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# CICS.NOVA

## INNOVATION AS A DRIVER FOR CHANGE: TOWARDS INSTITUTIONAL CONSOLIDATION

### 2023 Action Plan







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**CICS.NOVA | Innovation as a driver for change: towards  
institutional consolidation  
2023 Action Plan**  
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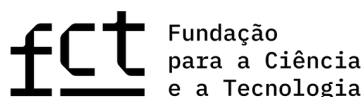


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### 2023 Action Plan



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# CICS.NOVA | Innovation as a driver for change: towards institutional consolidation

## 2023 Action Plan

The Action Plan for the year 2023, called *Innovation as a driver for change: towards institutional consolidation*, represents one step forward in the fulfillment of the strategy conceived in 2020. It proposes a scientific program to be implemented in 2023 that recognizes the relevance of the FCT evaluation process of the R&D Units 2023-2024 for the future of CICS.NOVA, including the project that will define CICS.NOVA's activities for the next five years. Based on the assessment made in the Activity Report 2021, the new scientific program identifies the three main priorities, translated into major changes.

There are three Strategic Objectives of CICS.NOVA for the year 2023:

**SO1. Implement a new internal scientific organization structure;**

**SO2. Strengthen science impact: innovation strategies, partnerships, and social impact of CICS.NOVA's research;**

**SO3. Strengthen scientific employment: retain and attract high-performing researchers;**

The fulfilment of these three strategic objectives will contribute to the institutional consolidation of CICS.NOVA and the definition of the next strategic plan, in view of the FCT evaluation process of the R&D Units 2023-2024.



## **SO1. Implement a new internal scientific organization structure**

To rethink and redefine the structure of CICS.NOVA was one of the lines of action presented in the last Action Plan 2022. 2023 marks an eight-year period after the creation of our complex structure, with six Research Groups, twenty-one research teams, two thematic lines, five observatories, and four regional poles, which has hardly represented or corresponds to the research dynamics of the centre. During last year, the board and the RG coordinators proceed to the evaluation of the research dynamics by group and by regional pole, through the coordination of the groups, in articulation with the Board. In the same line, articulation between regional poles/ scientific synergies of national scope have been analysed. Two main conclusions resulted from this evaluation:

– Poor alignment of the geographical dispersion of CICS.NOVA with the research that has been carried out, as well as difficulties concerning the complexity of everyday management, considering the articulation with and between the four regional poles, located from North to South and on the islands, with very different identities. To leverage the potential of the multipolar composition of CICS.NOVA and its territorial scope, requires implementing a new internal organization structure.

– As a dynamic system, CICS.NOVA has progressed responding to pressing challenges of contemporary societies. National and international research agendas have privileged applied research and top-down approaches, along with an increasingly more competitive research environment. CICS.NOVA must keep aligned with these changes, and its internal structure must translate the research activity of CICS.NOVA. Following CICS.NOVA's strategy conceived since 2020 and previous Action Plans, in 2022 have been identified research areas, namely from the already consolidated areas and emerging research areas not yet consolidated. The identification of these research areas was based on scientific individual outputs of all the integrated researchers (2018–2022), according to scientific criteria that are in line with European funds applications that FCT has been taking as reference.

The organizational structure to be discussed and proposed during 2023 will include a new configuration of thematic and interdisciplinary research areas, reflecting the emergence of new research topics at CICS.NOVA and the cross-fertilization that has been taking place among Research Groups and individual researchers. These research



areas meet both established research expertise at CICS.NOVA and new themes and debates. Also, they are a tool that allows open opportunities for new cutting-edge research to arise. The research areas, aligned with national and European research agendas, reflect the changes that have reinforced CICS.NOVA activity in the last years.

Indeed, it became evident that CICS.NOVA has reached a point where the scientific structure in place proves to be obsolete and inadequate to accommodate and feed the change that is needed to support a lively research environment and a level of scientific activity to establish CICS.NOVA as a research unity of reference in the Social Sciences, both at the national and the international level. It seems to be the right time to redefine and implement a new internal scientific organization structure. This brings different challenges, including an internal debate already in place since November 2022 with the holding of the CICS.NOVA Immersive Meeting. This meeting brought together the Board of CICS.NOVA, the CICS.NOVA external advisory committee (EAC), the Regional Poles Coordinators, several researchers (including PhD students) and the Coordinator of CICS.NOVA Science and Technology Management Team. Over two days, an immersive discussion was promoted, allowing a reflection on CICS.NOVA's strategic agenda, based on the performance of the centre at the midterm of the FCT funding period; and the kick-off of the next strategic plan to be presented to FCT at the end of 2023. It became increasingly clear that the structure in place could not co-exist without becoming redundant and ineffective, dispersive, rather than an aggregator of the research interests and efforts. This moment constitutes the starting point for a debate extended to the entire CICS.NOVA community that will take place throughout 2023.

We are aware that it will be an in-depth and intense debate among researchers. An intergenerational dialogue will be essential, towards a scientific reorganization of CICS.NOVA. This will be the major event that will mark the rhythm of CICS.NOVA's internal life in 2023. A year when innovation will be the driver for change and, therefore, institutional consolidation. The Directress and the Board will work closely with the Strategic Council. The Research Group Coordinators will promote discussion regularly within research groups. This participatory process will culminate in a proposal of new Governing Bodies and Scientific Organization to be discussed and voted by the Scientific Council.

