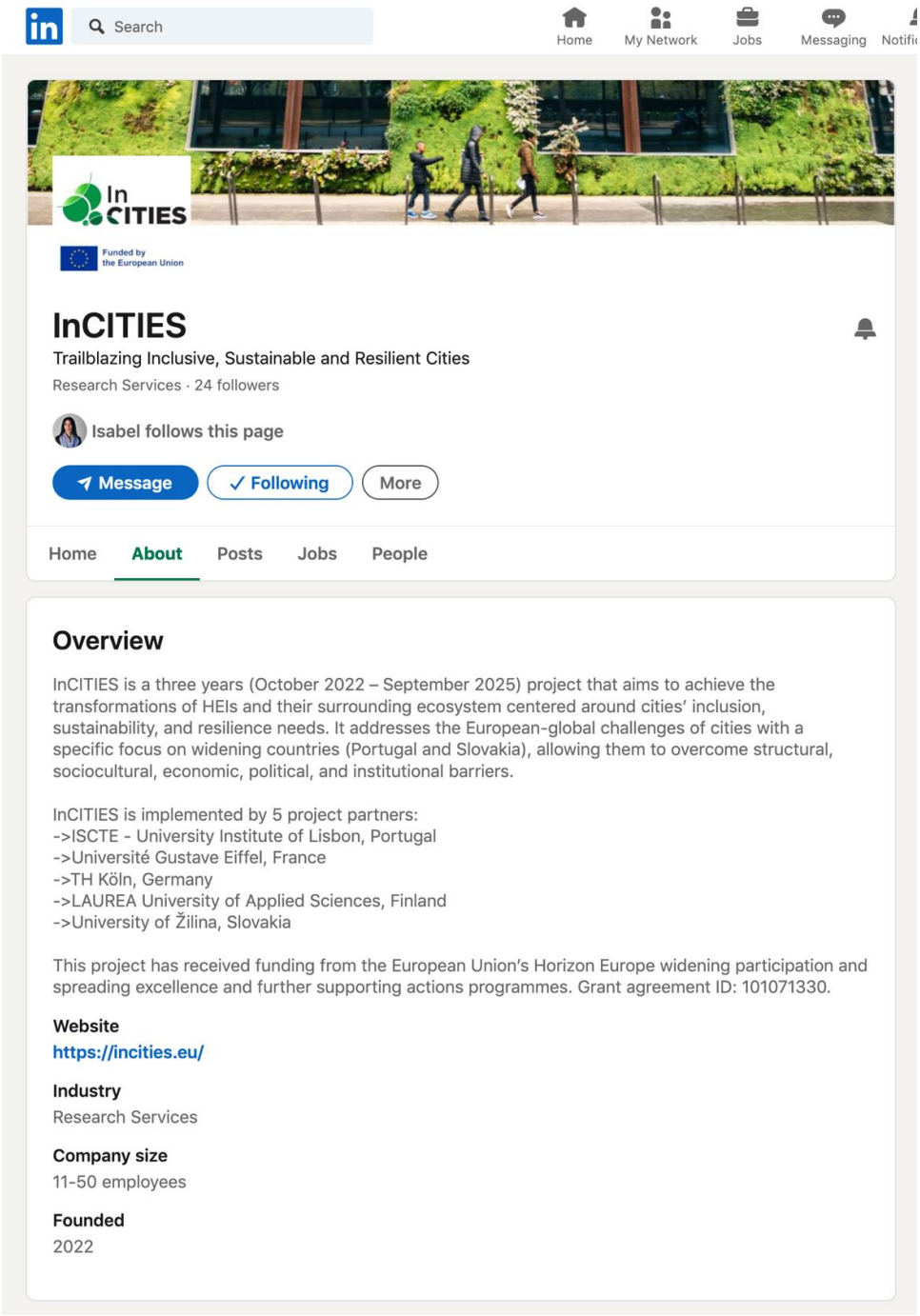

Figure 3 - InCITIES LinkedIn profile screenshot.

5.3 Printed dissemination material

InCITIES project has designed and acquired three types of printed dissemination materials – project roll-up, poster and leaflet.

5.3.1 InCITIES roll-up

InCITIES project roll-up has been designed to be used mainly at conferences, workshops, and other meetings. The roll-up design is depicted in Figure 4.

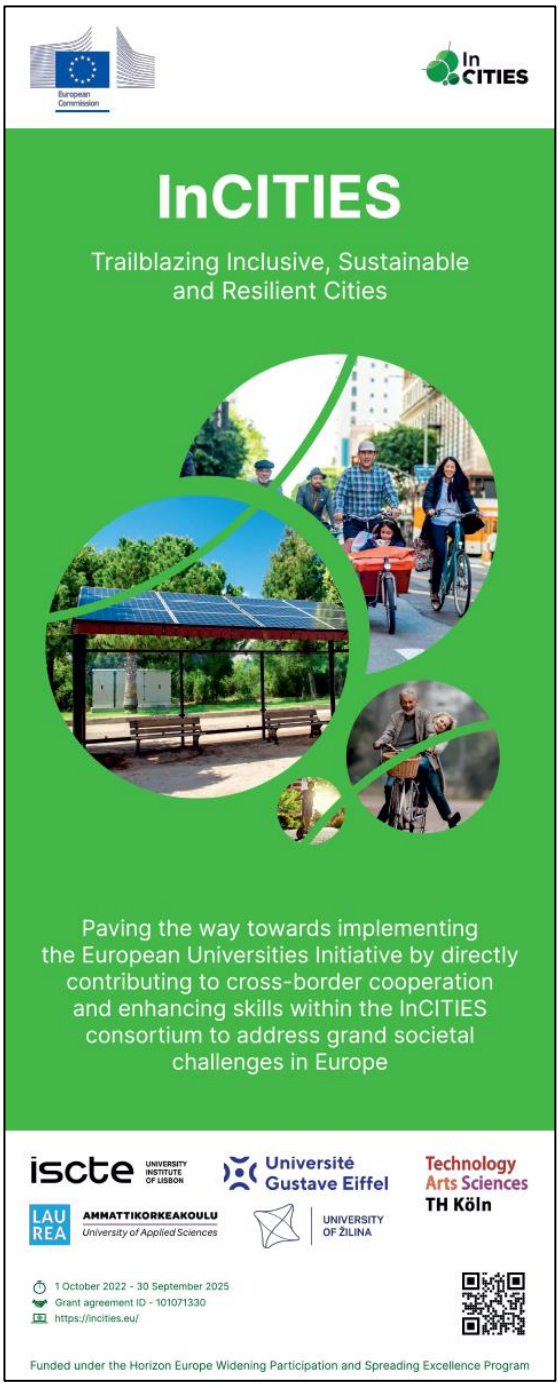

Figure 4 - InCITIES project roll-up.

5.3.2 InCITIES poster

The InCITIES project poster contains the key information about the project, including its title, logo, duration, budget, funding program, and project partners. The poster will be printed and displayed at the publicly available premises of each project partner for the whole duration of the project. The InCITIES poster design is depicted in Figure 5.

