



ACTION  
PLAN  
2026

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# 1.

## DINÂMIA'CET-ISCTE STRATEGIC STATEMENT

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In a period marked by deep geopolitical uncertainty, accelerating ecological and digital transitions, and a reshaping of the national and European research funding landscape, DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte positions its 2026 activity within a framework that combines strategic foresight with scientific ambition and institutional responsibility. The forthcoming transition from the FCT funding system to new national structures (including AI<sup>2</sup>) introduces both challenges and opportunities, requiring the Centre to balance continuity with adaptive capacity, and consolidation with exploratory research trajectories.

Within this evolving context, DINÂMIA'CET reaffirms its core mission: to advance knowledge on socioeconomic and territorial change, while actively engaging with emerging funding opportunities and reinforcing its international research profile. The Centre builds upon its established intellectual agenda while integrating new research dynamics, including competitive European projects such as the ERC Starting Grant *Housing as a Tool for Freedom: A Future Away from Incarceration*, which exemplifies its commitment to innovative, policy-relevant and socially engaged research.

The Strategic Statement for 2026 is structured around three interrelated dimensions. First, a set of thematic research priorities that respond to the most pressing contemporary transformations, including climate and digital transitions, governance in contexts of polycrisis, labour market inequalities, housing dynamics, post-colonial urban perspectives, and cultural and creative ecosystems. Second, the strengthening of transversal research infrastructures, particularly through the consolidation of the Centre's three observation structures — the Youth Employment Observatory, Habidata, and the City-Region Transition Observatory — which will play a central role in knowledge production, dissemination and policy engagement. Third, an institutional outlook oriented towards consolidation and innovation, encompassing new laboratories, partnerships, governance structures, and funding frameworks that reinforce the Centre's capacity for interdisciplinary and impactful research.

Against this backdrop, 2026 is understood not only as a year of implementation, but as a moment of strategic reconfiguration. It is a period in which DINÂMIA'CET strengthens its internal organisation, expands its international collaborations, and consolidates its role as a leading research centre in socioeconomic and territorial studies, committed to scientific excellence, societal relevance and institutional foresight.

## 2.

### ACTION IN FORESIGHT

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Faced with the uncertainties brought about by contemporary geopolitical challenges, along with a whole new national research funding panorama (i.e., the extinction of FCT and the new AI<sup>2</sup>), activity planned for 2026 at DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte (DC) must balance ambition with a careful evaluation of upcoming scenarios. The Centre persists in its mission to advance knowledge and understanding of its six key issues in our research agenda, while also taking advantage of new funding opportunities, such as the ERC Starting Grant in *Housing as a Tool for Freedom: A Future Away from Incarceration*, to explore further avenues for research and action.

In line with the strategic goals set out by each research group (RG), DC seeks to substantially improve knowledge on socioeconomic and territorial change, paying particular attention to the following contemporary themes:

- i. Socioeconomic and ecological impacts of climate change and digital transitions.
- ii. Regulation and governance in a situation of polycrises.
- iii. Job quality, labour market solidarity and employment policies in times of rising inequalities.
- iv. Historical and post-colonial perspectives for decoding the social production of space.
- v. Housing dynamics and their socioeconomic and urban effects.
- vi. Cultural and creative ecosystems as manifestations of hybrid and marginal structures.

Transversal to all RGs and research pillars, and aided by the planned establishment of dedicated research teams, our 3 observation structures – Youth Employment Observatory, Habidata and City-Region Transition Observatory – are set to consolidate production of outputs such as publications, presentations to general audiences and support to policy design and evaluation.

### 3.

## INSTITUTIONAL OUTLOOK

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DINÂMIA'CET will launch its Applied Technologies Laboratory, continuing the implementation of the strategic plan established for the 2025–2029 period. This initiative results from the convergence of ongoing collective and individual projects. Notable among these are the Future Skills Factory, led by Florinda Matos, Solve-H, locally coordinated by Alexandra Paio, and RH\_O, developed by Rolando Volzone.

The laboratory incorporates hardware currently in the acquisition process, namely a robotic arm for the development of projects in the fields of automation, prototyping and pre-fabrication, as well as a drone equipped with laser scanning technology for heritage surveying. In the field of digital technologies, funding under EQUIPAR+2 is also expected to be implemented in 2026.

The Applied Technologies Laboratory will be articulated with the Vitruvius Fab-Lab at Iscte, directed by Teresa Rodeia, providing an opportunity to develop coordinated strategies for research and innovation.