## **SO2. Strengthen science impact: innovation strategies, partnerships, and social impact of CICS.NOVA's research**

Conducting scientific research with social impact is a key element of the mission of any research unity. At CICS.NOVA the activities of co-creation and knowledge transfer in articulation with decision-makers, enterprises and other civil society organizations have a very strong expression. It is critical to objectify and reinforce the visibility of the social impact we have been achieving, not only through these activities but through all the research we do. CICS.NOVA needs stronger connections between empirical research and practices of co-production of knowledge with stakeholders, conducted by strong research questions and translated into international scientific outputs.

Increasing impact at international level is a challenge for the very next future. For this purpose, it is important to build a more structured system to give visibility to the social and policy impact of CICS.NOVA's activity; CICS.NOVA outputs and activities with social impact that can be measured, must have a greater social and scientific reach. They need to be more visible and more valued, publicly, and scientifically by encouraging and supporting researchers and teams to create projects with strong innovative social impact components.

The activities of co-creation and knowledge transfer in articulation with decision-makers, enterprises and other civil society organizations have a very strong expression but is critical for CICS.NOVA to reinforce the visibility of social impact of all research. An innovation and social impact strategy should be based in two main dimensions: 1. Education for socially responsible research and with social impact; 2. Strengthening synergies between research, teaching and learning, and civil society. For this purpose, it is important to:

### **Social impact**

- ✓ Create and implement a social impact assessment methodology with indicators articulated with the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG), that should be applied to researchers' activities.
- ✓ Create a "Social Impact Seal" certifying projects that meet the above indicators.



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- ✓ Give visibility to the work carried out by CICS.NOVA teams with partnerships, and Observatories, by promoting the use of a narrative that links this work with partners, to innovation and social impact.
  - ✓ Integration of United Nation Sustainable Development Goals within and across Research Groups activities.

### **Scientific dissemination:**

- ✓ Increase the number of Indexed Publications (Scopus, WOS and other international databases with an impact factor).
- ✓ Organization of several types of meetings, open to the public and widely publicized.
- ✓ Consolidation of the Open Science policy.

### **Communication:**

- ✓ Improve CICS.NOVA's website.
- ✓ Boost the impact of CICS.NOVA's presence in social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube).
- ✓ Communication strategy to make research contributions and publications, as well as social and policy impact visible, shared and cited.
- ✓ Dissemination of areas of scientific innovation.

### **Training and education**

- ✓ Offer of Curricular Units linked to ongoing research projects with high social impact; short courses on research methodologies; programming activities with PhD Students.
- ✓ Offer specific short-term courses on methodological and analytical procedures ("Social sciences laboratories") mainly directed to PhD and master students

- ✓ Optimization and share of expertise from those researchers who have been successful in obtaining EU funded projects.
- ✓ Encourage teams of excellence to organize small meetings/courses in their areas of expertise.



## **SO3. Strengthen scientific employment: retaining and attracting high-performing researchers**

Intrinsically articulated with the previous Strategic Objective (strengthen science impact) retaining and attracting talent (high-performing researchers) is crucial to fulfil the strategy conceived since 2020, towards institutional consolidation. The achievement of this objective will create a secure environment and will build a stronger team atmosphere. CICS.NOVA has to strengthen its capacity to attract and ensure the continuity of researchers (scientific employment), with international profile, namely in the early stage of their careers (PhD and junior researchers). The strategy should be strongly anchored and promoted by the team of researchers hired from competitive programs, given their profile and their exclusive dedication to research. They have better conditions to sustain a dynamic of greater retain and attraction of talent researchers. CICS.NOVA would like also to consider the possibility of establishing a productivity model for these researchers to prioritize the level of internationalization as well as social impact of their activities.

Three main pillars stand out to define our strategy: dissemination, projects, and networks.

### **Dissemination:**

- ✓ Reinforce, support, and encourage publications with high impact (Q1, Q2 publications and books from renowned international publishers).
- ✓ Create a special financial incentive to support international publications in indexed journals.
- ✓ Support the organization of international conferences at CICS.NOVA to project the centre abroad and create events of excellence with international impact.

### **Projects:**

- ✓ Reinforce the support for applications for European funding.
- ✓ Reinforce financial incentives: seed money for promising projects with an international scope.

## Networks:

- ✓ Support for invited researchers, namely post-doctoral fellows, with a research stay program involving training activities and a set of outputs.
- ✓ Stimulate the participation on international research networks.
- ✓ Reinforce the existing networks and explore the possibilities of exchange mobility programs.
- ✓ Reinforce protocols and partnerships with international universities. This can benefit the attraction of PhD students and researchers.



## **CICS.NOVA Research Groups: Action Plans**

### **RG1: Social Inequalities and Public Action**

The following reflection is based, on one hand, on a more quantitative analysis (namely using some 2021 and 2022 production indicators) and on the other on a more qualitative analysis, namely based on the perception of the RG strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, this Action Plan for 2023 is in all aligned with the Action Plan for the year 2023 presented by CICS.NOVA Directress called Innovation as a driver for change – towards institutional consolidation.

In 2022, there was a slight increase of relevant scientific activities and production outputs namely: publication outputs; the capitation of two more PhD Students (awarded FCT scholarship grants); two visiting scholars (in 2022 had 2 visiting PhD scholars).

In a more qualitative analysis of the RG, it must be addressed that, although the existence of some important aspects of the RG1 Dynamics, its capacity to attract PhD students and the capability to capture funding through projects (FCT and others), there are several aspects in which an improvement is highly recommended. First and foremost, it's low productivity in terms of papers in indexed scientific journals and papers in indexed scientific journals (Scopus and/or WOS). Some of these aspects might be explained due to the fact that most of the RG1 integrated researchers are full-time professors. But also, a considerable number of PhD students do not demonstrate a significant capacity in terms of publication in indexed scientific journals and/or in (Scopus and/or WOS). Considering that RG1 has 36 PhD students, this is a concerning indicator, undermined also by the fact that RG1 has no scientific employment fellowships.

