



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.







Message from the President

2025 was a year of growth – in our financial results, our team and our expertise – but above all a year in which our presence in the local area became more established, recognisable and valuable.

*In the first half of the year, **ISIG inaugurated its refurbished headquarters**, marking a strategic milestone in the Institute's development. The refurbishment project strengthened the operational infrastructure, expanding its capacity to support research, training and structured design processes.*

*Important multi-year projects, developed in collaboration with national and international partners, have been completed. These collaborations have, over time, fostered strong relationships with experts in the fields of emergency response and disaster risk reduction. Among the most significant milestones was the success of **GOin4SAFETY**, one of the most ambitious cross-border exercises in recent years, involving more than 500 people. A tangible demonstration of what it means to cooperate across borders to protect the future of our communities.*

***MareFuturo** was our commitment to sustainability and environmental protection, which took the form of a programme of participatory scientific research and workshops dedicated to safeguarding Italy's seas, bringing together researchers, maritime bodies, institutions and stakeholders from the energy, tourism and manufacturing sectors, including the fishing industry.*

*Among the most valuable outcomes, I would like to highlight the collaboration with the **Council of Europe – Education Department and the CDEDU – Steering Committee for Education**, thanks to which ISIG developed the **EDURES** scientific toolkit, now recognised as an international resource for educational resilience; the pilot phase of the project was tested in two areas of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.*

*Building resilience means connecting skills, people and visions. It is with this aim in mind that **ATLAS** was created, a platform designed to support communities and institutions in developing shared resilience strategies. **ATLAS** represents our vision of the future: a space where scientific knowledge, civic participation and innovation intertwine to drive change.*

Looking back on this busy year, the positive results are not merely a financial figure: they are proof that we are growing as a living, dynamic and responsible organisation. This is thanks to an expanding team, which every day puts its passion and expertise at the service of complex projects and real challenges, and to our partners, whom I thank for their trust and constant collaboration.

Michela Cecotti
President of ISIG



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The Institute

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



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.*



Vision, mission, values

VISION

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

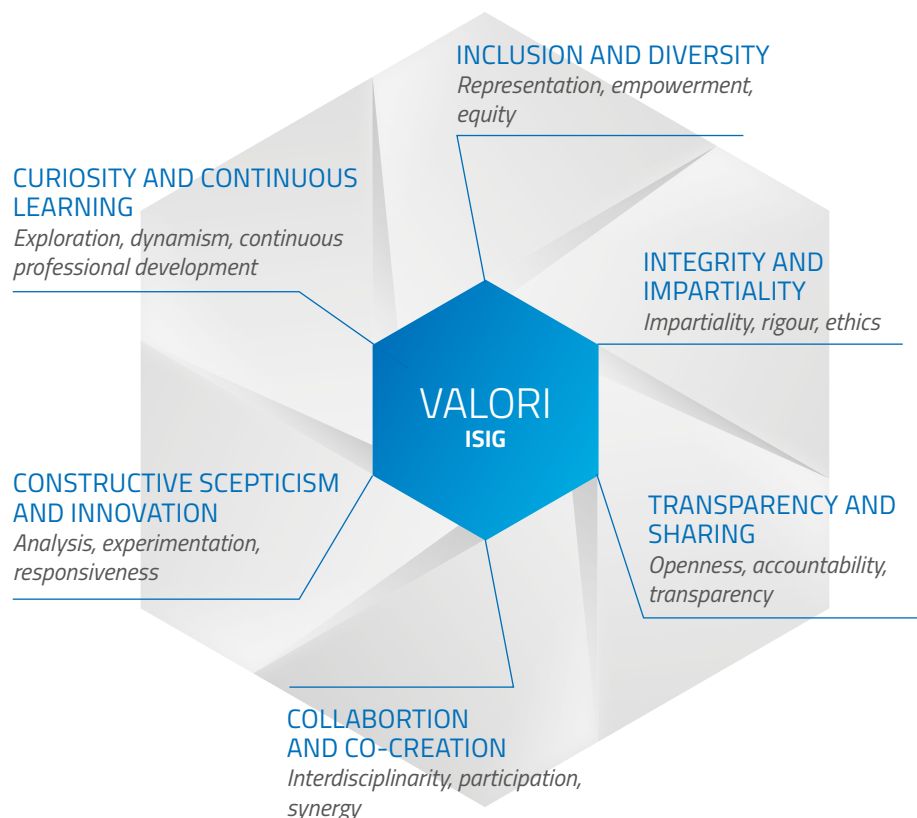
The Institute studies and promotes transformations in societies with the aim of building peaceful and lasting coexistence, focusing on **democratic participation, human rights and the rule of law**.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



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.

2023



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.