Another institutional partner is the DAViD Lab (Digitalisation and Advanced Data Visualisation Laboratory), established to digitise, preserve and democratise access to large historical and cultural archives, enabling advanced scientific analysis across disciplines while providing public access through immersive digital experiences. Alexandra Saraiva is part of the core team responsible for defining and structuring the mission, goals, and conceptual framework of the Lab.

In 2026, the partnership with PASSDA (Production and Archive of Social Science Data), a Portuguese infrastructure for the collection, archiving and dissemination of data on socio-political attitudes, values and behaviours, will also be consolidated.

The Ethics Committee of DINÂMIA'CET will be formally appointed, in accordance with the unit's internal regulations and governance framework. The Committee will be chaired by Maria Eduarda Gonçalves, supported by Helena Lopes and José Luís Saldanha, playing a central role in safeguarding ethical standards in research conducted within the Centre.

In 2026, the External Advisory Board of DINÂMIA'CET will be expanded with the appointment of a new member, expected to have expertise in social economy and inequalities.

The VIII DINÂMIA'CET Workshop will also take place in 2026, under the theme *Contemporary and Future Socioeconomic and Territorial Dynamics*. As part of the event, which will bring together the unit's researchers from across the unit, a reflection will be undertaken on the research groups, anticipating a possible evolution of their institutional format in order to address the challenges identified by the evaluators of the unit's strategic plan under the FCT multiannual funding scheme. Elections for the governing bodies of the Research Groups are scheduled for 2026.

The year 2026 will also mark the transition of the management team of DINÂMIA'CET to Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation, under a secondment arrangement, as FCT funding will be managed through this structure. Technical support staff will also be recruited for each observation structure, with recruitment processes already underway.

In 2026, DINÂMIA'CET will launch an internal Seed Funding Programme to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and support the development of innovative research ideas with potential to evolve into competitive national and international projects. The programme will particularly encourage collaboration across Research Groups, enabling researchers to test emerging approaches, build new partnerships and generate preliminary results for future funding applications. During 2026, the Centre will establish the programme's regulations and selection procedures, launch its first competitive call, and fund the first cohort of interdisciplinary projects.

## 4.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

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### 4.1. Initiating Projects

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Six research projects are already scheduled to begin in 2026.

Three PEX (FCT) funding include:

*RUC - Radical Urban Cultures. Exploring the political ecologies of urban-food-soil entanglements in the Anthropocene through Natural Wine*, (PI: Andrea Pavoni; budget: €59.060,65)

*CARnation - A socio-spatial methodological approach to the CAR housing estates in the metropolitan regions of Lisbon and Porto*, (PI: Teresa Marat-Mendes; budget: €59.978,61)

*URB - Urbanization Wireless (URB-WI): The built environment of telecommunications, mapping the territorial implantation of Portuguese Company Radio Marconi - CPRM, 1925-1995*, (PI: Alexandra Areia, €59.941,46)

The new European Research Council starting grant awarded to Joana Lages, *HOUSING FREEDOM - Housing as a Tool for Freedom: A Future Away from Incarceration*, is also starting in February 2026 (Budget: €1,499,213.00)

DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte will partner two additional European Commission funded projects:

*GET Med - Grounded Ecological Transition for the Mediterranean*, with Teresa Marat-Mendes (DC budget: €72,852.02), and

*Energise - Supporting Social Dialogue for Just Transition in the European Energy Sector*, with Paulo Marques, Fátima Suleman and João Loureiro (DC budget: €48,495.72).

## 4.2. Publications and Events

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In 2026, according to the information provided by researchers through the annual reporting form circulated to all members, DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte researchers expect to publish over 150 articles in indexed journals, as well as 43 policy papers and project reports.

This year, Routledge will release Paulo Marques' (co-editor) *Governing Solidarity in European Labour Markets*, whose launch will host the Spanish Minister of Labour, Yolanda Díaz. Another book which will be publicly launched is Rita Calvário's *Terra, Mulheres e Revolução* (Tinta-da-China), following her project 'Gendered power relations in agriculture: how rural women are facing gender inequality and struggling for more just and sustainable agri-food systems – the case of Portugal'. Ricardo Agarez and his team at ReARQ.IB – Built Environment Knowledge for Resilient, Sustainable Communities: Understanding Everyday Modern Architecture and Urban Design in the Iberian Peninsula (1939–1985) will publish 15 volumes resulting from the 'Arquitetura Aqui' initiative.

In terms of policy contributions, the teams of projects 'Science4Policy' and 'Estratégias para a Cultura na AML' will deliver policy papers.

Another editorial change will take place in-house, with the appointment of a new editorial team for *CIDADES, Comunidades e Territórios*. A call for potential candidates will be open until May.

