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„PNRR: Fonduri pentru România modernă și reformată!”

# E-NEWSLETTER

## CITY-FOCUS



**City: Future Organisation of Changes in Urbanisation and Sustainability**

### About CITY-FOCUS

Implementation period  
27th of March 2024 - 30th of June 2026

The City-Focus Project is designed to enhance the understanding of EU cities' resilience and develop a theoretical framework for assessing urban vulnerabilities and transformation capacity.

The project seeks to provide an evidence-based urban governance model using intelligent technologies and smart city solutions to achieve sustainable urban quality.

CityFocus is implemented by an interdisciplinary team, that is making a significant contribution to knowledge and practice in European studies and regional and urban development.

Project coordinator:  
Prof. PhD. Andrés Rodríguez Pose



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## PROJECT UPDATES

### RESEARCH

- Survey implementation and data collection, capturing residents' perceptions on urban vulnerability, digitalisation and quality of life.
- Development of the Urban Vulnerability and Transformability Index, to support comparative analysis across cities and informing evidence-based decision-making.
- Living Lab activities, including coordination meetings with local administration and the co-design and testing of urban experiments together with citizens.
- Developing the structure for the CityFocus dashboard, which will visualise key indicators and insights in an accessible and interactive format.
- Collaborating on grant proposals to further support applied urban research and experimentation.



### COMMUNICATION & EVENTS

#### CITY FOCUS SPECIAL SESSION | *From Responding to Adapting and Transforming EU Cities - 64th ERSA Congress: Regional Science in Turbulent Times, Athens, Greece*

This session explored how European cities move from short-term responses to long-term adaptation and transformation in the face of socio-economic, environmental, and digital challenges. Topics included urban vulnerability, resilience, governance, and the role of digitalisation and innovation in shaping sustainable and inclusive urban futures.

#### CITY FOCUS SPECIAL SESSION | *From Vulnerability to Opportunity: Building Resilient and Liveable Cities through Sustainability and Digitalisation - 64th ERSA Congress: Regional Science in Turbulent Times, Athens, Greece*

The session focused on transforming urban vulnerabilities into opportunities through sustainability-driven and digitally enabled strategies. Discussions addressed social inequalities, quality of life, smart city approaches, and policy tools supporting resilient and liveable European cities.

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## WORKSHOP | *Partnerships and research priorities in the EU: the role of the European Charter for Researchers*

**Speakers:** Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics and Political Science), Elena Felice (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University)

The workshop explored how the European Charter for Researchers supports stronger partnerships and more coherent research agendas aligned with EU priorities, fostering high-quality and responsible research environments.

## WORKSHOP | *Horizon Europe: advanced knowledge and key competences for successful application*

**Speakers:** Maria Tsouri (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences), Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This workshop offered hands-on insights into what makes a Horizon Europe proposal competitive, focusing on essential skills, strategic thinking, and practical application tips.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

- Michelangeli, A., Östh, J., Toger, M., & Turk, U. (2025). Inequality in access to urban amenities. *Npj Urban Sustainability*, 5(1), 54. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-025-00248-2>
- Incaltarau, C. (2025). Human Capital and Economic Resilience to Economic and Health Shocks: Accounting for Regional Cycle Variations, Different Economic Dimensions and More Resilience Phases. *Tijdschrift Voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.70055>

## NEXT STEPS

- Analysis of questionnaire responses and publication of results
- Finalisation of the Urban Vulnerability and Transformability Index, including scenarios, good practice examples and policy recommendations
- Developing the digital warehouse to encourage participatory urban governance
- CityFocus Living Lab experiments with residents of Iasi to co-design local solutions
- Expanding dissemination activities through events and publications
- Organisation of CityFocus Spring School “Building Knowledge, Shaping Cities”

### Editors:

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**Graphics source:** Canva

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