The RG1 leadership has to promote initiatives and concrete actions to improve scientific outputs, namely regarding the publication dynamics and to deepen the involvement of its PhD students in the centre's activities and publication outputs.

The following aspects, which remain similar to the ones identified for last year's action plan, relate to specific strategic points of improvement and the correspondent initiatives to encourage/promote them:



## **1. Increase the number of publications in indexed journals**

- Disseminate the call for papers relevant to the scientific thematic developed in RG1;
- Host a regular meeting gathering all integrated researchers to discuss current publishing opportunities;
- Host regular meetings with our PhD students to encourage publications on an open call for papers within their different areas of research;
- To organize workshops on scientific writing, and other training activities to do with publication, open to all PhD students as well as all the other researchers;
- In general, it is necessary to reinforce, support, and encourage publications with high impact (Q1, Q2 publications, and books in established international publishers).

## **2. To stimulate the involvement of the RG1 PhD students within the centre's activity**

- Establish the Open day and its follow-up as every year initiative to welcome new students (within the centre's Master and Doctoral offers) taking advantage of this moment to present and publicize the centre's research and researchers;
- To promote and organize workshops and training activities that are appealing to the development of the PhD's/Masters student's research (scientific writing; digital and software tools like NVivo, Maxqda, SPSS, Mendeley, etc);
- To establish regular presentation sessions for students to present their current stage of research and to provide them an opportunity to discuss their research with other RG1 PhD/master students as well as other RG1 integrated researchers (this was already established for 2022 but with shy participation from students);
- To promote and encourage PhD/Master student presentations at the Portuguese Sociological Association Congress (APS);
- To encourage their participation in the CICS.NOVA initiatives like the CICS.NOVA Regular Seminar, conferences, workshops, lectures, LabID talks, Be my Guest, Ciências Sociais à Conversa, etc.



- Promote the participation of RG1 Masters and PhD in short-term courses on quantitative and qualitative methodologies (“Social sciences laboratories”).

### **3. To attract new Master’s and PhD students to RG1**

- To narrow ties with FCSH departments in order to disseminate the RG1 activities to undergraduate students;
- Establish the Open day and its follow-up day as every year initiative to welcome new students (within the RG1 and the centre’s Masters and Doctoral offer) taking advantage of this moment to present and publicize the centre’s research and researchers;
- To organize a list of researchers and their current research interests to be provided to new Master and Doctoral offers in order to promote the coaptation of possible tutorships for RG1 integrated researchers;
- To work on the inclusion of PhD students in ongoing research projects (in 2021 the RG1 only had 1 integration fellowship);
- To continue to include research done at CICS.NOVA in the syllabus of Master's and PhD programs more closely linked to RG1 thematic.

### **4. Encourage national and international project applications or supervision of individual applications (FCT Doctoral Fellowships; ERS Grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships - MSCA-IF, etc.)**

- To provide information about the opening of the calls and specifications;
- Promote support and clarification sessions regarding the above mention open calls (like done in the past).

### **5. Potentiate internationalization, namely by taking advantage of some researcher’s networks in European institutions (like the Council of Europe, EIGE, and other international institutions) to promote the centre’s activities in Europe and abroad as well as the strong presence of several integrated researchers in multiple international Research networks as well as strong interpersonal connections with researchers from other countries**

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- To materialize these international networks into specific project proposals designs;
  - Take advantage of some researcher networks in national policy institutions (like Commission for gender equality, commission for exclusion and poverty, and other national institutions) to promote CICS.NOVA's activities, and scientific outputs and to establish opportunities to formalize joint Co-creation projects;
  - Take advantage of the growing number of PhD students from other countries (namely Gender studies CICS.NOVA PhD program);
  - To attract more visiting scholars;
  - Shift the focus from national publications to international publications.

## **6. Increase national and international research projects with funding**

- To promote common research proposals with national and international scope across RG1 thematic research areas;
- To host regular meetings to analyse open calls and tenders to develop research proposals (namely during the open period of the calls);
- To take advantage of the international research networks that involve RG1 researchers to establish common partnerships for research proposals (ESA-RN11; ISA-RC51, etc).
- Integration of United Nation Sustainable Development Goals within and across Research Groups' activities and research applications for funding.

## **7. To take advantage of some integrated research experience in training in specific areas that have to do with social inequalities and public policies and to help CICSNOVA create certified training offer to professionals like (police forces, NGOs, Public Administration, Municipalities, etc)**

- To organize a special meeting in order to formalize the list of integrated researchers available as well as promote the institutional formalities needed to formalize this Certified Training.

## 8. To promote an internal discussion about the scientific restructure established by CICS.NOVA board for 2023

– The Research Group Coordinator will promote discussion regularly within Rg1 in order to inform and debate the new scientific alignment in motion for 2023.



## RG2: Citizenship, Work and Technology

The research group “Citizenship, Work and Technology” (RG2) of CICS.NOVA has continued to develop relevant research in its areas of expertise, namely:

- a. “Work, Organizations and Professional Trajectories”,
- b. “Technology, Communication and Risk”,
- c. “Political Participation, Activism and Leadership”
- d. “Rights, Politics and Justice”.

