



ISIG

ISTITUTO DI SOCIOLOGIA INTERNAZIONALE
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY
GORIZIA

MISSION REPORT





*Pioneering **social research** since 1968*

Fostering societal
changes for a **future**
of **peaceful** relations.

Promuoviamo
cambiamenti sociali
per un **futuro**
di relazioni **pacifiche**.





Message from the President

2024 represents a year of consolidation and new prospects for ISIG. For over fifty years, our Institute has been committed to research and innovation to support communities, institutions and territories in addressing the major challenges of our time. Sustainable development, inclusive governance, risk management, culture and emerging technologies are the areas in which we operate with scientific rigour and strategic vision, aware of our role in contributing to the growth and resilience of society.

This year has seen us involved in numerous international projects and collaborations with public and private bodies, strengthening our multidisciplinary and cross-border approach. Working at the intersection of research and practical application is our mission, and it is in this spirit that we continue to develop tools, models and strategies capable of generating real and measurable impact.

Our work is based on a solid network of partners, collaborators and researchers, whose daily commitment is the beating heart of the Institute. We believe in cooperation as a lever for tackling complexity and in the value of shared knowledge as a driver of change. To this end, we invest in constant dialogue with local communities, European institutions and academic circles, with the aim of creating meaningful connections and fostering innovative solutions.

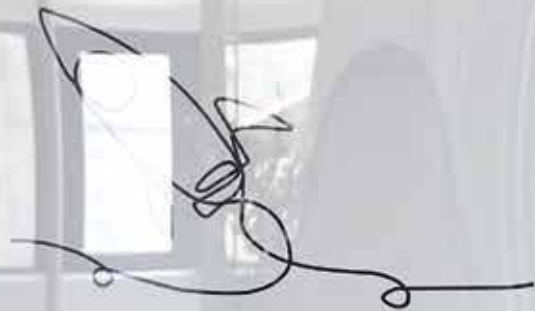
Looking to the future, our commitment is even stronger: we want to continue to be a point of reference for applied research, contributing to the development of more effective policies and more resilient territories. In this journey, the results achieved in 2024 represent not only a milestone, but also an incentive to continue with determination, responsibly addressing the challenges that lie ahead. Thank you to everyone who has made this journey possible and who will continue to walk with us towards a shared future.

Michela Cecotti
President of ISIG

The Institute

ISIG conducts research and implements projects to address global challenges, promoting knowledge and innovation.

CONFERENCE ROOM



FUTURA



AMBIRE CONOSCERE, FUTURUM FORMARE
ASPIRE KNOWLEDGE, DESIGN THE FUTURE
ASPIRA ALLA CONOSCENZA, PROGETTA IL FUTURO

The Institute

The Institute of International Sociology in Gorizia is an **independent, non-profit research centre** founded in 1968.

ISIG is involved in research, planning, consulting and training for local development, promoting **international cooperation and peaceful coexistence**.

The Institute operates thanks to the support of its members:

- Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Municipality of Gorizia
- Chamber of Commerce of Venezia Giulia
- Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Gorizia.

***Franco Demarchi** sociologist, university professor in Trento, Milan, Trieste and Gorizia. In 1968, he founded the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia.*



History of ISIG

9 November: the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia

is founded with the support of local authorities and institutions. **Founding members:** the Municipality of Gorizia, the Province, the Chamber of Commerce and the Cassa di Risparmio di Gorizia.

1968



Earthquake in Friuli.

ISIG launches studies on mass emergencies, analysing the impact of the earthquake and society's response. This experience gives rise to a research programme that will lead to the creation of the Research Area on ***"Resilience, management and reduction of disaster risk"***.

1976



ISIG consolidates its roots in Via Mazzini 13.

Thanks to regional support, ISIG acquires its historic headquarters in the heart of Gorizia, affirming its role as a centre for research and social innovation.

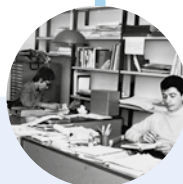
1984



1972

First International Conference on Border Regions.

ISIG organised its first international conference dedicated to ***"Problems and prospects of border regions"***, bringing together over one hundred participants from fourteen countries, including Yugoslavia.



1978

International scientific relevance.

ISIG begins publishing widely acclaimed studies and research, contributing to the international scientific debate on sociology, governance and cross-border cooperation.



1989

International workshop for the United Nations ***International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction***

On the occasion of the thematic decade promoted by the UN, ISIG is organising an international workshop bringing together experts and institutions to discuss global challenges and international cooperation.

The problems of the new Europe.

First edition of the ISIG Summer School on the theme *"The problems of the new Europe"*, destined to become a pillar of the educational offering for the following decade.

1992



Borders and public health.

ISIG organises the international conference *"Borders and Public Health"* a global event with experts from Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. In the same year, ISIG becomes a consultant for the UN ECOSOC.

2009



Horizon 2020: new design opportunities.

ISIG intensifies its international design and networking activities, significantly increasing the number of proposals submitted and the funding obtained.

2014



2004

Slovenia's entry into the European Union

ISIG conducts research entitled *"EUREGO. The project for a Europrovince"*, which examines models of cross-border governance, starting with the case study of Gorizia and Nova Gorica.



2013

ISIG and the Council of Europe. The Institute organises the International Seminar *"Tools, methods and practices for cross-border cooperation"*, expanding its partnership over time to include topics such as good democratic governance, civic participation, education and resilience.



2023

The new Principles of Good Democratic Governance.

The Council of Europe appoints ISIG as scientific advisor for the preparation of the Recommendation on Principles of Good Democratic Governance, adopted on 6 September 2023, recognising its decades of experience in supporting institutions.

Vision, mission, values

VISION

ISIG believes in a **future of peaceful relations** based on mutual recognition of differences as enriching resources.

The Institute studies and promotes transformations in societies with the aim of building peaceful and lasting coexistence, focusing on **democratic participation, human rights and the rule of law**.

MISSION

ISIG is committed to promoting and supporting **innovation** in **communities** through scientific and social research, co-design and strategic consulting. The Institute promotes sustainable development, **participatory governance** and risk management and reduction, contributing to the construction of **inclusive and resilient societies**.

ISIG fulfils its mission by designing and implementing projects, providing continuous **training and capacity building**, and offering tools and knowledge to professionals and public and private entities to address global and local challenges in a careful, effective and responsible manner.





VALUES

1. Inclusion and diversity

ISIG recognises and values cultural, social and individual differences as fundamental resources for innovation and social progress. Each person is respected and encouraged to express their uniqueness, thus contributing to a collaborative and enriching environment.

2. Integrity and impartiality

Integrity guides all ISIG activities, ensuring that they are always aligned with rigorous ethical principles. The Institute operates impartially, placing scientific impartiality and the collective good above any personal interest or economic advantage. This commitment translates into a research approach focused exclusively on the advancement of knowledge and the benefit of communities.

3. Transparency and sharing

Transparency is fundamental. ISIG is committed to ensuring that research results are accessible and freely shared with the scientific community and the public. This collaborative approach to science, in which results are evaluated solely on the basis of their scientific validity, regardless of who achieved them, promotes the fair and impartial sharing of knowledge.

4. Collaboration and co-creation

ISIG believes in collaboration. The Institute works both internally and with its partners, embracing plurality and diversity, to generate positive impacts for communities through an interdisciplinary scientific approach.

5. Constructive scepticism and innovation

ISIG takes a critical and reflective approach to existing knowledge, encouraging the continuous verification of theories and practices. This constructive scepticism is the basis for innovation, driving the Institute to explore new approaches and constantly improve the results of its research activities.

