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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

- Collecting and structuring data for the development of the Urban Vulnerability and Transformability Index (IVTU).
- Designing a multi-dimensional survey to assess urban vulnerability, opportunity, and transformability across different Romanian cities.
- Developing the structure for the CityFocus dashboard, which will visualise key indicators and insights in an accessible and interactive format.
- Living Lab activities in Iași, including the development of a citizen-centered governance framework and building strong connections with local stakeholders.
- Collaborating on grant proposals to further support applied urban research and experimentation.



### COMMUNICATION & EVENTS

#### **Methodological seminar *Artificial Intelligence in Research - Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge and New Risks***

**Speakers:** Ionuț Cristian Pistol, Vasile Daniel Pavaloaia, Irina Clipca, Tamara Carmen Ungureanu

Participants discussed the potential and challenges of large language models (LLMs), took part in an applied exercise using AI in research, and reflected on the skills students and researchers need in this evolving landscape. Ethical use and academic integrity in the age of AI were also key themes of debate.

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## CITY FOCUS SPECIAL SESSION | Challenges and transformations of European Union cities in the green and digital transition context. Towards new forms of urban resilience

EURINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025, Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

Topics included green cities and urban well-being, digitalisation in public administration, green taxation, governance quality, and the role of Living Labs in advancing sustainability. The session highlighted both theoretical and practical perspectives on resilience and multi-level governance in a changing Europe.

### Living lab seminar *Knowledge and partnership – collaborative solutions for a prosperous region*

Participants: representatives from academia, local and regional authorities, the private sector, and civil society

The event aimed to integrate relevant stakeholders within a Living Lab and to initiate related activities.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

- Bănică, A., Corodescu-Roșca, E., Kourtit, K., & Nijkamp, P. (2025). Actionable policy responses to disaster threats – A comparative study on resilience and sustainability in global cities. *Land Use Policy*, 152, 107482. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2025.107482>
- Türk, U., Toger, M., Östh, J., Kourtit, K., & Nijkamp, P. (2025). Rural Feet Voting of Leisure Explorers. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 27(1), e70003.

## NEXT STEPS

- Survey roll-out and focus groups with urban residents across Romania to gather fresh data for analysis.
- Refinement of the urban vulnerability and resilience model, including scenarios, good practice examples, and policy recommendations.
- Development of the digital warehouse and a gamified citizen engagement platform (GCEP) to encourage participatory urban governance.
- CityFocus Living Lab workshop to share findings and co-design local solutions with stakeholders.

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