

# XVIII INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

## OVERARCHING ISSUES OF THE EUROPEAN AREA

Building Sustainable and  
Resilient Territories: Navigating  
Environmental Challenges

23RD - 26TH MAY 2024

Faculty of Arts and Humanities  
University of Porto



### CIRCULAR

Dear colleagues,

Still recovering from the pandemic crisis, our increasingly globalised world has been immersed in a war with far-reaching repercussions. Despite the threats and destruction to which our planet has been subjected, a multiplicity of ecosystems persists even though they are suffering a critical loss of biodiversity. It is very common to find a combination of dynamic, multifunctional territories in these ecosystems neighboured by others in decline, where development and sustainability are at stake. These spaces show the indelible effects of climate change and particularly of human intervention, further aggravated by the ongoing war in Europe. However, awareness of these critical issues is growing and their impact on the environmental, economic and social levels has fostered the need for intervention at multiple different scales. Thus, strategies are being drafted that focus on inclusive development based not only on the conservation of landscapes and heritage but also on the revitalisation of social frameworks. To achieve these aims, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN and embodied in the "Agenda 2030" are of mandatory reference, representing imperative challenges in the current context of warfare in the European area which aggravates social inequalities and environmental problems.

The aim is to eradicate poverty while promoting equal access to energy, education, and quality health services. Another area of focus is the creation of jobs and energy efficiency, in addition to the conservation and management of endogenous resources. The intention is also to promote effective institutions and stable societies where justice, peace, health care, and gender equality are unequivocal and inclusive. Policy convergence is required to achieve these goals, where environmental and social strategies gain priority over strictly economic motives. They should be clearly guided by innovation and ethics, sustained by digital resources, and dedicated to increasing literacy and technical training. These principles pave the way towards greater territorial cohesion as the most effective means of overcoming the systemic and multifaceted crisis we have experienced in recent times.

It is, therefore, necessary to continue to reflect on these topics without ignoring their complexity and territorial diversity. The European space should be compared with others, highlighting interconnections, particularly with the Brazilian space from which several innovative projects have emerged. This collaborative link is further strengthened through the **XVIII International Seminars of the Overarching Issues of the European Area**. The main objective, evident in the previous editions of this event, also persists: the approach to current problems in a scientific, creative, multidisciplinary, and inter-university setting, highlighting the search for strategies to mitigate these problems within a framework of sustainability and resilience.

This event, organised by the University of Porto with several national and international partners, is increasingly acknowledged as a research network that seeks to provide answers to emerging challenges. In 2024, the XVIII International Seminars of the Overarching Issues of the European Area will feature a scientific committee made up of renowned national and international scholars from more than a dozen countries, centred on the theme of **“Building Resilient and Sustainable Territories”**.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the **XVIII International Seminars of the Overarching Issues of the European Area** has obtained the **High Patronage of the European Parliament**.

### TOPICS:

1. Society and Culture
2. Education and Teaching
3. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Digital Transformations in Territories
4. Tradition, Heritage, and Tourism
5. Economy and Sustainability
6. Urban and Rural Connections
7. Resilience and Transitions in Rural Areas
8. Landscape and Ecosystem Management
9. Climate Change, Environment and Sustainable Development
10. Vulnerabilities, Risks, and Civil Protection
11. European Security and Defence
12. European Policy Challenges and Spatial Planning
13. Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management
14. Circular economy and waste management
15. Environmental policy and governance
16. Resources management and conservation
17. Sustainable agriculture and food systems
18. Green technologies, energy and innovation
19. Social and economic dimensions of sustainability
20. Population ageing and Rural Health

\*Other topics may be accepted subject to acceptance from the scientific committee.

### CALL FOR PAPERS:

We are very pleased to invite you to submit contributions under the conference’s thematic topics. This is a unique opportunity to share your research and experience with an international community of scholars, experts and policymakers. Join us on this journey, working together to promote strategic solutions to tackle the enormous challenges of our time and structure a more sustainable and resilient future. **Submit your abstract** and be part of this international discussion. We look forward to your contributions and your presence at the conference!

Abstracts submitted to the **XVIII International Seminars of the Overarching Issues of the European Area** must be unpublished, well-structured and appropriate to the topics suggested for discussion at

the event. The abstracts submitted must be based on original data, of high technical quality and meet international ethical standards. **Abstracts of a commercial nature will not be accepted.**

**Authors must choose the available presentation medium:** Oral Paper Presentation; Poster Presentation; and Poster.

**Submission of paper and poster proposals:**

- a. Deadline: 29th February 2024
- b. Notification of Acceptance: 17th March 2024

**PUBLICATION STRATEGY:**

Participants in the **XVIII International Seminars of the Overarching Issues of the European Area** can submit their short abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations (between 200 to 250 words, not including references) until **29th February 2024**. **All accepted abstracts will be published in the Book of Abstracts published by the University of Porto, with ISBN and DOI.** Subsequently, participants with accepted short abstracts will be invited to submit their **extended abstract (1 to 4 pages)** by **5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**, to be published in the MDPI *Journal Proceedings*. The template for this extended abstract is available on the Conference website. For more detailed instructions, authors can consult the publisher's website: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/proceedings/instructions>. In all circumstances, the extended abstract must be in English.

**Note:** The document to be submitted must be original and unpublished. If it does not comply with this rule, the abstract will not be included in the Abstracts publication.

As this is an international conference, we are preparing a series of special publications with international publishers.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME:**

**Keynote Speakers:**

- **Michael Woods**, Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom
- **Ulrike Grabski-Kieron**, University of Münster, Germany

**General Programme:**

General Program					
		May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26
Morning	08h:30 09h:00	Reception of Participants	Reception of Participants	Reception of Participants	Field Trip
	09h:00 10h:00	Workshops	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	
	10h:00 10h:20		Coffee break	Coffee break	
	10h:20 11h:20		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	
	11h:20 11h:30		Break	Break	
	11h:30 12h:30		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	
12h:30 14h:00	Lunch				
Evening	14h:00 15h:00	Opening session	Round Table	Round Table	
	15h:00 15h:10	Break	Break	Break	
	15h:10 16h:40	Policy Session	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	
	16h:40 17h:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
	17h:00 18h:30	Visit to the City of Porto	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	
	18h:30 19h:00		Ebook	Cultural Moment	
Night	20h:00		Dinner		

### CONFERENCE VENUE:

Founded in 1911, the [University of Porto \(U.Porto\)](http://www.up.pt) is a benchmark institution for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Portugal and one of the top 200 European Universities according to the most relevant international ranking systems.

**Address:** FLUP: Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Via Panorâmica s/n 4150-564 Porto

**Internet availability:** Wireless Internet access is available free of charge in the conference venue.

**Language:** The official Conference languages are English and Portuguese.

**Social events:** Do not forget to join the special events organised onsite.

**REGISTRATION:** <https://www.lettras.up.pt/si/subscriptions?event=70>

**MAILING ADDRESS:** [euroissues@lettras.up.pt](mailto:euroissues@lettras.up.pt)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Information on the Organisation, Scientific Committee, Honour Committee, prices, social events, venue, registration fee, accommodation, meals, and transport can be found on the event's official website at: <http://web2.lettras.up.pt/euroissues24>