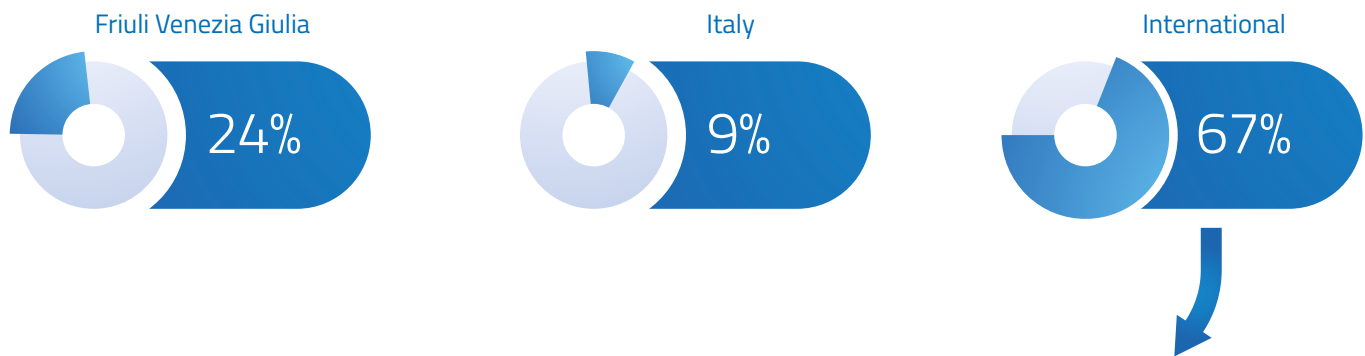
6. Curiosity and continuous learning

Intellectual curiosity is the driving force behind ISIG's work. The Institute promotes a continuous learning environment where knowledge is constantly expanded and shared. This commitment to learning ensures that ISIG dynamically realises its Vision and Mission.

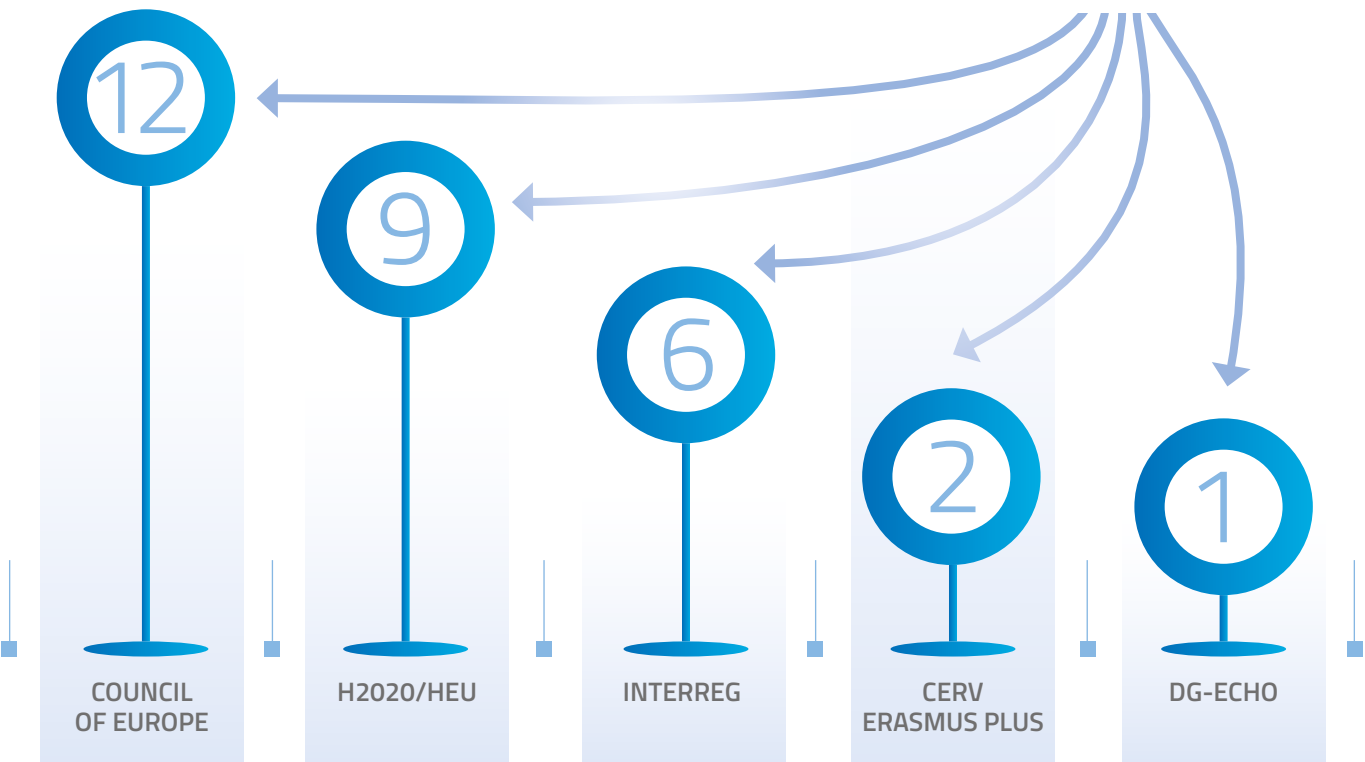
ISIG in figures

The Institute operates through various sources of funding, with a particular focus on **European projects**, collaborating with partners from different levels and sectors in a **multidisciplinary** and **integrated approach**.