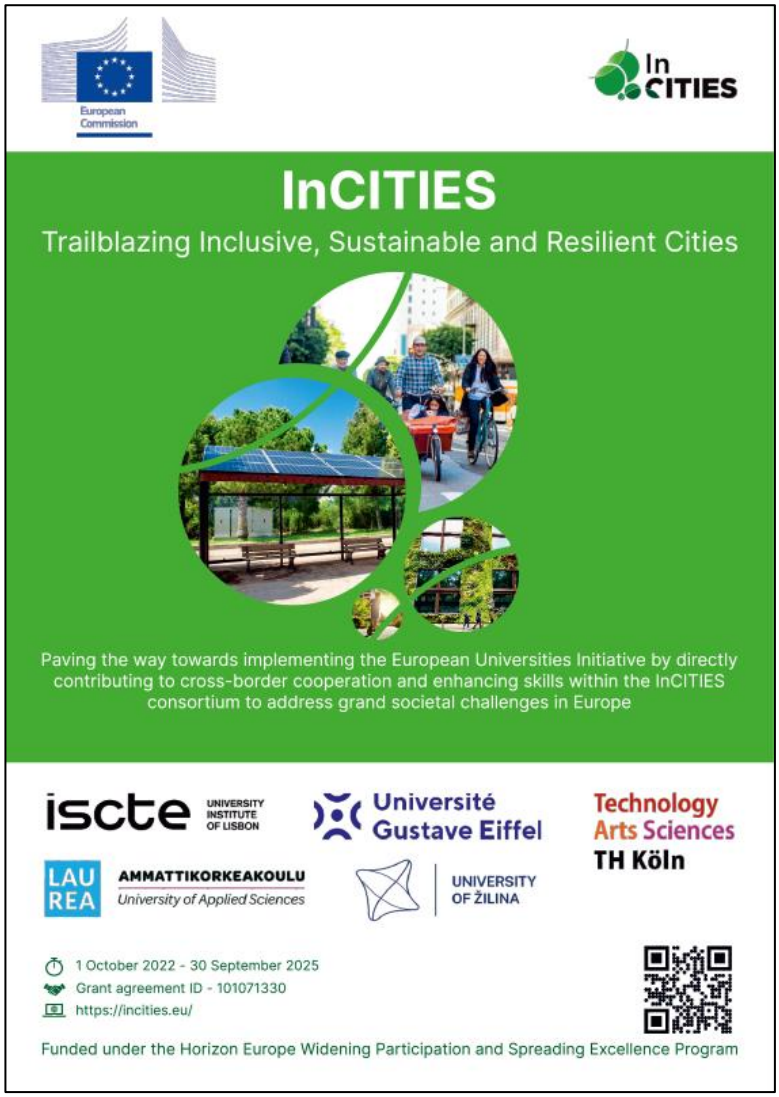

Figure 5 - InCITIES project poster.

5.3.3 InCITIES leaflet

The InCITIES project leaflet provides more information about the InCITIES scope, the vision, methodology, and the consortium and gives an outlook on the project's expected results. The design of the InCITIES project leaflet is depicted in Figure 6.

Figure 6 - InCITIES project leaflet.

6. Project-level Dissemination Activities

In this section, InCITIES dissemination activities which were organized and conducted by the project consortium as a whole are overviewed.

6.1 InCITIES Kick-off Meeting

The project InCITIES kick-off meeting took place online on the 7th October 2022, and the representatives of the project's partners attended the meeting (see Figure 7). At the beginning of the meeting, Maria das Dores Guerreiro, Vice-Rector for Internationalization of ISCTE, welcomed all attendees, highlighted the importance of the project InCITIES, and presented the project main goal and vision. Furthermore, she proposed the first meeting (online) between the InCITIES Advisory Board members and the InCITIES Governing Board to take place on 29-30 June 2023, which all partners accepted.

Figure 7 - Screenshot from the InCITIES Kick-off Meeting.

The next presenter was Catarina Ferreira da Silva (ISCTE), who summarized the main activities the consortium has done since the InCITIES proposal approval. She provided some information regarding five management board meetings that took place online before the official start date of the project, during which the consortium discussed the Grant Agreement, the Consortium Agreement, the data collection, and the Advisory Board member appointment process.

The next presentation was provided by Alina-Maria Bercea, a European Commission Project Officer from the European Research Executive Agency. She presented the implementation and reporting rules, including the continuous online portal reporting tool, the reporting steps, the financial and personal costs, an amendment procedure, a mandatory open science, and a data management plan, while emphasizing the importance of strictly following the Grant Agreement.

The meeting was followed by an overview of the objectives and activities of the project within all seven WPs, presented by Catarina Ferreira da Silva (ISCTE). The WP leaders briefly talked about the proposed activities of the respective WPs and highlighted tasks and deliverables for the first six months of the project implementation. The WP leaders and contributors planned kick-off and progress meetings for each WP to discuss the implementation of those tasks and deliverables in depth.

At the end of the meeting, the consortium considered possible options for organizing the next InCITIES physical consortium meeting and decided to meet on 17-18 November 2022 at ISCTE

in Lisbon. In this regard, Catarina Ferreira da Silva (ISCTE) presented the preparation of the meeting logistics and the preliminary agenda activities of this meeting, which involve the progress on the WP ongoing tasks, meeting with professors and researchers, meeting with the ISCTE International Relations Office staff and visiting the ISCTE premises. This meeting is also set as the Advisory Board members' nomination deadline.

6.2 Invited Session at TRA 2022 conference

On November 16, 2022, an Invited Session entitled "Educational Infrastructure and Academic Methods on Transport and Mobility for Cities of Tomorrow" was held as a part of the Transport Research Arena 2022 conference in Lisbon, Portugal. The session was organized by the partners of the PIONEER Alliance, of which all InCITIES universities are members, to discuss the role of higher education institutions in promoting the skills and competencies needed for a multidisciplinary dialogue with policy-makers and the industry. The session was moderated by Mr. Thierry Goger, Secretary General of FEHRL (Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories). The panellists of the session were representatives from all InCITIES partnering institutions, i.e., ISCTE, University Gustave Eiffel, TH Köln, UNIZA, and LAUREA. The panellists shared their views on post-carbon educational programmes, and on the importance of more connected training systems in Europe to better support cities' transformation policies and mobility issues. They also discussed how metropolitan regions and municipalities will benefit from the knowledge co-produced with universities.
Part of the session has been dedicated to discussing the role of the Horizon Europe Widening Programme in addressing the transport and mobility challenges of the cities of tomorrow through increasing research and education performance and relevance at higher education institutions. Here, InCITIES project has been presented as a success story and an important tool to support the addressing of those challenges.

6.3 Invited session at the Science and Industry Meet-Up 2022

The coordinator presented the project InCITIES at the 1st Science and Industry Meet-Up[1] 2022 at ISCTE, which took place from 28 to 30 April 2022 (see a selection of the program in Figure 8 and photo in Figure 9). The 1st Science and Industry Meet-up is an annual scientific meeting promoted by Entrepreneur Network and co-organised by AUDAX the ISCTE's entrepreneurship branch and ITMA (Information and Technology Management Association). The purpose of the meeting is to disseminate content on smart cities that presents solutions, ideas and trends for the development of our cities, such as 1) Address urbanisation and the digital revolution as a key factor in trends and perspectives on smart cities, 2) Boosting research into creative smart cities: from strategy to implementation at international level, 3) To set an international benchmark in the study of new perspectives on the digital revolution, promoting links between academia, the business world and government, and 4) Promote closer ties, exchange experiences and establish strategic alliances between academia and the international business community. The Meet-Up had 6 major moments for sharing knowledge

[1] https://www.iscte-iul.pt/assets/files/2022/04/22/1650622599418_programa_creative_smart_cities.pdf

and experiences: Creative Challenges, Creative Market, Workshops, Book Club, Science Meet-Up and Smart Cities Showroom.