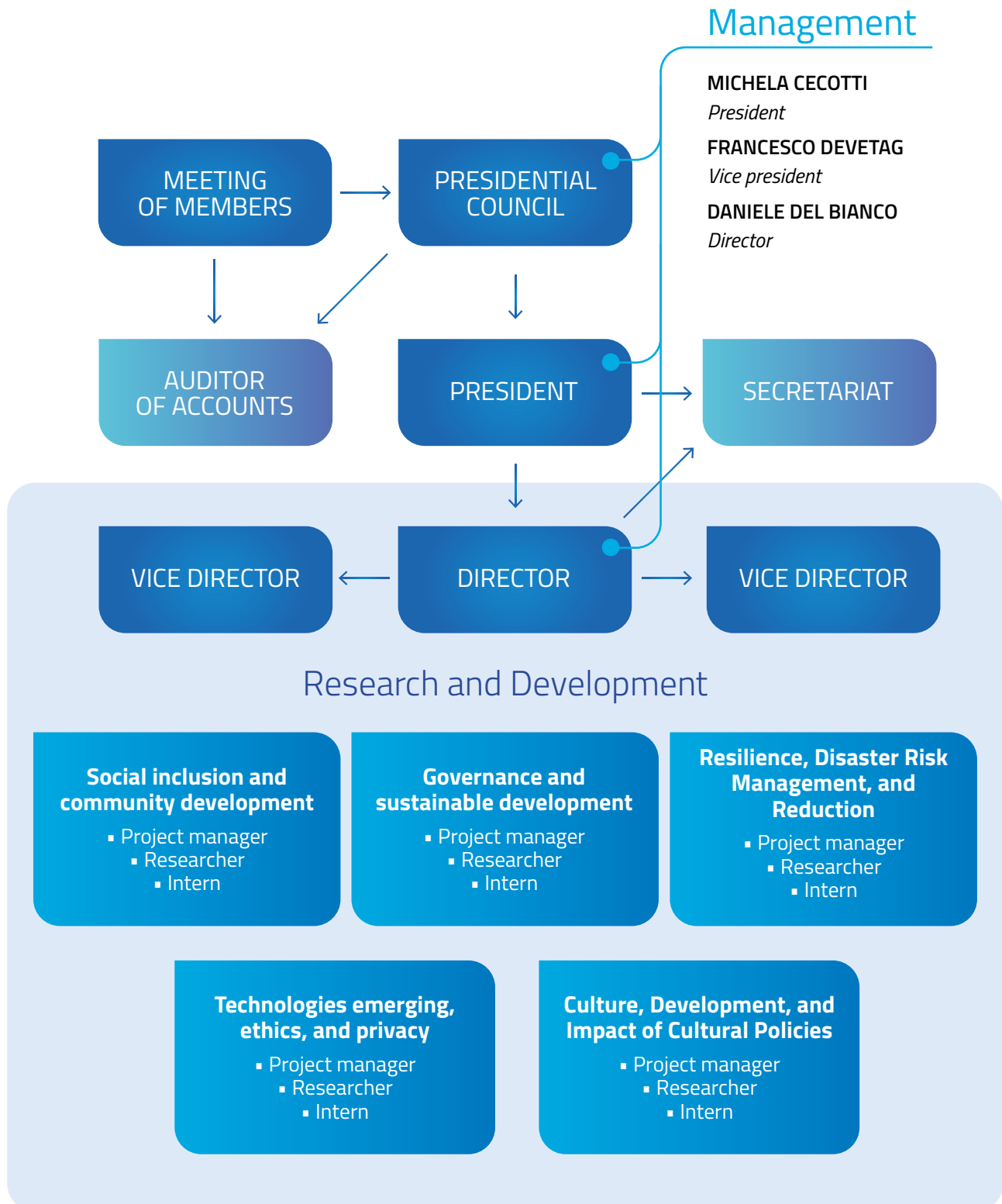


2025

GO!2025 European Capital of Culture.

ISIG acted as coordinator of the working group tasked with drawing up the bid for Nova Gorica and Gorizia. The Institute then provided strategic and operational support to the GO EGTC and the municipalities during the initial stages of the programme's implementation.

Organisational and research structure



The team of ISIG

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:

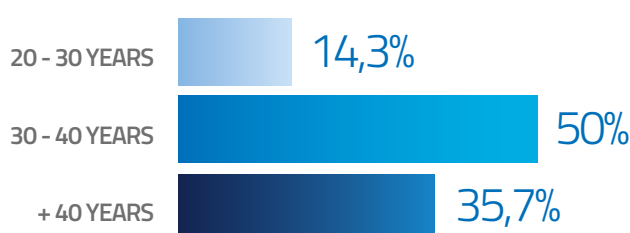
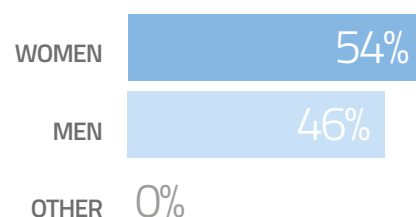
EDUCATION

- 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	TEAM
Management	3
Management and coordination	3
Research	9
Administration	2
Associate and visiting researchers	10
Communication	1
General secretariat and organisation	1
SUMMARY	29

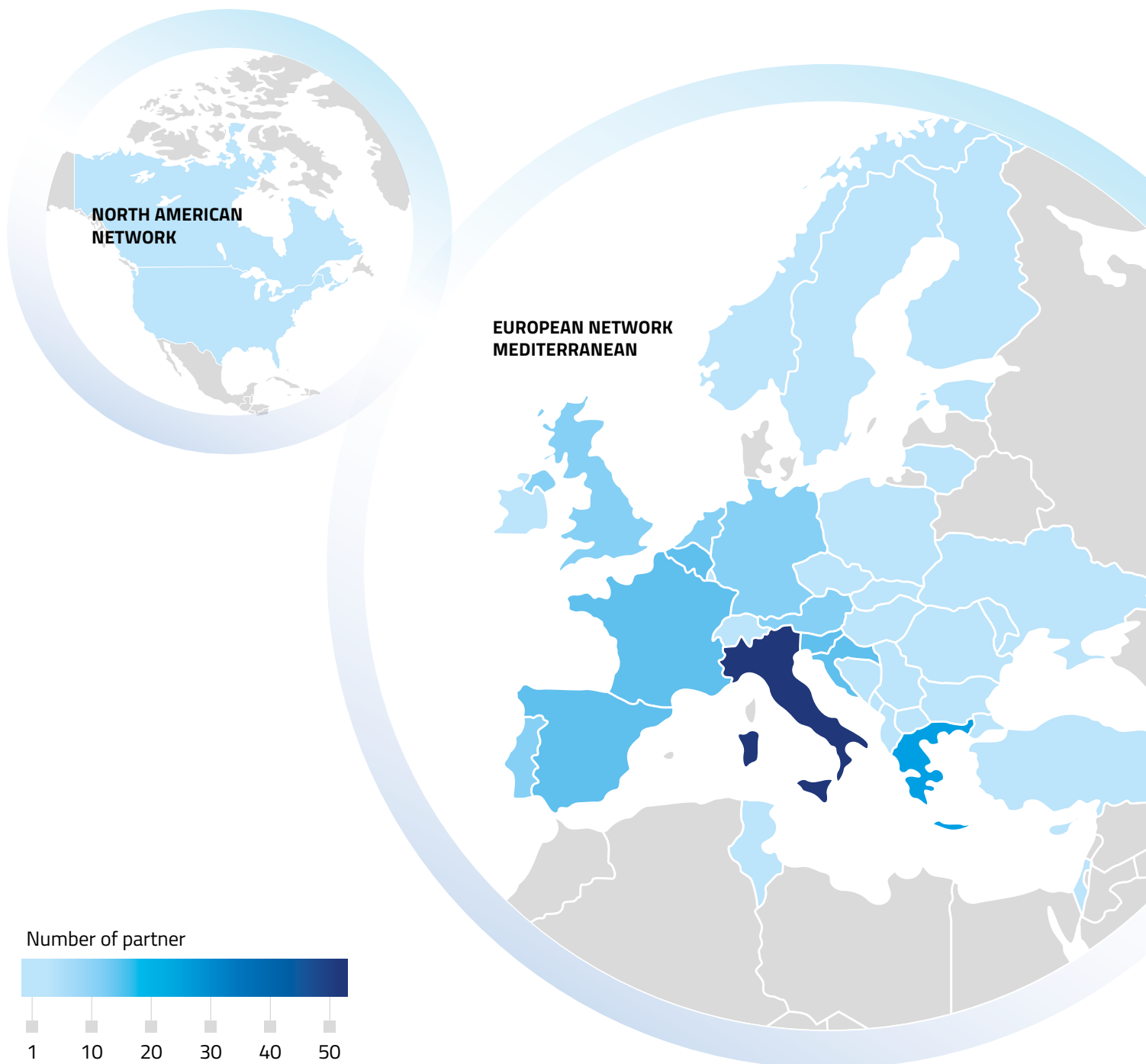


ISIG believes in a cultural shift that integrates the principle of gender equality with that of diversity, understood as the promotion of individual differences as a strategic lever for organisational competitiveness.