REGIONAL FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES



ACTIVE EUROPEAN FUNDING

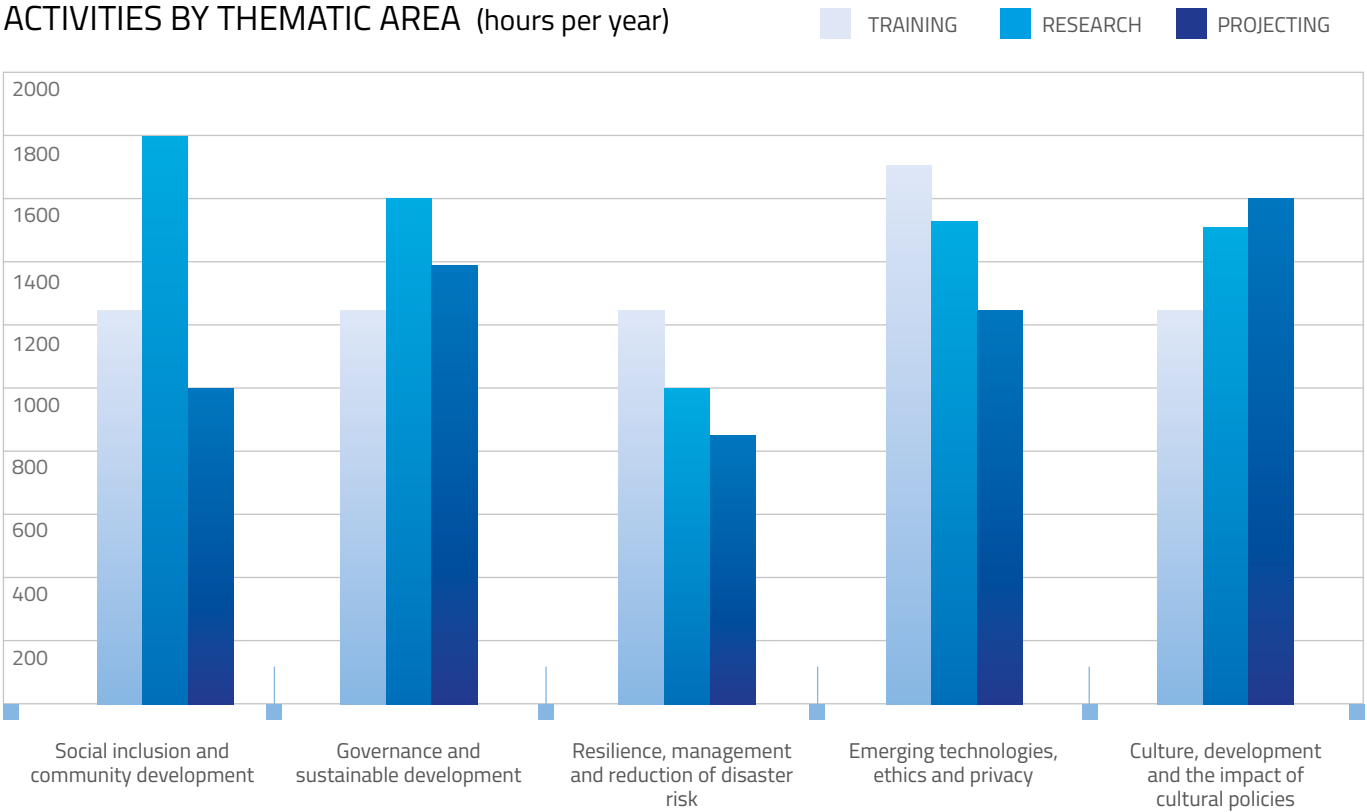




PROJECT PARTNERS BY TERRITORIAL LEVEL



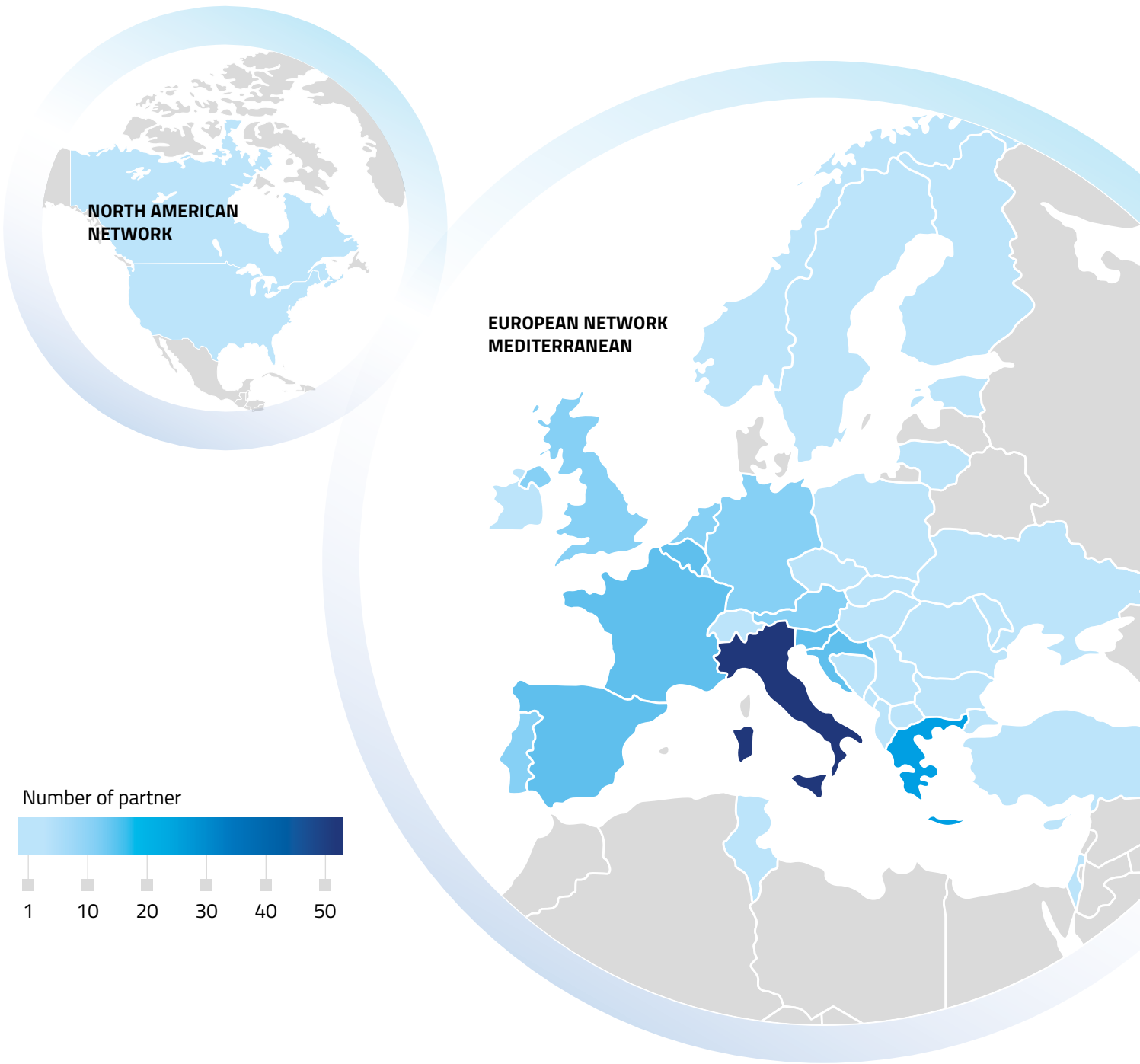
ACTIVITIES BY THEMATIC AREA (hours per year)



International Network

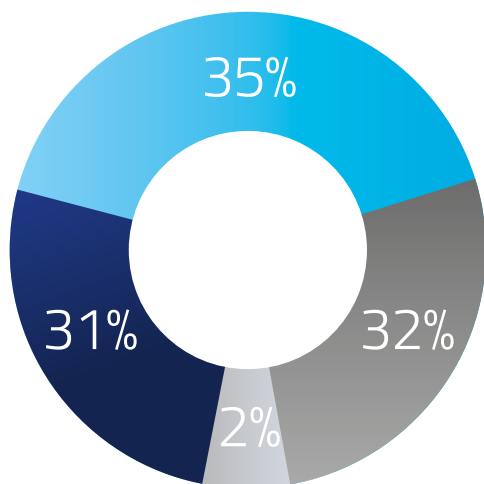
ISIG’s international network is one of the Institute’s distinctive features, built up over more than fifty years of activity. By collaborating with **universities, research centres, public institutions and international organisations**, ISIG has developed a **global network** that

enriches every project with different perspectives and skills. This **transnational approach** allows us to tackle complex challenges with shared, innovative and culturally sensitive solutions.



TYPE OF PARTNER: 243 TOTAL

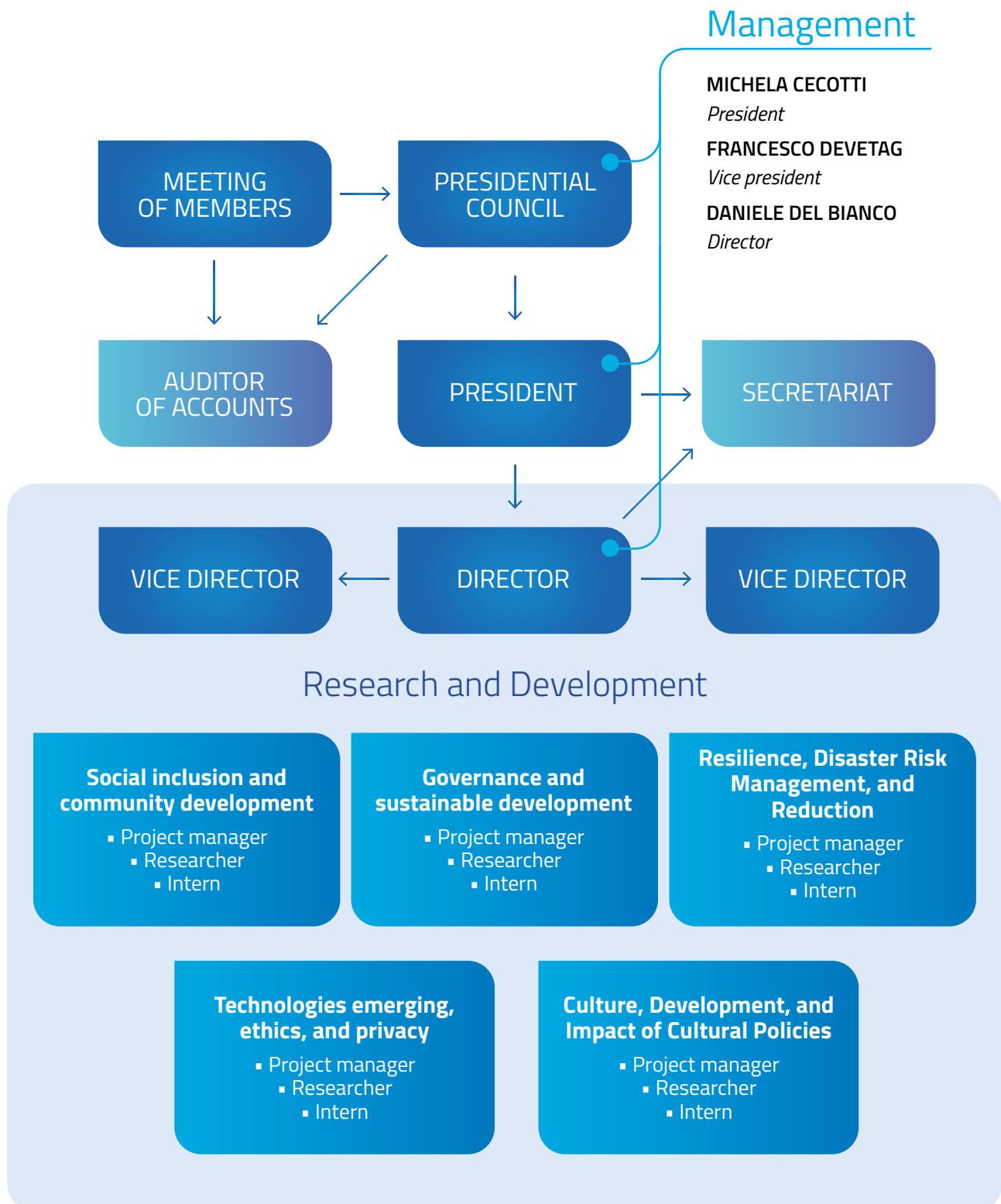
- 35%** Institutional actors
- 32%** Civil society organisations
- 31%** Private sector
- 2%** International organisations



