

Foreword

Dear Readers,

We are excited to announce the release of the second issue of the InCITIES Newsletter. In this edition, we aim to provide accurate and trustworthy information about the project's scope, objectives, activities, and the outcomes achieved to date.

We are happy to share with you the news that the Pioneer Alliance¹, which all InCITIES partners are members of, has been granted the European University Erasmus+ Funding. The PIONEER Alliance aims to shape the future of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities providing researchers, students and lifelong learners dedicated skills in a European environment with an emphasis on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Find out more on our website: <https://incities.eu/the-pioneer-alliance-joins-the-european-university-initiative/>

In this Newsletter, we are sharing the InCITIES activities that took place over the past year. Milestones include:

- Participation at the 2023 Portugal Smart Cities International Summit
- Scientific Cafés
- Sustainable Mobility Innovations course
- Drafting and signing of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- Progress towards „HR Excellence in Research“ applications

For further information, visit InCITIES website and social media:

Website <https://incities.eu/>



https://x.com/_InCITIES



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/incities-project/>

Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to keeping you informed!

¹ <https://pioneer-alliance.eu/>

Key activities during September 2023 – September 2024

Participation at the 2023 Portugal Smart Cities International Summit



Figure 1: InCITIES presence in the 2023 Portugal Smart Cities International Summit

InCITIES participated in the 2023 Portugal Smart Cities International Summit, which focused on the relationship between municipalities, companies, and citizens, as well as key sectors like energy, mobility, health, and sustainability. Experts analysed various challenges, while spaces like Smart Garden and SmartB2B facilitated networking and business opportunities. Professor Catarina Ferreira da Silva, InCITIES coordinator, presented the project during the conference.

The event featured political leaders, including the Ministers for Territorial Cohesion and the Economy. Slovakia capital, Bratislava, was the guest city, and the summit hosted over a hundred exhibitors and speakers.

InCITIES Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan

All 5 partner universities of the InCITIES project have now an official agreement to commit to the principles of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan. Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, University of Zilina, Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Laurea University of Applied Sciences and Université Gustave Eiffel agreed to embrace the EDI principles in all areas of the institutions, for all of its members.



Dr. Jouni Koski -
President / CEO

"Laurea is committed to being an equal, diverse, and inclusive work and study environment. Laurea strives to promote these values in the surrounding society as well. We thank our partners for sharing their experiences on this topic in the creation of this joint plan."



Prof. Ing. Jan Celko, CSC. -
Rector

"By signing the EDI plan, **UNIZA** undertakes to consider the diverse needs of our employees, to minimize disadvantage and to prevent discrimination of the under-represented groups."



Prof. Dr. Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues -
Rector

"At **ISCTE**, promoting the values of inclusion, diversity, and equality is of utmost significance. These principles form the foundation of our institutional culture and serve as a guide for our dedication to creating a setting in which each person is valued, differences are honoured, and everyone in our community has equal access to opportunities for success."



Prof. Dr. Sylvia Heuchemer -
President

"**TH Köln** embraces the principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and supports an organizational culture in which diversity is viewed as a sign of quality. The joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan (EDI plan) signed together with our international InCITIES partner strongly supports this understanding in the international context."



Prof. Dr. Gilles Roussel -
President

"**Université Gustave Eiffel** is committed to fostering a safe, open learning and working environment as well as cultivating a culture of equality. Our signing the joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan (EDI Plan) in collaboration with our international InCITIES partners is evidence of our continued commitment to these core values."

Figure 2: Quotes of InCITIES partner university rectors/presidents about the EDI plan agreement

Sustainable Mobility Innovations course

The University of Žilina (UNIZA) in collaboration with the other InCITIES project partners organized the Sustainable Mobility Innovations BIP course. The course took place between the 19th of February and the 26th of April 2024 with 9 weekly online modules and 1 week of on-site seminars. Upon completion of this course, participants walked away with:

- Practical skills and strategies applicable to real-life urban mobility challenges
- Analytical frameworks for critically thinking about mobility, inclusion, sustainability and resilience
- Tools and methods for planning and assessing urban mobility innovations
- Effective communication and teamwork skills among experts, stakeholders, and peers

- An invaluable experience and professional connections
- Working life skills with the Learning by Developing pedagogical model
- A certificate of competence from the University of Žilina, a world-leading transportation science university, equivalent to 3 ECTS.



Figure 3: Workshops and engagement sessions during the onsite week at UNIZA

InCITIES invited by the EU sister project E³UDRES² Ent-r-e-novators: Learning by Developing pedagogical model presented in the Open Science and Open Education Workshop

On June 7, 2024, the InCITIES project participated in a workshop on Open Science and Open Education, organized by the sister project E³UDRES² Ent-r-e-novators, funded by the Horizon Europe program. Pedro Antão (ISCTE) presented "Project InCITIES - Trailblazing Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities," highlighting the Learning by Developing (LbD) model and its link to InCITIES research HUBs. This hybrid event at the Polytechnic University of Setúbal, Portugal, featured key figures like Karel Luyben, president of the European Open Science Cloud Association, and fostered collaboration between InCITIES and other widening participation projects.

