University of Library Studies and Information Technologies

EXCELL

NEWSLETTER

September, 2025   Issue number: 04

ExcellCity: Strengthening the Scientific Excellence and Innovation Capacity in the Area of Smart City through Twinning

WP1 - R&I MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION CAPACITY BUILDING

During the reporting period, ULSIT expanded its research infrastructure with installed sensors for temperature, humidity, air quality, and noise, integrated into the university's FIWARE-based educational setup. The Research and Innovation Strategy was disseminated across ULSIT, and the implementation roadmap began execution. Internal meetings were conducted every two weeks for quality management and monitoring.
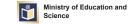

WP2 - R&I TWINNING ACTIVITIES

Several events and mobilities were implemented to strengthen collaboration with the University of Murcia and the University of Messina:

• FIWARE in ACTION Seminar (23–24 April 2025, Sofia) with leading experts from the FIWARE Foundation.

• Open Science Seminar (22 May 2025, Sofia) with 72 participants – young researchers, PhD students, and lecturers.

• Summer School "Intelligent Cloud Continuum" (2–7 June 2025, Sofia) – lectures by professors from Murcia and Messina on digital twins, IoT agents, cloud-to-edge systems, and FIWARE technologies.

• Short-term Mobility of Assoc. Prof. Juan Antonio Martínez Navarro (Murcia, July–August 2025), focusing on optimizing FIWARE architecture at ULSIT.

• Group Mobility at the University of Messina (8–15 September 2025) with 12 ULSIT participants (students, PhD candidates, and faculty).

Preparations began for the Winter School (27–31 October 2025, Sofia) on experimental-driven learning and open science.

Founded by the European Union
NextGenerationEU

Executive Agency "Programme Education"

Ministry of Education and Science

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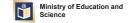
WP3 - SMALL JOINT R&I PROJECTS

The FIWARE-based smart campus infrastructure at ULSIT became fully operational. Sensors and actuators collect real-time data for research on energy efficiency and environmental monitoring.
Research outputs from the small joint projects were presented at international scientific forums:
• Futures'2025 – Artificial Intelligence in Education Symposium (Lisbon, Portugal, July 2025);
• MMCTSE 2025 – International Conference on Mathematical Methods, Computational Techniques and Simulation in Engineering (Istanbul, Turkey, August–September 2025);
• 1st IFAC Joint Conference on Computers, Cognition, and Communication (Padua, Italy, September 2025).
Six papers were accepted for publication in indexed proceedings.

WP4 - DISSEMINATION, COMMUNICATION & EXPLOITATION

Dissemination activities during the period included:
• Presentation of ExcellCity at the UNESCO Chair event (29 September 2025, Sofia), streamed live to the Global Diplomatic group.
• Publication of project updates, conference news, and results across social media (Facebook, LinkedIn) and institutional channels.
• Continuous development of promotional and visual materials for upcoming events and conferences.

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WP5 – MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Regular coordination meetings were held every two weeks, ensuring smooth communication among partners.

Internal quality reviews of deliverables were conducted.

Several EU project proposals were prepared and submitted during the reporting period:

• HORIZON CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-01 – HeritageLink;

• ERASMUS+ CBHE – ICON (Coordinator: ULSIT);

• DIGITAL-ECCC-2024 – AIDIRS: Advanced AI-Driven Incident Response System.

ULSIT was also invited to participate in two additional Horizon Europe consortia planned for autumn 2025.

🌍 INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION & REGIONAL COOPERATION

• Strengthened collaboration with FIWARE Foundation, University of Murcia, and University of Messina through twinning activities.

• Meetings with Sofia Municipality (Directorates "European Programmes", "Transport", and "Innovative Sofia") to explore integration of smart city FIWARE solutions.

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SUMMARY OF RESULTS (MARCH–SEPTEMBER 2025)

- Fully functional FIWARE infrastructure and data collection system
- 2 seminars, 1 summer school, 2 mobilities implemented
- 6 accepted scientific publications
- Strengthened partnerships with European universities and FIWARE Foundation
- Active dissemination and regional engagement