An international network that has been expanding since 1968

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.





**ASIAN NETWORK
OCEANIC**



An integrated approach: methodology, research, services

ISIG conducts research and studies, and develops and manages strategic projects to support institutions, bodies, 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.

Multidisciplinary

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**.



Areas of research



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.



2025 in figures

The figures that illustrate our commitment
and the impact of the Institute's activities.

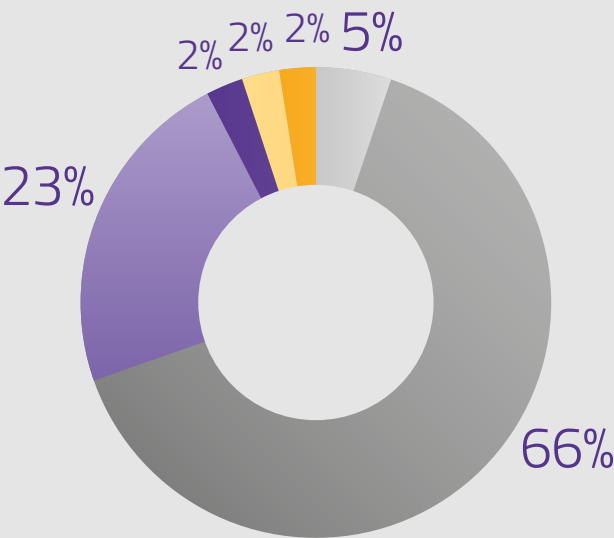
I numeri di ISIG

In 2025, the Institute carried out its activities thanks to a wide range of collaborators and funding sources, with a particular focus on European projects.

The work was carried out in close collaboration with partners from various sectors and across a variety of project types, reflecting a multidisciplinary and integrated approach.



