

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2025 ISSUE NUMBER: 03

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



WP1 - R&I MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Within WP1, key activities were implemented to strengthen the managerial and administrative capacity in the field of research and innovation. An effective coordination and reporting structure was established, and internal rules and procedures for project and financial management were developed. Training sessions were conducted for the ULSIT team, aimed at enhancing competencies in R&I project management, indicator monitoring, and inter-institutional communication. The work package also initiated the development of an institutional Research and Innovation Strategy for ULSIT, which will guide the project's future activities.

WP2 - R&I TWINNING ACTIVITIES

Several key events and training sessions were conducted, engaging researchers and experts in research and innovation.

- Seminar "FIWARE IN ACTION" (09-10.12.2024, ULSIT): 32 attendees. Topics: interoperability, IoT, big data (PostgreSQL, MongoDB), AI tools (OpenAI, Ollama), digital twins.
- Mobility "2025 Excellcity Winter Mobility" (13-17.01.2025, Murcia): 9 researchers. Topics: digital twins, IoT agents, ML, decentralized AI, Node-RED.
- Seminar "EXCELLCITY STRATEGY" (22.01.2025, ULSIT): 63 participants. Topics: ULSIT R&I strategy, SWOT analysis, best practices, future steps.

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WP3 - SMALL JOINT R&I PROJECTS

Three architecture models for intelligent university campus management were developed. Different FIWARE context brokers were used: Orion, Orion-LD and Stellio. Plans for the installation of sensors and actuators were developed. Technologies such as LoRa, ZigBee and Bluetooth were studied, with the aim of efficient and reliable data transmission and building a communication system. Scientific research in the field of the Internet of Things, energy efficiency, digital twins and smart cities was studied. A methodology for the training through research method was developed. A Curriculum Guide for Teacher Development was developed.

WP4 - DISSEMINATION, COMMUNICATION & EXPLOITATION

As part of the project, key events were organized with an active communication and promotional strategy. Preparation activities included coordination with partners, development of programs and materials, provision of speakers, and technical support. A targeted promotional campaign was carried out, involving the creation of visual materials, publications, and videos for social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter), distributed through partner channels and websites for:

Thanks to a well-executed digital campaign, these events reached a broad audience and engaged key stakeholders.



WP5 - MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The project Excellcity is progressing successfully with progress on the set goals. The team is working actively, and we are achieving significant results by focusing on optimization and efficiency. Feedback from our clients and partners is positive, which confirms the success of our efforts. We will continue striving for timely completion and high quality of the final result.



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THE EXCELLCITY PROJECT CONTINUES TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND VISIBILITY THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN KEY EVENTS AND STRATEGIC PROJECT PROPOSALS

International Participation

- FIWARE Global Summit – Presentation: “ExcellCity: FIWARE Implementation in a University Environment – Risks and Quality Assurance” (E. Kovacheva); participation in the Smart Energy panel (D. Chikurtev).
- SheLeadsTech Conference (ISACA Sofia Chapter) – Project presentation (E. Kovacheva).
- International Educational Forum in Varna – Topic: “Education in the Paradigm of Humanism and Artificial Intelligence” – over 450 participants from 7 countries.
- Project seminar at ULSIT – With participation of the Japanese ambassador and cultural attaché; training for researchers and doctoral students.

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SUBMITTED PROJECT PROPOSALS

- HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-ECCCH-01-01 – HeritageLink
- EDU-ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CBHE – ICON – Coordinator: ULSIT

Additional applications under:

- HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-TALENTS
- Operational Programme for Research, Innovation and Education (OPNOIR)
- DIGITAL-ECCC-2024

Regional Cooperation

Meetings with Sofia Municipality, incl. the Directorates of “European Programmes,” “Transport,” and “Innovative Sofia,” exploring collaboration under European Urban Initiatives and FIWARE-based smart city applications.