Structure

A multidisciplinary and highly qualified team
specialising in research and design excellence.

Organisational and research structure



Gender balance

For ISIG, it is of fundamental importance to ensure an adequate level of attention to gender balance in its work, both within and outside the organisation.

According to the Council of Europe

Gender budgeting is an application of the principle of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. This involves assessing the gender impact of policies, integrating the gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and reorganising revenue and expenditure in order to promote gender equality.

Gender budgeting is a starting point for adopting a **gender perspective that is both cross-cutting** (gender mainstreaming), applicable to all areas of intervention, and specific (gender targeting), i.e. relating to actions aimed at achieving **gender equality**. Like other sectors, the world of research is also deeply characterised by high gender inequality, as confirmed by data from the Shefigures survey conducted by the European Commission in 2021, which highlights, for example, the significant gap between the number of publications, as well as inequality in career level or professional position.

For this reason, **ISIG has adopted a Gender Equality Plan (GEP)**, a tool recognised by the European Commission for research organisations and higher education institutions, which aims to prevent and

combat all forms of discrimination and promote gender equality through a set of actions on a three-year basis.

The actions were defined on the basis of a context analysis of the Institute, which was carried out in collaboration with employees and collaborators. The GEP also incorporates the monitoring and evaluation activities necessary to adapt the planned actions according to the results achieved and the impact generated, which are carried out using reference indicators.

ISIG believes in a cultural evolution that enriches the concept of gender equality with that of diversity. In this sense, the concept of diversity requires considering and valuing the differences that characterise individuals as resources for increasing the competitiveness of organisations. The affirmation of a culture of diversity promotes individual, economic and social growth, as well as that of the organisation, increasing its potential.



The ISIG team

Scientific area coordination (director and two deputy directors) who oversee the management and organisation of research and design work, including within European project partnerships.

Researchers (including five senior researchers with experience and teaching positions at Italian and foreign universities) engaged in research and design activities.

Associate researchers, who regularly collaborate with ad hoc consultations on specific topics related to their field of research.

Visiting researchers, who are part of ISIG's wider scientific network.

Administrative staff with specific skills related to the administrative and accounting management of the Institute.
Head of **communications**.

All professionals have a high profile in terms of:

EDUCATION

- multidisciplinary education: sociology, anthropology, history, international relations, urban planning, economics;
- training experience abroad in centres of excellence;
- high language skills;

MANY YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS

- research
- teaching and training
- consulting for international organisations
- participation in international conferences and seminars
- planning: writing, management, monitoring and evaluation
- administration and reporting
- scientific dissemination and communication
- communication and impact generation

CATEGORY	STAFF
Management	3
Management and coordination	3
Research	8
Administration and secretarial services	3
Associate and visiting researchers	13
Communication	1
SUMMARY	31

At ISIG, diverse professional training and experience come together in original, multidisciplinary research methodologies, where different areas of expertise are used to formulate research questions, hypotheses and innovative solutions.

ISIG is a constantly evolving space that offers employment and internship opportunities focused on growth and innovation. Every new professional contribution is welcomed as an investment of trust and a valuable resource for shared development.

An expanding team that transcends boundaries with a spirit of collaboration, openness and inclusion.



Research and design activities

ISIG conducts research and studies, and develops and manages strategic projects to support institutions, agencies, organisations and communities.

The fundamentals of the method

ISIG adopts an **epistemological approach to research and action**, aimed not only at deepening theoretical knowledge but also at bringing about concrete change, in collaboration with the social actors involved. This is based on three pillars:

Value orientation

Rooted in the **universal principles of democracy, human rights, social and environmental justice**, ISIG's approach promotes **inclusiveness, democratic participation** and the **protection of fundamental freedoms**. This orientation guides every stage of the Institute's work, ensuring that the actions taken are ethically sound and aimed at the common good.

Multidisciplinarity

Drawing inspiration from the concept of *international sociology* developed by its founder Franco Demarchi, ISIG's approach integrates tools and insights from various disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, border studies, history, legal sciences, pedagogy and gender studies.

Co-creation and participation

ISIG encourages the active participation of **stakeholders** in the **co-creation process of its activities**, ensuring that solutions are relevant, applicable and responsive to their needs and contexts. ISIG's approach is characterised by **continuous dialogue** and the **shared development** of objectives, **strategies** and **action plans**.



Thematic areas



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Research on social dynamics, local community development, and the promotion of social inclusion, with a focus on minority rights. ISIG explores the relationship between public policy and the social fabric, proposing solutions that promote intergenerational and environmental equity and collective well-being.



GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Study of governance practices and promotion of sustainable policies. ISIG works to develop governance models that actively involve stakeholders and are adaptable to local contexts, ensuring the balanced and lasting development of communities.



RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK

Resilience analysis and integrated risk management, with a particular focus on climate change adaptation and community protection. ISIG identifies vulnerability factors and, through co-production processes, develops strategies shared with communities and stakeholders to strengthen their response and recovery capacity in the face of crises and emergencies.



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, ETHICS AND PRIVACY

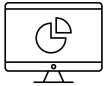
Exploring the ethical implications of emerging technologies and studying solutions to ensure their responsible and safe use. ISIG analyses the risks and opportunities associated with technological innovation, with the aim of protecting individual and collective rights. Particular attention is paid to the social impacts of these technologies, public perception and trust building, to ensure that the adoption of innovations is accompanied by critical awareness and shared responsibility.



CULTURE, DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPACT OF CULTURAL POLICIES

Design and evaluation of cultural initiatives as tools for community development. ISIG is involved in the conception, development and impact assessment of cultural projects, promoting culture as a driver of social cohesion, inclusion and sustainable development.

Services and solutions



SOCIAL RESEARCH AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

- **Analytical studies** to understand the social, economic and cultural dynamics of communities.
- **Impact analysis** to assess the effectiveness and consequences of policies and programmes implemented.
- **Applied research** to provide data and guidance for informed decision-making by public bodies, private entities and non-governmental organisations.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Design and implementation** of capacity building actions for public bodies, organisations and private individuals, aimed at institutional and professional growth and organisational capacity.
- **Educational and dissemination activities**, such as training courses, workshops, seminars and awareness campaigns, aimed at spreading knowledge and skills.