From the analysis of the way the RG2 evolved since 2018, looking particularly at the productivity ratios and the impact of our research, we conclude that there was a huge progress. There was a real progress towards the internationalization of our group and our research with a substantial increase in the number of publications in Q1 and Q2 Journals. We should also mention, regarding the internationalization of our group, that presently RG2 has 5 financed projects (funded by the European commission) that are coordinated by our researchers (SMOOTH; METALWORKERS 4.0.; INVOLVE; Crowd-work: Finding new strategies to organise in Europe). We should also look at the huge effort being made in the creation of a new dynamic of knowledge dissemination, reaching different targets/audiences.

Following CICS.NOVA’s Action plan for 2023, we will base our strategy in two pillars:

### **Strengthen science impact: innovation strategies, partnerships and social impact**

CICS.NOVA will implement new strategies and procedures for scientific production and dissemination and we expect to be able to use these resources in the best way, fostering a new research agenda for RG2. Therefore, we will be particularly focused on:

1. Incentivising RG2’s researchers to apply to the new internal procedures for scientific funding;
2. Organising relevant international meetings having CICS.NOVA as organiser or co-organiser. As an example of this, we may mention the organization of the next “Combart International Conference” taking place in July 2023 at FCSH (co-organised by CICS.NOVA, ICNOVA, IHA and University of Porto) as well as the International Seminar “Youth(s) and Citizenship”, co-organised with University of Sergipe (Brazil), which started in 2022 and is supposed to continue in 2023/2024;

3. Fostering our international networks, particularly with Brazil, since there is a growing number of PhD students and Post-Doctoral researchers that are choosing CICS.NOVA as their host institution. This fact gives us the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between CICS.NOVA and a growing number of universities in Brazil;
4. Creating and maintaining high impact projects targeted particularly at non-academic audiences, based on the principle of knowledge dissemination to society, involving stake-holders and members of the civil society. As an example we could mention the CriA.On project and website ([criaon.fcsh.unl.pt](http://criaon.fcsh.unl.pt)) that has as main mission the transfer of knowledge to families and education professionals regarding youth and childhood use of digital platforms.
5. Promoting the participation of RG2 researchers in CICS.NOVA's regular activities (Ciências Sociais à Conversa; Laboratórios de Ciências Sociais; Seminário Permanente);
6. Boosting the articulation between different RG's and CICS.NOVA's poles in order to promote the joint application of projects to scientific funding;

### **Strengthen scientific employment: retaining and attracting high-performing researchers**

Albeit the positive changes occurred, we consider that, in order to keep the good dynamic developed in the recent years it is paramount to recruit new researchers to the group, namely PhD students and particularly junior researchers with a relevant track record. Therefore, we consider that this is an important goal for 2023. We will do so by:

1. Increasing the PhD candidates involvement in CICS.NOVA's scientific endeavours, by encouraging and inviting them to:
  - a. apply to FCT grants;
  - b. participate in CICSNOVA's events;
  - c. propose new scientific initiatives;
  - d. participate in ongoing projects;
  - e. publish their research in CICS.NOVA's journals;



2. Attracting new junior/early-career researchers, by:

- a. promoting the specific opportunities offered by CICSNOVA;
- b. inviting new researchers to join the applications to different national and international calls

3. Attracting invited and post-doctoral researchers, by:

- a. Developing the existing international scientific networks with several universities and research centers, promoting collaborative initiatives (publications, events, projects)





## **RG3: Cities, Environment and Regional Development**

CICS.NOVA's 2021 report shows that Research Group 3: Cities, Environment and Regional Development has been able to secure funding for individual and team research projects, either in competitive calls or through partners and networks in the civil society. However, it is very clear that we would gain from more submissions to international funding bids to secure funding and integration in international research teams. The report also demonstrates that our main academic productivity indicators have remained stable in the last years, despite the global pandemic, with a slight growth tendency of the most meaningful indicators of impact at the international level.

Our strongest research areas continue to include marine studies (conservation, economy, fishing practices, marine policy among other issues); environmental studies (including climate change, energy transition, desertification, soil erosion, agriculture); regional studies (including landscapes, local development, tourism) and urban studies (comprising food systems and waste, urban agriculture; neighboring; public spaces; nightlife; urban inequalities and justice; urban government; urban social movements, housing, tourism). Within these research areas, we have conducted research aimed at addressing both theoretical and/or epistemological questions and real-world social problems.

The work of our researchers at the edge of academic boundaries is thriving. We have been reaching out, co-creating, bridging, and bringing in participants, ideas and practices from other fields and areas of society. If we look at the potential and actual social impact of our research in terms of contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we can say that we mostly contribute to goals (7) Affordable and Clean Energy, (10) Reducing Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (13) Climate Action, (14) Life Below Water and (15) Life on Land.

Our students are a vital part of our community and despite the fact that a significant number of very interesting PhD and Masters thesis have been completed under supervision of our researchers since 2018, we must work, as a group, to better support our student researchers in their research and learning processes, beyond supervision. In 2023 we will be facing the evaluation process of research units by the Foundation for Science and Technology. This is a main challenge for CICS.NOVA and RG3, since our goal is to improve the grade obtained in the last evaluation. The result will shape the future path of CICS.NOVA.

To contribute, as group, to the consolidation of CICS.NOVA in the academic community we should aim for a sustained growth of the quality of our research, participation of our researchers in the most relevant academic debates in our areas of expertise and an adjustment of our co-creation and knowledge transfer practices. This considered, our strategy for next year continues to be based on three main goals:

### **1.Strengthen our shared identity**

Since 2020, we have shared our work and reflections in several general group meetings, smaller group meetings, Autumn Seminars, thematical seminars and PhD and Master Workshops, and also through participations in CICS.NOVA's Permanent Seminar and other initiatives of our research unit. Several group collaborations have also yielded results like co-authored pieces and project funding.

