

STRATEGIC PLAN CITCEM 2025-2029

CITCEM focuses on the transdisciplinary study of themes related to memory and space, cultural heritage in its tangible and intangible forms, environmental history, rural and urban landscapes, population mobility, religious practices, information management, media studies, digital cultures, infocommunication literacy, creative industries and entrepreneurship, and a set of other themes that are interconnected to produce knowledge towards the national and international scientific community and to respond to societal challenges.

The proposed strategic plan (2025-29), under the theme "**Encountering communities (multispecies) and scaling dialogues**", enlarges the concept of communities (beyond humans), surpasses hegemonic discourses and crosses society-nature scientific dialogues. It aligns with the challenges proposed by the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations (UN) and the European Commission priorities, namely the ecological pact and resilience in the face of green and digital transitions, as well as the consecration of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-30).

The 2025-29 strategic plan, "Encountering communities (multispecies) and scaling dialogues", develops the idea of community beyond humans, interpreting nature, and mobilizing sciences and societal awareness. The breadth of the concept fits with the action of a centre based on transdisciplinarity between the various scientific areas, articulated with the previous strategic plan (2022-23) focused on "migrations and permeabilities".

Broadening dialogues, communities are seen from the perspective of the below and the margins, deconstructing identities, focusing on the human species, but without forgetting its interactions and impacts with other animals and plants (multispecies).

A kaleidoscopic and polyphonic approach to the story of a community given by internal contradictions and contestations, to understand the 'strange' and the world behind the fragments we observe, "local places in global processes" through material materials and local voices as a part of a large frame.

A panoply of subtopics could guide group's aims and projects, namely, communities and the deconstruction of national essences; communities' inequality and vulnerability - economic, social, cultural, health, gendered; life cycle, human beings and invisible groups - families, oldest, youngest, discontinuity with perceived ancestors, loneliness; communities as places of knowledge - a comprehensive biodiversity evolution on natural museum collections; on-line communities and (in)visibility; mobilizing communities - activism (e.g. visual arts, literary arts, performing arts, architecture, and creative sectors, operating in cultural, artistic, and educational fields).

This frame mobilizes internal organization, scientific production, and its dissemination to be developed in the main following strategic points.

1. Internationalization - research network

The enlargement and reinforcement of internationalization and cooperation will be done through a stronger cooperation with international institutions (universities, research centres, networks, scientific societies/associations). Several conferences and other scientific events are already planned for the coming years, under the organization of CITCEM's RG with international partners, as well as the organization of the XI and XII CITCEM International Meetings (2025, 2028), focused on the strategic theme adopted for 2025-29.

2. Scientific employment and development of careers In the scope of FLUP's application to FCT Tenure programme, CITCEM proposed the recruitment of 7 researchers/teachers which will contribute to develop core areas in articulation with PhD Programmes linked to the R&D Unit. Likewise, contracts and scholarships for young PhD researchers will be assured in articulation with the internal research projects proposed by CITCEM's RG. For example, considering the scattered records of research project's results and reports on archaeological and historical sites, literature, and heritage, among other areas, it is intended to organize a wide range of long-term information evaluation, with the creation of databases, available online, georeferencing, and mapping information to reconstruct territories, landscapes, and environmental changes.

3. Advanced training The search for valorisation of the community of researchers means the development of conditions for scientific updating, in conjunction with the various levels of graduate training at FLUP. It includes scholarships for master's degree, doctorate (from programmatic budget and FCT Studentships Research for Doctorate) and post-doctoral research; summer schools in close connection with Doctoral Programmes, regular Research Workshops (<https://oficinascitcem.wixsite.com/oiccitcem>) and Permanent Seminars and other initiatives carried out by groups of doctoral students and CITCEM researchers.

4. Dissemination of science increasing societal awareness and participation, particularly stimulating open science and citizen science in cooperation with other institutions Reinforcing knowledge valorisation, conceptualizing, mapping and creating more synergies between research industry interface agents for a stronger uptake of knowledge by the economy and society. Cooperation with other institutions is a strong pillar of past strategy and of this new strategic plan, strengthen research networks, in a scientific world without borders, at international scale, transcending disciplinary and sectoral barriers, the SHS in collaboration with researchers from the life and physical sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Concretely, the cooperation with the Museum of Natural History and Science of U.Porto, according to a plan around the principle of Interpreting Nature - bio distribution and memory mobilizing sciences, concepts of knowledge mobility, communication networks and spatial logics. The dissemination of science will also consider the development of digital platforms, virtual exhibitions and online availability of databases and other digital resources, as for example the ObCiber-Cyberjournalism Observatory, the Creia.Lab-Creative Industries Accelerator Lab and the OBEMMA-Electronic Music and Media Arts Observatory; as well as the improvement of editorial activity (4 existing journals and publication of e-books, all in open access). CITCEM is committed to social responsibility, increasing initiatives devoted to deepening relationships with a wide range of stakeholders through protocols signed with municipalities and cultural institutions at local and national levels

To accomplish this strategic plan, CITCEM defined 6 main objectives, which are in line with what has been its strategic orientation, especially in recent years, but which are expanded with new dimensions and deepening of the existing ones. These objectives fundamentally aim to:

1. consolidate and expand research networks and international cooperation, especially in the European, Latin American and African spaces, with particular emphasis on the Portuguese-speaking world, through publications, participation in/organization of scientific events and research projects;
2. contribute to the development of early careers and the promotion of scientific employment, by hiring young researchers, with recognized merit, to develop areas of research that still lack human resources to strengthen themselves, whether within the scope of internal projects and with external funding, either through the FCT Tenure Programme;
3. heavily invest in the development of advanced training, both by awarding scholarships and by organizing regular workshops and summer schools, monitoring and disseminating doctoral work within the scope of FLUP's doctoral programmes, in which CITCEM researchers coordinate or teach, supporting students to obtain a European doctorate, in partnership with foreign universities through Erasmus mobility agreements;
4. encourage researchers to seek additional funding, through applications for international or national "calls", from public or private entities;
5. strengthen the academia/society/environment link, in close alignment with the strategic theme, particularly in the field of public policies and citizen science;
6. increase intervention and transfer of knowledge to society, through the development of applied research projects and service provision contracts.

With a view to fulfilling these goals, the proposed activity plan sets out what the R&D Unit proposes to carry out in a transdisciplinary way and the most relevant work that will be developed by the 7 CITCEM's RG, in many cases crossing areas of different groups and working interdisciplinary and collaboratively