Evento Rede do Empresário:
1st Science and Industry Meet-Up 2022

creative smart cities

29 ABRIL
TARDE AUDAX/ISCTE

14h00
SCIENCE MEETUP

Apresentação da revista "Business and Science Network":
Teresa Cascais _ CEO da Rede do Empresário
Maria José Sousa _ Pró-Reitora @ ISCTE

Apresentação de artigos científicos:
"SUSTENTABILIDADE NAS SMART CITIES"
Luís Roberto _ Head of BSN Sustentabilidade e Responsabilidade Corporativa @ Rede do Empresário

"INCITIES – TRAILBLAZING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITIES (HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS"
Catarina Ferreira da Silva _ Investigadora @ ISCTE

"SMART CITIES ENTREPRENEURSHIP: FOUR CASE STUDIES OF BUSINESS MODELS IN PORTUGAL"
Fátima Lampreia Carvalho _ Investigadora @ UAlg
Maria Helena Almeida _ Investigadora @ UAlg

"CONTRIBUIÇÕES DA PARTICIPAÇÃO PARA O COMBATE À EXCLUSÃO NA ADMINISTRAÇÃO LOCAL: O CASO DO ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO DE LISBOA"
Adalberto Barreto _ Investigador @ ISCTE

"CRIA DA FAVELA: UMA TECNOLOGIA SOCIAL PARA GESTÃO DE BRANDING POR EMPREENDEDORES PERIFÉRICOS"
André Guedes _ Professsor @ Universidade Federal Fulminense (Brasil)

Chair:
Leonor Almeida _ CEO @ Cavalo de Tróia

Encerramento:
Álvaro Rocha (Honorary Chair) _ Professor @ Universidade de Lisboa e Presidente @ ITMA (Information Technologies Management Association) e Chair @ IEEE SMC Portugal Section Society Chapter

15h00
WORKSHOP "COMO OBTER RESULTADOS ATRAVÉS DE ESTRATÉGIAS DE MARKETING DIGITAL?"
Marco Gouveia _ Google Regional Trainer @ Google

WORKSHOP "A EFICIÊNCIA COMO FONTE DE FINANCIAMENTO DAS SMART CITIES"
Duarte Torres _ Diretor de Infraestruturas @ Prezero Portugal S.A.

WORKSHOP "A SELEÇÃO DE CLIENTES E A BOA COBRANÇA"
José Fernandes _ Sócio Gerente @ Nostragallus e Agente Exclusivo CESCE Seguros de Crédito

WORKSHOP "HOW TO PITCH WITH IMPACT"
Tomás Archer de Carvalho _ Chief Innovation Officer @ imatch

WORKSHOP "REDE MOBI.E: NA VANGUARDA DA MOBILIDADE ELÉTRICA"
Helena Marques Simão _ Responsável de Comunicação @ MOBI.E
Rebeca Ribeiro Silva _ Assessora Jurídica @ MOBI.E

WORKSHOP "SUSTENTABILIDADE: QUEM DECIDE?"
Mónica Ferreira Rodrigues _ Founder e CEO @ Neuraloop & Mindscratch / Conselho Consultivo @ SEDES Setúbal / Direção @ PWN Lisbon
Nélia Câmara _ Partner e Diretora Global da Equipa WAS @ Mercer e Presidente do Conselho da Faculdade @ FCT NOVA
Carla Gonçalves Pereira _ CEO @ SinAse
Sandra Martinho _ Diretora Educação & Filantropia @ Microsoft e Presidente do Conselho Geral @ IPS
Margarida Ramos Pereira _ Senior Partner @ Deloitte e Professora @ ISCTE

Chair: **Carolina Rodrigues** _ Investigadora @ Universidade do Algarve

18h00 FINAL DO DIA

20h00 JANTAR NA QUINTA DO ROSEIRAL
Com atuação do poeta e trovador Álvaro Maio

rededoempresario
rededoempresario
geral@rededoempresario.pt
rededoempresario.pt

Organização: Coorganização: Media Partners:

Figure 8 - Part of the Science and Industry Meet-Up 2022 program.

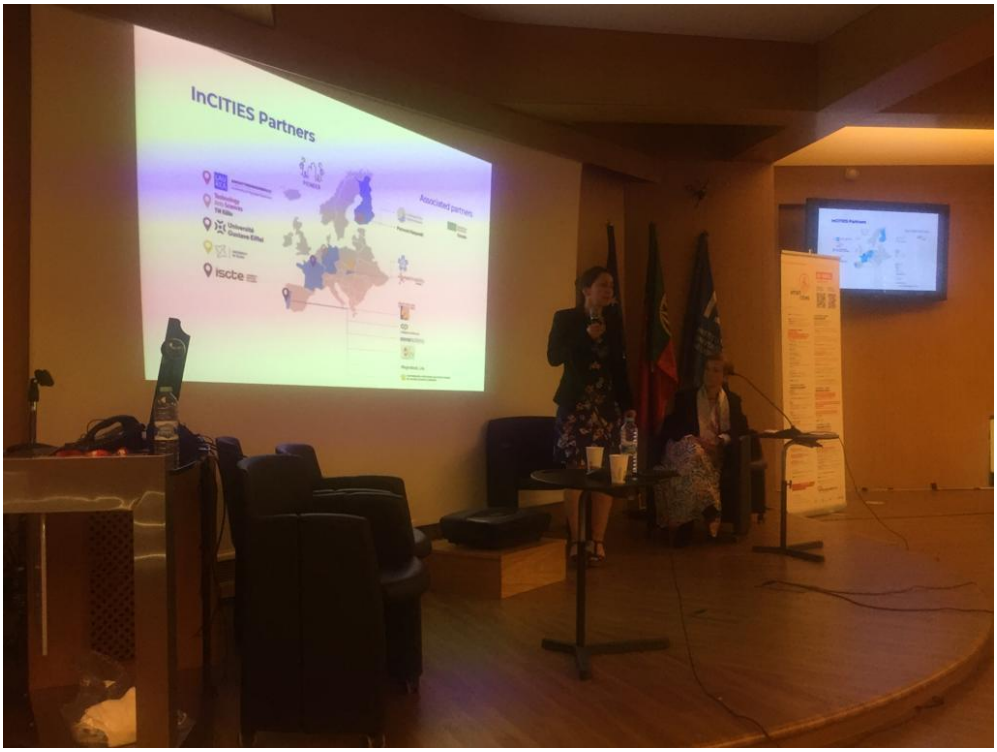

Figure 9 - Photo from Catarina Ferreira da Silva at the Science and Industry Meet-Up 2022.

6.4 InCITIES at the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT 2022

The InCITIES coordinator presented the project InCITIES at the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT the 12th October of 2022 (see Figure 10), in Lisbon[2]. The Portuguese Industrial Foundation organises the Portugal Smart Cities Summit every year, and the 2022 edition took place from 11 to 13 October at the Lisbon International Fair (FIL). The Portugal Smart Cities Summit is a benchmark event, with a broad representation of companies from different geographies, which promotes synergies between the territory, industry and academia, with the aim of improving citizens' quality of life. The Portugal Smart Cities Summit intends to increase inclusiveness of cities, promoting their strengths and good practices. Municipalities can also find the most advanced technological solutions for the sustainable development of their cities. The attendees of this event are local authorities, public and private organisations, companies and start-ups from the mobility, energy, IoT, environment and sustainability, water, waste, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, Big Data, higher and secondary education clusters, as well as representatives from the academic and scientific community.

[2] https://www.visitlisboa.com/pt-pt/eventos/portugal-smart-cities-summit

Figure 10 - InCITIES poster for the Portugal Smart Cities Summit 2022.

6.5 First Blended Project Meeting at ISCTE

The project coordinator organized the first blended (i.e., physical & online) project meeting on 17-18 November 2022 at ISCTE in Lisbon (see Figure 11). Representatives from partner countries participated in the meeting and contributed to the presentation and discussion of the ongoing actions, launching activities, and decisions on different InCITIES Work Packages (WPs).

Maria das Dores Guerreiro, Vice-Rector for Internationalization of ISCTE, welcomed all attendees. After her welcoming message, the project's consortium considered the progress of the project activities within all seven WPs. WP leaders made presentations regarding

implementing the project's scheduled tasks and the roles and responsibilities of each beneficiary.