STRATEGIC CONSULTING AND ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION

- **Support** for the definition of projects and public policies at local, national and international level.
- **Development of innovative** strategies to address social and environmental challenges, with a focus on efficiency and sustainability.



SPATIAL PLANNING AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT

- **Technical assistance** for territorial planning and management, with a focus on sustainability and resilience.
- **Support** for the creation and implementation of territorial strategies that promote sustainable development, intergenerational and environmental equity, and collective well-being.



PROJECT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT, AND FUNDING

- **Consulting** in the design, management and implementation of projects with regional, national and European funding.
- **Assistance** in finding funding, drafting project proposals, management and reporting.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** of project effectiveness, with particular attention to sustainability and social impact.



FACILITATION AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

- **Development** of innovative participatory methodologies for the co-creation of policies and projects that reflect the needs and aspirations of communities.
- **Facilitation of participatory processes** and stakeholder engagement.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

- **Monitoring and evaluation services** aimed at measuring the effectiveness of policies and interventions implemented.
- **Analysis of results** to identify areas for improvement and optimise intervention strategies through the development of strategic plans.



IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE ETHICAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- **Ethical consulting** specialising in the development and use of emerging technologies, with a focus on the protection of fundamental rights and responsible data management, ensuring compliance with international standards.
- **Analysis of social dynamics** resulting from the introduction of new technologies.
- **Development of strategies** and plans for digital security and privacy protection.



ISIG mark on society

ISIG activities promote innovation, sustainable development and effective decision-making processes.

Putting values into action: ISIG's impact

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

REPRESENTATION, VALORISATION, EQUITY

- **Representation** of diversity implies that all voices can be expressed and heard.
- **Valuing** implies that all voices expressed are given due consideration and evaluation.
- **Commitment to equity** translates into policy proposals and practices that promote equal opportunities through fair representation and the valuing of individual and collective diversity.



ISIG works tirelessly to promote inclusion and diversity as fundamental elements for innovation and social progress. These values guide its research, training, design and consulting activities, with the aim of strengthening the social fabric through the active involvement of communities and the enhancement of their specific characteristics. Through the co-design of evidence-based public policies and the facilitation of inclusive participatory processes, ISIG supports public and private entities in developing strategies that promote a more equitable and accessible society. Particular attention is paid to marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as cultural minorities and people with disabilities.

Training is another key tool in this area: in 2024, ISIG organised over 350 hours of capacity building and workshops for institutions, public administrators and civil society organisations, providing practical skills to embrace diversity in a constructive way and promote more inclusive environments. Finally, through applied research, ISIG identifies and disseminates European best practices on inclusion and diversity, making them accessible and adaptable to different contexts. The institute's commitment thus translates into the development of concrete, innovative and replicable models and tools to maximise social impact.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMA – Sustainable mobility and intermodality in the Adriatic area

PROJECT / 2024-2026

Funder: European Commission – Interreg Programme Italy Croatia 2021-2027

Partner: Municipality of Caorle (IT – Coordinator); Municipality of Pescara (IT); Friuli Riviera Community (IT); IRENA – Labin (HR); City of Poreč – Parenzo (HR); Split-Dalmatia Region (HR); City of Zadar.

SUMMA promotes accessible and inclusive transport solutions for different segments of the population, ensuring maximum accessibility and efficient and safe services. ISIG's approach to this project integrates sustainability with the need for social equity in mobility. From the early stages of research, ISIG has worked to integrate the perspective of different user categories into the analysis of the multimodal system and the drivers of mobility choices, in order to ensure the development of inclusive strategies for strengthening sustainable mobility at the cross-border level. This approach is particularly significant in areas significantly affected by tourist flows, where it is necessary to harmonise the different needs of the resident and temporary populations.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPORT4FUN

PROJECT / 2024-2026

Funder: Commissione Europea – ERASMUS + Sport Cooperation partnerships (SCP)

Partner: Media Šport (SI); Kinitiko Ergastiri (GR); NEU (TR)

SPORT4FUN proposes an innovative approach to engage the public in choosing a healthy lifestyle. The project includes: 1) interactive workshops with practical solutions for healthy choices and 2) a multi-level structure for sustainable sporting events, easily adaptable to different contexts. The aim is to promote inclusion (intergenerational cooperation, integration of minorities, refugees, people with disabilities) through physical activity, fostering social connections. ISIG coordinates WP2 by developing research activities aimed at identifying the main challenges people face in leading a healthy lifestyle and understanding how to help them make healthier choices.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SAFE-CITIES – Safety and vulnerability assessment for the protection of public spaces in European cities

PROJECT / 2022-2025

Funder: European Commission – HEU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation

Partner: STAM SRL (IT) (Coordinator); IANUS Consulting (CY); University of Bologna (IT); D_Visor BV (NL); National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos' (GR); Polish Internal Security Platform Association (PL); Telesto IOT Solutions (UK); Confederation of European Security Services (BE); Municipality of Gorizia (IT); Municipality of Nova Gorica (SL); Poliisihallitus (FI); Italian Red Cross Association, Gorizia Committee ODV (IT); Ministry of the Interior of Cyprus (CY); Provincial Police Headquarters in Gdansk (PL); Ministry of Internal Affairs (SL); Green University of Bologna APS (IT).

SAFE-CITIES aims to support excellence in the protection of public spaces by providing and testing a security and vulnerability assessment framework, equipped with a decision support platform for its implementation, in four use cases in five EU countries. This will enable the simulation of complex scenarios, crowd behaviour and attacks in any space within a realistic 3D virtual environment, allowing end users to perform comprehensive and dynamic assessments of the risks and vulnerabilities of the site analysed, identify potential vulnerabilities against a wide range of threats, and support the full involvement and cooperation of public and private actors, including citizens, in the development of strategies to make public spaces safe while preserving their open nature.



INTEGRITY AND DISINTEREST

IMPARTIALITY, RIGOUR, ETHICS

- ISIG adopts an **impartial** approach, avoiding conflicts of interest and prioritising the common good.
- **Rigorous methodology** ensures that research results are reliable and scientifically valid.
- Strong adherence to **shared ethical principles** ensures transparency in processes and accountability to society.



ISIG bases its work on principles of integrity, independence and respect for human rights, ensuring that all research, training, design and consulting activities are guided by rigorous scientific criteria and universal values such as democracy, social and environmental justice. The institute places empirical evidence and critical analysis at the centre of its approach, with the aim of producing transparent knowledge that is useful for public debate and social policies. Methodological rigour is a fundamental pillar for ISIG, which applies established protocols and internationally validated analytical tools. All research is based on the collection of representative data, careful evaluation of sources and the adoption of

objective criteria to minimise the risk of biased interpretations, ensuring reliable and robust results. ISIG promotes public events, conferences and workshops, creating opportunities for discussion between experts, institutions and citizens. These moments of dialogue not only make research results accessible, but also strengthen society's trust in data-driven processes and encourage informed participation. This focus on ethics is also reflected in the management of sensitive data: ISIG adopts rigorous procedures to guarantee the privacy, dignity and informed consent of all those involved, in full compliance with regulations and individual rights.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELoGE – European Label of Governance Excellence

PROJECT / 2021-2025

Funder: Council of Europe

Partner: AICCIRE FVG; AICCIRE Nazionale, Local Authorities of Member States of the Council of Europe

ELoGE is a programme promoted by the Council of Europe that recognises local authorities that have achieved high levels of performance in relation to the 12 principles of Good Democratic Governance. In recent years, ISIG has supported the implementation of the programme in various national contexts (Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, etc.) and co-curated its annual implementation in Friuli Venezia Giulia in collaboration with AICCIRE. Furthermore, in 2023-2024, SIG coordinated the development of the new Good Democratic Governance Benchmark, the programme's key tool. This tool has been updated to align with the 12 new principles of the 2023 Recommendation on Principles of Good Democratic Governance of the Council of Europe, with the aim of strengthening its applicability at all levels of governance.



GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GO!2025 – Monitoring and evaluation

PROJECT / 2024-2026

Funder: GECT-GO

Partner: Javni Zavod GO! 2025, Municipality of Nova Gorica, Municipality of Gorizia

After coordinating the involvement of Italian cultural operators in the application process and drafting of the official **GO!2025** bid book, ISIG was selected to develop a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the GO!2025 initiative and the subsequent implementation plan, with reference to the official cultural programme of the European Capital of Culture.



RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK

CIVÀ - Committed citizenship, active volunteering

PROJECT / 2023-2024

Funder: Municipality of Lucca, Tuscany Region - APP - Regional Authority for the Guarantee and Promotion of Participation.

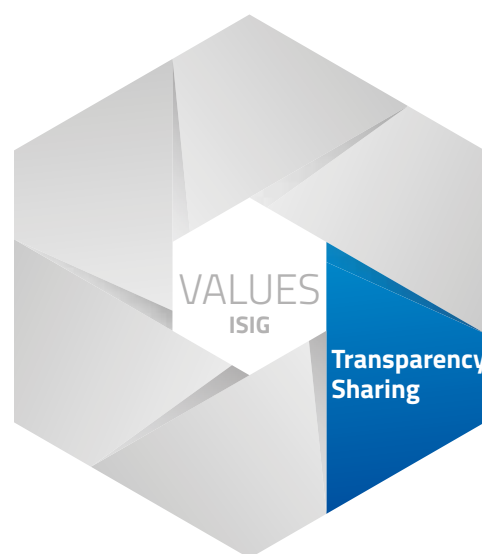
Partner: Civil Protection Service of the Municipality of Lucca, QueSiTe Srl.

Civà's goal is to redefine the concept of civil protection in Lucca, involving citizens, institutions, schools and associations in a participatory process. Through active involvement at municipal and supra-municipal level, the project has focused on creating a more inclusive, transparent and effective civil protection system to transform the way the community prepares for and responds to emergencies, promoting collaboration, innovation and awareness.

TRANSPARENCY AND SHARING

OPENNESS, RESPONSIBILITY, DISCLOSURE

- *ISIG supports **open access** to research results to promote the free dissemination of knowledge.*
- ***Responsibility** towards the public guides its activities, with a constant commitment to clarity in methods and objectives.*
- *Active and effective communication with citizens and institutions ensures clear and accessible **dissemination** of information.*



Transparency and sharing are essential principles of ISIG's work, which is committed to making the results of its activities available not only to the scientific community, but also to citizens and various stakeholders. The aim is to promote equitable access to knowledge, making it a tool for inclusion, participation and social change. ISIG promotes responsible scientific dissemination through the open publication of research results on accessible platforms such as Open Research Europe, favouring methods that allow free use and maximum dissemination of content. Reports, articles and documents are made available online to ensure maximum transparency and facilitate the involvement of civil society. Another distinctive feature is the development of di-

gital and open-access tools, such as interactive platforms and toolkits, which make data, analysis and good practices more readily available. ISIG adopts innovative technologies to translate complex content into clear formats that are accessible to non-experts. Knowledge sharing also extends to research processes through the promotion of interdisciplinary and international collaborations. This working method enriches scientific analysis, ensures a wide range of perspectives and maintains methodological quality as the sole criterion for validation, regardless of who produces the results.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TRACE – Integration and harmonisation of logistics operations

PROJECT / 2023-2026

Funder: European Commission – HEU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation

Partner: Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (Coordinatore) (GR); Ethniko Kentro Erevnas Kai Techno-logikis Anapty (GR); Netcompany-Intrasoft Sa (LU); Panepistimio Thessalias (GR); Robotnik Automation (ES); Technische Universitaet Wien (AT); Blockchain 5.0 (EE); University Of Glasgow (UK); AC Codewheel Ltd (CY); Unisystems Luxembourg Sarl (LU); ACS Tachidromikes Ipiresies Monoprosopi Anonym (GR); Incites Consul-ting Sa (LU); Epsilon International Ltd (MT); Polytechnio Kritis (GR); Cosmote Kinites Tilepikoinonies Mono-prosopi Ae (GR); Univerza V Mariboru (SI); University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (IT); Municipality of Modena (IT); CSEM Centre Suisse D'Electronique Et De Microtechch (CH); Difly Srl (IT); AV Living Lab (SL); One Less Van SRL (IT); URBICO SRL (IT); SIDROCO Holdings Limited (CY); Posta Slovenije Doo (SL); Hellenic Train - Anonymi Sidirodromiki Etaireia (GR); Fondazione Istituto sui Trasporti e la Logistica (IT).

TRACE aims to build a platform to support multimodal logistics, allowing users to share their activities and optimise them in terms of costs, emissions, time and fuel consumption. This device uses blockchain technology to facilitate the real-time conclusion of smart contracts and financial transactions, providing "smart coverage" for current logistics structures. ISIG focuses primarily on issues related to ethics and privacy in the use of AI, analysing citizens' transport needs and developing a participatory model and guidelines for capitalising on project results.



GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MSP4BIODIVERSITY

PROJECT / 2024-2025

Funder: National Research Council – ISMAR, European Union through the Next Generation EU fund

Partner: CNR-ISMAR

MSP4BIODIVERSITY (NBFC-Spoke2-A4) aims to promote the integration of biodiversity into maritime spatial processes and plans and to foster solutions and actions to protect marine ecosystems. The research activities are intended to directly inform the Italian maritime spatial process and plans, which are currently being approved and will soon be implemented, monitored and adapted. ISIG supports CNR-ISMAR (coordinator) in designing and implementing a participatory process to involve stakeholders and experts from the maritime sector in the development and validation of scenarios for the future use of the sea in three pilot areas (northern Adriatic, northern Tyrrhenian Sea and Strait of Sicily).

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, ETHICS AND PRIVACY

PREVENT – Improving and strengthening primary cancer prevention by tackling childhood obesity through implementation research

PROJECT / 2023-2027

Funder: European Commission – HEU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation

Partner: Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (Coordinatore); Ethnikos Organismos Dimosias Ygeias; Ministry Of Health; Ministry Of Education And Religious Affairs; Karolinska Institutet; Livsmedelsverket; Internationella Engelska Skolan I Sverige; and others...

PREVENT improves the upscaling of primary interventions for weight control management during childhood and adolescence to reduce the risk of cancer in adulthood. This is based on assessments that, to date, suggest a relationship between excess body weight and an increased risk of cancer. Within the ISIG project, he is involved in the co-creation of the policy framework for the prevention of childhood and adolescent obesity and its piloting.

COLLABORATION AND CO-CREATION

INTERDISCIPLINARY AGE, PARTICIPATION, SYNERGY

- *L'**Interdisciplinarity** allows for the integration of different skills and approaches to tackle complex problems.*
- ***Active participation** and stakeholder involvement strengthen the effectiveness of the proposed solutions.*
- *The creation of **synergies between research, policy-making and communities** enables a concrete and lasting impact.*



Interdisciplinarity is central to ISIG's approach, which tackles social challenges by combining knowledge from different fields such as social sciences, economics, law and urban planning. Continuous dialogue between disciplines allows for the development of richer and more innovative analyses and solutions, tailored to the complexity of contemporary contexts. The integration of quantitative and qualitative methodologies also allows for accurate and impact-oriented research. An integral part of ISIG's methodology is co-creation, which values the direct involvement of citizens, organisations and institutions in decision-making processes. Through deliberative democracy tools, the Institu-

te facilitates the participatory design of public policies, ensuring that solutions are shared, respond to real needs and have greater effectiveness on the ground. Participatory processes thus promote more inclusive governance oriented towards the common good. Working closely with public bodies, international organisations and research networks, ISIG creates virtuous connections between knowledge production, policy-making and local communities. This approach allows for the development of concrete, sustainable interventions capable of improving the resilience and quality of life of the communities involved.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK

IN4SAFETY – Strengthening cross-border cooperation with the development and implementation of joint action plans in case of emergencies in the cross-border area for a more resilient territory.