However, we continue to collectively recognize the need for increased debate and discussion, collaborative work or simple interconnectedness and sense of belonging to the group and the center. Finding common and/or complementary interests and approaches is relevant not only to promote a better and friendlier work environment, but also to stimulate collaboration and share resources to improve the quality and impact of our research.

Going into 2023, we will

- Organize regular trimestral meetings;
- Organize an annual Group Seminar;
- Organize Master and PhD Workshops;
- Organize one annual informal activity;
- Create work groups to organize our activities;
- Encourage participation in and attendance of CICS.NOVA's Permanent Seminar and other initiatives that may promote debate and interconnectedness.
- Encourage participation in the Urban Studies Knowledge Hub, a tool for further development in this area of research, that can also be useful to strengthen the connections within our group and with other researchers within CICS.NOVA.
- Invest more in in-person gatherings in the poles and at NOVA, promoting visits, while also maintaining online activities.

## 2. Improve the quality and impact of our research

Research, conducted individual or in teams, benefits from the support of a wider group. RG3 must function as a focal point for capacity building, bringing together the resources and expertise of all its members to support the collective goal of improving the quality and the academic and societal impact of the research. This includes promoting and supporting the participation of researchers in the most relevant academic debates in our areas of expertise, including publishing in outstanding journals and renowned publishers, and implementing activities that will expand our skills in different areas that are essential to navigate contemporary academia. It also involves contributing to improve all researcher's working conditions.

It is a fact that our productivity has been increasing in quantity and impact, but it is important to continue expanding. Going into 2023, we will:

- Disseminate information about specific calls and potential partners within the group and CICS.NOVA, and specifically between poles, and stimulate collaborative efforts in grant applications for team/consortium projects;
- Disseminate information about research results and academic and social impact of our activities within the group;
- Promote activities with our civil society partners and inviting them to reflect on the value of our contribution to society;
- Offer scientific support for grant applications for team/consortium projects by organising debate sessions around proposals within specific areas;
- Strategically communicate our group's expertise areas in the academic community and offer scientific support for applications for individual funding schemes with the aim of increasing our attractiveness as a host institution for full time researchers and encouraging our researcher's applications;
- Organise writing and publishing workshops as well as a "writing community" within our group;
- Promote debates and sessions for sharing practices on how to improve the societal and scientific impact of our research (within our group meetings and annual Seminar).

## 3. Expand the interface between our research and training

Training and supporting students and young researchers is one of CICS.NOVA's missions. RG3's contribution to enrich the overall student experience can be relevant. In this sense, in RG3 we will:

- Support PhD students in their applications for funding, so they can devote their time to research and conclude their thesis within the appropriate time;
- Organize specific group meetings with PhD students to exchange information, experiences and practices.
- Organize PhD and master workshops in order to critically debate work and results;
- Encourage principal investigators to include contracts for students and young researchers within their projects;
- Encourage principal investigators to invite PhD, master, and undergraduate students to participate in their projects;
- Encourage PhD, master and undergraduate students to participate in and organize activities within the group;
- Intensify the communication with coordinators and professors of the undergraduate, Master's, and PhD programs associated with CICS.NOVA to generally increase the level of involvement and participation of students in our activities.



## **RG4: Modeling and Planning Systems**

The Research Group 4 – Modelling and Planning Systems – has in Geography its core discipline and the human activities that occur in the Territory as an object of study. In this context, the group has showed a relevant expertise in domains such as Urban Sustainability, Coastal Management, Urban Development, Land Use Management and Planning, Public Policy, Demography or Climate Change. This expertise is visible through the articles and book chapters published in high quality indexed journals, and the participation in research projects either funded by scientific institutions or developed in collaboration with the civil society. The group's social impact can be assessed through our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, namely to Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being; Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy; Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 13 – Climate Action, and Goal 15 – Life on Land.

The group's strategy is structured around six axes: scientific projects, interdisciplinarity, publications, networks and internationalization, communication, and training and education. Below is a dynamization proposal according to each axe.

### **Improve the participation in Scientific Projects**

Annually, the group has demonstrated a strong participation in the FCT national Call R&D Projects in All Scientific Domains, either as principal proponent, or as participating theme. The submission of proposals to international calls also occurs, but has not been successful. To increase the chances of approval, the objective is to continue to submit proposals, as a proposing institution in national calls and as a partner institution in international scientific contests. For the 2023 FCT call, the application to Exploratory research projects (PeX) shall also be explored since these have a greater chance of approval than the regular Scientific research and technological development (IC&DT) projects.

Besides FCT calls, other scientific funding opportunities, such as the ones promoted by La Caixa Foundation or Fundo Ambiental, shall be promoted within the group and participation will be encouraged. We shall also continue to look for other sources of funding, outside the scientific community, as we already do with the local, regional, and national governmental institutions. In fact, RG4 has shown the ability to obtain financing through other means, namely from public institutions and through community service provision contracts.



## **Promote Interdisciplinarity**

Interdisciplinarity is very present in RG4, since the team includes besides geographers, also engineers, architects, anthropologist, or biologists, among others. This identity is embedded in our scientific outreaches, where three financed projects stand out: Phoenix project, TRIAD project and Carrying Capacity and Roazes Observation. In all these projects, the geographic method coops with different disciplines like urbanism, economy, biology, epidemiology, among others. As a result, the aim is to continue with this line of work and maintain the collaboration with researchers from different disciplines and research units. Nevertheless, these partnerships should be extended to colleges from other research groups of CICSNOVA. RG4 already has some successful collaborations with the Education Research Group 6 that shall be taken to the next level by submitting joint proposal in scientific calls. Another group that we have a high affinity is with the Urban Studies Research Group 3, and we should also strengthen this relation, namely with the divulgation of thematic seminars of interest for both groups. We also have some interests in common with the Health Research Group 6, that already allowed the development of a joint academic proposal.