Figure 11 - Photo from the first InCITIES project meeting held at ISCTE.

The first WP discussion was devoted to WP3, Talent scout, and career opportunities strategy. Mirjam Heetkamp from TH KÖLN described task 3.1, Analysis of HRS4R guidelines, strategies, and practices, and answered several questions regarding the preparation process for the analysis of the HRS4R. Also, she invited partners to attend the WP3 kick-off meeting at TH KÖLN to follow up on the HRS4R analysis and discussion of HRS4R best practices. The second presentation was about ongoing activities of WP4, Actions towards equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI). Merja Liskola (LAUREA), Karoliina Nikula (LAUREA), and Joelle Coutinho (TH KÖLN) presented the preliminary work done in task 4.1, Assessment of the EDI situation. Each partner exposed their university's processes and actions regarding EDI. The partners also discussed the subsequent step, namely, how to organize the EDI survey.

The last presentation of the first day was about WP5 – Addressing enablers and barriers to integrating the InCITIES partners. Catarina Ferreira da Silva (ISCTE) presented the goals and content of task 5.1, Strategizing education and research alliance. The partners thoroughly considered different aspects of implementing the WP5 due tasks and agreed to identify potential course units from their institutions that can integrate a potential common pool of multidisciplinary courses to be offered to all partners' students. Besides, the partners decided to prepare a life-wide learning micro-credentials joint plan. In this context, Conrad Lyaruu (LAUREA) presented the Blended Intensive Program (BIP) with the involvement of three of the consortium partners (ISCTE, TH KÖLN, and UNI-EIFFEL) in social work, sustainability, and service design.

The second day of the project meeting started by discussing WP2 activities, mainly task 2.1, Knowledge hub building. Claude Marin-Lamellet (UNI-EIFFEL), the WP2 leader, explained all seven research thematic areas (Questioning urban transitions, Nature in the city, Energy in the city, Vulnerability, Inclusion, and Health in the city, Mobility, Digital transition, Sustainable and resilient cities). As the first step, all beneficiaries have been asked to designate the researchers from their institutions in each thematic HUB. The knowledge hub-building process will be resumed by organizing online workshops, where participants will contribute to identifying gaps and synergies between the research activities developed by the project's members.

Discussions were followed by a presentation on capacity-building actions on the Learning by Developing (LbD) pedagogical model in inclusive, sustainable, and resilient (ISR) cities. In this part, Yannick Cornet (UNIZA), WP6 leader, presented the implementation process of both task 6.1, Deployment and scalability design for the LbD activities, and task 6.2, Knowledge base for ISR cities. As fulfilment of the experimental implementation of LAUREA's LbD model across InCITIES requires special arrangements among potential stakeholders of the project (e.g., academic staff, students), the WP6 team agreed to conduct regular monthly online meetings monitoring the appropriate implementation of the WP6 tasks.

Concerning WP7, Communication, dissemination, and exploitation, Shahab Khormali from UNIZA presented proposals for the InCITIES website (task 7.3) and InCITIES logotype (task 7.4). Considering different design features and the main content of the project, the partners provided constructive feedback to enhance the design of the project's website. Furthermore, representatives of the project beneficiaries contributed to choosing the project's logo.

As the last item on the meeting agenda, Catarina Ferreira da Silva (ISCTE) presented an overview of the ongoing project's coordination tasks within WP1, Project coordination, and management. The main content structure of deliverable D1.1, Management guidelines handbook, was assessed by the partners where Joelle Coutinho (TH KÖLN) and Karoliina Nikula (LAUREA) suggested the addition of a section on Ethical principles. At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to set the next Management Board meeting (online) for the 2nd week of January 2023.

6.6 InCITIES WP3 Kick-off Meeting at TH KÖLN

On November 22nd, 2022, the InCITIES WP3 kick-off meeting took place at TH KÖLN (see Figure 12), were 13 participants from the InCITIES consortium participated in the discussion in situ and virtually.

Figure 12 - Photo from the WP3 kick-off meeting held at TH KÖLN.

The meeting started with a greeting by the TH KÖLN's vice president for research and knowledge transfer and a workshop on the analysis of the principles defined in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (HRS4R). After the workshop, TH KÖLN's president welcomed the participants. Several experts from TH KÖLN working in equality, diversity, and inclusion joined the group for an informal lunch discussion. The afternoon session was devoted to sharing best practices regarding actions in the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers' context.

6.7 First project Newsletter

In September 2023, the first issue of the InCITIES project Newsletter was published, introducing the project scope, objectives, activities, and first outcomes, as can be seen in Figure 13. The Newsletter begins with a welcome from ISCTE as the Lead Partner. In the following section, the project objectives and timeline are presented. Next, InCITIES deliverables and outputs of selected work packages, i.e., WP2, WP3, and WP6 are presented. An overview of prospective project-related events, activities and dissemination channels concludes the first issue of the Newsletter (see Annex).

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to launch the first (1st) issue of InCITIES Newsletter. In this issue we would like to introduce appropriate and reliable information about the project scope, objectives, activities, and first outcomes.

CONTENTS of InCITIES Newsletter#1:

- Welcome from the Lead Partner (ISCTE, Portugal)
- Project Objectives and Timeline
- First Deliverables and Outputs of selected WPs
- Prospective Project-related Events and Activities

Figure 13 - Screenshot of the title page of the first issue of InCITIES Newsletter.

7. Partner-level Dissemination Activities

This section describes the InCITIES dissemination activities organized and conducted by individual project partners which were aimed at increasing the visibility of the InCITIES project or contributing to its objectives.

7.1 Webinar Series on Learning by Developing Pedagogical Model

In line with the objectives of the InCITIES WP6, Capacity building actions on Learning by Developing (LbD) pedagogical model in Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient (ISR) cities, LAUREA scheduled a webinar series on LbD. The webinar series consisted of two parts covering different aspects of the LbD pedagogical model. The welcome poster for the second webinar is depicted in Figure 14.

Figure 14 - The welcome poster for LAUREA's second webinar on Learning by Developing.

The first webinar took place on Thursday 2nd of February 2023, and particular focus was given to the elements of the Learning by Developing pedagogical model and its usability/benefits in regional collaboration. The schedule of the webinar is described below:

Thursday 2nd of February CET 14:00-15:30

14:00 - Opening remarks, Sanna Ketonen-Oksi, Researcher (Research Programme on Service Business and Circular Economy)
14:05 - Learning by Developing, the model, Katri Ojasalo, Vice-rector (Education)
14:15 - Learning by Developing, case LAUREA, Pauliina Nurkka, Director (LAUREA Leppävaara)
14:30 - The role of Learning by Developing in regional development, Kari Halme, Senior Lecturer (Business Administration)
15:00 - Q&A

The second webinar focused on the practices of Learning by Developing (LbD) pedagogical model in teaching, considering both lecturers' and students' perspectives. It aimed to analyse the implementation of the LbD model and featured presentations from lecturers on how to use the model effectively and students sharing their experiences. The webinar took place on March 2nd, 2023. Attendees provided valuable insights and discussions on bridging theory and practice in education. Lecturers sought guidance on integrating the LbD model, while students shared what made a difference in their learning. The event aimed to empower educators and inspire the effective implementation of the LbD pedagogical model.