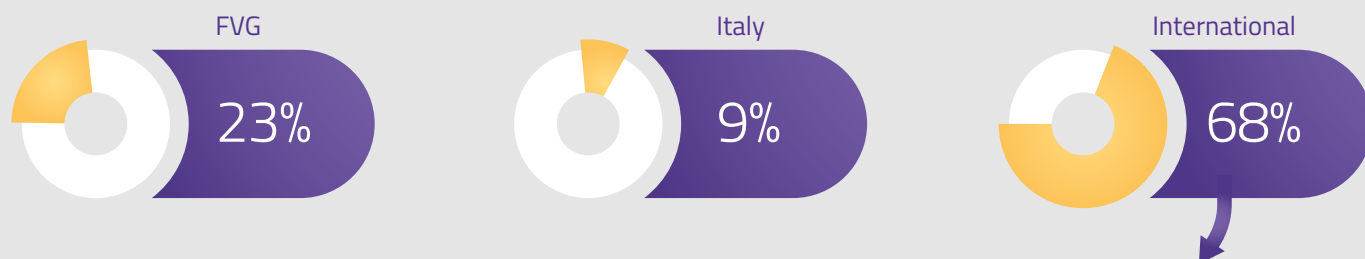
SOURCES OF FUNDING



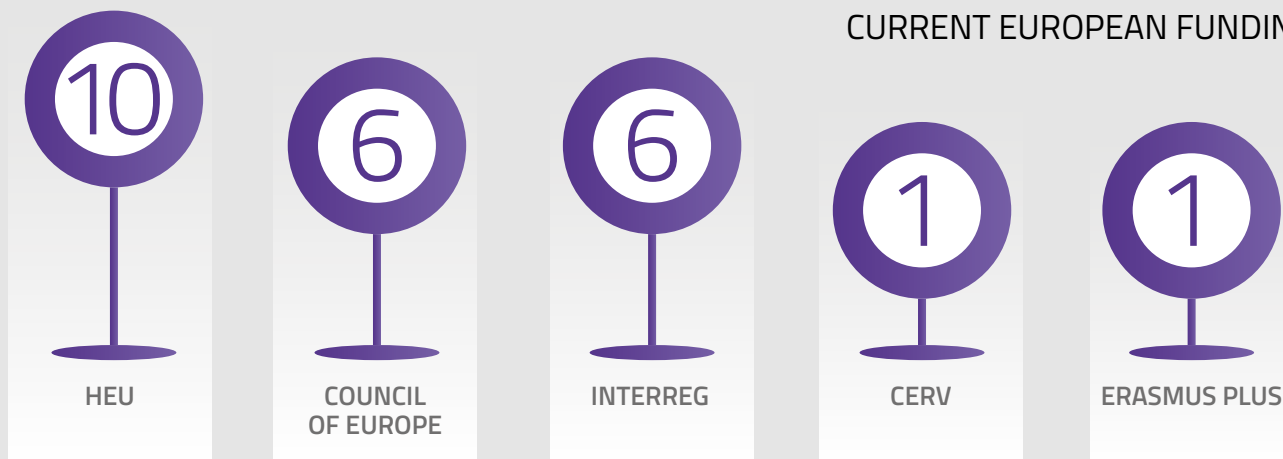
1.250.000,00 €

AT THE END OF DECEMBER 2025

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES

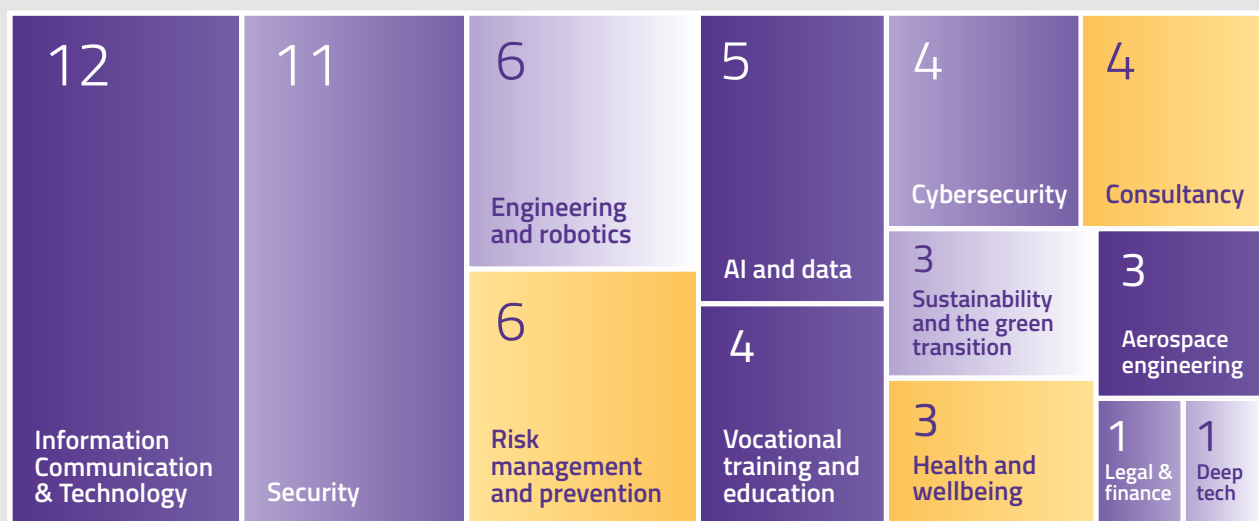


CURRENT EUROPEAN FUNDING



Values expressed numerically

PARTNERS' AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND SECTORS



Values expressed numerically

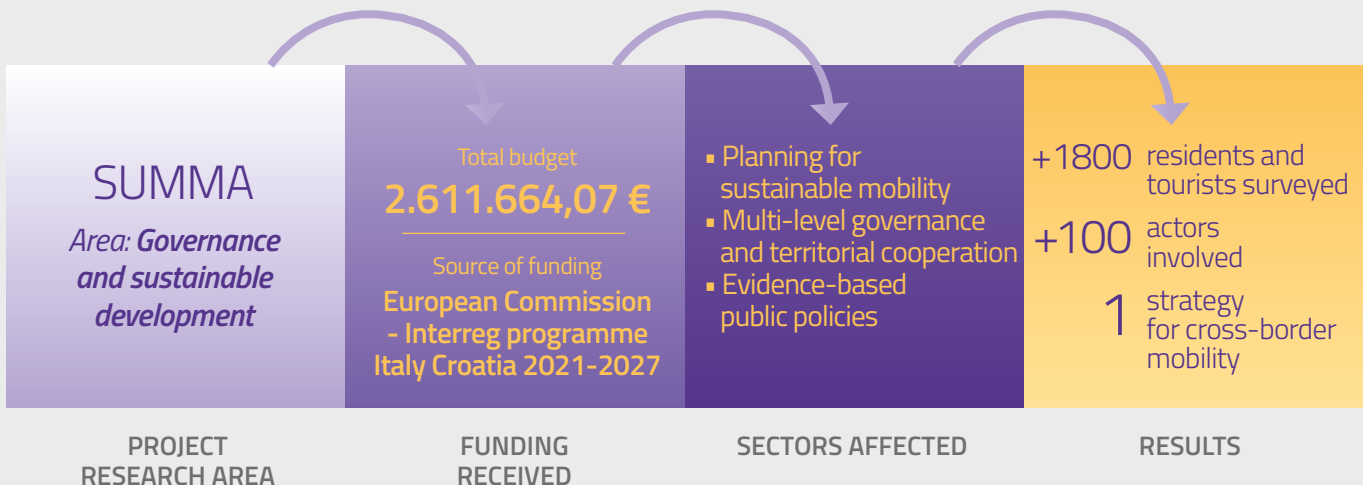
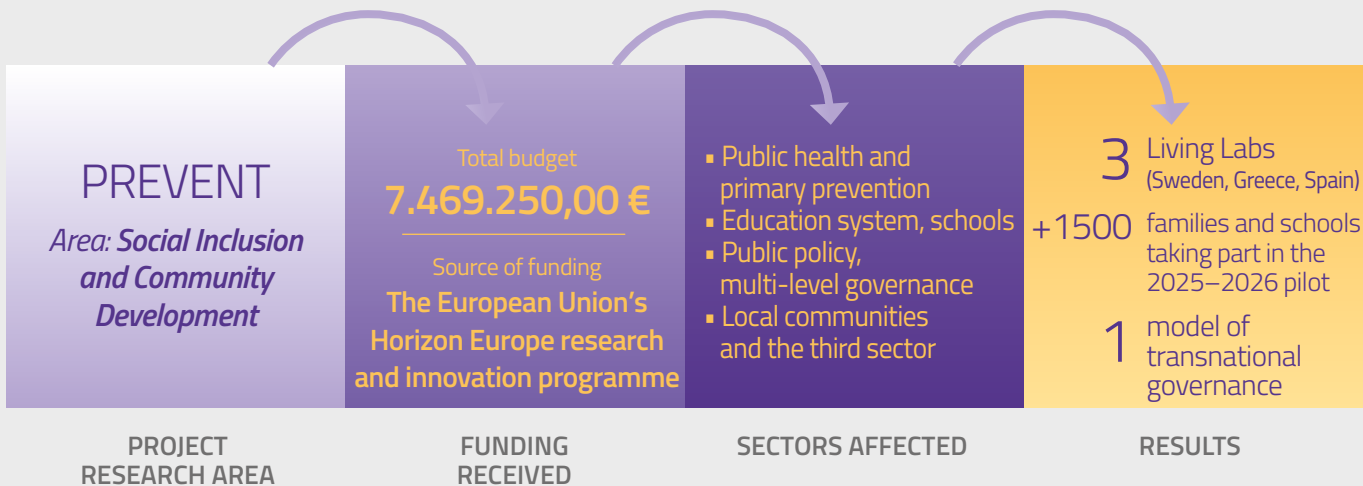
Private individuals	71	Public research bodies	11
Local authorities	46	Public bodies	10
Universities	39	Networks of local authorities	10
Research organisations	18	Primary and secondary schools	7
NGOs	17	Foundations	6
Policy-making bodies	15	International organisations	4
Public services	13	Religious bodies	3