## **Increase the scientific excellency through high quality publications**

While the group has 14 members and only 3 in full-time, we still have a good scientific production in the previous years, namely in Q1 and Q2 journals. The objective for 2023 will be to increase the number of articles published in relevant indexed journals in Geography. In this topic, two challenges are identified, that need consideration to coop with the Open Science policy. On the one hand, RG4 must face the recent policy of publishers such as Elsevier or Taylor and Francis, which are starting to demand payment of APCs for open access publications. This new approach increases even more the effort of publishing, and the group must find alternatives of publication in other publishing groups or found other forms of financing. On the other hand, and since the group is characterized by a large participation in national and Iberian congresses of Geography, here the main objective will be to try to convert these proceedings into articles in national or international journals. In 2022 this strategy has already been implemented successfully and shall be reinforced.

The public and free availability of scientific articles should be encouraged to comply with the Open Access directives. To facilitate this task, a list of publications/publishers in Geography that meet this requirement will be made available to all group members. Also, the divulgation and update of the agreements



established between academic editors and the b-on to support authors that wish to publish in open access platforms, shall continue.

### **Strength the Scientific Networks and Internationalization**

RG4 members have a good publication rate in international journals and in book chapters. Part of this success is due to the group's strong participation in several international networks, mainly with Brazil, Spain, and France, from which several publications have already resulted. The aim is to maintain the existing institutional links and partnerships and look for new partners that open up new lines of research. Another good indicator of internationalization is the attraction of foreign students to our MSc and PhD studies, namely from Brazil and Africa. The reception of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers shall continue in 2023, and their activities shall be disseminated to CICS.NOVA community through Seminars or Workshops.

### **Improve Communication for Science and Society**

The group's scientific dissemination is organized in three axes. For internal communication, we have the MaPS Talks, that occur regularly through the year. In these talks, general information about the group activities and publications is presented and a master or a doctoral student is invited to present his/her thesis. Another dissemination action is the group's participation in the Permanent Research Seminar, where ongoing relevant projects are presented to the CICS.NOVA community. Lastly, we regularly organize Open Lectures, Workshops and Seminars for the public to promote research findings. We intend to continue with these dissemination activities, namely with regular group meetings as a way of disseminating and discussing research activities of interest to researchers.

RG4 has two ongoing national collaborative projects financed by the regional Government and the civil society. These partnerships should continue in the next year. Furthermore, and in order to publicize the projects' social impact, the dissemination and communication of projects' outputs and activities shall be aligned with the ONU Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG).

### **Bring Training closer to Education**

Our bachelor and master students frequently participate in research projects through scholarships or internships. These generally occur in summer and imply field trips to collect data and then use that data to produce spatial indicators. The aim is to

continue with these collaborations, involving students from different grades, in our research activities in 2023.

The majority of our researchers teach in two Doctoral Studies and in four Master courses (Geography Department). However, the rate of PhD conclusions is low. Nevertheless, presently we have two doctoral fellowships in the group, and we expect that their work allows increasing this indicator. Furthermore, the doctoral students will be encouraged to attempt to FCT national call for the attribution of fellowships, with the support of our researchers and the CICS.NOVA Science and Technology Management Team. Also, the students' participation in the MaPS Talks, the Permanent Research Seminar, the Social Sciences Talks, the LabID Talks and in the Be My Guest initiative, shall continue to be encouraged. These sessions are a place for the presentation of students or visitors' work proposals, thus allowing scientific monitoring during their training. Lastly, all students will be encouraged to participate in CICS.NOVA short courses, training sessions and workshops, developed to attempt these younger researchers needs.



## **RG5: Health, Population and Wellbeing**

Research Group 5 – Health, Population and Wellbeing shows a very good and increasing publication track record between 2018 and 2021, especially in Scopus and/or WoS-indexed journals (albeit the current prevalence is not in Q1 and Q2). This significant record is also reflected by other scientific outputs in terms of disseminating the results of the high-quality research it produces, such as participation in international scientific events and collaborative research networks. This is even more noteworthy since the group has very few full-time researchers (one CEEC-Ind and two doctoral scholarship holders). We must always keep in mind that it is essential to meet the most valued indicators, both by the scientific community and by funding bodies.

During this 4-year period, this research group was successful in securing national funding for team projects, although all three R&D projects have ended in 2022. However, the RG5 did not succeed in ensuring individual grants (including doctoral fellowships) or EU-funded projects (none at the moment). The group also presents low levels of knowledge transfer and co-creation partnerships with civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, although there was a recent shift with a new collaborative project submission. Furthermore, currently, RG5 presents an unsatisfying capacity to attract PhD candidates, showing the lowest number among the six RGs (only four out of 140 in 2021).

In view of the foregoing, a summary of the three major strategic goals for 2023 of RG5 is set out below, complemented by a brief description of some implementation actions to attain positive and impactful scientific outcomes.

### **1. Scientific Excellence and Dissemination through Internationalization**

#### **Increase the number of publications in Q1 and Q2 journals and make them a prevalent publication goal**

- Disseminating international calls from high-impact journals in the RG5's thematic areas and lines of research.
- Dynamizing meetings for discussion and sharing of information on prestigious journals in the RG's scope to be selected and targeted for article submission.
- Stimulating the creation of joint writing partnerships with foreign colleagues within the scope of the research networks already established or to be created, in order to foster scientific output indicators by co-authorships.