PROJECT / 2023-2025

Funder: European Commission – Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme 2021-2027

Partner: Comune di Ajdovščina, Geodetski Inštitut Slovenije, Gasilska enota Nova Gorica, Città metropolitana di Venezia, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Gasilska zveza Slovenije, Zdravstveni dom Ajdovščina, Mestna občina Nova Gorica, Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia – Regional Civil Protection Agency, Municipality of Gorizia, Municipality of Duino Aurisina.

IN4SAFETY aims to develop actions for cross-border cooperation to prevent natural disaster risks and mitigate the impacts of climate change, as highlighted by the 2022 fires in the Karst area between Italy and Slovenia. The objective is to enhance climate resilience and risk prevention through cross-border cooperation, with the drafting of shared action plans, the integration of territorial data and joint training of rescue teams. Within the project framework, ISIG is responsible for developing action plans for cross-border emergency situations, raising awareness among territorial stakeholders and the public, and supporting joint training activities.



GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EUROPEAN ACADEMY PROGRAMME 2024

PROJECT / 2024-2025

Funder: Council of Europe

Partner: AICCRE FVG, Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

L'**EUROPEAN ACADEMY PROGRAMME** (EAP), is a European training programme organised by AICCRE FVG, in collaboration with ISIG, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. Developed within the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, EAP arose from the opportunity to strengthen the institutional capacity and skills of administrators and staff of local authorities in Friuli Venezia Giulia, so that they are ready to effectively manage the local impact of European policies and fully seize all the opportunities offered by European programming for 2021-2027.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MEDITERRANEAN BLUE FORESTS

PROJECT / 2024-2025

Funder: World Wildlife Fund – WWF

Partner: WWF Greece, WWF Türkiye, WWF Tunisia

The conservation of *Posidonia oceanica* is key to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss in the Mediterranean. The **MEDITERRANEAN BLUE FORESTS** project aims to protect over 7.5% of the *Posidonia* meadows still present in our sea by 2027.

ISIG's activities support the WWF in the initial and final implementation of the socio-economic assessment within the Mediterranean Blue Forest project. The planned activities are: the development of questionnaires to be adapted to the ten different project sites with a view to mapping their main socio-economic characteristics, the training of the WWF team to administer the questionnaires to local stakeholders, analysis of the results and production of reports.

CONSTRUCTIVE SCEPTICISM AND INNOVATION

ANALYSIS, TESTING, RESPONSIVENESS

- The **analysis** of social and economic phenomena allows us to identify limitations and opportunities for change.
- **Experimentation** with new methodologies and tools allows ISIG to propose innovative solutions.
- **Innovation** in research ensures responsiveness and adaptability to constantly changing communities and contexts.



ISIG takes a critical and constructive approach to projects, conducting in-depth analyses of existing dynamics and highlighting critical issues and opportunities for development. Through stakeholder engagement and the use of empirical data collected using a variety of methods, the Institute assesses the effectiveness of existing policies, promoting balanced solutions aimed at bringing about concrete improvements in communities. Experimentation is a distinctive feature of ISIG's methodology, which develops and tests new tools for data analysis, civic participation and public policy develop-

ment. Through pilot projects and innovative studies, the Institute adapts strategies and tools to specific contexts, maximising the effectiveness of interventions. Innovation is an integral part of ISIG's work, which constantly explores emerging methodologies, advanced technological solutions and original participatory models. By collaborating with universities, institutions and businesses, the Institute contributes to the development of new knowledge and practices, with the aim of offering concrete and up-to-date responses to contemporary social challenges.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EDURES

PROJECT / 2023-2024

Funder: Council of Europe

Partner: Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, CoE

Within the framework of the framework contract 'Assistance in the implementation of the intergovernmental programme Education for Democracy', ISIG supported the Council of Europe's Education Department in developing preparatory materials and the Recommendation 'On education in times of emergency and crisis' adopted by all Member States.

Following this, ISIG was tasked with developing the EDURES toolkit – Building Resilient Communities through Education, to offer innovative solutions to increase the potential of educational communities in all Member States and enable them to address and minimise the impact of potential crises and emergency situations.

During 2024, ISIG conducted the first two trials of the toolkit in Friuli Venezia Giulia, involving two municipalities and six educational institutions, and in Albania, in synergy with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and other national and local institutions.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS

PROJECT / 2023-2026

Funder: European Commission - Interreg Central Europe Programme 2021-2027

Partner: Rzeszów County LP Polska (PL); Association of the PP Polska (PL); Association of Towns and PP (SK); Carpathian Foundation (HU); Association of Regional PP Česko (CZ); Foundation of Landscape PP Polska (PL); Eurac research PP Italia (IT); Alpine Pearls EGTC (AT); CIPRA (AT); Brasov County PP România (RO).

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS addresses the challenge of sustainability in cross-border cooperation in mountain areas through the improvement of governance structures and processes. ISIG builds on the results of previous projects, such as Alpine Pearls EGTC, by developing a common methodology and action plan to guide project activities, their implementation and the definition of guidelines for creating functional cross-border areas with sustainable governance models.

RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK

SYNERGIES – Innovations and synergies to improve the results of disaster risk management projects

PROJECT / 2023-2026

Funder: European Commission – HEU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation

Partner: Deep Blue SRL (IT – Coordinatore); Sintef As (NO); resilience Advisors (Europe) Limited (IE); Intelligence Solutions for Environment and Security Srl IES Solutions Srl (IT); Safety Innovation Centre GGMBH (DE); Stichting VU (NL); Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia (IT); Tartu Ulikool (EE); Openbaar Lichaam Geza-menljeke Brandweer (NL); Save the Children ETC (IT); International Safety Training College Limited (MT); Science Reunion – Centre de Culture Scientifique Technique et Industrielle (FR); Het Nederlandse Rode Kruis (NL); Regional Council Northern Region (MT); Agence Observat Amenage Habitat Reunion (FR).

SYNERGIES promotes disaster preparedness through the synergistic involvement of various actors in disaster management. The results of the project, which builds on the achievements of previous European projects, will be integrated into the practices adopted by experts in emergency and crisis management. ISIG's role in this project focuses on risk preparedness and self-assessment, training modules for volunteers in disaster management, communication and dissemination of project results.



CURIOSITY AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

EXPLORATION, DYNAMISM, CONTINUOUS TRAINING

- **Exploring** new areas of study allows ISIG to broaden its vision and respond to emerging challenges.
- **Dynamism** allows approaches to be modified and refined based on new knowledge and changing contexts.
- **Continuous training** ensures a long-term educational impact for everyone.



Exploring new areas of study is fundamental to ISIG, which, through careful monitoring of social, economic and political transformations, identifies innovative research topics and develops analyses on issues of growing relevance. This proactive approach allows it to anticipate change, providing useful tools and knowledge to institutions and communities.

Dynamism is another key principle that guides ISIG's activities, allowing it to continuously modify and refine its approaches based on new knowledge and evolving contexts. ISIG constantly updates its most relevant studies and tools, integrating the latest approaches and redefining its analysis strategies to respond flexibly to emerging needs with a concrete and timely impact.

Finally, continuous training is a central element of ISIG's commitment, both internally, through the constant updating of its staff, and externally, through educational activities aimed at policy-makers, civil society and citizens. The institute organises seminars, workshops and capacity-building programmes to transfer knowledge and skills to different actors in society. In this way, ISIG aims to actively contribute to the cultural and professional growth of individuals and communities by promoting a frank and open dialogue between science and society. This commitment to continuous learning ensures a lasting educational impact and fosters greater critical awareness in collective decision-making.