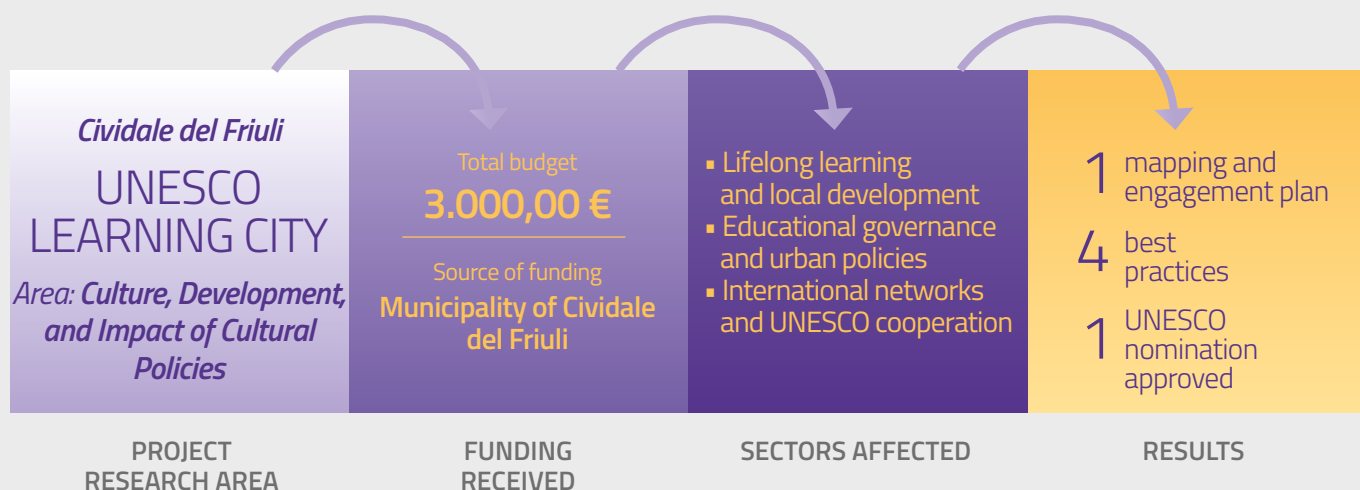
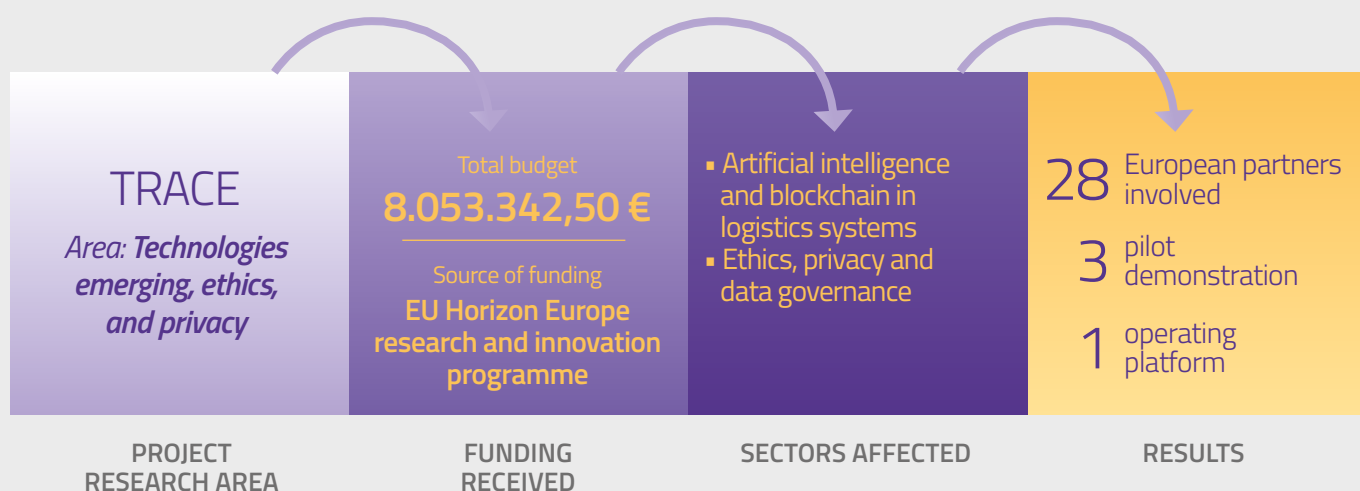
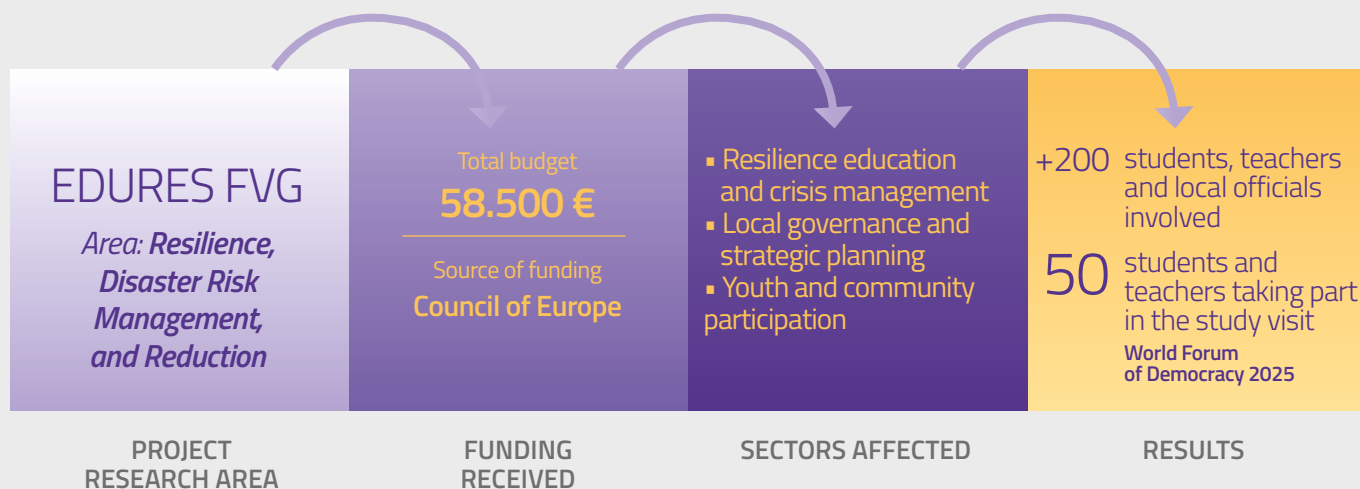
The impact of ISIG on society

ISIG’s impact stems from transforming research into knowledge that is useful for institutions, regions and communities. Through national and international projects, cross-border collaborations, and activities involving analysis and support for public policy, ISIG helps to

strengthen governance, resilience, social inclusion and sustainable development. ISIG’s work aims to bring about tangible change, fostering informed decision-making, cooperation between different stakeholders and solutions capable of addressing contemporary social challenges.

SOME EXAMPLES





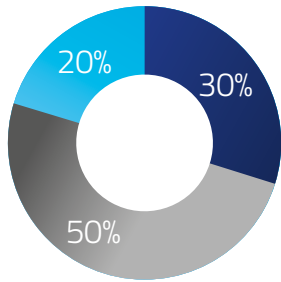
Activities 2025

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

AREA

Social Inclusion and Community Development

Throughout 2025, ISIG launched and developed its project activities, reinforcing its commitment to supporting public policies and participatory processes at local, national and international levels. Among the most significant activities are the agreement with the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia for the coordination and support of Youth Centres; assistance in the implementation of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental 'Education for Democracy' programme; and the agreements established with the AICCRES Association at regional and national levels. These are complemented by the Start Learning Cities UP project, which focuses on promoting models of lifelong learning and the development of inclusive and sustainable communities.