For more info visit <https://www.entrenovators.eu/news-events/116-e-udres-ent-r-e-novators-organizes-workshop-on-open-science-and-open-education>

Progress towards „HR Excellence in Research Applications“ of InCITIES partners

In the past year, LAUREA, Uni Eiffel, ISCTE and UNIZA made progress towards the applications for the HR Excellence in Research Award. All institutions have endorsed the Charter for Researchers in the meantime and started to form the HRS4R committees and draft the applications.

Several meetings with the InCITIES partners as well as on local level took place in each university:

Steering Committee and Working group members meetings at UNIZA



Figure 4: UNIZA Steering Committee meetings for the development of the HRS4R

In line with InCITIES WP3 goals to develop a Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R), the University of Žilina has committed to improving working conditions, professional development, and recruitment transparency. Having endorsed the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct in 2017 to achieve the HR Excellence in Research Award, the university conducted a gap analysis on 8 December 2023. The meeting resulted in a draft Action Plan to address identified shortcomings. On 10 April 2024, the Steering Committee and Working Group members, including R1–R4 researchers, reconvened to review unresolved issues, appoint additional members, and discuss the pre-final draft of the Action Plan.

HRS4R Final Colloquim at TH Köln

On March 11 and 12, 2024, the HRS4R final colloquium of the InCITIES work package "Talent Scout and Career Opportunities Strategy" took place at Cologne University of Applied Sciences with 18 participants from the consortium. The New Charter for Researchers as well as initiatives and practices in the areas of equality, diversity, inclusion and recruitment were discussed. The participants presented measures as part of their institutional HRS4R process and will finalise their HR strategies and action plans in order to submit their applications for the HR Excellence in Research Awards within 2024.



Figure 55: HRS4R final colloquium meeting in Cologne, March 2024

Scientific Cafés




InCITIES - Scientific Café

Mobility



24th of September

12h00 to 13h30 CET



Dr. Christina Georgouli (UNIZA)

"Urban Mobility Innovation Index - framework and insights"

Prof. Dr. Dana Šitányiová (UNIZA)

"ADVANCE Audit - a practical tool for improving Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) in cities and municipalities"





Prof. Dr. Florent Le Néchet (UNI EIFFEL)

"Endogenizing transport provision in Land-Use and Transport Integration (LUTI) models"

Please share this announcement with colleagues and PhD students

If you have any questions please contact:
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Figure 6: Scientific Cafe #6

Since February 2024, InCITIES has been hosting ‘Scientific Cafés,’ a series of webinars aimed at fostering collaboration among researchers from partner universities, including TH Köln, LAUREA, ISCTE, University of Žilina, and Université Gustave Eiffel. These webinars focus on critical urban issues such as sustainability, inclusion, and mobility, offering a platform for researchers to present their work, share scientific methods, and discuss innovative approaches. The sessions, open to doctoral students, researchers, and academic staff, aim to exchange ideas, promote potential

future collaborations, such as joint publications, project proposals and student co-supervision, while encouraging technical discussions and collective problem-solving to address urban challenges.

Publications

- Book chapter *International Mobility Challenges in Higher Education in the Digital Era*, by Maria do Carmo Botelho, Nuno Nunes, Catarina Ferreira da Silva, Isabel Machado Alexandre, Maria das Dores Guerreiro, and Maria José Sousa, 2023, ISBN 9781032262895, <https://www.routledge.com/Technologies-for-Sustainable-Global-Higher-Education/Sousa-de-Bem-Machado-Aparecida-Dandolini/p/book/9781032262895?fbclid=IwAR3nzKP74IINHLYrEucQZ1QfmSLHXSeEAqDPk-Q3xyJu2P4ptqfaAUHuXro#>
- Journal article *Monitoring Sensors for Urban Air Quality: The Case of the Municipality of Lisbon*, by Rodrigo Sarroeira, João Henriques, Ana M. Sousa, Catarina Ferreira da Silva, Nuno Nunes, Sérgio Moro, and Maria do Carmo Botelho. 2023. *Sensors*, no. 18: 7702. <https://doi.org/10.3390/s23187702>

Upcoming Events and Activities

ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme

As part of the InCITIES task T2.3, in October 2024 ISCTE will organise a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) with a physical component in Lisbon on the theme: Ways of Inhabiting and habitat models in 21st century cities: facing the affordable housing crisis.

<https://incities.eu/event/erasmus-blended-intensive-programme-bip/>

Developing consciousness for building Cities Futures BIP

Under the scope of the project InCITIES, ISCTE is organizing a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)/school pilot entitled Cities Futures – Interdisciplinary Challenges, with a focus on the Learning by Developing pedagogical model, that will run from the end of October 2024 to January 2025.

<https://incities.eu/event/developing-conciouness-for-building-cities-futures/>

UNIZA Training event

As part of the InCITIES task T2.3 on HUBs Multidisciplinary Training, UNIZA is planning a training event under the topic of Transition Pathways to Digitalisation. The event will take place at UNIZA premises in December 2024.