7.2 Workshop on Learning by Developing in Practice

LAUREA, as InCITIES' partner, hosted a workshop on Learning by Developing in practice on the 23rd of March 2023 during LAUREA´s international week. The workshop served as a simulation of how to work with LbD and as basic training on working with regional ecosystems that LbD represents. The agenda of the workshop was as follows:

Thursday 23rd of March 12:30-16:00

12:30 - Opening of the workshop and welcoming remarks
13:00 - Implementing Learning by Doing in Practice: a simulation (role play in the form of a Learning Café and the theme will be Futures Cities)
15:00 - Feedback and discussions

7.3 LAUREA International Week 2023: "Co-creating International Learning"

The LAUREA International Week 2023 "Co-creating International Learning" was held from 20th to 24th March 2023 at the Tikkurila campus in Vantaa. The event was open to both teaching and non-teaching staff from LAUREA's partner institutions, PIONEER Alliance and InCITIES project. The program included a welcome session, keynote presentations, campus tours, workshops, and seminars on various topics such as education export, ethical competencies in nursing education, gamification, and AI, among others. In addition, PIONEER and InCITIES partners attended the LbD in Practice session, which was organized only for participants from these two partnerships.

The week concluded with workshops on Erasmus+ traineeships, teacher, and staff mobilities, and the development of internationalization, among others, followed by certificates and feedback.

7.4 Automotive Week 2023

Prof. Ing. Tatiana Kováčiková made an invited speech in the Automotive Week in Helmond, the Netherlands, on April 17, 2023: https://www.automotiveweek2023.com/high-level-opening-day/

The title of the presentation was: "**How universities can contribute to the skills required for new needs of a mobility system? Smart. Safe. Sustainable.**"

As a good practice, Tatiana Kováčiková promoted an approach taken by InCITIES as depicted in Figure 15.

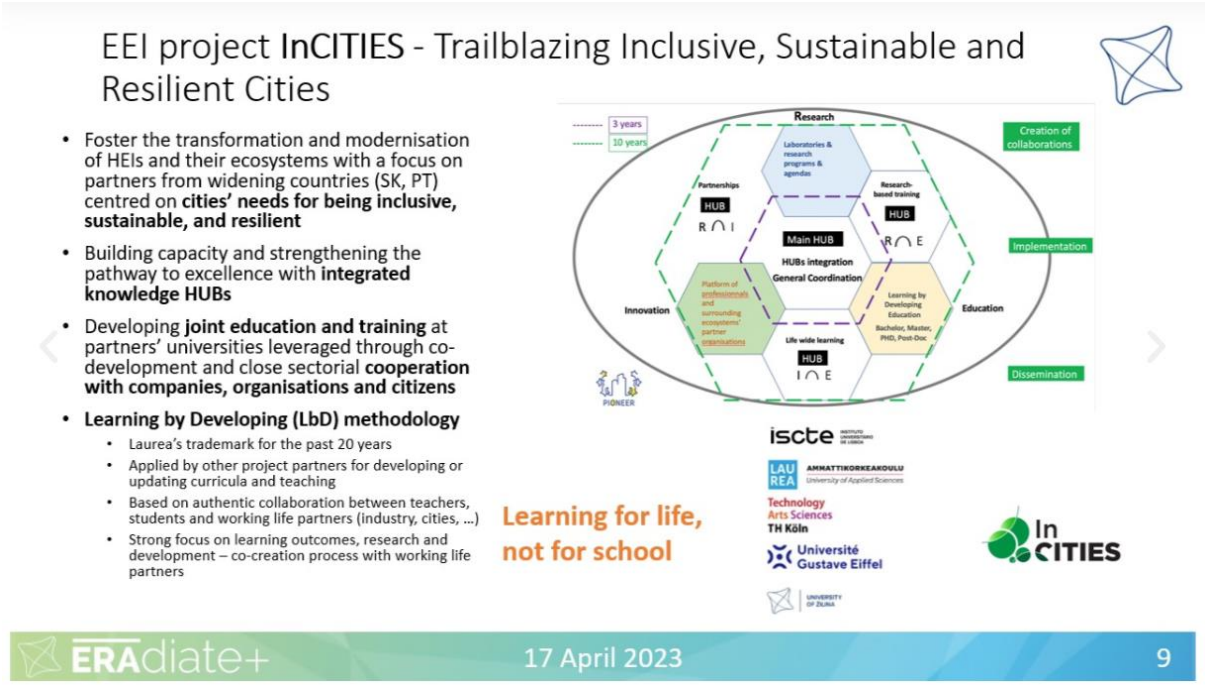

Figure 15 - Screenshot of Tatiana Kováčiková's presentation at Automotive Week 2023 introducing the InCITIES project.

7.5 Presentation at Zilina Self-governing Region

Veronika Pirošík Mešková presented the UNIZA experience with gender equality and diversity in the facilities of the Žilina self-governing region authority (ŽSK) on May 3, 2023, as can be seen in Figure 16. There the InCITIES project was introduced. The presentation was provided based on the request of the organizers, the regional authority itself.

The participation in the event was in line with objective 2 of the InCITIES project: "Build and strengthen a long-term network of participating HEIs and surrounding ecosystem actors". The event was dedicated to internal stakeholders of ŽSK. It was opened by the authority director. The audience had the chance to encounter the institutional documents related to gender equality and later on to participate in an interactive workshop. Active participation of the InCITIES consortium members in the happening was a natural step toward further cooperation between UNIZA and ŽSK started in February 2023 and focused on GEP design. It will definitely continue in the future in order to define the needs of the self-governing region (especially the ones relevant to the Žilina city) towards inclusion and sustainability.

Figure 16 - Photo from the Veronika Pirošík Mešková's presentation at Žilina self-governing region authority.

7.6 Facebook campaign "We love diversity"

On May 11 the University of Žilina launched a Facebook campaign "We love diversity". The campaign was organised on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development first declared by The United Nations General Assembly in 2002. The University encourages its employees, students, and the general public to make their own steps towards diversity and share it within the online community. The aim is to inspire each other and celebrate the uniqueness of particular cultures.

At the end of the online event, on May 22, a winner was drawn and awarded a voucher to the bookstore. The prize was donated by the university management. The Campaign was realised thanks to the Horizon Europe project InCITIES. The poster used to promote the campaign (in Slovak) is depicted in Figure 17.

Figure 17 - Design of the poster for the "We love diversity" Facebook campaign.

7.7 Training – Prevention and elimination of violence at the workplace

UNIZA tries to promote the ideas of equality, diversity, and inclusion and related topics. One of them is the zero tolerance towards any kind of violence at the workplace. On the 7th of September 2023, a training with the title „Prevention and elimination of violence at the workplace "was organized by the UNIZA InCITIES team (see Figure 18). It was aimed at the persons involved in the process of prevention and elimination of violence at UNIZA, inclusive the contact persons for this topic, author of the UNIZA respective guidelines, HR manager, and colleagues in managerial positions.

The training was focused on physical violence, sexual harassment, and different types of psychological violence. Further on, the Slovak anti-discrimination law was explained. Trainers from the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights provided concrete examples from their practice, on which they illustrated the complexity of the issue.

Training is one of the tools that should help to appropriate setting up of the prevention and elimination process at UNIZA. Additionally, it can be understood as one of the awareness raising actions.

Figure 18 - Photo from the training on prevention and elimination of violence at the workplace.

7.8 Upcoming event - InCITIES in the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT 2023

Between the 10th and 12th of October 2023, ISCTE will be present in the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT 2023 that will be held in FIL - Feira Internacional de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal[3] (see Figure 19).
This conference will bring together the Portuguese Smart Cities sector, along with some of the biggest names in the international industry and will cover a wide range of current topics, such as municipalities, businesses and citizens, energy, mobility, science, health, welfare, as well as new opportunities in the water, environment, and sustainability sectors. The event intends to provide an opportunity to take part in in-depth expert talks on the current state of the art, in a wide variety of sectors, discuss the present, the future and debate the current challenges. Moreover, there are also spaces to explore new business opportunities and connect with attendees, such as the Smart Garden or the SmartB2B.