Percentage by type of activity carried out during the year

RESEARCH
DESIGN
TRAINING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

PREVENT – Primary cancer prevention through the fight against childhood obesity

SOCIAL RESEARCH IMPACT ANALYSIS



Funding: European Commission – Horizon Europe research and innovation programme

The PREVENT project aims to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of cancer prevention strategies, addressing childhood obesity as a risk factor for the development of cancer. The project analyses existing policies, identifying gaps and operational barriers, and designing interventions co-created with multi-sectoral stakeholders. It involves the creation of Living Labs, the testing and evaluation of context-specific interventions, and the involvement of doctors, educators, health authorities, associations and policy-makers. The project aims to develop an evaluation framework, formulate legislative recommendations and strategies for dissemination and adoption at European level in accordance with ethical and data protection requirements (GDPR).

Within the project, ISIG is involved in analysing social and behavioural dynamics, defining recommendations for the implementation of prevention practices, and engaging stakeholders to promote the sustainable adoption of the intervention models developed.

DIGIMOBI – Promoting soft mobility with the support of a digital platform

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

SPATIAL PLANNING

STRATEGIC SUPPORT



Funding: RAFVG – Call for applications Smart Communities

Coordinator: Municipality of Stregna

The DIGIMOBI project aims to enhance the network of soft mobility in the Torre and Natisone valleys, connecting routes, places and communities, and promoting the environmental, historical and cultural heritage along these routes.

The project aims to create an 'ecosystem' in which footpaths and cycle routes become a tangible driver for sustainable tourism, the wellbeing of local communities and the protection of the local area, through innovative forms of management. Within the context of the project, ISIG supports the development of the local network and the participatory governance system, facilitating the involvement of institutions and stakeholders to identify priorities for action (routine and major maintenance) and guide sustainable, shared decisions.

SPORT4FUN – From research to physical activity to promote accessible wellbeing

SOCIAL RESEARCH

IMPACT ANALYSIS



Funding: European Commission - ERASMUS+ Sport Cooperation Partnerships (SCP)

Coordinator: Media Šport (SLO) – a non-profit organisation

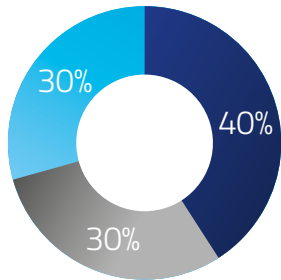
The Sports 4 Fun project aims to encourage people to adopt a healthy lifestyle through an innovative approach to physical activity. Carried out with four partners from different European countries, this project develops interactive workshops and a sustainable framework for sporting events in order to promote inclusive community participation, involving people of all ages, vulnerable groups, and migrants or people with disabilities.

As part of the project, ISIG carries out research and consultation with end-users, co-designs content and initiatives to engage citizens, and provides support in developing programmes and recommendations to promote active lifestyles.

AREA

Resilience, Disaster Risk Management, and Reduction

Throughout 2025, ISIG has strengthened its commitment to issues of safety and territorial resilience. The projects developed include: CRISAFE, which focuses on raising awareness of multi-hazard risks and engaging stakeholders; FIREURISK, dedicated to assessing vulnerability and reducing the risk of fire; IN4SAFETY, focused on developing joint action plans for cross-border emergencies; KARST ADAPT, aimed at assessing local resilience; REBUS Armenia, supporting communities hosting refugees; and SYNERGIES, dedicated to risk preparedness and volunteer training.



Percentage by type of activity carried out during the year

RESEARCH
DESIGN
TRAINING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

IN4SAFETY – Climate change resilience and emergency management

- SPATIAL PLANNING
- STRATEGIC SUPPORT
- TRAINING
- CAPACITY BUILDING



Funding: European Commission – Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027

Coordinator: Municipality of Ajdovščina (SLO)

The In4Safety project aims to promote adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, strengthening the resilience of the region through more effective cooperation between Italy and Slovenia and amongst local authorities, rescue teams and communities.

The project focuses on shared strategies, training sessions and exercises to improve preparedness and coordination in emergencies (particularly in light of recent critical events in the cross-border area). Within the project, ISIG contributes to building and consolidating cross-border collaboration, supporting the involvement of local stakeholders in the project and organising awareness-raising initiatives and activities to foster a culture of resilience, such as the cross-border GOin4SAFETY exercise, organised as part of GO! 2025.

FIRESAFENET – Integrated system for the prevention, early detection and effective management of fires

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

SPATIAL PLANNING

STRATEGIC SUPPORT



Funding: European Commission – Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027

Coordinator: Public Fire and Rescue Service – Nova Gorica Fire Brigade (SLO)

The FIRESAFENET project aims to promote a joint and innovative approach to risk management in the cross-border area, based on advanced digital solutions, training, shared action plans and structured cooperation between emergency services and local communities. In particular, the project addresses the legal and administrative barriers that hinder a rapid and coordinated cross-border response, helping to strengthen the effectiveness of interventions in crisis situations.

FIRESAFENET also aims to raise public awareness of the effects of climate change and human pressures on ecosystems, with a particular focus on protected natural areas. Within the project, ISIG is responsible for engaging stakeholders and local communities, analysing existing legal and administrative frameworks, and supporting the development of joint protocols and shared action plans. ISIG also contributes to the development of the virtual training centre, the dissemination of results, and the strengthening of cross-border cooperation.

EDURES – Ensuring inclusive, high-quality education even during emergencies and crises

SPATIAL PLANNING

STRATEGIC SUPPORT

TRAINING

CAPACITY BUILDING



Funding: Council of Europe – Department of Education and Capacity Building

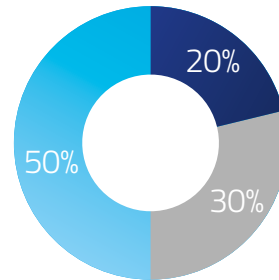
The EDURES project aims to strengthen the resilience of communities (at local, regional and national levels) through a process of self-assessment of educational resilience, with a view to improving crisis management capabilities and the ability to respond to emergency situations. In addition to developing the methodology and the resilience self-assessment tool, ISIG oversaw the piloting of the EDURES model at the local level in two pilot areas of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Cividale del Friuli and Tolmezzo) and, at the national level, in Albania.

These trials promoted an integrated approach combining resilience education in schools, territorial planning, cooperation between institutional actors and the active involvement of local communities, with a particular focus on young people and educational contexts. Finally, ISIG organised an EDURES Study Visit in which a delegation of 50 students and teachers from Friuli took part in the World Forum of Democracy 2025 in Strasbourg, presenting the results of the pilot project in the region.