DINÂMIA'CET researchers expect to participate in more than 200 scientific and public engagement events in 2026, with a few already in preparation, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Colonial and Post-Colonial Landscapes (February). In April, there will be an Open Day at Iscte with the Youth Employment Observatory and the City-Regions Observatory. Another major international event will be the IIPPE (Political Economy) Annual Conference (September), a joint initiative with ICS.

## 4.3. Priorities and Budget

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DINÂMIA'CET's institutional priority setting is largely the result of strategic reflection over group and individual networking and strategic identification of funding opportunities. That is why applications are at the core of this process. 70 collective/individual applications were stated as expected this year, including 3 Horizon

Europe, 15 CEEC, 10 Erasmus+, 8 FCT, 3 ERC and 14 other national and international applications. The work of a research centre and its financial sustenance is a continuous process, however. Our yearly's budget thus translates what has been achieved and what may be expected.

| Funding per year<br>(average annual contracted values) |               |           | 2025 |                    | 2026*                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                        |               |           | #    | (€)                | # (€)                 |
| <b>1- Strategic budget</b>                             |               |           |      | <b>1 038 915 €</b> | <b>1 038 915 €</b>    |
|                                                        | Core Funding  | 1         |      | 633 512 €          | 633 512 €             |
|                                                        | Equipment PRR | 2         |      | 405 403 €          | 405 403 €             |
| <b>2- National projects</b>                            |               |           |      | <b>414 256 €</b>   | <b>254 732 €</b>      |
|                                                        | FCT Projects  | 13        |      | 328 704 €          | 191 130 €             |
|                                                        | Others        | 8         |      | 85 552 €           | 63 602 €              |
| <b>3- International projects</b>                       |               |           |      | <b>1 116 970 €</b> | <b>1 383 851 €</b>    |
|                                                        | ERC           | 2         |      | 749 938 €          | 999 806 €             |
|                                                        | Other EC      | 4         |      | 172 350 €          | 214 811 €             |
|                                                        | Others        | 6         |      | 194 682 €          | 169 234 €             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                           |               | <b>36</b> |      | <b>2 570 141 €</b> | <b>30 2 677 498 €</b> |

\* Only contracted projects until april 2025

**DINÂMIA-CET-Iscte Central Structure Budget 2026**

| <b>INCOME</b>                                                                            | <b>EUROS</b>       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Core Funding</b>                                                                      | 633 512 €          |
| <b>Equipment (PRR)</b>                                                                   |                    |
| Equipment for D'C                                                                        | 137 403€           |
| Equipment for CI                                                                         | 268 000€           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                                                      | <b>1 038 915 €</b> |
|                                                                                          |                    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                                                       | <b>EUROS</b>       |
| <b>Human Resources</b>                                                                   |                    |
| Science Managers                                                                         | 220 000 €          |
| <b>Development Strategy</b>                                                              |                    |
| Events & Exhibitions:                                                                    | 10 000 €           |
| D'C Events                                                                               | 6 000 €            |
| <b>Science Communication (website, mailing, newsletter, materials):</b>                  | 6 823 €            |
| <b>Support for D'C Publications (Passagens + Editions)</b>                               |                    |
| Support to Passagens                                                                     | 5 000 €            |
| Publication Support (including PJSS and others)                                          | 10 000 €           |
| <b>Promotion of Internationalisation, Scientific Publication and Societal Engagement</b> |                    |
| Internationalisation Support for Researchers (Integrated, with PhD: €1.500)              | 90 000 €           |
| Internationalisation Support for young Researchers (integrated, non-PhD:)                | 37 500 €           |
| Internationalisation Support for Science Managers (Structure)                            | 9 000 €            |
| <b>Support for the 3 Observatories</b>                                                   |                    |
| Observatório Emprego Jovem                                                               | 45 000 €           |

|                                                                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| LxHabidata                                                                              | 45 000 €           |
| City-Region Transitions (OCRT)                                                          | 45 000 €           |
| <b>Consultants (including CEPAC)</b>                                                    | 5 000 €            |
| <b>Others (Proofreading, Books, Membership Fees for International Networks, others)</b> | 20 000 €           |
| <b>Equipment</b>                                                                        |                    |
| Equipment for D'C                                                                       | 137 403€           |
| Equipment for CI *                                                                      | 268 000€           |
| <b>Overheads (from Core Funding to Iscte)</b>                                           | 79 180 €           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>                                                                | <b>1 038 915 €</b> |
|                                                                                         |                    |
| <b>BALANCE</b>                                                                          | <b>0 €</b>         |

\* includes €24,500 corresponding to D'C's share of the total €49,000 allocated to the UI for 2025–2026.