The Summit will have the presence of nearly 100 exhibitors and speakers from a wide range of stakeholders, with a large political engagement, with the presence, for example, of the Minister of Territorial Cohesion, Minister of Economy and the Sea, Secretary of State for Regional Development, Secretary of State for Urban Mobility, Secretary of State for Digitalization and Administrative Modernization, but also from industrial stakeholders, as the CEO of Future HealthCare, the CEO of Zoom Global Smart Cities, the CEO of DataMentors, the

[3]https://portugalsmartcities.fil.pt/

Executive Director of Greenvolt Group, and academia, with the Dean of the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD), from the University of Porto (FEUP), Slovak University of Technology, among others. Slovakia is the guest country of this event.

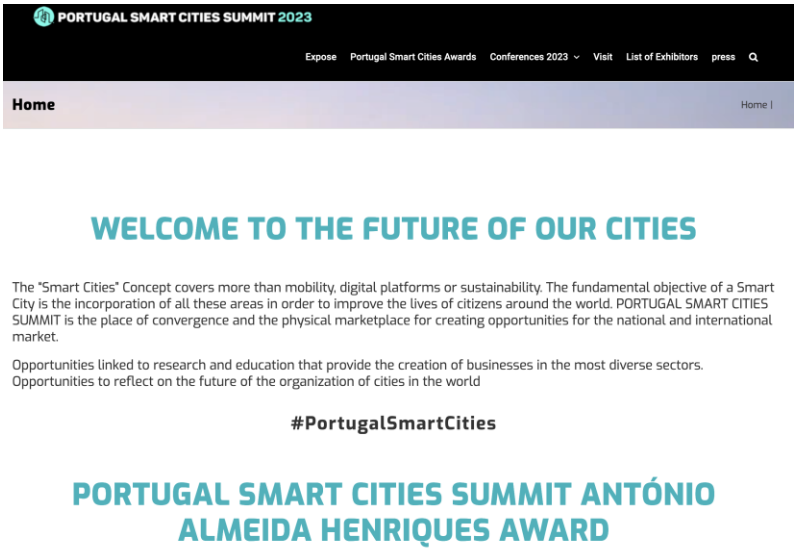

Figure 19 - Landing page of the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT 2023.

ISCTE will use this opportunity for promoting the InCITIES project activities and results in close proximity to stakeholders and this Summit offers a special chance for direct involvement, input, and collaboration, strengthening relationships and ensuring that the project accurately reflects stakeholder requirements and expectations.

8. New Joint Master Programme

A new joint Master programme for Managing the Digital Transformation in the Health Sector[4] (ManagiDiTH) is being rolled-out within the scope of the European Qualifications Framework in the digital health sector. It can be considered as an output of the InCITIES and of its objectives on what concerns the identification of common and complementary skills and interests among InCITIES partners, enabling: a) the preparation of applications for obtaining new funded projects; b) designing new joint teaching programmes addressing the topics – health (Thematic HUB 4 - Vulnerability, inclusion, and health in the city of WP2), in this particular case - focused in the InCITIES project. MANAGIDITH is coordinated by ISCTE involving two more InCITIES partner universities (LAUREA and UNI EIFFEL) together with other partners, and won the European Advanced Digital Skills competition of the Digital Europe programme launched by the European Commission, managed by HADEA. The objectives of the ManagiDITH project are the development of training references for level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework in the digital health sector, the creation of a

[4] https://managidith.eu/

multidisciplinary learning ecosystem, and the introduction of a pedagogical model that prioritizes problem-oriented learning strategies supported by digital tools.
This Joint Master programme[5] interlinks three main skills components - the *social*, the *health* and the *digital skills* - based on a transdisciplinary approach.
The Joint Master's programme *Managing the Digital Transformation in the Health Sector* is designed to manage the digitalization of health services, to promote the adoption of data science and information system resources to innovate clinical approach, services and to reorganize processes. Applications will open in early 2024.
In this context, on 21st of September 2023 the webinar entitled ***Future Skills and Digital Health***[6] was held with about 80 participants from the health, digital and higher education sectors. The impact of Artificial Intelligence in the Future of Healthcare Services was the main topic of the panel discussion. Lively debate and interesting insights were shared about how AI is transforming the way patients will access and make use of healthcare services, and what needs to be taught and learnt in post-graduate programmes to support this change.
In addition to enhancing students' educational experiences and preparing them for a globally interconnected world, the co-creation of programmes among partner universities promotes a collaborative and diverse learning environment which is one of the aims of the InCITIES project.

9. Blended Intensive Programme in Technologies for Businesses

LAUREA, University of Gustave Eiffel and Tomas Bata University in Zlín (UTB), have kicked-off the planning for the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) course called **Technologies for Businesses** for Master students. UTB is also member of the PIONEER Alliance. The course will start with an online implementation in January 2024 and the face-to-face version will happen in LAUREA in May 2024. The brief of this course will be shared soon. This BIP aims to accommodate up to 300 students.
The BIPs initiatives between university partners play a key role in integrating academia and industry, allowing for essential discussions that foster research, innovation, and the development of professionals with the competencies necessary for taking on real-world challenges and are fully aligned with the InCITIES strategy.

10. Publications

Within InCITIES project, a publication was materialised in Sensors Open access journal entitled 'Monitoring Sensors for Urban Air Quality: The Case of the Municipality of Lisbon[7]', in September 2023, by the authors Rodrigo Sarroeira, João Henriques, Ana Margarida Sousa, Catarina Ferreira da Silva, Nuno Nunes, Sérgio Moro, and Maria do Carmo Botelho.

[5] https://managidith.eu/masters-programme-details/
[6] https://managidith.eu/registration-is-now-open-for-the-managidith-projects-launch-event-online/
[7] https://www.mdpi.com/1424-8220/23/18/7702

https://zenodo.org/records/10667962. The publication acknowledges InCITIES funding in a separate section. This publication is a result of a joint collaboration between ISCTE and other Portuguese and local authorities and is related with Thematic HUB 4 - Vulnerability, inclusion, and health in the city of WP2.

11. Conclusions

The InCITIES project consortium is committed to raising awareness about the project, its mission, activities, and results through continuous communication and dissemination activities. Within the first year of the project implementation, the following activities were conducted in the context of communication and dissemination:

- The project's communication and dissemination channels for internal and external communication have been established. These include the Whaller platform for the communication within the project consortium and the project website, social media, and printed dissemination material to engage with external audience.
- The consortium conducted seven project-level dissemination activities and events to kick-start the collaboration and disseminate the early project results to the professional audiences.
- The project partners engaged in seven partner-level dissemination activities to raise awareness about the project and engage various stakeholders with backgrounds in academia, public policy-making, institutional management, and transport.

The next activities will be focused on strengthening the network of stakeholders, providing broad visibility of the project, and building an active community around the topics of inclusive, sustainable, and resistant cities and transformation and modernisation of higher education institutions ecosystems.

ANNEX – InCITIES 1st newsletter content

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to launch the first (1st) issue of InCITIES Newsletter. In this issue, we would like to introduce appropriate and reliable information about the project scope, objectives, activities, and first outcomes.