AREA

Culture, Development, and Impact of Cultural Policies

ISIG is involved in cultural, participatory and impact assessment projects. These include ART&PART Labs, dedicated to the co-design of interactive sessions for the cross-border university community on the themes of civic participation, inclusion and the social role of art and theatre; GO!2025 M&E, focused on the development of cross-border monitoring and evaluation strategies and tools, and on the organisation of a Citizens' Assembly to assess the social and cultural impact of GO!2025; and TERRE SACRE – Multi-Religious Festival, in which ISIG acts as scientific coordinator in support of the Municipality of Gorizia.



Percentage by type of activity carried out during the year

RESEARCH
DESIGN
TRAINING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

ART&PART LABS – Creativity and dialogue for democratic and inclusive participation

TRAINING

CAPACITY BUILDING

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES



Funding: European Commission – Interreg Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027 Small Projects Fund

Coordinator: CTA - Centro Regionale Teatro Animazione e Figure

The Art&Puppets project aims to promote democratic participation and social inclusion through the development and dissemination of an innovative, 'borderless' approach that uses puppetry and contemporary art as tools for dialogue and engagement. The project harnesses the potential of artistic practices as spaces for encounter, critical reflection and dialogue between cultures, generations and communities, with a particular focus on cross-border contexts. Through cultural activities and opportunities for exchange, Art&Puppets fosters greater awareness of the public and social role of art and theatre.

As part of the project, ISIG is contributing to the co-creation of a series of in-depth and interactive exploration sessions aimed at the university population in the cross-border area: the Art&Participation Labs. During these sessions, topics such as civic participation, inclusion, respect for diversity and the social function of the performing arts are addressed, stimulating dialogue and critical thinking.

GO!2025 M&E – Assessment and monitoring of the event’s cultural, social and local impact

MONITORING

ASSESSMENT

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

A teal rectangular graphic with the text "GO! 2025 NOVA GORICA GORIZIA" in white, sans-serif, uppercase letters. The text is arranged in four lines: "GO! 2025", "NOVA GORICA", "GORIZIA", and a small gap between the first and second lines.

Coordinator: *European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation GECT-GO*

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) service for GO! 2025 – Nova Gorica and Gorizia European Capital of Culture, managed by ISIG, aims to track and analyse the social, cultural and territorial impact of the European Capital of Culture in the cross-border area. This initiative responds to the requirements of the international ECOC panel, which calls for a structured monitoring and evaluation system in line with the official programme set out in the bid book.

As part of the service, ISIG provides scientific support and coordinates all stakeholders, developing a cross-border M&E strategy and the tools necessary for data collection and analysis of results. The findings for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been presented in annual reports. In 2026, ISIG is also organising a cross-border Citizens’ Assembly, dedicated to the participatory evaluation of the social and cultural impact of GO! 2025.

CIVIDALE UNESCO LEARNING CITY – Analysis and support for the local council regarding the application

SOCIAL RESEARCH

IMPACT ANALYSIS

STRATEGIC CONSULTANCY

INNOVATION



Funding: *Municipality of Cividale del Friuli*

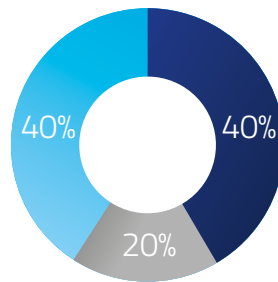
The support service for the preparation of the Municipality of Cividale’s UNESCO Learning City application was provided by ISIG to assist the municipal administration in the process of obtaining UNESCO’s international recognition for lifelong learning.

As part of the service, ISIG supported the self-assessment of the municipal context, analysing the existing learning provision, educational, cultural and training activities, and the involvement of local stakeholders. The service included the identification and promotion of good practices, the development of a strategic plan to support the application and subsequent implementation phases, as well as the joint drafting of the official application form. The initiative helped to strengthen an integrated and shared vision of lifelong learning at the local level. The application by the Municipality of Cividale was accepted in December 2025, with the Friulian municipality joining the global UNESCO network of ‘Learning Cities’ for the next three years.

AREA

Governance and sustainable development

ISIG is involved in projects focusing on territorial governance, cooperation and sustainable development. These include Central Mountains, which focuses on cross-border planning and strengthening governance models; DIGIMOB I Torre e Natisone, dedicated to soft mobility and stakeholder engagement; and ELoGE Italia and Malta, designed to help local authorities access the European Programme; EAP, focused on the design and delivery of training programmes in collaboration with the Council of Europe; IMC Armenia, dedicated to supporting local government reform in Cyprus; the consultancy service for the implementation of the socio-economic assessment for WWF Poseidonia; and the Gorizia Fund, focused on research and the assessment of the economic impact on the Gorizia area.



Percentage by type of activity carried out during the year

RESEARCH
DESIGN
TRAINING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

SUMMA – Innovative strategies for sustainable mobility and intermodality in the Adriatic region

- STRATEGIC CONSULTANCY
- INNOVATION
- FACILITATION
- PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES



Funding: European Commission, Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027
Coordinator: Municipality of Caorle (ITA)

The SUMMA project – Innovative Strategies for Sustainable Mobility and Intermodality in the Adriatic Region – aims to improve mobility systems in the regions of the Adriatic area by promoting sustainable, integrated and coordinated solutions across different modes of transport. The project addresses the challenges associated with the fragmentation of mobility infrastructure and services, aiming to strengthen intermodality, reduce the environmental impact of transport and improve accessibility across regions, particularly in cross-border and peripheral areas. Through the analysis of local needs, the exchange of best practices and the testing of innovative planning tools, SUMMA contributes to the development of more effective and shared policies for sustainable mobility.

Within the project, ISIG participates in research and territorial analysis activities, supports the collection and interpretation of socio-economic data, and contributes to the evaluation of the strategies adopted, fostering dialogue between institutional actors, technical experts and local communities in the Adriatic region.

MAREFUTURO – Co-creating sustainable development for maritime spatial planning

SOCIAL RESEARCH

IMPACT ANALYSIS

SPATIAL PLANNING

STRATEGIC SUPPORT



Funding: National Research Council – CNR (Next Generation EU)
Coordinator: CNR-ISMAR (ITA)

The MARE FUTURO project aims to promote the integration of biodiversity conservation into maritime spatial planning processes, contributing to the development of solutions and actions for the protection of marine ecosystems. The project forms part of the research activities of MSP4BIODIVERSITY (NBFC-Spoke2-A4), coordinated by CNR-ISMAR and funded by the European Union through the Next Generation EU fund. The activities aim to directly support the process of defining, implementing, monitoring and adapting Italian maritime spatial plans, which are currently awaiting approval.