- Encouraging compliance with the open access policy, as it is one of the FCT requirements.

### **Boost research projects funded under national and international programmes**

#### **a) Foster the submission of applications, with CICS.NOVA as a proponent or host institution, both to Individual Projects and R&D Projects calls (FCT, La Caixa Foundation Social Research, Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos Calls, AXA research, and others)**

- Alerting researchers to the opening and period of calls; organizing sessions to boost the sharing of experiences and advice between members who have had funded projects and those who intend to submit new proposals; stimulating researchers' participation in training sessions promoted by CICS.NOVA.

- Encouraging the establishment of collaborative partnerships for projects proposal submission with other research groups (also involving different regional poles) working on related themes, in order to strengthen the teams' scientific potential and promote both multipolarity and interdisciplinarity, which are two of the core features of CICS.NOVA' identity and culture.

#### **b) Promote the submission of project applications or supervision of individual applications (e.g. ERC Grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, etc.) to European calls, within the scope of the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe**

- Sharing information about specific calls and work programmes launched in the group's thematic areas and lines of research (e.g. Cluster Health of Horizon Europa).
- Attracting foreign postdoctoral fellows by encouraging RG5 members interested in being contacted by potential MSCA-IP candidates to apply for the CICS.NOVA supervisors' database.

### **Foster the level of internationalization of RG5**

- Encouraging the participation of the group's members in international scientific meetings and research networks (e.g. ESA, ISA, among others).

– Reinforcing the policy of welcoming visiting foreign researchers/teachers, as they translate into increased opportunities for the establishment of academic partnerships.

## **2. Scientific, Social and Policy Impact of RG5's Research**

### **Align the RG5 research with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

– Alerting researchers to the importance of integrating the SDGs in their research activities and outputs.

### **Enhance the RG5's contribution to Knowledge Co-creation and Transfer, and to the Knowledge4Policy Projects strategy**

– Stimulating the connection of the research group with decision-makers, enterprises and other civil society organizations, and encouraging the establishment of institutional partnerships within the scope of collaborative projects.

– Mobilizing researchers, their skills, and resources to create knowledge and scientific evidence to inform and support policymaking or the development of intervention actions and provision of services to the community, to respond to new societal challenges and specific needs of the institutions/stakeholders. Nevertheless, emphasis will always be put on their translation into academic outputs, namely scientific publications.

– Publicizing the academic work of the RG5 to stakeholders and civil society through scientific dissemination initiatives aimed at non-specialized audiences.

### **Increase internal communication and dissemination of RG5 ongoing research**

– In addition to the dissemination of initiatives through the usual communication channels of CICS.NOVA, drawing the group members' attention to those that meet their themes of interest and research through a more personalized communication.

– Encouraging the participation of RG5 members (integrated members, PhD candidates and collaborators) in CICS.NOVA regular initiatives (Permanent Research Seminar, Social Sciences Talks, CICS.NOVA Annual Forum, LabID Talks, Be My Guest).



– Encouraging institutional partnerships within the scope of collaborative projects, mobilizing researchers, their skills and resources to create knowledge and scientific evidence to inform and support policymaking or the development of intervention actions and provision of services to the community, to respond to new societal challenges and specific needs of the institutions/stakeholders. Yet also emphasizing their translation into academic outputs, namely scientific publications.

– Publicizing and exposing the academic work of the RG5 to stakeholders and civil society through scientific dissemination initiatives aimed at non-specialized audiences.

#### **4. Encourage the participation of RG5 members (integrated members, PhD students and collaborators) in initiatives related to the group's lines of research and in the CICS.NOVA's own activities, to increase internal communication and public projection of their research**

– In addition to the dissemination of initiatives through the usual CICS.NOVA communication channels, drawing the group members' attention to those that meet their themes of interest and research through a more personalized communication.

– Encouraging the participation of RG5 members (integrated members, collaborators and PhD students) in the CICS.NOVA regular initiatives (CICS.NOVA Ongoing Seminar, Ciências Sociais à Conversa, CICS.NOVA Annual Forum and LabID Talks), with the purpose of promoting the dissemination and discussion of the results of the ongoing research (e.g. contacting the colleagues who had already expressed an interest in presenting their research work within the scope of the first edition of the seminar cycle).

– Stimulating the participation of RG5 members in the NOVAhealth Platform, namely in the Working Group Health Systems and Policies, to foster the contribution of the social sciences and CICS.NOVA researchers in particular to the ongoing research initiatives.

### **3. Articulation between Research and Training/Education**

#### **Increase the number of master and doctoral students affiliated to the RG5**





– Bringing the undergraduate and master’s students closer to the RG5 topics as well as theoretical, epistemological and/or methodological approaches, in order to attract future PhD candidates. For this purpose, encouraging the RG5 researchers to open curricular internships and scientific initiation grants (e.g. FCT’s “Programa Verão com Ciência”), as well as to propose free curricular units, mainly in the modality of integration in a research project, which allow welcoming students in the running projects at RG5. Thus, the importance of getting more projects funded.

– Maintaining close communication with the OpenSoc Program Coordinators in order to propose researchers from the RG5 with an adequate profile to provide tutoring of students enrolled in doctoral studies, in accordance with the interests expressed by the latter.

### **Promote the integration and follow-up of master students and PhD candidates**

– Creating a quarterly workshop where master and doctoral students will be sharing their research projects and outputs and discussing them with an expert in the field, invited for that purpose.