CONTENTS of InCITIES Newsletter#1:

- Welcome from the Lead Partner (ISCTE, Portugal)
- Project Objectives and Timeline
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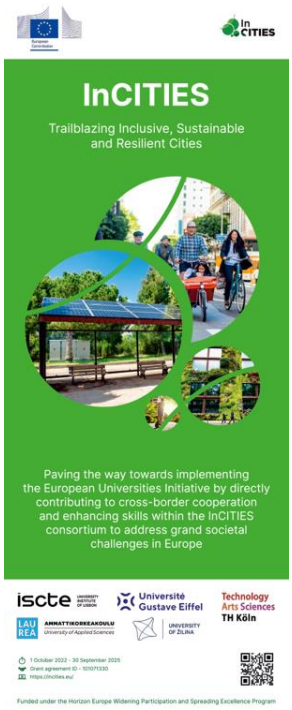
- Prospective Project-related Events and Activities

InCITIES Welcoming from the Lead Partner



Dear Newsletter Readers,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, as Coordinator of the InCITIES project *Trailblazing Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities* warmly welcomes you. We are excited about the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead as we undertake this collective journey, which began in October 2022. The InCITIES consortium aims to make significant impacts towards innovation, collaboration, and development, not only on the future of our universities but also on the cities in which we are located.

The InCITIES project offers an excellent opportunity for diverse organizations, each bringing unique knowledge, perspectives, and experiences to tackle Europe's challenges for the cities of the future. The InCITIES project aims to achieve the transformations of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their surrounding ecosystem centred around cities' needs of inclusion, sustainability, and resilience.

Throughout the project, one will find that we have set ambitious but achievable goals. Our project is built on the foundation of cooperation, inclusivity, and shared vision, and

reflects the European values and aspirations where diversity is celebrated, and solutions are forged through knowledge and collective effort.

Over the last 12 months, a lot of work has already been done to achieve the above objectives. A survey was launched in each HEI partner to collect current "hot" research topics and relevant research topics for the next 5 years for each of the 7-thematic areas chosen to structure the InCITIES project. In addition, an analysis was made of the HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers) guidelines, strategies, and practices of each of the InCITIES universities. The existing external and internal barriers to the Integration of the InCITIES partners were assessed with the participation of experts belonging to the partners' ecosystems to mitigate existing educational/research, administrative/institutional, and technological barriers.
The best practices and improvements to be implemented in terms of inclusion, as well as diversity and equality, were identified through interviews and questionnaires carried out at all the universities in the InCITIES consortium. The consortium is currently developing a plan of action to further these objectives.
ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, as the project leading partner, is highly committed to ensuring that our collective efforts reach the community and different stakeholders. We encourage each one of you to actively participate by sharing your ideas, bringing us your strengths, and collaborating with us in our mission. Stay informed about our progress, achievements, and future activities, helping us create a wider impact by sharing the goals and successes of this project with your networks and by attending our events.
Finally, ISCTE would like to thank the partners and stakeholders for their confidence in the project, knowing the challenges and work that still lies ahead.

ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

Project Objectives and Timeline

The Horizon Europe project **InCITIES – Trablazing, Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Cities**, is a three-year project (October 2022-September 2025) that aims to achieve the transformations of HEIs and their surrounding ecosystem centred around cities' inclusion, sustainability, and resilience needs. It addresses the European-global challenges of cities with a specific focus on widening countries (Portugal and Slovakia), allowing them to overcome structural, sociocultural, economic, political, and institutional barriers. InCITIES **vision** is to pave the way towards implementing the European Universities Initiative (EUI) by directly contributing to cross-border cooperation and enhancing skills within the InCITIES consortium to address grand societal challenges in Europe. The overarching **goal** of InCITIES is to foster the transformation and modernisation of Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and their ecosystems with a focus on partners from widening countries centred on cities' needs.

The InCITIES project is led by ISCTE (Portugal). The members of the project are Université Gustave Eiffel (France), TH Köln (Germany), Laurea (Finland) and UNIZA (Slovakia).

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1 - InCITIES Research-based Strategy: Map European institutional transformation strategies towards research-based sustainable universities within the InCITIES consortium.
Objective 2 - InCITIES HEI Network: Build and strengthen a long-term network of participating HEIs and surrounding ecosystem actors based on the formation of integrated knowledge HUBs to mobilise local, regional, and national investments in synergy with EU funding opportunities.
Objective 3 - InCITIES Processes: Enhance scientific and technological capacity by sharing the best available pedagogical, research, management, and administrative practices in the consortium, connecting staff and disciplines together to pilot knowledge transfers to widen HEIs and raise their excellence and impact profile.
Objective 4 - InCITIES contribution to Knowledge: Create an open and innovative education and training platform in synergy with the project R&I agenda focused on inclusive, sustainable, and resilient (ISR) cities.

METHODOLOGY

To reach the expected outcomes, InCITIES is based on the application of strongly collaborative/co-creative, iterative, and incremental approaches, methods, and tools. That is the implementation of the WPs is designed with the effective participation and commitment of both students and university staff in this process. Most importantly, *2 main innovative methodologies* – the Research Roadmap Co-creation method and the LbD Pedagogical model – are implemented. Both methods complement each other and support the objectives of the InCITIES model beyond their descriptive role.

PATHWAYS TOWARDS IMPACT

The global pathway towards impacts is based on:
A: a scientific state-of-the-art to research agenda based on topics built together;
B: processes analysis to a general coordination system;
C: education requirements to LbD implementation for all partners;
D: separate regional smart specialisations to connected ecosystems;
E: emerging Research, Education, Innovation HUBs to the InCITIES model.

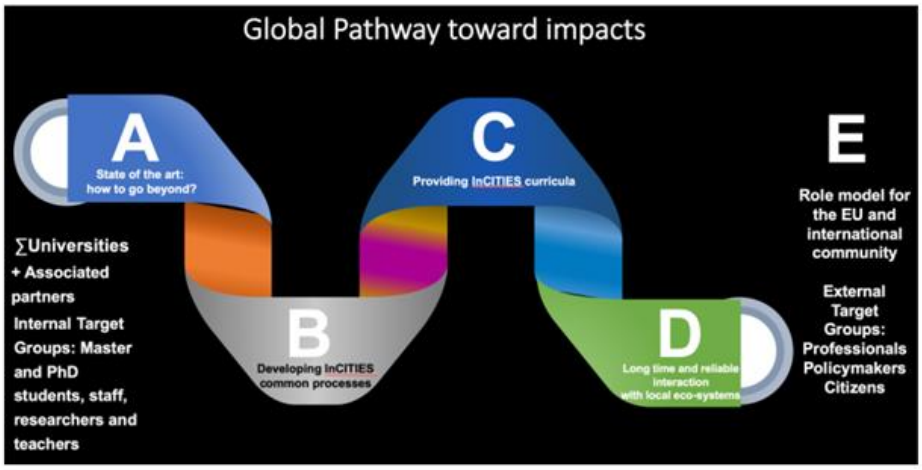


Figure 20 - InCITIES global pathway toward impacts

ACTIVITIES

The InCITIES project will be developed by a consortium of 5 partners participating in different interrelated activity structures in 7 WPs.

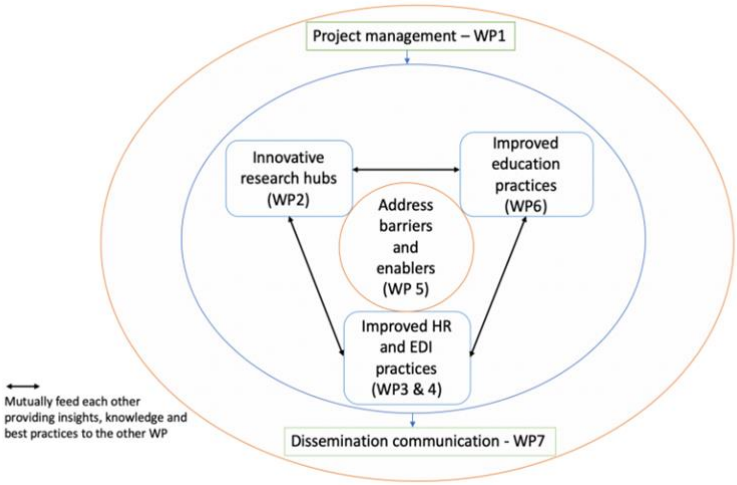


Figure 21 - InCITIES Pert chart - relations among the Work Packages

First Deliverables and Outputs of Selected Work Packages

InCITIES Thematic Hubs Foster Collaboration and Innovation (WP2)

University Gustave Eiffel, WP2 leader of the InCITIES project, organised a series of technical meetings within seven thematic hubs within the period of April – May 2023. These meetings aimed to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among project partners, where representatives from each partner country contributed to identifying gaps and synergies between the research activities developed by the

project's members. The thematic hubs focus on urban topics critical to developing inclusive, sustainable, and resilient (ISR) cities.