Within the project, ISIG is working alongside CNR-ISMAR to design and implement a participatory process aimed at engaging stakeholders and experts from the maritime sector, contributing to the development and validation of scenarios for future use of the sea in three pilot areas: the Northern Adriatic, the Northern Tyrrhenian Sea and the Strait of Sicily. Through this approach, ISIG fosters dialogue between research, institutions and interest groups, strengthening the participatory dimension of decision-making processes related to maritime governance.

SETO – SiIntelligent transport systems in multimodal and cross-border contexts

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

SOCIAL RESEARCH

IMPACT ANALYSIS



Funding: European Commission - Horizon Europe research and innovation programme

Coordinator: University of Dublin (EIR)

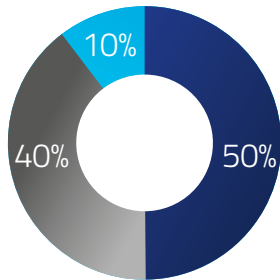
The SETO project aims to promote the development of a shared framework for the development of intelligent transport systems in multimodal and cross-border contexts. The project addresses the challenges associated with the integration of different mobility systems, cooperation between regions, and the need for innovative solutions capable of meeting the needs of users and communities in cross-border areas. Through analysis, comparison and capitalisation of results, SETO contributes to improving the quality of policies and strategies in the field of intelligent transport.

Within the project, ISIG is responsible for analysing social behaviours and perceptions related to mobility, conducting context analysis, and mapping stakeholders to support participatory activities. ISIG also oversees the definition of the communication strategy and contributes to the development of policy and research recommendations aimed at promoting and disseminating the project's results.

AREA

Technologies emerging, ethics, and privacy

ISIG is involved in projects focusing on security, ethics and digital innovation. These include I-SEAMORE, which involves data management, monitoring and analysis of the ethical, social and legal aspects of European maritime security systems; ID2L, in which the Institute acts as an independent ethics advisor for a digital identity management platform based on distributed ledgers; ONELAB, dedicated to analysing citizens' perceptions and trust regarding mass testing and verifying the ethical and privacy compliance of project activities; PREVENT, for the co-creation and piloting of policies on the prevention of childhood and adolescent obesity; and REWIRE, acting as an Independent Ethics Committee for the safety and assurance of the lifecycle of compositional systems.



Percentage by type of activity carried out during the year

RESEARCH
DESIGN
TRAINING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

ODYSSEUS – Data management and privacy system, legal compliance of the technologies developed

- SOCIAL RESEARCH
- IMPACT ANALYSIS
- MONITORING
- ASSESSMENT



Funding: European Commission - European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme
Coordinator: Software Imagination & Vision Srl (ROU)

The ODYSSEUS project aims to facilitate the crossing of land and sea borders in a safe, seamless and uninterrupted manner, whilst reducing the workload of border authorities and improving their operational efficiency. The project harnesses the potential of digital technologies to provide citizens with innovative tools that enable them to cross borders without long waits, whilst ensuring high standards of security. At the same time, ODYSSEUS provides border authorities with advanced solutions for secure identity verification and non-intrusive screening of vehicles, luggage and goods, based on highly detailed risk analysis.

Within the project, ISIG is responsible for data management and the legal compliance of processing procedures, contributing to the assessment of the project's impact from a privacy, ethical, social and legal perspective. ISIG also supports the definition and adherence to ethical requirements, helping to ensure the responsible and compliant use of the technologies developed.

CRISAFE – Early warning and decision-support tools for infrastructure managers and emergency services

SPATIAL PLANNING

STRATEGIC SUPPORT

FACILITATION

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES



Funding: European Commission – European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme

Coordinator: Ethniko Kai Kapodistriako Panepistimio Athinon (GRC)

The TRACE project aims to develop a universal platform for the planning, scheduling, optimisation and management of logistics events and processes, integrating advanced digital solutions and blockchain technologies. The project is experimenting with the use of smart contracts and real-time financial transactions, representing one of the first attempts to provide 'smart coverage' for existing logistics structures, improving their efficiency, transparency and coordination capabilities. Through an innovative approach, TRACE aims to meet the needs of increasingly complex and interconnected transport and logistics systems.

Within the project, ISIG is responsible for addressing ethical and privacy issues related to the use of artificial intelligence, analysing citizens' transport needs, and developing a participatory model. ISIG also contributes to the development of guidelines and recommendations for capitalising on and disseminating the project's results.

TRACE – Analysis of citizens' transport needs and the development of a participatory model

MONITORING

ASSESSMENT

SOCIAL RESEARCH

IMPACT ANALYSIS



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

Coordinator: Sveuciliste U Zagrebu Građevinski Fakultet (HRV)

The CRISAFE project aims to improve the capacity to prevent and manage risks associated with complex natural events, such as heavy rainfall, floods and earthquakes, by analysing the vulnerability of urban infrastructure and the population in Croatia, the Netherlands and Italy. The project focuses in particular on flood protection works, identifying the most vulnerable points and the potential consequences for local areas and communities. Through case studies in Rotterdam and Zagreb, CRISAFE contributes to the development of early warning and decision-support tools for infrastructure managers and emergency services, whilst also promoting greater public awareness of risks.

Within the project, ISIG is responsible for analysing local contexts and engaging citizens, institutions and key stakeholders through meetings, workshops and participatory initiatives. ISIG also contributes to the dissemination of clear and accessible information on risks and project outcomes, to strengthen the awareness and resilience of local communities.

Future direction

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

Prospects

In 2026, the Institute of International Sociology in Gorizia will embark on a phase of consolidating and capitalising on the expertise, operational tools and networks developed in recent years through European projects and international cooperation. The aim is to ensure that these outcomes are fully structured and accessible, transforming them into on-going services to support members, public administrations, and institutional and private stakeholders in Italy and abroad.

The Institute's activities focus on integrated operational priorities. A first area concerns technical and training support for public administrations to strengthen institutional capacity, with particular attention to democratic governance, participation, resilience and European project planning. Within this framework, ISIG develops support programmes for the adoption of new technologies, focusing on social acceptance, impact assessment and integration into decision-making processes.

A second area is dedicated to the ecological transition and environmental challenges, through applied research and policy support on climate change adaptation, territorial sustainability, sustainable mobility and the management of coastal and maritime areas. Particular attention is paid to the social dimension of environmental policies and the involvement of local communities.

At the same time, the Institute works to transform the experience gained into a lasting body of shared methods, relationships and capabilities, capable of generating continuity beyond individual projects. Over the three-year period 2026–2028, ISIG aims to support institutions and communities along a path of learning and lasting innovation, in which knowledge, cooperation and participation become structural elements of decision-making processes and territorial development.

*ISIG is an evolving institute,
which looks to the future by driving
innovation, culture and resilience
in local communities.*





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