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Planul Național  
de Redresare și Reziliență

„PNRR: Fonduri pentru România modernă și reformată!”

Issue No 5

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# 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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## EVENTS

### Urban Transformability: The Vulnerability–Opportunity Index and GIS Applications at the City Level in Romania

27 March | *International Symposium on Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing – BACKUP GISRS Spring Edition*, Faculty of Geography, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

The event aimed to consult representatives of the academic community, local public administration and civil society on the preliminary results that supported the development of the Urban Transformability Atlas for 15 Romanian cities, as well as the formulation of a public policy proposal. The event was associated with the City Focus Living Lab.



### Workshop | Shaping Smarter Cities: the CITY-FOCUS Experience

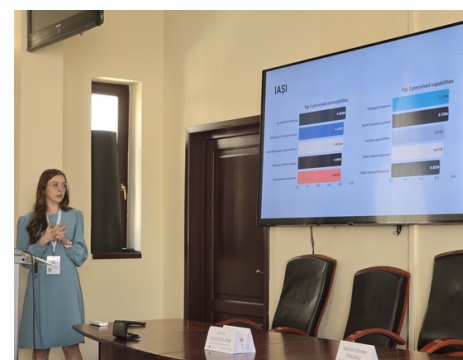
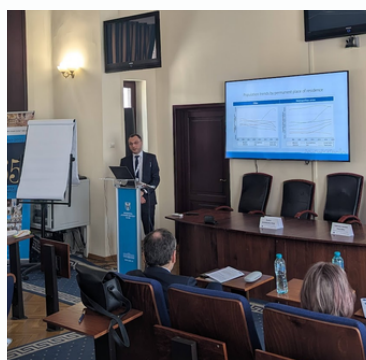
15 May | *EURINT International Conference*, Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

#### Main topics discussed:

- urban vulnerabilities and transformation capacities of cities;
- citizen perceptions and their role in urban transformation;
- the EU Atlas of urban vulnerability and transformation capacity;
- the CITY-FOCUS Dashboard for data-based urban analysis and visualisation.

### Special Session | CITY-FOCUS

15 May | *EURINT International Conference*, Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași



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## CITY-FOCUS SPRING SCHOOL

14-18 April | Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași

### Invited lecturers:

- Vinko Muštra | University of Split;
- Özge Öner | Cambridge University;
- Andrés Rodríguez-Pose | London School of Economics;
- Fernando Rubiera Morollón | University of Oviedo;
- Ana-Maria Stancu | E-Civis / RoboHub Bucharest;
- Alexandru Bănică | Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași;
- Ioana-Maria Costea | Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași;

### Main activities:

- lectures on urban governance, decentralisation, spatial economic dynamics, tourism and regional development, political geography;
- methodological workshops on responsible use of artificial intelligence in research, academic writing and addressing review suggestions, and GIS applications in urban studies;
- participant research presentations,
- guided tour in Iași focused on urban regeneration in the city centre and peri-urban area;
- roundtable at Iași City Hall on “Co-designing urban futures: sharing local experiences on urban regeneration”.



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## PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Development of the Urban Transformability Atlas for Romanian cities;
- Development of a functional CITY-FOCUS Dashboard for data visualisation and analysis;
- Development of a conceptual and methodological framework for nudge-type interventions;
- Design and implementation of three nudge experiments focused on civic engagement in Iași;
- Collection of qualitative evidence through interviews with local stakeholders in Iași;
- Development of policy recommendations on urban vulnerabilities, opportunities, governance, and transformation capacity.

## Publications

- Álvarez, I. C., Barbero, J., Orea, L., & Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2026). How institutions shape the economic returns to investment in European regions? *Economic Modelling*, 155, 107445. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econmod.2025.107445>
- Borsekova, K., Korony, S., Rodríguez-Pose, A., Styk, M., & Westlund, H. (2026). Decoding regional dynamics: Institutions, innovation, and regional development in the EU. *Papers in Regional Science*, 105(1), 100133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pirs.2025.100133>
- Maha, L.-G., Topliceanu, Ș.-C., & Viorica, E.-D. (2026). The nexus between institutional quality and trade dynamics: Testing the EU–Japan economic partnership. *International Review of Economics & Finance*, 105432. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iref.2026.105432>

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