Thematic Hub 1 - Questioning Urban Transitions

The technical meeting of the first thematic hub was held on April 24, 2023, during which participating partners discussed urban transitions and important questions regarding the future of cities. Being engaged in meaningful discussions, project partners aimed to understand the obstacles and prospects accompanying urban development.

Thematic Hub 2 - Nature in the City

Representatives from the project partners met on May 10, 2023, to discuss the topic of natural elements. This hub focuses on the integration and protection of nature within cities, emphasizing the significance of sustainable ecosystems in urban environments.

Thematic Hub 3 - Energy in the City

The central focus of the energy thematic hub revolves around developing sustainable energy solutions specifically designed for urban environments. Collaborating project partners shared valuable insights and explored innovative approaches to effectively manage energy consumption, lower emissions, and improve overall energy efficiency within cities. The technical meeting for this hub was held on May 4, 2023.

Thematic Hub 4 - Vulnerability, Inclusion, and Health

This hub focuses on key elements to guarantee inclusivity, resilience, and well-being in cities. During the technical meeting on May 4, 2023, representatives were working on tactics to reduce vulnerabilities, foster social inclusion, and enhance public health within urban settings.

Thematic Hub 5 - Mobility

Project partners attended the first meeting of the mobility hub on April 27, 2023. The primary focus of the discussions was on sustainable transportation systems, emphasizing inventive approaches to ease traffic congestion, encourage multiple modes of transportation, and improve urban accessibility.

Thematic Hub 6 - Digital Transition

The Digital Transition thematic hub examines the integration of digital technologies and intelligent solutions in urban environments. Partners shared expertise and discussed strategies for leveraging digital innovations to enhance urban planning,

governance, and overall quality of life. The first meeting of the hub was held on May 5, 2023.

Thematic Hub 7 - Sustainable and Resilient Cities

The Technical meeting for this thematic hub occurred on May 10, 2023. The primary objective of the hub is to concentrate on sustainable and resilient cities. Representatives addressed urban resilience, climate change's effects, and sustainable development for future generations' benefit.

The technical discussions within the thematic hubs of the InCITIES project provide a valuable platform for project partners to collaborate, exchange ideas, and foster innovation in addressing cities' complex challenges.

In the incoming period, the work in WP2 will continue with a review of EU networks on urban issues (UERA, POLIS, JPI Urban Europe, DUT Partnership) activities including their topics, working groups, and transversal work. In addition, a synthesis of EU projects addressing challenges connected to the 7 thematic identified areas will be done to set the scene. Working groups will be defined and each group will start to work on the production of a co-created research roadmap.

Good Working Conditions and Career Opportunities for Researchers at InCITIES Institutions (WP3)

HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The goal of work package 3 on *Talent Scout and Career Opportunities Strategy* is to strengthen the attractiveness of researchers' careers, raise awareness of a research culture at the universities, and promote the implementation of the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers at the institution. To reach this aim, the InCITIES partners have committed to shaping a Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R).

In November 2022, the kickoff meeting for the work package took place at TH Köln. 13 participants from the InCITIES consortium came together *in situ* and virtually. The meeting started with a greeting by TH Köln's Vice President for Research and Knowledge Transfer and a workshop on the analysis of the principles defined in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (HRS4R). Then, TH Köln's President and several experts of TH Köln working in the context of equality, diversity, inclusion, and internationalization joined the group for discussions and sharing best practices in the context of TH Köln's Human Resources Strategy for Researchers.
By January 2023, the experts from research and administrative areas, engaged in the work package, drafted a gap analysis for each institution regarding the implementation of the principles of the Charter and Code in the four areas: a) Ethical and professional aspects, b) Recruitment and selection, c) Working conditions, and d) Training and development. The next steps towards creating and implementing a Human Resource Strategy for Researchers, which addresses the defined gaps, were specified by May 2023, and over the summer the first InCITIES Partners have started to get officially engaged in the HRS4R processes as foreseen by the European Commission.
During the next phase of the project, the Action Plans will be developed in cooperation with the stakeholders for those areas, which are in discrepancy with the standards needed for the implementation of a successful HRS4R.

InCITIES – On the way to LbD adoption (WP6)

In WP6 – "Capacity building Actions on Learning by Developing Pedagogical Model (LbD) in ISR Cities" – there are two parallel but interconnected objectives: First, in terms of content, it aims to build from WP2's knowledge hubs and paves the way for a common teaching curriculum between InCITIES partners around the topic of Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient (ISR) cities. Second, given the inherent context-dependent complexity of the topic, it evades the possibility of being taught as a traditional university lecture. Therefore, the Learning by Developing Pedagogical Model (LbD) is introduced as a way for students to learn firsthand how to address the ISR challenges in practice, in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders.

The LbD pedagogical approach will be applied in the form of pilot training at UNIZA and ISCTE. The first concrete step towards that goal was achieved with the co-writing and delivery of the Pedagogical Model Strategic Plan (deliverable D6.1), a document that sums up what is going to be done for the pilots, why, and how. The deliverable will be available publicly at the time of the publication of this newsletter.

In the deliverable, Chapter 1 introduces the policy background and the European goals underpinning the inCITIES project, such as the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission. Chapter 2 makes the connection between the Sustainable Development Goals (as the foundation for the ISR teaching content) and the Inner Development

Goals (as the foundation for the LbD approach). IDGs are particularly important to empower students to feel capable of acting and making an impact despite the scale of climate change and social challenges that cities are facing today. A summary of the state of progress towards the SDGs is also provided for each participating country (Slovakia, Portugal, France, Germany, and Finland). Chapter 3 unpacks in more detail the theory and application of the LbD approach. It also presents the model of six pillars of future thinking for transformation (Inayatullah, 2008) which is used when intervening in cities. Chapter 4 introduces the framework for the design and guidance of the pilot courses, which are currently due to start in the spring semester of 2024 (February-May) at UNIZA. Finally, chapter 5 introduces the online training courses that will be developed to build the foundation for the LbD approach and learnings to continue being adopted by the partners beyond the life of the InCITIES project.

The next period will be dedicated to planning the pilots in detail. It will consist of 10 online sessions followed by a one-week intensive on-site workshop. The format is inspired by the ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) model. Up to 15 Master and PhD level students from all the partners will be invited to participate. Please stand ready to share this in your respective networks. More news for the UNZA pilot is due during Fall 2023.

Figure 22 - Key principles of the LbD application in pilots

Prospective Project-related Events and Activities

- InCITIES meeting, October 13-14 (Paris)
- InCITIES in the PORTUGAL SMART CITIES SUMMIT 2023 (10 to 12 October)

- Joint Pan-European Master's programme Managing the Digital Transformation in the Health Sector (ISCTE, Laurea, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Gustave Eiffel University/ESIEE Paris), early 2024
- Course BIP in Technologies for Businesses (LAUREA, University Gustave Eiffel and Tomas Bata University in Zlín) January 2024 (online implementation), the face-to-face version in LAUREA, May 2024

For further information, please, refer to the project web site and social media.

Website: https://incities.eu/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_InCITIES

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/incities-project/