– Promoting scientific autonomy and capabilities of master and doctoral students by involving them in the organization of seminars on themes related to their interests and lines of research, with the participation of internationally recognized researchers (the cycle Be My Guest).

– Encouraging the participation of master and doctoral students in short-term training courses on methodological and analytical procedures, known as “Social sciences laboratories” (e.g. scientific writing, qualitative and quantitative data analysis software), as well as in other workshops (FCT doctoral grants applications, open access policy, etc.).

## RG6: Education Knowledge and Culture

RG6 is an interdisciplinary research group on Education, Knowledge and Culture, based on the knowledge area of sociology (of education with extensions in sociology and history of knowledge and science), as well as on the area of educational sciences (including pedagogy, curriculum studies and educational policy, among others).

Due to the diversity of studies, RG6 is organized in 4 teams:

Team 1: the study of the **social contexts of educational success and failure**;

Team 2: the study of the relation between **school and community** itself, within the framework of the social and political universes that involve them;

Team 3: the study of forms of appropriation of school knowledge, on the part of students, and the use of **curriculum, technologies, and training** instruments used by teachers and other educational agents;

Team 4: the study of the relative position of **higher education** (universities and polytechnics) and science in the broader space of Portuguese educational system, and also cultural, political, and economic national and international landscapes.

Thinking about a critical and reflexive performance, the **scientific production** in the 2021 Activities Report shows that the evaluation is positive in the almost indicators. Counting papers, books, reports and advanced training, the research group had a constant growth throughout the quadrennium 2018-2021, passing from 105 products to 142.

Analysing each category briefly, the number of papers indexed in Scopus, Web of Science increased in the last 4 years. Among these publications, the increase of articles in Q1 and Q2 stands out. The articles in other indexing bases and papers not indexed, but with peer review also increased.

In the book production indicator, it is notable the increase in the number of book chapters produced. Some of which have been published internationally. But only one was a book chapter indexed in Scopus. Besides this, the weaknesses of this indicator were also the inexistence of coordination of books indexed in Scopus/Web of Science and the coordination of international books (not indexed).

In the coordination and review in scientific journal the Activities Reports shows that this indicator needs investment, in the last year we had just 7 products, 6 of them in the category coordination of scientific journal issues. In this category, 5 products in the last year are from journals with others indexations (SciELO, RePEc/IDEAS; Qualis/CAPES). Again, the weakness is the inexistence of coordination in scientific journal indexed in Scopus and Web of science.

The indicator **advanced training** also requires investment, as it only had 3 new PhD theses and 24 masters in 2021.

Finally, in the last Report the Group had 16 **projects**, the majority includes knowledge transfer or innovation projects and direct adjustments. But had also 2 international projects and 1 national competitive project (individual).

Thinking about the level of the **internationalization** of the members and the production of the RG, the Group has several publications with international scope and two competitively funded international projects. Even so, given the number of integrated researchers, and the nature of the issues, the Group has the potential to grow at the level of international funding and in the construction of international networks.

About the **interdisciplinarity**, the research topics of the group have everything to benefit from the interdisciplinary nature of the Center. Even so, they are practically non-existent and are essentially specific initiatives. The activities developed by the CICS.NOVA, for example, the Permanent Research Seminar, Social Sciences Talks, the LabID initiatives, and also the social media, have made it possible for the researchers to get involved and get to know the many projects and many common points have been found.

Considering the social impact of CICS.NOVA's research, perhaps one of the dimensions in which the Group has the greatest impact, namely due to the research-action projects that characterize it, but falls short due to the lack of sharing with the scientific community and in the transformation of the knowledge that support the definition and implementation of public policies, for example, into articles, books or conferences.

Finally, the impact of the RG on the training and education indicates that there is a weak mobilization of students into the research projects. It is visible in the few research grants. The dissemination of research projects also among students could increase their participation in more projects and the candidature for funded.

Considering the global action plan of the CICS.NOVA and these dimensions in a brief diagnostic on the RG6, in the year 2023 it is intended to achieve the following objectives:

### **RG6 | SO1. Strengthening the identity and interdisciplinarity of the RG**

Action 1. Continue to improve activities that promote the sharing of knowledge, areas of interest and projects outputs, in order to stimulate the partnership between researchers of RG6 and researchers from other RGs;

Action 2. Promoting an annual conference to showcase RG6 activities and promote synergies between researchers of the different RG6 teams and between RG members.

### **RG6 | SO2. Strengthen science impact: increase, diversify and improve the scientific production of the RG and promote its dissemination**

Action 3. Disseminate and promote follow-up calls for individual and group projects in order to increase full-time researchers and promote the publication of RG project's products.

Action 4. Encouraging individual applications for doctoral grants among RG6 doctoral candidates, stimulating scientific production from an early stage.

Action 5. Encouraging and promoting RG6-led and/or CICS.NOVA-led joint thematic issues to relevant journals.

### **RG6 | SO3. Increasing the relationship between research and education**

Action 6. Increase the number of PhD grants by continuing to promote support sessions to the application to FCT individual PhD scholarships, at CICS.NOVA level and promoting sessions for monitoring candidatures.



Action 7. Increase the number of students (1st and 2nd degree) in RG6 projects, targeting and diversifying the channels for promoting the offers (open days, social networks...).

Action 8. Increase the number of PhD thesis, when possible, in RG6 pertinent projects, increasing and diversifying the channels for the publication of active projects in CICS.NOVA.

Action 9. Involve PhD and master students in relevant publications and encourage them to publish or to organize academic events on their own (with proper assistance, and without any detriment to their PhD activities and official supervision).







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