FLAGSHIP ACTIVITY

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Framework Agreement: “Consultancy in the field of democratic governance and public finance management”

PROJECT / 2022-2024

Funder: Council of Europe

The framework agreement covers the following activities:

- **Workshop** capacity building on the ELoGE programme and the Resilience Building Strategies Toolkit (ReBuS) for the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance
- **Revision and update of the ELoGE Benchmark** in light of ELoGE activities in FVG.
- **Management and expansion of the Empowering Networks digital platform – E-DEN** for the international sharing of experiences relating to obstacles and good practices in the field of cross-border and inter-municipal cooperation, and the promotion of good democratic governance
- **Preparation of an updated version of the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Toolkit - IMC** to reflect recent trends and examples, including those gathered during recent training and planning activities carried out by ISIG in Armenia in 2022-2023.
- **Support for AICCRe FVG in the implementation of the Leadership Academy** training programme for Cross-Border Cooperation and Resilience in Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.

GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Agreement between ISIG and the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia

PROJECT / 2024-2026

Funder: Council of Europe

ISIG promotes innovative projects in the field of education and guidance, including at international level, offering support in defining and submitting proposals for European programmes. It is committed to raising awareness of EU opportunities for young people and schools by organising information seminars for school staff and local authorities. It also provides technical assistance for monitoring regional guidance services, contributing to improving services and expanding opportunities for the younger generation.

RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK

CRISAFE – Critical infrastructure alert system and public awareness in the event of cascading multi-risk events.

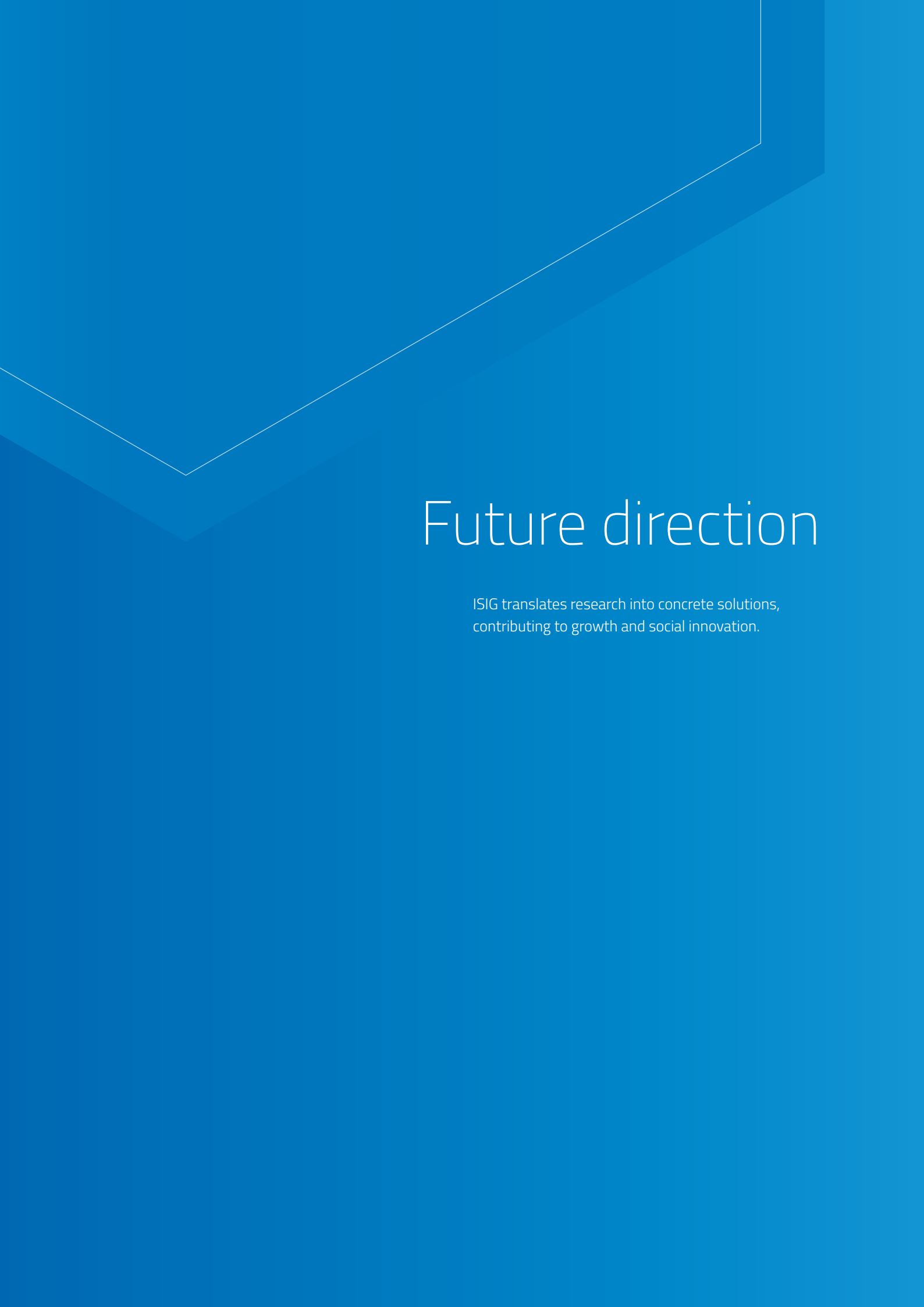
PROJECT / 2024-2026

Funder: European Commission – Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Partner: Sveučilište U Zagrebu Građevinski Fakultet (Coordinatore - HR); Infra Plan Konzaltnig Idoo Za Usluge (HR); Gdi Društvo S Ograničenom Odgovornošću Za Proizvodnju, Trgovinu I Usluge (HR); Grad Zagreb (HR); Hrvatske Vode Pravna Osoba Za Upravljanje Vodama (HR); Ingeo BV (NL); Waterschap Hollandse Delta (NL).

CRISAFE this project aims to develop a harmonised methodology for assessing the vulnerability of urban infrastructure and populations in multi-hazard scenarios shared between Croatia, the Netherlands and Italy. The assessment focuses on flood protection infrastructure, identifying weaknesses under the influence of threats such as heavy rainfall, flooding and earthquakes. Through case studies in Rotterdam (Netherlands) and Zagreb (Croatia), the project aims to raise awareness of risks among the local population and develop strategies to improve public access to risk information. The stakeholder engagement, risk communication and training activities developed by ISIG as part of the CRISAFE project stimulate the curiosity of local communities, making risk information accessible and understandable, thus helping to strengthen risk awareness and interest and involvement in disaster prevention.





Future direction

ISIG translates research into concrete solutions,
contributing to growth and social innovation.

Prospects

In 2025, the Institute of International Sociology in Gorizia (ISIG) will consolidate its role as a permanent laboratory for European citizenship, building on over fifty years of experience and a strategic position in the cross-border area. The expansion and renovation of its premises, together with the addition of new highly qualified staff, will enable the Institute to continue to host training and project activities, expanding its scope of action at European level.

The initiatives are developed along four strategic lines:

- **Support for public administrations:** ISIG supports local authorities with training, co-design and participation in European calls for proposals.

- **European project design:** ISIG is an active partner in European projects on mountain governance, climate change resilience and sustainable transport, promoting models of participatory governance and cross-border cooperation.

- **Research in international partnerships:** The Institute participates and will continue to participate in research projects on resilience, urban security, sustainable mobility, health and artificial intelligence.

- **Collaboration with the Council of Europe:** ISIG continues to collaborate with the CoE by developing toolkits, digital platforms and workshops on governance, participation, education and resilience.

Finally, with GO! 2025, the Institute is called upon to lead the monitoring of the European Capital of Culture, contributing to the establishment of a cross-border citizens' jury and reaffirming its commitment to culture as a lever for cohesion, innovation and sustainability. ISIG is also committed to ensuring the sustainability and continuity of the project, so that the legacy of GO! 2025 can translate into a lasting impact for the territory and communities involved.





ISIG INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
SOCIOLOGY OF GORIZIA

Via Giuseppe Mazzini, 13
34170 Gorizia - Italy
+39 0481 533632 - isig@isig.it

www.isig.it